Term 1 Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Service—11:30 school hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>Staff Development day no students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>Crossways Church Coffee cart from 7:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day wrapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day stall from 11:15 in the hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>Infants dance group audition WPH PS 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>9 May</td>
<td>School Cross Country Carnival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAPLAN—13-16 May

Notes Online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Lunchtime chess coaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>K-2 Dance Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Band Camp at Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>AFL Auskick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Hotshots Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2015 Year 5 Opportunity Class Information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fete News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>Official fete Announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>Calling all Knitters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

North Rocks School Fete
30 August 2014
We need your help!

FOOD ALLERGY ALERT
To help minimise the risk of life threatening allergic reactions we ask all parents to refrain from packing foods that contain peanuts or tree nuts in lunch boxes. Help us protect our students.
P&C Expenditure

The P&C executive and the school will be meeting to determine proposed areas for expenditure for 2014. If you would like to have consideration given to a certain project in the school you are invited to submit the proposal through the P&C secretary. Alternatively you could drop the school an email and I will make certain the information gets to the relevant persons.

Over the years areas for P&C expenditure have included the SLSO program (school learning support officers helping in classroooms), the K-2 COLA (covered outdoor learning area), air-conditioning, the hall extension, the levelling of the school oval, reading and maths materials, interactive whiteboards, computers, wireless access points for future wireless technologies and a great deal more. Every dollar spent by the P&C supports every student in the school. This is where the P&C fundraising money and revenue generated through the voluntary contribution scheme is spent.

Reminders

- Students are expected to wear correct school uniform from head to foot. This includes a school hat and black shoes.
- If your child is away from school an explanation via a note to the teacher is sufficient.
- If your child suffers from asthma a health plan from the doctor should be submitted to the office and then communicated with the class teacher.
- Just a reminder that teachers are extremely busy in the morning planning for the days teaching please organise interviews at other times.
- Wednesday afternoon is staff meeting time. Please consider the teachers need to be on time to the staff meeting by allowing them a quick getaway on Wednesday afternoons. Similarly Monday afternoons is when we have our executive meetings.
- There is no entry to the school car park before and during school hours—this is for the children’s safety.

Castle Hill Show

Abbey, Caitlin and Rachel Goodall entered their first competition at The Castle Hill Show. They entered 6 Hen eggs from their chickens. Not only did they win best hen eggs (judged by size and colour of eggs then one is cracked open to check the yolk), they also won champion Farm Produce and were awarded the Royal Horticultural Society of NSW Medal.

102.5 On the air

Congratulations to Anna C (6D) on her selection in 102.5 Fine Music Radio Station’s "Young and Even Younger Performers Audition" which was held on 16th March.

Anna’s clarinet music was recorded by 102.5 Fine Music last Sunday 30th March for future broadcast during the Young Virtuosi Hour Program throughout the year. Stayed tuned for a majestic performance.

Good Guys Promotion

The Good Guys at Castle Hill have offered $1 coupon for every $50 spent in store for our school. The coupons are then exchanged by me for items used for the raffle, fete or the like. Next time you are in the market for electrical or home appliances think about the Good Guys and ask for the voucher for North Rocks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Certificate Winners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opportunity Class Placement for 2015

Parents seeking opportunity class placement for Year 5 entry in 2015 are required to submit an application by 16 May 2014. Parents seeking opportunity class placement for students in 2015 will be able to apply for up to two schools of their choice. It is expected that parents will make appropriate decisions when choosing a school that is within reasonable travelling distance. Parents are strongly encouraged to give careful consideration to the time taken and modes of transport involved when choosing a school with an opportunity class.

Parents of students currently enrolled in a NSW public school with access to the internet, a printer and their own email address (not the student’s) should apply for opportunity class placement online by going to this internet website: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplace

Online applications open on Monday 28 April 2014. Late applications will not be accepted after the closing date of 16 May 2014.

The Rocks Report

Peter Harker
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Around The Grounds
With term 1 soon to be a thing of the past I took another opportunity to learn from our hard-working students this week.

Year 3 students have been completing their studies of Australia, with many amazing models and artworks created throughout the term. Alannah in 3M enjoyed learning about the Great Barrier Reef, particularly the formation of coral through polyps which “build card cases around themselves” while Belinda in 3W added that the Reef can be viewed from space! Martin in 3M and Lucas from 3W preferred learning about Sydney Tower. According to Lucas, “on a day without clouds you can see the Blue Mountains from the Tower,” and Martin enjoyed the grade excursion, commenting that he could see many buildings, the harbour, Harbour Bridge and half of the Opera House from the Tower. Sue in 3O enjoyed learning about man-made aspects of Sydney including the Harbour Bridge and commented that she has been beneath the bridge on a boat, while Jayden in 3O built a model of the ANZAC bridge, a more recent addition to the Sydney skyline, constructed in the 1990s.

Kindergarten classrooms were abuzz with Mathematics group work this week. Students were engaged in a variety of tasks to assist their number recognition and development of addition skills. Matilda in KR delighted in telling me about the game of before and after bingo her group was playing, and took particular joy in shouting “bingo” when Miss Van Roon drew the number 5 from the bag. In KH students were literally ‘fishing’ for answers to addition questions.

Students throughout the school have dedicated themselves to improving their skills and knowledge this term and (as well as our teachers and administrative staff!) have earned the holiday break.

Attendance
Last Friday the school’s records of attendance were inspected by the Home School Liaison Officer who visits each term to analyse attendance rates and school based systems to support student attendance and manage non-attendance. While absences are necessary at times, and indeed encouraged in cases of illness, it remains an obligation under the Education Act for parents to provide written explanation as to the nature of student absence upon return to school, and no more than 7 days after the absence occurs. Students who are sick and those with approved leave by the principal are recorded as such; however in cases where no explanation is offered, a letter is received with insufficient explanation, or the reason for leave is not accepted (e.g. went to the movies, couldn’t get my child to school), the absence is recorded as ‘unjustified’. The volume of ‘unjustified’ absences for a small group of students has been flagged by the Home School Liaison Officer and I seek your support in assisting students attend school as much as possible.

Tom Moth
Deputy Principal

Students return for Term 2
Tuesday 29 April
Premier’s Reading Challenge
The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students throughout Kindergarten to Year 9. Participation by schools and students is voluntary.

The Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

All students who enter and successfully complete the Challenge will receive a Premier’s Reading Challenge certificate for that year and their name will be published on an Honour Roll.

Each year, the Challenge runs from 1 February to 1 September.

The booklists, Challenge rules, frequently asked questions and helpful tips can be accessed via the PRC website: http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

To qualify for the Challenge a required number of books read must be entered electronically. Online reading records are available in March and books can be entered via any computer with Internet access at school, in a public library or at home.

Students use individual usernames and passwords to access their own record.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to support the Challenge to promote the development of literacy skills and a love of reading and to inspire their children to continue reading when they have finished the Challenge.

To complete the Challenge students in K to 2 need to read 30 books. Children in years 3 to 6 need to read 20 books. The book list is available on the PRC website under the tab booklists.

To login to the PRC and enter books into the student reading records, students use their school login and password. Please begin reading and entering books at home. We will send home a list of books read in class later in the year that can be added to your child’s booklist.

Students can logon to the Premiers’ Reading Challenge website and enter their school login and password. I encourage you to support your children in completing the challenge by reading books outlined on the PRC list and assisting students in entering the information online. Students will also enter books during their time in ICT at school.
FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Specialist Hotshots (tennis) and AusKick (AFL) Programs
During winter sport, students in years 3-6 not involved in a PSSA team, have the opportunity to join a different specialised sport program in either tennis or Australian rules football (AFL). Separate notes for these programs were distributed to students yesterday. Please note that these programs have limited capacity and numbers cannot be extended. Students keen to participate in these programs for weekly school sport are encouraged to return the permission note (available on the school website by clicking the link on the front of this newsletter) tomorrow. All notes should be returned to Mr Moth. Costing is outlined on the permission notes and fees will be added to term 2 invoices.

Castle Hill PSSA Representatives
Congratulations to Kate P on her selection in the Castle Hill zone softball squad to trial at the area championships.

Zone swimming results
Congratulations to our Senior girls relay team which finished 3rd and will now compete at the state championships. Kevin L finished 4th in the freestyle, Jessica L 4th in the breaststroke. Both individual students swam well with Jessica having the added problem of an ankle injury.

Other selection news
Congratulations to Roxylou Grey - Sydney U13 girls hockey team Lachlan Pereira - Sydney U11 boys hockey team. They will both be playing in various carnivals around NSW over the next few months. They also were successful in selection for the Sydney west PSSA team, well done!

From the Music Room
Last year North Rocks Public School participated in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. North Rocks families collected stickers on purchases made at Woolworths, and returned them to school. The final tally for the Woolworth’s Earn and Learn promotion was a huge 11,341 points!! What a mammoth effort for our first year.
We have just received our new musical instruments. THANKYOU WOOLWORTHS!

Our new equipment includes Aboriginal clapsticks, (which kindergarten children played the next day), 2 sets of boomwackers, rhythm sticks, various maracas, a xylophone, a box of instruments from around the globe, including a pan pipe, a bird whistle, a mini rainstick, an oracina and a frog guiro, and additional guiros…. which have already been played by 1W.

Thanks must go to the whole community for their support of this program.
Karen Andrews
RFF - Music Teacher

Harmony day
What a shame the weather gods didn’t smile on us during harmony day. The rain intervened so the parade was cancelled. Parents and students still enjoyed the classroom activities and the wonderful international food. A big thank you to the Italian, Lebanese, Korean, Filipino, Aussie, dessert and drinks people who put on a wonderful treat for the kids and parents. A huge thank you to Mrs Gillard for her amazing organisation. We know how much work you all put into this event. From the school we thank you and appreciate you very much.
To Miss Walker who had organised the school classroom events and the parade we thank you for the effort and expertise. We look forward to a brighter day come book week and maybe even a character parade.
P&C NEWS

Last week we completed the recruitment process for the Canteen Manager roles and I am pleased to announce that the P&C staff in the Canteen from the start of term 2 will be Gail Bicerra and Melanie Eagleston. A special thank you to Gail for her efforts in Term 1 working 5 days a week and to the numerous volunteers who kept the canteen running whilst we completed the recruitment process.

The Uniform Shop will also be under new management from Term 2 with Kerri Swadling stepping into the Coordinator role and Yanlin Zhang taking over the Treasurer responsibilities. Thank you to Karen Amery and Tina Christoforidis who were joint Coordinators over the last year and to Lesley Smyth who was the Treasurer over a number of years for your dedication and effort.

I hope that you have all enjoyed the first term and have family fun planned over the school holidays. If you are stuck for ideas in keeping the kids occupied you may find inspiration in the Hills Shire School Holiday Guide.


The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 May at 7:30pm in the staff room. If you have any matters that you would like discussed at the May meeting would you please email the P&C Secretary at "nrpspandc@yahoo.com.au" before 6 May.

Anthony Macarthur
P&C President
(parramaca@gmail.com)

Fete Committee

Over the last couple of weeks a core group of P&C members have held a number of meetings to lay the foundations for the new Fete Committee. This new committee will be responsible for the planning and management of the fete that is set down for Saturday 30 August.

Late last week a note was given to all students and an e-mail sent to all parents inviting the broader school community to a meeting on Tuesday night. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to all parties and to call for volunteers to fill the coordinator roles for the various aspects of the event. Attendance at Tuesday's meeting was substantially lower than the initial meeting in March, however, most of the coordinator roles were filled. The 2 roles that remain vacant are:

- Raffle/Tombola Coordinator - organising the running of the activities, ticket books, etc, but does not include sourcing the prizes as this will be done by the Sponsorship team.

- Entertainment Coordinator - organising local performance groups (e.g. dancing, drama, martial arts, etc) to perform on the day for short periods.

If you are interested in either of these roles or would like to assist the other coordinators please e-mail "nrpsfete@gmail.com" with your contact details. Why not get a couple of friends together and share the responsibility?

The next Fete Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 30 April in the staff room between 6:30pm and 7:30pm. Each of the coordinators will provide an update on key actions completed, next steps and any decisions required by the Fete Committee. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Anthony Macarthur
Fete Committee Chair
P&C President

Parent Auxiliary News

Dates coming up:

- Mother’s Day stall – Thursday 8 May
- Movie Night – Friday, 16 May – keep this date free. Note coming soon.
- Next PA meeting is on Monday 12th May. Hope to see you there!

Carol Rizk

Band

I would like to welcome Jane Robards as the new Band Co-ordinator, she will do an amazing job. We will be doing the handover over the next few months.

There are limited spaces still available for Band Camp at Home. If you are interested in coming please return your note and payment to the school office by Monday. Contact northrocksband@gmail.com if you need a copy of the note or more information. This event is highly recommended to all band students. It would be great to have all performance band members coming as this day is used as preparation for the Yamaha Festival.

Important band information will be emailed out over the next few weeks so if you haven't provided the band committee with your contact details please email northrocksband@gmail.com asap.

Kirrily Pereira
Uniform Shop News
Attention Uniform Shop has new opening hours in term 2. Fridays 8.15 -9.30am Fridays.
Volunteers needed. We would love you to come and put your name on our roster. Half an hour, one hour, once a week or once a month will be greatly appreciated.
Kerri Swadling
0419913525

Canteen on the rocks news
Over the last few weeks we have been busy interviewing and selecting our new staff members and I am really happy to announce that Gail Bicerra and Melanie Eagleston were the successful candidates, congratulations to both of you. I would like to thank all of the candidates who applied, you made our decision very hard!

Gail will work Mon/Wed/Thurs and Melanie Tue/Wed/Fri.
Melanie was one of our regular volunteers on the 1st Wednesday of each month, her appointment has now left a gap in our roster, if anyone is interested and available that day please contact myself nicktreg@optusnet.com.au or let the Canteen know.

We have a new winter menu that will come into effect term 2 and will be available on the website.

Unfortunately we will be no longer selling the Potato Bake, due to low sales we generally only sell 5 or 6 a term, so sorry to any regular buyer/s.

We have two new additions to our Menu:
Melts (Green, available everyday) – Wholemeal base, tomato sauce and your choice of topping, Cheese only, Chicken & Cheese, Ham & Cheese and Ham and Pineapple - $2.50
Mini Potato Pie (Amber, Wednesday only) A Lean Mini Potato Pie, Healthy kids endorsed, $1.50

Ham and Pineapple Melt (all Melts freshly made on site)
I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holidays.

Thank you Lisa Treglown

Band
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Important band information will be emailed out over the next few weeks so if you haven't provided the band committee with your contact details please email northrocksband@gmail.com asap.

Kirrily Pereira

LOST PROPERTY
We are no longer keeping a stock of lost property in the K-2 classrooms. All items that are left in the classroom and playground are being collected and returned to the child. Parents are asked to ensure that all clothing and lunch containers are labelled to assist us in this process. We have had an ongoing problem with mouldy, unlabelled containers accumulating in the classrooms. Any items left that are unlabelled will be thrown away by the classroom teachers at the end of the week.

Erin Dooley, Assistant Principal
North Rocks Uniting Church Preschool

Vacancies for 2014

North Rocks Community Church Preschool has enrolment vacancies available for 3-5 year old children. The Preschool operates from 8.30am – 3.30pm and caters for up to 24 children daily. Fees are $41.50 per day. For enquiries please contact the Preschool on 9630 4283.

North Rocks Uniting Church Preschool is proud to have recently received an assessment rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standards. We provide high quality care for your preschool aged child in a warm and friendly environment.
Become an EYE CHAMPION at High Sight Optometry.

Is your child struggling to read?  Complaining of tired, watery eyes or blurry vision?  Having trouble concentrating in the classroom?  Losing their place or confusing words and letters?

Sometimes glasses are not enough and children need vision training to become EYE CHAMPIONS in the classroom.

For more information or to book an appointment for an EYE CHAMPION assessment ring PH 98710633. Appointments booked before Easter 2014 will have the initial $90 fee waived.

Regular eye examinations are otherwise bulk billed to Medicare.

High Sight Optometry
Shop 3,326 Pennant Hills Road (near cnr of Coleman Ave, Carlingford)
PH 9871 0633
E: info@highsight.com.au
At NRPS we value **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, SAFETY, HONESTY**

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**The Rocks Report**

Providing Speech Pathology services to children requiring assistance with:

- Pronouncing sounds
- Following instructions
- Problems expressing ideas
- Understanding/comprehension
- Stuttering
- Learning Difficulties
- Reading and writing difficulties
- Visualising and Verbalising
- Formulating correct sentences
- Voice problems

Services are available at our Epping office Monday-Friday and also within the North Rocks Primary School on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

To make an enquiry:

Phone: 9876 4962 or Email: carlingfordspeech@gmail.com

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**The Hills Drama School**

The way to your dream!

**Classes on TUES & WED**

**Acting Classes for all ages**

- Children: 6 - 11yrs
- Teen: 12 - 16yrs
- Adult: Mature age

**FREE Trial Lesson**

**During the term:**

- Stepping outside your comfort zone,
- Improvisation games & exercises,
- Monologues, script study & character creation,
- Voice & movement development,
- Acting for stage & camera, Group performances, teamwork,
- Identifying, acknowledging and developing your strengths,
- Talent quests, film festivals, group performances and awards,
- Audition preparation & job opportunities,

**Discounts for families**

**AFTERNOON CLASSES HELD AT:**

- **Carlingford** - Tuesday
- **Beaumont Hills** - Wednesday

For more information
Call Aaron 0413 029 899
www.thehillsdramaschool.com.au
SINGLE PARENTS FAMILY BBQ

Are you looking for activities to do with your children? Do you want to make friends with other single parents who share similar experiences to you? Then come along to the Single with Children family BBQ.

Join us for a day of fun at Lake Parramatta Park and sausage sizzle. This is a beautiful location with walking trails alongside the lake, children’s play equipment and enough open spaces to throw a ball. There is even a cafe on site for the adults who really need a coffee to get through the day.

- WHERE: Lake Parramatta Lanecky St North Parramatta
- WHEN: Sunday 30th March
- TIME: From 10:30 am, sausage sizzle starts at 11.30pm
- WHAT TO BRING: Bring picnic rugs and /or folding chairs, BYO snacks / sides etc
- COST: NB: Non-members $2.50 for a sausage sandwich and drink, free for members - 1 per person/child
- WHO’S INVITED: All single parents and their children. Non members welcome and if you join on the day - receive $6.00 off membership.
- RSVP: By Friday 22nd of March. Loanne Bennett 0410 64 5490 Assistant children’s functions co-ordinator

For information call 1300 300 496 or go to www.singlewithchildren.com.au

Single with Children is a non-profit social organisation operated by the Single Parent Family association. We provide social activities every week for both custodial and access single parents as well as their children.