Dear Parents and Carers,

Anti-bullying and Harmony Day

A very big thank you to our parents and carers for supporting our Anti-bullying and Harmony day celebration at school last Friday. Every student in the school had either orange clothing or orange accessories to show their support for these important issues. I would also like to thank Mrs Beck and Mrs Allardice for their work in planning, setting up resources and activities for our students to participate in on the day. Some great artwork was completed by the students on the day and has been added to a static display in the hall to demonstrate the commitment our school has in stamping out bullying behaviours and the respect that we share for everyone who calls Australia home. Please take a look when you are next visiting in the school.

Thank you also to everyone who participated in the poll in last weeks newsletter on the prevalence of bullying with our students. The responses from the poll indicated that over 98% of respondents believed that bullying has/is experienced two/three times or less. As a school and a community it is very important to make sure we continue to support our children by listening to their issues and provide them with skills and knowledge to be able to reduce and eliminate bullying. Information for children, parents and teachers is available from http://bullyingnoway.gov.au

Movie Night

Our first P&C run movie night proved to be an enormously popular event which was enjoyed by over 2/3 of the students in the school. Thank you to the P&C and staff who assisted on the evening and our very well behaved students who made the night run very smoothly. Stay tuned later in the year for the next movie night out.

Athletics Carnival

This Thursday will be K-6 Athletics carnival for our school. It is important to remember that because this is a whole school event, ALL students will be required to attend the carnival as all teachers will be in attendance at the carnival.

Homework for little kids

Schools develop homework policies with the help of teachers and parents. These are used as a guide and are based on common sense. If you find homework is becoming too much or is too difficult for your child, have a chat with your child’s teacher. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/homework-for-little-kids

Helping your child to become a good speller

What do you do when your child is struggling with spelling? Should you let your child use a spell checker, for instance? Here are a few tips and techniques to make spelling easier. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/getting-your-child-used-to-writing
School Photo Day
Say cheese .. School photo day is Monday, 31st March 2014. MSP Photography are doing our school photos. Here is some relevant information from MSP:

♦ Don't seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope, however, each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day.
♦ Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request (if you want sibling pictures)
♦ Please enclose correct money as no change is given. Cash and money orders only (sorry no credit card accepted). NB: there is an option to pay online with credit card and you can write the receipt on the photo envelope.
♦ Any enquiries, please email admin.nhvcc@msp.com.au or call 4966 8292.

Information from the office:
♦ We don’t have many spare copies of photo envelopes if you lose yours and we are not allowed to photocopy them this year, so please make sure you know where yours are.
♦ Your child can bring their photo envelope in on the day to hand to the photographer. If you don’t trust your child to remember, you can drop it into us at the office before hand, however, we will NOT be accepting photo envelopes on the day the photos will be taken.
♦ Don’t forget to look nice and be in summer uniform!

Attention Year 6 Parents
If you want your child to attend one of the Tomaree High School Specialist Year 7 classes, there are some things you need to know. Firstly the two specialist classes on offer are:
- Academic Extension (AE)
- Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)
The application packs are available this term from the high school or at the High school information night on Wednesday, 26th March.
Applications close 2pm, Thursday, 12th June 2014.
CAPA audition day is Tuesday, 15th July 2014 (1st day back for Term 3).
AE Selection day (test) is Wednesday, 16th July 2014.

Holiday Fun
If you want to learn to surf over the Easter Holidays, you can join the Vegemite SurfGroms program. Visit www.surfgroms.com or call Port Stephens Surf School on 0411 419 576 or email info@portstephenssurfsschool.com. As well as professional instruction, every participant receives a special VEGEMITE SurfGroms participant pack which includes a Quicksilver backpack, t-shirt, cap, rash-vest, a tube of VEGEMITE and a Wahu beach toy. You can see the advertisement on our webpage: Notes for Parents/Holiday Information.

Newcastle Writers Festival
If you are interested in seeing an exhibition of original art works from the beloved picture book and animated film by acclaimed Australian artist Shaun Tan, it starts 2nd April and goes until 30th June 2014. On Saturday, 5th April there is a Family Fun Day (all at the Cultural Centre, Laman Street, Newcastle). From 10am to 1pm there are free story readings from local authors as well as an aboriginal storyline, along with book signings. The authors will read from a Giant chair and you will be in the company of Grug, Wacky Womabat and a Giant Fish. There is also a Craft Zone under the Marquee .. where you can construct a fantastical gallery of Utopia filled with drawings of your own Lost thing. There will also be a Multi-sensory zone and face painting.

P&C Movie Night
Thank you everyone who turned up to our Movie night Thursday. We raised over $900! It was a wonderful night and it was lovely to see some parents come along as well. A big thank you to our wonderful helpers and as always the help of the teachers. Without your constant support we could not have held such a successful night. Photos will be in the gallery on the school website soon.

Easter Hat Parade
We are getting closer to our Easter Hat Parade which will be held on the last day of school. We are looking forward to seeing some beautiful hats on display. We are looking for donations of Easter eggs for our raffles. There is a box in the foyer of the office, where you can place your donations. Everyone is welcome to come along on the day to watch. The Easter Bunny usually pays a visit. Thank you from the P&C Committee.

Bunnings Easter Family Night
Thursday, 10th April from 6 to 8pm Bunnings have their usual family fun night with an easter egg hunt, kids DIY workshops, light refreshments, jumping castle, bungee trampolines, pirate ship ride, competitions and giveaways and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Kids eat free, adults $2 donation to the Raymond Terrace Rotary. Bookings are essential so call 4916 3100 if you intend to go.
Better Homes & Gardens Chef Fast Ed will be at Bunnings on Sat 12/4 from 11am—2pm for those interested.

Merit Awards

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Term 1 Week 9
Monday, 24th March 2014