



Dates to Remember

Monday 26 Oct
P&C Meeting
7pm

Tuesday 27 Oct
Friday 30 Oct
Year 6 Camp

Principal's blog

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school for Term 4. Hopefully all our students and families had a good break and are ready for the final term of 2020. As always Term 4 is extremely busy in any school and as such I encourage parents/carers to maintain regular communication with your child/ren's teachers.

I would like to welcome Miss Lana Ryan-Gadsden to the school staff for Term 4. Lana has commenced her role as classroom teacher Room 2 in replace of Miss McGarry who has headed off on maternity leave.

We also welcome Sarah Noakes to Northam PS. Sarah is here for the first five weeks of Term 4 completing her Early Childhood Practicum placement within our PP class (Room A). We wish her all the best.

LAPATHON

Last Friday 16th October the P&C conducted their annual Lapathon event. I express my sincere thanks to them for the manner in which they provided their own time to both organise the event and then man the stations around the lapathon route. The students had an awesome time running and walking the laps and raised in excess of \$2000 for our P&C who in turn spend it on benefiting our students in so many different ways.

BOOK WEEK

This week we have had the annual Book Week occurring in the school. This coincides with celebrating Literacy and in particular reading. As part of Book Week the P&C hold the Book Fair in which families can purchase books for their children or indeed for themselves. Again there is a percentage of the money raised through the sales of books at the Book Fair donated back to our P&C. I want to thank each P&C member and any other parents who have helped out with the Book Fair by manning it both before and after school this week.

We also held our annual Book Week Parade Wednesday morning. It was clearly evident that our students and families put a lot of time and effort into dressing up as a curious creature or their favourite book character. They looked simply awesome and their smiles indicated they enjoyed the dress up opportunity. Well done students and families. Thank you to our Head Boy Sam and Head Girl Miley for comparing the parade, they did an awesome job.

The final aspect of Book Week is where the teachers choose a book as their focus for the week and do Literacy activities around that book. I would like to thank the staff for their work in making this event a success. In particular, I thank Miss Barnes as our Literacy Leader for organising the parade and providing staff a direction for the Literacy activities. A big congratulations to Room 12 for winning the door competition. They wrote their acceptance letters to gain entry into Hogwarts, purely magical.

YEAR 6 CAMP

Our Year 6 students and teachers head off to Bickley Camp School on their camp next Tuesday 27th October. They have been preparing for this event all year and it is clearly obvious that their excitement is building. Keep tuned for photos in our next newsletter and on Facebook.

SWIMMING LESSONS

The students in Rooms A, 1, 2, 3 and 10 will all participate in their annual swimming lessons in Weeks 7 & 8 this term. Please keep your eye out for information about the swimming lessons and permission slips next week.

KINDY CAFE

Today we held our first Kindy Café for the new students and families that are commencing Kindy in 2021. There is a second one next Wednesday 28th October at 9:30 am. The aim of the Kindy Café is to begin the flow of information about how our Kindy program works and how the school operates, along with proving the children an opportunity to see where their Kindy class and area is and enable them to develop confidence in starting Kindy in 2021.

BASKETBALL COURT

No doubt you have seen the work happening in resurfacing our basketball courts over the past few weeks. This will certainly make that area safer for our students to play on. We anticipate being able to open the courts up at the end of this week for a three-week period and will then need to close it again for a week to enable the sealing and line marking to occur. The students are excited and have enjoyed watching the machines working through recess and lunch.

UNIVERSAL TOILET

Thanks to the tremendous effort of Mrs Purslowe to gain the support of Buildings and Finance to fund upgrading to the toilet area in our Breakfast Café area to make it a Universal Toilet for wheelchair access. This work is now complete. This is an important feature to our school as it enables us to cater for the needs of any student that requires the use of a wheelchair in the future.

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)

We have seen a great start to Term 4 with our students engaging positively with each other in the playground. Thanks to Mrs Donaldson and Mrs Flint for organising a range of play areas around the verandahs surrounding the Nature Play area. The students have had a great time engaging with their friends in this area.

I would like to thank Russell Draffin, Geoff Fawkes, Athol Davies and Jeremy Wallis who gave their time and resources during the school holidays to install our amazing values pencils next to the playground. These values pencils represent our four school behaviour expectations and are a constant reminder for our students that at Northam PS every student demonstrates Respect, Responsible, Perseverance and Care.

Attendance

Each day of school missed makes a difference, with the effect on learning accumulating over time. From an early age, if children are taught that they need to 'show up' for school and make a commitment, this positive mentality aids academic and career success and brings benefits in adulthood.

School attendance is compulsory and schools in WA expect their students to be in class 200 days a year.

The Telethon Kids Institute conducted research into the impact absences from school have on a child. Their researchers wanted to know how many days of absence kids could 'get away with' before it started to affect how they were doing at school. The answer was none.

They determined this using a combination of school enrolment figures, attendance records and NAPLAN results provided by the WA Education Department. They studied patterns of over 415,000 primary and high school students over a five-year time frame. In all analyses, average academic achievement on NAPLAN tests declined with any absence from school and continued to decline as absence rates increased.

Every day of absence made a difference, and this was particularly true for unauthorised absences. The effect of one day of absence was relatively small, but added up quickly as more and more days were missed. The effect of missing days accumulated over time, so that school absence not only impacted achievement in the year in which the days were missed but in future years as well. At Northam Primary School we love to see our students at school, in class, everyday.

All the best for the remainder of this term.

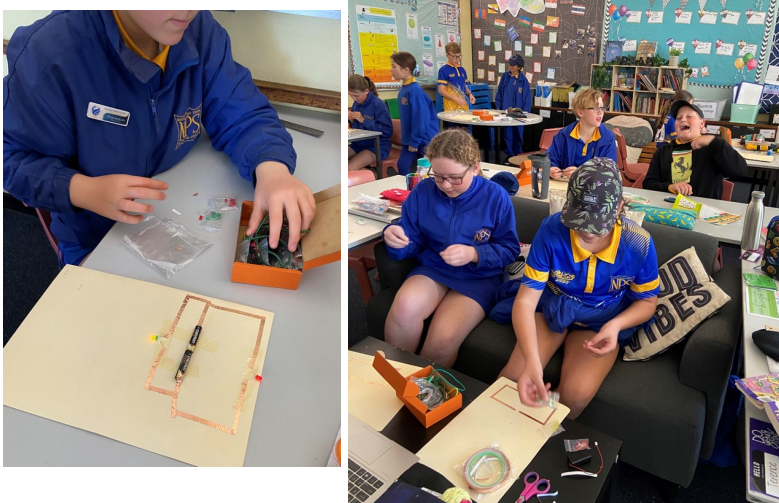
Mark Donaldson
Principal

Room 6 Micro:bits

This semester students have been learning to code micro:bits, which are a pocket-sized device. Students have been exploring the LED light displays, buttons, sensors and many input/out

features. Last week they programmed their micro:bits to generate a game called 'reaction time' to prove that

humans are conductors of electricity. They even played against Mrs Purslowe and Mr Donaldson to see who could react the quickest in the coded game.

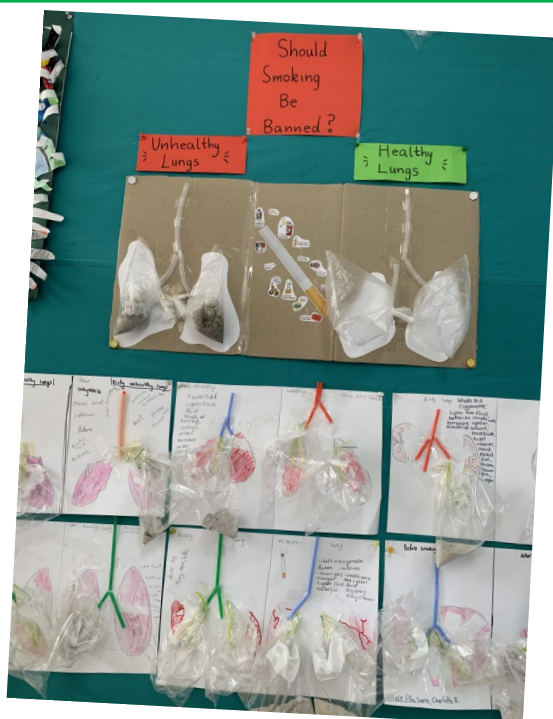


Room 12

Room 12 are learning a Talk 4 Writing text called

'Should smoking be banned?'

Before learning this new persuasive text, we did some research into what is in a cigarette and made some health/unhealthy lungs. The students created some fantastic posters and had fun blowing up the lungs. Ask our room 12 students to recite the text to test their memories.







Phone and Video Counselling for Regional Western Australians

FREE
No referral
required

Lifeline WA and CBH are committed to supporting Western Australia's grain-growing regions in times of crisis. As part of the CBH Regional Mental Health Program, Lifeline WA would like to extend our free phone and video counselling services to these regions. Lifeline WA provides counselling to families and individuals, before, during and after times of loss and grief.

We welcome and encourage people from all backgrounds to access our counselling service and we actively work to be inclusive and provide a safe space to everyone.

The free service can be accessed across Western Australia via telephone or video call.

Book your free counselling appointment today.

To book an appointment, call (08) 9261 4444 or email reception@lifelinewa.org.au



13 11 14

24 hours a day / 7 days a week



Chat Online

7pm to 12am (AEST) / 7 days a week

P&C NEWS

NEXT GENERAL MEETING—MONDAY 26th OCTOBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

We welcome all parents & guardians to our meetings. Please come and join us, see what we do, how we help the school and we welcome all new fresh ideas and support.

Lapathon

With a fantastic way to start term 4, the lapathon afternoon was a huge success with the sun providing some nice warmth for the kids to enjoy over 2000 litres of water and lots of bubbles. Thank you to all those who sponsored the kids and joined in on the day. Big thanks to Cindy Clements for organising the event, Dan Christmas as water chief and to Geoff Fawkes and Combined Tyres who arranged the use of the water and fire fighter again this year.

12 Days of Christmas Raffle

The P&C are currently putting together a 12 days of Christmas Raffle. There will be 12 prizes to be won and one prize will consist of a hamper put together and donated by the families of NPS. If you would like to contribute to this

hamper, any Christmas type items would be greatly appreciated. Please drop these into the office by 23rd October. Stay posted for raffle details, this raffle is going to be huge.

Cookbooks

One of last years major fundraising events was creating and publishing our very own cookbook. A4 in size and with over 140 recipes from the Families and Staff of NPS, this cookbook proved to be a favourite for anyone. We still have these available for sale, at \$10 each they are a great gift and addition to any kitchen. Please call into the office to purchase one (or 2 or 3) or contact Kelly Beard.

Funky Sock Stall

Our large sizes have arrived, so next Tuesday 27th you will find our stall outside the Library. All sizes still available just varying in designs.

Think Christmas gifts and support the P&C at the same time.



BOOK WEEK

BOOK FAIR

We currently have the Scholastic Book Fair in the school library. On Monday all classes went through and checked out the fantastic collection of books and wrote their wish lists.



BOOK WEEK PARADE

What a fabulous parade we had this morning for Book week. Congratulations everyone on a wonderful effort dressing up, getting involved and having a wonderful time.

What a tough decision the door prize was. After lots of discussion and various trips around the school judges narrowed it down to Room 10 and 12.

Congratulations Room 12 on winning the door prize.

The extra nudge was that you are all reading the book together in class



Don't forget to find us on Facebook to stay up to date with day to day information.
"Northam Primary School P&C"
"Northam Primary School"

Term 4 Calendar 2020

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY EARLY CLOSE 2.30PM	FRIDAY
1	12th October PUPIL FREE DAY	13th	14th	15th	16th LAPATHON 1.45PM
2	19th Book Fair	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
			Book Week Parade Kindy Café 1.30-2.30		
3	26th P&C Meeting 7pm	27th Year 6 Camp	28th	29th	30th
		Funky Sock Stall @ Library	Kindy Café 11.15- 12.15		
4	2nd November	3rd	4th	5th	6th Assembly Room 1 ANZAC Trailer visit
5	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th Assembly Kindy
6	16th NAIDOC Week	17th	18th	19th	20th
7	23rd P&C AGM 7pm Interm swimming	24th Year 6 transition NSHS Rooms A, 1, 2, 3, & 10	25th	26th	27th
8	30th Interm Swimming	1st December Year 6 transition NSHS Rooms A, 1, 2, 3, & 10	2nd	3rd	4th
9	7th	8th	9th Band Concert	10th	11th
10	14th Year 6 Dinner	15th	16th	17th Students Last day	18th

***** End of Year Concert TBA —further information in next week's Newsletter.

Please note: Large copies of the newsletter are available in the office.

The Newsletter is now placed in Connect Library and on the school website www.northamps.wa.edu.au