

## New Lambton Heights Infants 'A Family School'

# School Newsletter



176 Lookout Rd New Lambton Heights Ph: 49572744 Fax: 49562432 Website: [www.newlambhti-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.newlambhti-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Respect

Responsibility

Safe Learning



### Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers and Friends of New Lambton Heights Infants School,

What a beautiful day we had yesterday. The students really enjoy being outside on such lovely days. The rest of the week and even into early next week are supposed to be sunny also, although a little cooler. Please remember that at this time of year the weather can be unpredictable so do please pack a school jumper in your child's bag.

### The Storm Recovery

We were extremely fortunate with the small amount of damage the school suffered due to the storm. Many schools suffered worse damage than we did. Because of this we are low on the priority list. The few things that are keeping the rear of the school closed are low priority and have not yet been rectified. Until then the rear portion of the school must remain closed.

Unfortunately our giant shade sails are not covered by the Department of Education's insurance. They have suffered significant damage. We are very lucky to have great skills amongst the extended families of the school and offers of help, at greatly reduced cost, have been received. On behalf of the school and the children, I thank you.



### Hunter Life Education Visit

On Monday morning students from Years 1 & 2 need to be at school ready to leave on the first bus at **9.15am** for their Hunter Life Education visit. The bus will be departing at **9.15am sharp**.

The other classes will be leaving at a later time.

### Working Bee

After the great success of the last Working Bee we have planned another for Term 2. **The Working Bee is to be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.** It will start at 8am and run until lunch. We have painting, gardening and other small jobs that need to be done. We would love to see you there to lend a hand! We have some tools, but it might be helpful if you brought a few along. Please see me for more information.

### New Lambton Heights Infants School



New Lambton Heights Infants students will be participating in a Walkathon through our local Blackbutt Reserve with their school friends and teachers. A route has been mapped out and P&C will be offering an option of a BBQ at Carnley Avenue when the students finish.

Family are encouraged to cheer the students over the finish line at the 'Creek Shelter' and have the option of joining them for the BBQ afterwards at approximately 12.30pm.

#### How will the walkathon work?

It's easy and fun. Our students will seek sponsorship donations from family, friends and the local community. They then complete the course with their friends on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Return the money raised to the school on 29th or by Tuesday 2nd June.

A sponsorship form was sent home last week. Please read it thoroughly before letting your child seek donations. As this is one of our major fundraisers for the year, we thank you in advance for your support.

Looking forward to the walk, best get into training! ☺

Any questions please see Tess Dowman  
(Parent of Amaya in Year 1)

It is great to listen to the stories of the effort the students and families are putting into sponsorship! The forms have visited parent workplaces and family gatherings. Thanks for the effort. The children are so excited!

# New Lambton Heights Infants

## 'A Family School'

# School Newsletter



176 Lookout Rd New Lambton Heights Ph: 49572744 Fax: 49562432 Website: [www.newlambhti-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.newlambhti-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Respect

Responsibility

Safe Learning



## Positive Learning Times

The new class times have been working out beautifully! The disruptions to class times have been greatly reduced as the students have a more balanced program!

There are ***NO changes*** to the school starting and finishing times and the length of ***learning and break time will REMAIN the same.***

9:15 – 11:15am SESSION 1

11:15 – 11:45am FIRST LUNCH

11:45 – 12:45pm SESSION 2

12:45 – 1:10pm SECOND LUNCH

1:10 – 2:10pm SESSION 3

2:10 – 2:35pm RECESS/PLAY

2:35- 3:15pm SESSION 4

## School Assembly Items

We have planned that each class will be presenting at the whole school assembly on certain Fridays at **2.35pm**. Please see the table below and come along if you can.

Term 2	Date
Year 2C	FRIDAY Week 4 15/5/15 2:35pm
1/2L	FRIDAY Week 5 16/5/15 2:35pm

## Leaders

Congratulations to our Year 2 Leaders for Week 3 Term 2 – Riley B. and Sarah M.

## Awards

Congratulations to all award recipients:

KB	K/1P
Jacob C	Gabriel F
Lena M	Daisy L
Violet P	Sebastian M
Harrison W	Jessica P
1/2L	2C
Sam C	Zane B
Rosa C	Reuben C
Amaya D	Sarani M
Cameron W	Riordan M

## Gold Award:

Amaya D x 2  
Jack M

## Dates for your Diary

Term 2 Event	Date
School Banking	TUESDAYS
Dance2bfit (SPORT)	WEDNESDAYS Week 1 – Week 10
Life Education	MONDAY 11 <sup>th</sup> May 9.15am
Pyjama Night	THURSDAY 14 <sup>th</sup> May 5.30-7.30pm
Working BEE NEW DATE	SATURDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 8am until lunch
Walkathon	FRIDAY 29 <sup>th</sup> May

Enjoy your week.

Greg Culhane  
Principal



## New Lambton Heights Infants 'A Family School'

# School Newsletter



176 Lookout Rd New Lambton Heights Ph: 49572744 Fax: 49562432 Website: [www.newlambhti-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.newlambhti-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Respect

Responsibility

Safe Learning



**An interesting article regarding composite classes....**

### NSW education audit: staged learning, composite classes are the new classroom

One-in-three public primary school students in NSW are taught in a composite class, with Catholic schools increasingly abandoning single year classes in favour of group learning.

A new class audit by the NSW Department of Education reveals that last year, 160,734 primary students from 1616 schools were in a composite class and while some schools had none, others had as many as 12 composite classes.

The audit shows there were 6586 composite classes in 2014.

The department says composite or multi-age classes are used if there is an "uneven pattern of enrolment" in the school, if the school is small or if mixing students of different ages would be academically and socially beneficial.

It stresses that research shows "it makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight year group or in a multi-age class – it's the teacher who makes the difference".

A leading researcher in composite classes, Linley Cornish, said when done well, multi-age classes produced students who were "self assured and independent learners".

"A lot of parents worry about the academic side of composite classes but there are a lot of social benefits of these classes," Associate Professor Cornish, chair of teaching and learning at the University of New England, said.

"They are a lot more like real life because you have different ages and abilities working together."

She said teachers no longer taught "rigidly in one year" and because the NSW syllabus stretches over two years, known as a stage, composite classes often worked very well.

"The times when I have seen it not work well is when a principal puts very bright younger kids with slower older kids and what happens is the younger kids overtake the older ones and that causes all sorts of problems," Dr Cornish said.

Multi-age classes are not unique to public schools and in some Catholic schools, the traditional classroom structure has been replaced with staged learning, where students are grouped by the stage they have reached not their age.

At St Monica's Primary School in North Parramatta, the classroom is a thing of the past. Instead, all the school's 200

students are together in one large open space, with mini libraries and quiet reading areas dividing the room.

The school's principal, Louise O'Donnell, said staged learning meant students in two grades, such as year 3 and 4, learnt together in one space with two teachers, ensuring learning could be tailored to each student's needs.

"The students are learning over two years, teachers are working in collaboration and it gives children a voice in their learning so what we find is that the students are engaged and they are excited about learning," Miss O'Donnell said.

Year 6 student Salama Kunambi and her classmate year 5 student, Lachlan Roberts say they make a great team when it comes to projects. They are in stage 3 and each term they all work together on a major project.

This term they are designing their own political party.

"This way you can work with people you have never worked with and you don't just work with your friends," Salama, 11, said.

In the Parramatta diocese, about 1000 students in 11 of its primary schools are in staged classes while in the Sydney diocese, which has 113 primary schools, 30 schools have one or more multi-age class. The most common is a combined year 5 and 6 class.

The executive director of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney, Dan White, said parents were often nervous about the idea of multi-age classrooms because they did not understand them.

"Which ever way we group the children, it is always about the learning and we know we need to explain this to the parents," Dr White said.

"But multi-age classes can be very effective, and although we tend to avoid it in kindergarten, what we find is that they allow for more flexible grouping of children."

**Alexandra Smith - The Sun Herald, May 3, 2015**



## New Lambton Heights Infants 'A Family School'

# School Newsletter



176 Lookout Rd New Lambton Heights Ph: 49572744 Fax: 49562432 Website: [www.newlambhti-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.newlambhti-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Respect

Responsibility

Safe Learning

### ANZAC at NLHIS – Lest We Forget

