**Important Dates**
- Friday 13/2: School Savvy 9:00 am in school hall
- Tuesday 17/2: GATS Meeting 6:00 pm, P&C Meeting 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 18/2: Parent Information Sessions
- Friday 20/2: KidsMatter Launch Day 9:00 am
- Friday 27/2: SuperStar Assembly

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**2015 SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

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**Great Work**
This week I had some students visit to show me their great work. CC from K2D dropped in to show me her writing and the beautiful rainbow that she drew and I also had many students visit with their Summer Reading Card. KD and KS popped in to say hi and I was very impressed with how well they have all settled into school. I dropped in to 1M and joined in with literacy groups and also had the opportunity to visit K2D where the students showed me how well they were doing with counting. Congratulations to our students who participated in the Weetbix triathlon last weekend. Cooper and Will were fortunate to have their photo taken with Tim Cahill.

**KidsMatter Launch Invitation**
Niagara Park Public School is holding a KidsMatter Launch Day on Friday February 20th from 9am - 11:30am and you are welcome to attend. KidsMatter is an initiative that allows schools to improve the mental and emotional wellbeing of children and their families. Our launch day will feature service providers from all over the Central Coast so that the community can come and see what is available to them and their families.

Some service agencies attending are HeadSpace, Medicare Local, Family Referral Services, SchoolLink, TafeNSW (adult literacy), Advocacy1, ET Australia, Niagara Park Children's Centre and many more. Morning tea and activities will be provided.
Swimming Carnival
Niagara Park P.S. held its 2015 Swimming Carnival at Gosford Pool on Thursday. We had a fantastic evening with many children swimming in competition events. The ribbons for the first 3 fastest times in each event will be presented at an assembly later this term.
The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held at Mingara Pool and the students participating will be notified of races they will be entered in, the selection is based on qualifying times. The teachers and I were very impressed with the behaviour of the students at the swimming carnival and it was pleasing to see students cheering for their team mates and doing their personal best.
A huge thank you to the staff for their help at the carnival and thank you also to our wonderful parents for supporting their children. A special thank you to Mrs Gibson for her excellent organisation.

Usage Agreement
Last week a note was issued seeking permission for participation in child protection programs, scripture, local walking excursions, publication of school photos, internet usage and Facebook permission. We are also requesting email addresses so that we can make distribution lists to send out newsletters and notes. We require your consent to enable your children to participate in these activities and to take photos of your children. Please note that whilst it is an acceptable practice for parents to take photos of their own children, taking photos of other students is not permitted without consent.

P&C Meeting
Our first P&C meeting for the year will be held in the school staffroom on Tuesday 17th February at 7:00 pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

Sport Days
Our grade sport days for 2015 are as follows:– Kinder: Thursday; Year 1: Friday; Year 2: Friday; Year 3: Friday Year 4: Friday; Years 5: Thursday; Year 6: Thursday.

School Website
If you haven’t already seen our new school website, log on to http://www.niagaraprk.p.schooels.nsw.edu.au/ and check it out. It is still a work in progress and will be regularly updated. Our school facebook page and school App are linked to our website and it receives the regular updates we send out to your smart phones.

School Banking
Interested in starting School Banking? Haven’t had time to get to a Commonwealth Bank Branch? The Commonwealth Bank will be holding an account opening session on Tuesday 24th February from 8.30 am – 9.15 am at K-2 area for anyone interested in their child participating in the school banking program. Please bring along your drivers licence for identification purposes. No money is required on the day.

Parent Information Sessions
Our teachers have organised parent information sessions to explain all the programs, events and procedures that will be happening in classes this year. These information sessions will take place on Wednesday 18th February, 2015 and will be held in your child’s classroom.
Kindergarten – 3:30 pm
( Supervision of Kindergarten students will be provided in the library during the Kindergarten information session)  
Stage 3 – (Years 5 & 6)  5:00 pm
Stage 1 – (Years 1 & 2)  5:45 pm
Stage 2 – (Years 3 & 4)  6:30 pm
An information handout sheet will be available on the night and will also be provided to parents who are unable to attend.
Staff Development Day Variation
At the end of this year there are two designated Staff Development Days, the 17th and 18th December. We will be moving the 18th December Staff Development Day forward to two evening sessions on the 24th February and 5th March 3:00pm-6:30pm. The purpose of this change to the normal routine is to enable Focus On Reading Module 3 implementation and follow up tasks in classrooms to be completed before Module 4 implementation Term 2 2015.

Homework
Rationale
Homework enhances and reinforces the learning and development of students. It encourages and supports parental involvement in student learning and fosters and reinforces the development of home/school partnerships.
Aims
- To establish regular patterns of homework and to develop sound working habits in each student.
- To provide interesting and stimulating homework activities designed to enrich, extend and/or reinforce concepts already learned at school.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in their children’s education, to be informed as to the curriculum content being covered at school, and to have an indication of the level at which their children are achieving.
- To support students in the development of skills, knowledge and concepts according to their own stage of development.
- Teachers are responsible for reviewing the homework of each student in an agreed upon timeframe and are to provide feedback.
- Special homework may be arranged on request for children absent from school due to illness or vacations.
- Activities, for infants, may include: research and collecting resources for use in class; Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 sight words/spelling words and reading. For Primary: drill of tables and spelling; reading, writing activities, handwriting practice, news reports, research and collection of resources.
- Maths activities would directly relate to work previously or currently being undertaken.

Recommended Time Use (daily)
Kindergarten 5 – 10 minutes
Year 1 and Year 2: 10 minutes
Year 3 and Year 4: 20 minutes
Year 5 and Year 6: 30 minutes

Parents Please Help
- Take an active interest in your child's homework.
- Support your child in setting aside time for homework/home study.
- Provide a dedicated place for homework which is preferably quiet and free from distractions.
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of the homework or your child's attitude to homework.
- Encourage your child to read and take an interest in current affairs.

Have a great weekend.

Adam Boulus
Principal
ICAS COMPETITIONS
Notes went home this week to all students in Years 3 - 6 regarding the 2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). These competitions are the largest external schools assessment programs available in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region. They provide an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. Students who participate will each receive a certificate and a detailed results letter indicating which questions they answered correctly, identifying the skill tested in each question and highlighting student strengths and weaknesses. The competitions are offered in the subject areas of Digital Technologies, Science, Mathematics, Spelling, Writing and English.

If you would like your child to participate in one or more of these competitions, please return the slip provided with your payment to the school no later than the last day of this term.

SCRIPTURE (K-6) /ETHICS CLASSES (3-6)
Scripture and Ethics classes will commence next week and will be conducted each even week throughout the term. Students in Years 1 to 6 will be placed into classes according to last year’s arrangements. Any requests for a change to your child’s scripture arrangements should be made in writing and sent to me.

Vicki Young
Deputy Principal

THANK YOU FROM K2D
Thank you for welcoming us into Niagara Park School community.

Hi everyone, my name is Tania Dever and I am the new teacher in our exciting support class K2D. I am thrilled to be here. I am a local myself and my children go to school in this area too. It has been lovely having parents drop in and say hi. We have a dynamic classroom with great kids that are all settling in beautifully. I also wanted to say thank you for helping us move around the school and get to our special transport each afternoon when it is really busy. Most children in K2D live out of our area and come via taxi. We truly appreciate you all leaving the car parks at the side gate free. We have three vehicles each day plus families that need the allocated parking. Thanks again for welcoming us and I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Mrs Tania Dever
K2D Classroom Teacher

NEWS FROM THE IRC
Welcome to 2015 in the IRC (Information Research Centre). Students in Years 3-6 have started their sessions in the IRC and are engaged in a unit involving Cybersafety and how to be Cyber Smart. This material is covered in greater detail on the CyberSmart website: http://www.cybersmart.gov.au
Tuesday 10th February, 2015 – Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day (SID) is organised by Insafe in February of each year to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially among children and young people across the world. http://www.saferinternetday.org/
We encourage the students to share their learning about being Cyber Smart with you at home.
We have also started using the KidRex Internet browser with our younger students. KidRex is a free and simple way to keep your kids from finding sites with inappropriate content. The overall interface of KidRex is very kid friendly. Everything is drawn in cartoons and there is a big colorful dinosaur that is exciting but also appropriate. The search engine is powered by Google but there are quite a few differences between using KidRex and Google.com.

Linda Harvey
Computer Coordinator

15th - 20th March

To celebrate Gifted Awareness Week, we will be holding a session for parents to learn more about gifted and talented students. In this session, we will discuss what the terms ‘gifted’ and ‘talented’ mean, stereotypes of the gifted learner, methods schools use to identify gifted and talented students and support networks available for parents. The session will run from 6:00pm - 7:00pm in the school Library, right before our P&C meeting this Tuesday 17 February. All welcome!

Bec Thompson (Assistant Principal) and the GAT Committee

P&C NEWS

Our first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday 17th February at 7:00 pm in the school staff room. These meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month during the school term. Please come along to find out about the latest happenings and future plans for our school, and help to organise fundraising events for the year and decide on how these funds are best spent.

If you are unable to attend meetings, you can still become a member and receive the meeting minutes to enable you to keep in touch. Please email nppspandc@gmail.com to get an Application Form.

If you are willing and able to volunteer throughout the year at P&C fundraising and community events, please contact Julie Munro (P&C President) on 0432 112 919. Any assistance is greatly appreciated!

Laura Jean Photography fundraiser is on Saturday 14th March, 2015. For a donation of $20.00, you will receive a beautiful framed portrait of your family. Please send back the form from the flyer + $20.00 to confirm your place – popular times fill fast – first in best dressed! Contact Michelle Johnstone for further details by emailing mjohnstone01@gmail.com or phoning 0417 250 994.

Katherine Bolton
P&C Vice President
Our New Website is up and running!! Please visit www.niagarapk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au and have a look at all the new features and join in on our excitement.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Bringing Up Great Kids

Various free courses are being at Wyconnect at 33a Alison Road, Wyong. Topics include: Messages from the past—beliefs and values about parenting, Brain development and its relationship to behaviour, Giving and receiving message, The message of behaviours and Messages about me and passing on messages. These courses commence from 4th March, 2015 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Booking are essential by phoning 1300 654 269 or via email at wyconnectintake@interrelate.org.au

Northern Valley Netball Club

Northern Valley Netball Club are looking for some keen little netballers who are turning 6 or 7 in the 2015 calendar year. We are a family friendly club with experienced and enthusiastic coaches. If you are interested, please contact our Secretary Rebecca Dummett on NVNCSecretary@hotmail.com before 19 February 2015. If you would like more information about our netball club, please visit our website www.northernvalleys.com
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