**Great Work**
This week I had some students visit to show me their great work. Molly, Aysha, Eliandra, Izzie, Blake and Eve visited to tell me they had achieved 10 wheelies and Ryan from 1J showed me his amazing writing. I had the opportunity to visit some classes this week. I spent some time with 5G’s Spelling Mastery class, what fantastic kids! I visited KS and we worked on counting and addition and I dropped in to KT and we read a very funny book.

**District Swimming**
Congratulations to all students who attended the District Swimming Carnival at Woy Woy on Monday. Mrs Gibson was very proud of our students for doing their personal best and representing our school with pride. Congratulations to Megan, Will, Jayden, Thomas, Cooper, Hunter, George, Harley and James who have made it through to the Sydney North Carnival. Thank you to Mrs Gibson for organising our school’s involvement and thanks to Mrs Catto for managing our team and to the parents for their support and helping with transport.

**Earth Hour**
Earth Hour is on Saturday 28th March at 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Earth hour is to raise awareness of energy use in the community. During Earth Hour, switch off your lights, televisions, computers and so forth and make use of candles, flashlights and other battery operated or hand-cranked devices. Earth Hour doesn’t have to last only an hour - you can extend it for as long as you like. While not using electricity you can: read a book, play a game (board games, cards or charades), make shadow puppets, tell ghost stories, go for a walk, go outside and do some star gazing (if it’s not cloudy), go outside and discover how different nature in your area can be at night-time than from daytime (but don’t do anything dangerous!) or catch up on some sleep.
Term 2 Staffing
Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mr Hartshorn will be unable to continue teaching 5/6H and will be leaving Niagara Park Public School at the end of the term. Mr Hartshorn has been a great addition to our school supporting the learning of our students. He has established relationships with our community and is a trusted colleague. While he will be missed, we wish him well in his future teaching career. Ms Kelly Lothian, our new Assistant Principal will be teaching 5/6H from Term 2. Mrs Amelia Flood has taken maternity leave and is expecting her new arrival in a few weeks. Mrs Natalie Hearn is relieving in the library position and Mrs Lauren Owen will continue teaching 6O for the remainder of the year.

P&C AGM
Our P&C Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 7:00 pm in the school staffroom. We welcome all our parents and carers to come along. We would love you to consider taking on an executive role and P&C Nomination forms are available on the Niagara Park Public School P&C website.

School Photos
School Photos are being taken on Friday, 20th March. This year, we are using a company called “The School Photographer”. They offer a variety of packages along with some extras to purchase. Payment options include cash, cheque and online credit card processing. More information about packages, cost and payment can be found on the envelope that has been issued. All photographs on Friday 20 March require full summer school uniform and black shoes. Photos for the day will include class, individual and sibling photos along with: Year 6 photo, Students Leadership Team, Senior House Captains, Junior House Captains and Semester 1 SRC Representatives. All sport, group and team photos will be taken at a later date in Term 4 on Tuesday 20th October. As in previous years, photo orders are on a pre-paid basis. All money together with orders need to be returned by Monday 16th March. Sibling (brothers and sisters) photo envelopes are available upon request from the front office and packages start from $15.00 each. Please note the Year 6 group photo is a complimentary gift to our Year 6 students. Correct payment for your photo orders (cash, cheque or pre-paid credit card) can be placed in or on the envelope. Please note that no change can be given. You must complete a separate envelope for each child and for each package that you order. All envelopes can then be cross checked with our class lists.

Scripture Assembly
Due to the Gosford Council Environment workshops, the Easter Assembly will be conducted in classrooms during the normal Scripture times.

Easter Hat Parade
The P&C are coordinating an Easter Raffle and Easter Hat Parade fundraising event. Easter is now fast approaching and our Easter event will be held on Thursday 2nd April and includes a parade from our students with their hats and a raffle of many wonderful prizes. Students are asked to make a paper/cardboard hat or decorate an old hat/cap at home with an Easter theme and bring it to school on the day of our Easter event.

We are kindly asking students to donate a chocolate Easter egg or anything relating to Easter so we can make some wonderful prizes for our Easter raffle and egg decorating competition. The more donations we receive the more prizes you may receive. Donations are being collected at the Canteen. Raffle tickets were sent home this week. Your safety is our first priority, so door knocking is something we do not encourage or expect you to do. However if you do, please have adult supervision with you at all times. Please sell these tickets only to family and close friends or in some cases your next door neighbours. We are having another eggciting activity again this year. All students from K-6 have the opportunity to decorate a boiled/papier-mâché/styrofoam egg and have it displayed at our Easter hat parade. This is an optional activity. Eggs could be dyed, coloured, decorated to look like a chicken, bunny, bird, person etc. Your imagination is your only limit and we are really
Building Maths Skills at Home

With a little creativity, you can make mathematics a lot of fun. Here are some easy things you can do at home to help your child with Maths.

There are many games you probably already have at home that encourage development in Maths: Yahtzee (basic addition), Connect Four (problem solving strategies), Puzzles (spatial awareness), Card games, Monopoly (money), Battleship (coordinates).

Talk about the calendar and dates with your child. Make it exciting by looking forward to special events. It is fun for them to count the weeks and days until birthdays or to see what day of the week a specific holiday will be on this year.

You can help your child learn to count money by playing ‘shopping’ with them. Use real coins and let them be the cashier. Use an empty egg carton as a counting tool to practice addition and subtraction skills up to 12. Simply place an object in slots and use the empty slots to count up to/from 12.

Introduce time—tell them that they can play a game at a certain time. Begin with easy times (7:00) and get progressively more difficult (7:30 and 7:45).

Cook with your child. Read the instructions on the back of the box and allow them to measure the ingredients. You can develop a better understanding of fractions by discussing equal parts with your child. Any time you have a pizza, it is an opportunity to discuss the concepts of whole, halves, quarters and eights.

Making flashcards of basic addition or subtraction facts can be an easy way to practice. You can make it a game by seeing how many they can answer in a minute.

Anytime there is a project at home that involves measuring centimetres and metres, let your child help. This allows them to understand that the concepts they are learning at school have real world applications. Point out shapes and discuss them.

Athletics Carnival

Our Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 26 March. This carnival will take place at Mingara Athletics field and will be for all students K to 6. Please return permission notes and money to your child’s class teacher.

Have a great weekend.

Adam Boulus
Principal

Fabulous Work

This week I have seen some sensational sentences in KD, creative craft in KS, witty writing in 2/3W and sensational spelling in the Spelling Mastery class in 5G. I have seen some fabulous sentence writing about a kangaroo from Charli (KT) and also from Brianna, Isabella and Annalie G (KD) who wrote sentences about dinosaurs. Hunter and Byron (4G) stopped by to tell me about their amazing progress in reading and and Dakota and Hailey (2DM) showed me their skills in maths. CC, Lucas, Elias, Jamaica and Jack (KD2) also drew some amazing pictures of a cranky bear.

K/1 Morning Assembly

I would like to thank those parents who are saying a quick goodbye to their children in the morning and then leaving the K/1 lining up area before morning assembly. This has minimised the noise under the cola considerably and the students are more settled as a result. It also means that pathways to classrooms are clear and there is less chance of accidents occurring on the way to classrooms. If you are remaining at school in the morning as a classroom helper, it would be much appreciated if you could wait near the classroom rather than down in the assembly area.

Vicki Young
Deputy Principal
DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all students who attended the District Swimming Carnival on Monday at Peninsula Leisure Centre. Every student performed to the very best of their ability and represented our school with pride and great sportsmanship.

Well done and good luck to the following students who made it through to the Sydney North Carnival held at Homebush on Tuesday 17th March.

Megan Catto
Will Adams
Jayden Russell
Thomas Owen
Cooper Ellis
Hunter Ellis
George Wells
Harley Singh
James Cutbush

Special thanks to Sharon Catto who was the team manager for the day.

Sarah Gibson
Sports Coordinator

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE (PRC)

The Premier’s Reading Challenge has begun. Students K-2 have already began reading their books in class and notes for optional participation Years 3-6 have been sent home. More information can be found on the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge website https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html and books can be borrowed from the PRC section of our Library. The PRC runs from Monday 2nd March to Friday 21st August. Students Years 3-6 can sign up to the PRC at anytime. Good luck with the challenge!

Amelia Flood
Assistant Principal

P&C NEWS

Family Portrait Fundraiser - Don’t forget to come along to the Laura Jean Photography fundraiser this Saturday 14th March if you have booked a place. Please park in the top carpark next to the Scout and Guide hall and enter through the side gate. Photos will be taken in the Kindergarten classrooms next to the Community Room and play equipment (enter through KD). Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes before your allocated timeslot. Please contact Michelle Johnstone for details by emailing mjohnstone01@gmail.com or phoning 0417 250 994.

Please "Like" Laura Jean Photography on Facebook and put Niagara Park Public School in the "comment" line and we will receive $2.00 per "like" – easy fundraising!

Easter Hat Parade, Egg Art Display and Raffle - Our Easter Hat Parade and display of Egg Art will be held on Thursday 2nd April. We are requesting donations of Easter eggs and Easter items. The majority of these eggs and items will be used for raffle prizes with 12 prizes being made from the donations for the Egg Art winners. All donations can be delivered to the Canteen please. Also we are requesting donations of cane baskets for displaying the raffle prizes.

Raffle tickets went home this week. If you want additional ticket booklets, please send back the yellow slip from your ticket book to the class teacher. Request how many booklets you would like, then additional books will be returned via your child.

Mother’s Day Stall - For this year’s Mother’s Day stall, we are requesting donations of brand new loofahs, new tea towels and new sports drink bottles (either flat or normal size). These can be handed in to the Canteen. Also, if you are able to assist with wrapping Mother’s Day presents, please phone Julie on 0432 112 919 or collect presents from the Community Room (demountable room near the top gate next to the Guide and Scout hall) on the afternoons of Monday 16th or Tuesday 17th March. You will be provided with the present, paper and ribbon which you can take home to wrap and return the wrapped present to the Canteen. Any help would be greatly appreciated, thank you.
**Clothing Pool News** - Due to a change in our Clothing Pool coordinator, the days of opening will change as of Term 2. The new hours will be:

- Monday afternoon   2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
- Thursday morning    8:30 pm to 9:30 pm

The Clothing Pool has sport house shirts for sale if you need one for the upcoming Athletics Carnival. House shirts are $5.50 each.

If you are able to assist in the Clothing Pool, please contact Kim Sneddon our Clothing Pool Coordinator on 0419 630 119 or via email nppctreasurer@gmail.com.

**P&C Membership and AGM** - Our next P&C meeting on **Tuesday 17th March** is our AGM and everyone is welcome. If you wish to stand for a position or vote at this meeting, you need to be a financial member. If you’d like a membership form to complete, please email nppspandc@gmail.com. Membership costs $2.00 per year. The completed form with fee can be returned to the lovely ladies in the school office, as can any nominations for executive positions.

Katherine Bolton  
P&C Vice President

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Lisarow Public School**

Lisarow Public School is holding their Country Fair on Saturday 21st March from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at 27 McDonalds Road, Lisarow. There will be cake stalls, craft stalls, books, pick a ticket, side show alley, showbags, rides and much more.

**St. Joseph’s Catholic College**

St. Joseph’s Catholic College is holding an open afternoon/evening for Year 7 2016 enrolments on Monday 16th March. For more information and enrolment enquiries, please contact the College Registrar on 43 244022.

**Holiday Fun! Free Rock Pool Rambles**

Ocean and Coastal Care Initiatives are holding Rock Pool Rambles during the April holidays at Forresters Beach, Norah Head, Terrigal Haven and Toowoon Bay. Bookings are essential by phoning 0450 990 995.

**Office of Sport & Recreation Holiday Activities**

Numerous fun kids holiday activities are planned for the April school holidays including Archery, AFL, Gymnastics, Tennis, Surfing and much more. If you would like the activity sheet, please see Mrs. Roods or contact the Office of Sport and Recreation on 43 623184 or visit [www.dsr.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au)

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**Gifted Awareness Week Australia**

15th to 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 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the school IRC on **Tuesday 17th March**, right before our P&C meeting. Everyone is welcome!

Rebecca Thompson and the GAT Committee
Marni’s Studio of Performing Arts

- Classes are held at Narara Valley High School on Thursday afternoons.
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