Welcome
Welcome back. I hope everyone had a relaxing break and got through the storms with minimal damage. I am sure that we will have an exciting term 2. There are lots of events on our calendar already:

- NAPLAN testing for year 3 and 5 in week 3
- Athletics field event for year 3 – 6 in week 4
- Athletics Carnival for K – 6 in week 6
- Star Struck performances in week 8
- Parent/Teacher Interviews and reports at the end of the term

Storm Damage
Thankfully we have no serious damage from the storms this week. We do have trees and branches down and some minor leaks and these will be dealt with as soon as possible. Thank you to parents and staff for their assistance and cooperation over the last couple of days.

Staff
This term we welcome Mr Trent Tull to our staff. Mr Tull has been appointed as a permanent teacher to our school and will take over 2/3 P which will now become 2/3T. I am sure that you will make Mr Tull welcome.

NAPLAN
In a couple of weeks all students in years 3 and 5 will complete the NAPLAN testing. It is important that students are at school on time each day. The results of the tests will provide important information to the school about what children can do and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard. The tests are as follows:

- **Tuesday 12th May**  Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)
- **Wednesday 13th May**  Reading
- **Thursday 14th May**  Numeracy

Collecting Students
Last term, nearly every day, we had students who were not collected on time from school in the afternoon. Parents are reminded that school finishes at 3.00pm and if parents are going to be late they need to make alternative arrangements for students. Some students are being left at school for over an hour and this is causing them distress. On most afternoons staff attend meetings or have commitments and cannot be expected to wait with students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Solving Problems
From time to time problems or issues may occur in the classroom or the playground. The best way of handling an issue is getting all the information and then finding a solution to the problem. The first point of contact should always be your child’s class teacher. If the problem cannot be solved then the next person to contact should be the stage supervisor. A reminder that the stage supervisors for this year are:

- **Preschool**  Mrs McLean
- **Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2**  Mrs Kelly
- **Year 3, Year 4**  Mrs Reynolds
- **Year 5, Year 6**  Mr Morrison

Second Step
We are continuing with our social and emotional program Second Step. The program promotes:

- school success
- school connectedness
- safe and respectful school culture

This term students will learning about identifying feelings, accepting differences, controlling anger and showing compassion. The home tasks in your child’s homework will give you more information of what child are learning each week.

Important Dates

- **12th – 14th May**  NAPLAN Testing
- **TBA**  Years 3 – 6 Athletics Field Event Carnival
- **28th May**  K – 6 Athletics Carnival
- **10th – 12th May**  Starstruck
- **26th June**  End of Term 2
Canteen News
Wednesday 22nd April  Jess, Kristy and Nat Brown
Thursday 23rd April  Nat A
Friday 24th April  Mandie, Sarah
Monday 27th April  Gayle, Nat B
Tuesday 28th April  Jane

**Hot Chocolate $1.20 each**
The cold weather is here so it’s time for the Hot Chocolates to make a return.
(warm complete with sipper lid)
* Available in the morning 8.30-8.50am
* Lunchtime in the first half only.
If as a lunch order kids need to bring their bags back to the canteen like they would do with an ice block or slushie.
* NO RECESS
Goes well with a cheese and bacon roll $2.60 for both.

**Garlic Bread $1.00 each**
As of Term 2 the Snack Shack will be selling garlic bread at recess BUT only as a recess order, no over the counter sales.
Good way to keep little tummy’s warm till they get home. Recess orders can either be brought to the canteen first thing in the morning or placed in the class lunch baskets. If it’s a recess order please write on top of bag in big, clear letters RECESS along with name, class and order on bag so it won’t be sent to class at lunchtime. Recess orders also need to be collected from the canteen by the students at recess time they are not delivered to rooms.

Canberra Excursion
Stage 3 students spent their final days of Term 1 in Canberra.
On Tuesday they visited the National Capital Exhibition, The Australian Institute of Sport and the Australian War Memorial, where our school captains were selected to lay a wreath at the closing ceremony. The following day we spent time at the New and Old Parliament House, The National Film and Sound Archive, The Australian Electoral Education Centre and The Australian Museum of Democracy. We finished the day with a trip to Questacon. Friday we visited Black Mountain Tower and the National Museum of Australia before the long journey home. This was a very valuable learning experience which students gained much from. Our students were complimented at a number or the venues for their presentation, interest and exemplary behaviour. A fantastic time was had by all students (and staff)!
THE BENEFITS OF SPECIFIC PRAISE

General praise
General praise is when you acknowledge something your child is doing well in a general way e.g. "Good job!"

Specific positive praise
Specific positive praise is acknowledging something your child has done well by telling them exactly what it is that you like about their performance, effort, behaviour, etc.
E.g. "You’ve finished your homework without being reminded. I’m proud of you!"

What are the benefits of specific praise?
- It will begin to increase your child’s self-esteem.
- It will begin to increase your child’s self-confidence.
- Your child is more likely to repeat the behaviour(s) that are being positively praised.
- Your child will begin to feel noticed, appreciated, wanted and important to you.
- Your child is more likely to make better choices in the future if they’re being acknowledged for the good things they are doing.

Tips
FOR USING SPECIFIC POSITIVE PRAISE
- When you notice your child doing something good, tell them
- Describe exactly what it is that you like
- Praise your child for their strengths
- Encourage good behaviour with praise rather than pointing out the bad
- Look for the slightest of positive changes and praise it!
- It takes a lot of specific positive praise to outweigh one criticism.

www.interrelate.org.au • 1300 i relate (1300 473 528) • Facebook • Twitter

NSW Government
Education & Communities
April is International Autism Awareness Month and as part of the celebrations we are hosting a free Autism Information Day for parents, carers and professionals.

Special Guest speaker Natasha Beyersdorf (NBN Newsreader) will be there to welcome guests on the day.

Topics covered on will include:

- Understanding autism: Different not less
- Sensory processing and occupational therapy
- Tips and tricks for fussy eating

The day will give local people the chance to meet up with others in similar situations and chat with our speech pathologists, occupational therapists and behaviour support practitioners.

A question and answer session will also be held with Northcott staff who will answer questions about topics related to autism.

There will also be stalls to browse, including Nana’s Weighted Blanket’s and lucky door prizes from The One Stop Sensory Shop.

DATE:  Wednesday 29 April
TIME:  10am – 2:30pm
REGISTRATION:  9:45am
PLACE:  Wests New Lambton, Bowling Club Conference Room, Tauranga Road, New Lambton
COST:  Free, with morning tea and lunch to be provided

**Bookings are essential as places are limited!**

RSVP:  Northcott Mayfield
Name:  Donna Vaughan
Phone:  4935 0400
Email:  Mayfield@northcott.com.au