**Week One Action**

Our first week back has been extremely positive with students engaged, focused and excited.

Above: our P/1 Class are all smiles.

**Extreme Heat**

Please be mindful that predictions are for extremely hot conditions next week. The school will be ensuring a common sense approach is taken when responding to weather conditions. Please ensure all children have drink bottles with them at school. If current predictions do occur we encourage students to bring in any appropriate board/indoor games that you would be happy to share.

**Line Marking**

Can I sincerely thank the Richardson family for remarking the lines on the asphalt areas over the Christmas period. Your support is much appreciated.

**Whooping Cough**

Over Christmas we have had a confirmed case of whooping cough within our school community. Whooping cough is a respiratory infection (infection of the lungs) which causes long bursts of coughing. The infection is caused by a bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis*. *Pertussis* is another name for whooping cough. Whooping cough is very easy to catch. It is spread by tiny drops of fluid when coughing and sneezing. It can also be spread on hands to the nose if the hands have come in contact with the bacteria.

**School Council Elections**

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations for Newstead PS Council elections. The School Council membership comprises of Parent and Department of Education employees.

There are 4 vacancies for parent member for two years.

All retiring members are eligible to re-nominate. Nominations forms are available from the Office, and once completed, need to be returned to Andrew Frawley, returning officer before 4.00pm, 20th February.

The timeline is as follows:

- **Feb 9th** Notice of election and call for nominations (Information Attached).
- **Feb 18th** Close of nominations (4.00pm).
- **Feb 23rd** Preparation and distribution of ballot (if required).
- **March 2nd** Close of ballot.
- **March 4th** Counting of votes and declaration of results.
- **March 17th** New council becomes operational, office bearers elected.

If you require more information on School Council please speak with Andrew.

**School Council Meeting - Tuesday 17th February**

The first School Council for the year will occur on Tuesday 17th February. Please have all agenda items to the school office by Friday 13th.

**Reminder—Swimming**

Monday 16th is the first day of our Swimming Program. Please remember to have bathers, towels and anything else that you will need to enjoy this wonderful week at the pool. Thank you to those that have been able to offer support with walking to and from the pool.

**Prep/One Parent Information Session**

Tuesday 10th February - 4.30-5.30pm

A reminder to parents the information session will occur next Tuesday. We look forward to seeing many families in attendance.
**Instrumental Music Program**

Once again we are able to offer a variety of Instrumental Music tuition within school times. I would like to welcome Drew Thorpe into our school community. Drew is able to offer a variety of instruments and will be an asset to our music program. The amazing Terry and Gillian will continue to be available for superb guitar and ukulele sessions with lots of fun ensured. At this point we will not offer piano as an option until a later date. Expression of Interest forms can be collected from the classrooms or office.

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**Dates for The Diary**

**Tuesday 10th February**

- **P/1 Information Session**
  - From 4.30 - 5.30pm

16th – 20th Feb - Whole School Swimming Program

11th, 18th and 25th February - Prep Rest Days

**Tuesday 17th Feb** - Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

**Monday 9th March** - Labour Day Long Weekend

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**Castlemaaine Circus Inc.**

Term 1 Program Out Now

Castlemaaine Circus Inc. was established in November 2011 by a group of volunteers. CCI provides circus training and performance opportunities for people aged 3 years to adults. We believe kids thrive on physically and mentally challenging activities in a community-based non-competitive environment. Plus they have heaps of fun, meet new people and learn new skills.

Term 1 commences Monday February 2nd. Contact us for more info.

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**We welcome Chloe, William and Jackson into the Grade 2/3 classroom (above), while Nateasha (below) has started in the 4/5/6 room.**

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**Above: Action form the P/1 class.**

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School Council Elections 2015

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.
Newstead PS - Procedures for the bushfire season

Schools – and children’s services – identified as being at highest bushfire risk will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be Code Red. Our school has been identified as a school at high bushfire risk.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days’ notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter and/or phone call with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

No staff will remain on site when the school is closed by the threat of fire. We will also cancel any offsite activities (such as school camps and excursions). There may also be changes to school bus routes. Depending on routes, this may also occur on days when the school is not closed.

TIQBIZ—
Life is busy and Tiqbiz provides a platform for the school to share ahead of time relevant information to individuals, selected groups, class groups or the whole school. Please read and complete the attached process to register. If you have any questions or queries please speak with Andrew. Also a reminder to parents that if your child has moved up classes you will need to adjust selected groups.