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Term 4 – Week 3

Tuesday 20 October 2015

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### 'Digital Sparks'

Today we have seventeen of our students participating in an innovative Technology and Design Challenge at Newcastle University with more than 150 (Year 3 to Year 8 students) from eight schools from the Central Coast to Armidale. The design challenge is called 'Digital Sparks' and is the brainchild of our own technology teacher at The Junction – Rob McTaggart. Schools will showcase their expertise in creating smartphone apps, websites, computer code and robotics at the University of Newcastle.

The Digital Sparks Regional Technology Design Challenge and Expo is hosted by the NSW Education Department and the University's School of Design, Communication and Information Technology, with support from Microsoft Australia. Rob McTaggart has done an incredible job in putting together an opportunity for students across the region to be involved in developing technologies to respond to global, local and personal needs using design thinking. Today, they're ready to showcase their innovations to the general public. The student teams have been developing their ideas by writing code, constructing websites, developing smartphone apps and learning robotics.

Congratulations to Rob and The Junction for putting this showcase together with Newcastle University and Microsoft. Many thanks to the University for their very generous support in allowing us to use Newcastle University resources and personnel.

### Congratulations to all Bands!

Huge congratulations to all band members for their outstanding performances last week at Bandfest at Warners Bay Performing Arts Centre. I know all our students performed brilliantly and we are very proud of them all. The Junior Band, Senior Band and Percussion Ensemble all took out first place in their divisions with the Intermediate Band being awarded a 'Highly Commended' in their section. The percussion section of our Senior Band was also awarded - 'Most Outstanding Percussion section' of all bands - another wonderful achievement. To top it off, student – Poppy – was awarded 'Outstanding Musician'. It's great to see that all the hard work, hours of practice and skill development translating into such wonderful success.

Sincere thanks to teacher and conductor Michael Jobson for his supervision of all our music programs as well as thanks to Michael Bell and David Tracy for their professional tutoring of all our students.

The Senior Band is off to the **Opera House next Tuesday** to perform in the Festival of Music with many other elite bands from across NSW. This is another incredible opportunity for our students and will be an amazing experience for all. Best wishes to the Senior Band.

### Parent Survey

We want your feedback! You're invited to participate in the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey designed for parents and carers. This online survey will provide feedback around school programs and organisation for 2016 and also to provide comment on the strategic directions which will be outlined for the next planning phase of 2016-2017. This survey complements the TTFM student and teacher surveys, which focus on student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices. All Department of Education schools have the opportunity to participate if they choose.

#### Why should I participate?

Parents and carers are an important and valued part of the school community. Schools can use survey feedback to make practical improvements and inform school planning.

What does it involve? This online survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. It is anonymous and voluntary. If you have more than one child at this school, and feel that your children's experiences differ, you can complete the survey more than once.

How can I participate? You can access the survey in your own time, between now and 23 October 2015. Follow the link below on your computer or tablet: [tinyurl.com/tips2015](http://tinyurl.com/tips2015)

We are also happy for parents to utilise computers at school if there is no internet access at home. More information on the Partners in Learning survey can be found on the NSW Department of Education's TTFM website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

It would be really great to have many more parents complete this survey – please participate if you have time. Many thanks.

### Spring Fair

Thank you to all parents who have been sending items along to the school for the Spring Fair on the 31<sup>st</sup> October - Saturday week. This year the school concert – will be at the Spring Fair. All classes will be performing in a 'Year item' at the Fair between 12.15pm and 4pm. The school bands and dance groups will also be performing as well as community groups. It will be a really entertaining program. All classes have been practising their items and teachers have been talking to students about costume requirements for their item. I am asking all classes to forward a note

home to you for the simple costume requirements. I know you will really enjoy these performances.

## STATE CARNIVAL

Saxon competed in the Senior 800m race and ran the fourth fastest time in all the heats but was unfortunately disqualified from the final on a technicality. He ran 14 seconds faster than he ran at our school carnival when he broke our school record for the event. Noah competed in the boy's Shot put, he threw extremely well but faced some stiff competition. Congratulations to both students, we are extremely proud of their efforts and achievements.

Wendy Cheek, Principal

## CALENDAR - TERM 4 – 2015

### Week 3 Event

Monday, October 19	Book Club Orders Closed
Thursday, October 22	Year 1 & 2 Intensive Swimming
Thursday, October 22	P & C Gardening Bee
Friday, October 23	All Year 5 students gala day at Newcastle High School

### Week 4 Event

Tuesday, October 27	Senior Band – Opera House
Tuesday, October 27	Raffle Tickets back to school
Thursday, October 29	Year 1 & 2 Intensive Swimming
Friday, October 30	CANTEEN CLOSED
Saturday, October 31	Spring Fair – 12pm to 4pm
Saturday, October 31	Family Halloween Disco – 5.30pm to 7.30pm

### Week 7 Event

Monday, Nov 16	Hunter Life Education-1J, 1C & 3MC
Tuesday, Nov 17	Hunter Life Education-1W, 3H, 3W , 3K
Wednesday, Nov 18	Hunter Life Education-1CF, 5W, 5T & 5B GIRS
Thursday, Nov 19	Hunter Life Education-5S & 5B BOYS
Friday, Nov 20	Hunter Life Education-Catch up

### RECENT NOTES HOME

- All families – Raffle Tickets – Need to be back at school by Tuesday October 27
- Senior Band Opera House Performance - \$30
- Year 5 to Newcastle High (White)

NEW SOUTH WALES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING



5 Hunter Life Education (Purple note)

Family Halloween Disco note (today)

## SPECIAL MENTION AWARDS

### TERM 4 WEEK 2

#### KINDER AWARDS

KD	Archie Imogen Clancy	Lucy Steele
KE	Jacob	Cedar
KH	Leighon	Ella
KK	Kye Aja	Miley

#### YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6 ASSEMBLY

3H	Noah Xavier	Elle
3K	Liam Mia	Lily
3MC	Livinia Kip	Isaac
3W	Lily	Darby
4A	Amy Hugo	Jack Jessie
4F	Indah Maxxis	Lucy
4L	Sarah Imogen	Oskar
5S	Gus Grace	Jonty
5W	Elysha Rylee	Kayne
5/6B	Connor Jackson	Evie
6C	Peter Maya	Indi

#### Assembly times:

Kinder to Year 2 – Wed (New Hall) 2pm (Odd weeks)  
Year 3 to 6 – Friday (New Hall) 11.20am (Every week)

### ATTENDANCE

A recent review of absences across the whole school has shown that many families are not providing a reason to the school why their child is absent. All absences without verbal or written explanations are recorded as 'Unjustified'. This can show up as unsatisfactory attendance and must be dealt with through the school welfare system.

It is a Departmental requirement that all absences are explained. This can be done in writing, or on the Skoolbag app.

### REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

Office Hours: 8.30am to 3.15pm

- We are unable to administer Panadol to students – we can only administer prescribed medication from a Doctor with the label/package supplied.
- We do not have change when paying for excursions etc – it would be appreciated if you have the correct money.
- Please remember to advise the school of any changes to your address/phone numbers etc.
- All notes for excursions/performance etc are on the School Website.
- If your child will be absent for over 5 school days you must complete an 'Extended Leave Form' before you take leave.
- For leave under 5 days you must still advise the school in writing.

### CANTEEN NEWS

The new 'Summer Pink Menu' went home with last week's newsletter. Please destroy your 'Winter Yellow Menu'. Please note the canteen will have limited stock next week due to the School Spring Fair.

**THE SCHOOL CANTEEN WILL BE  
CLOSED ON FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

### BAND NEWS

#### BANDFEST

Our year of music making continued last week with our very talented musicians performing at the Lake Macquarie Bandfest. A huge congratulations go to all students who performed as part of the Junior Band, Intermediate Band, Senior Band and Percussion Ensemble. All ensembles performed to their absolute best standard and we are very proud of all ensembles as they continue to make great music together.

The ensembles were all entered in very competitive divisions. These were the results from each division:

The Junior Band was successful in winning the Primary Novice Larger section up against four other bands from across our Region. Well done Junior Band, what a great start to your musical careers as part of the TJPS music ensembles!

The Intermediate Band was awarded a Highly Commended award in the Primary Intermediate section. Their performance drew many positive compliments from the audience and the adjudicator, but unfortunately they were pipped at the post by the Wallsend South Public School Senior Band. Congratulations go to Wallsend South for their great performance. A huge congratulations to Poppy, who was awarded the special

"Outstanding Musician" award for the entire division. During our performance the adjudicator noticed Poppy's excellent playing and watching. Great work Intermediate Band and Poppy!

The Senior Band successfully competed in the Primary Premier section, winning the division and drawing many positive comments from Captain Dave Thompson, the adjudicator. Our Senior Band performed at such a high level this year that Captain Thompson noted that we would give any high school band a run for their money. Congratulations Senior Band, you gave a performance of which you should be very proud!

Our fantastic Percussion Ensemble played in the Primary Open section, giving a very exciting performance and in the process winning the division. Well done to Mr David Tracy and the boys who performed on the day. Your performance of *Thunderstruck* was one to be remembered!

Our sincerest thanks go to Mr Bell for helping to prepare all bands, organising equipment both leading up to the event and on the day and conducting the bands in their performances. We couldn't have had such a successful Bandfest without you. Thanks!

#### SENIOR BAND OPERA HOUSE EXCURSION

A reminder to all Senior Band musicians to please return your permission note and money for the Opera House trip and performance next Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

Could all Senior Band families please also double check that they have the correct 'Full Band Uniform' for our performance at the Opera House. This includes Black trousers (not jeans of any sort), black socks, and black shoes with no white showing.

**MUSICIANS ARE TO WEAR THEIR 'SPORTS SHIRT' WITH THEIR BLACK PANTS/SHOES IN THE MORNING AND BRING THEIR 'BAND SHIRT' SO IT IS CLEAN FOR THE NIGHT PERFORMANCE.**

I'm sure you'll agree we need to look our best for this incredibly exciting performance.

Michael Jobson



## CHESS NEWS

Congratulations to Oscar, Poppy, Timothy and Luke who last week played their first competition games against other schools in the district, as our Rookie Chess Team. It is a full day of chess, especially for these young players but they played very well and showed great skill and patience. After seven rounds, they won 3, drew 1 and lost 3. Great results for our novice chess players! Angie King

## PARENT ASSISTED READING PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mrs Hughes is looking for parent, grandparent or community volunteers from any grade to assist with a Parent Helper Reading Program for Year 3 and 4 students. At this point we would like to run the program three mornings a week. Please contact Mrs Hughes through the school office if you can assist.

## SPRING FAIR- PLANT STALL

Classes 1CF and 4A are holding a Plant Stall for the upcoming Spring Fair. We are currently looking for donations of potted plants, small or large, that we can sell during the Spring Fair, plus anything else garden related, such as plaques, gardening tools, decorative pots, ceramic labels for plants and garden figurines and ornaments. If you are able to help us with donations, they would be greatly appreciated. Please send donations to either of the above classes, morning or afternoon. Thank you, in anticipation of your support. Mr Alcock

## YEAR 5 DEBATE

The Year 5 debating team of Michelle, Piper, Declan, Ben and Eva debated at Kahibah Public School in the semi-final of the Zone debating. The topic was, 'Australia should change the National flag' and we were the negative team. It was a very close debate unfortunately the affirmative team were awarded the debate. Thank you to Alyssa who assisted as Year 6 mentor. Congratulations on getting this far, we hope you continue to debate in 2016.



## SCHOOL BANKING

Newcastle Permanent Building Society and Commonwealth Bank offer banking to our students. Parent volunteers, Tanya Fitzgerald and Kim West process the money on the banks' behalf in our school library immediately after roll call on Monday mornings.

### ONLINE UNIFORM SHOP ORDERING!

Want to place your uniform shop order online? Simply go to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) and click "Register Now". You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration. Once registered, you can start placing orders immediately. The Uniform Shop will still open Monday mornings in the Old Hall from 8.45am-9.15am.



## P & C NEWS

**COUNTDOWN TO SPRING FAIR:**  
**11 days to go !**

### Canteen Survey

Thank you to everyone who participated in the canteen survey at the end of last term. On the balance of all of the information available, the P&C resolved last week that we couldn't guarantee that we could sustain operation of the canteen, and hence voted last week to recommend to the School Principal that the operation of the canteen go out to tender at an appropriate time. This will likely happen next year some time.

### GARDENING BEE - This Thursday

Thanks so much to Olivia Ryan, Reagan and Matt Jackson, Suki Kwon, Nicole D'Agostino, and anyone else who was able to help last week with the gardening. The garden beds are looking great thanks to your hard work moving many barrow-loads of woodchips and weeding.

There will be one more gardening session this coming Thursday from 9am, for anyone who is available, to help finish off the work.

### HOLIDAY RAFFLE TICKETS

Please return raffle tickets and money to the office by **Tuesday 27 October** please.



## HALLOWEEN FAMILY DISCO – 31 October 5.30pm-7.30pm

See the separate note with today's newsletter. Thanks to everyone who has RSVP'd to the Halloween Disco – it's going to be a fun night!

### RAFFLE TICKET HELPERS

If you can help us process incoming raffle tickets over the final week, please find the roster here: <http://bit.ly/TJPS2015HolidayRaffle>

### KINDY 2016 WELCOME MORNING TEA – Monday 2 November & Wednesday 4 November

If you can help out with the Kindy welcome morning teas, either by turning up to welcome the incoming Kindy parents, and/or by making a cake or slice, please see the online roster here: <http://bit.ly/2015KindyMorningTea>

**BETTY ANDERSON AWARD 2015:** Nominations are now open for the 2015 Betty Anderson Award. More information about the award and how to nominate will be circulated after the Spring Fair. Nominations will close in late November.

### SPRING FAIR UPDATE

Please keep an eye out in the next few days for a separate Spring Fair newsletter. This will provide some key links and information about the schedule in the lead up to the Fair on 31 October.

Earlybird unlimited ride wristbands are available now at [www.ticketebo.com.au/tjpsspringfair](http://www.ticketebo.com.au/tjpsspringfair) (before Friday 24 October) for \$29 each (plus booking fee). Ride wristbands will be \$35 each on Fair day. More details on ride ticket options at the ticket link.

To volunteer to help with the Fair, please sign up here: <http://bit.ly/TJPSspringfair2015>. We are doing a lot of food prep on the Friday, as well as other setting up both on Friday and Saturday morning. We need a few helpers with managing our car parking in Rowland Park and some helpers with the food stalls.

**Equipment Needed:** We are looking to borrow some items for the Fair. Please drag them out, dust them off, pop your name on them, and drop them off to school next week. We're looking for some gazebos, a few slow cookers, a couple of dozen bum bags (for cash handling), and big plastic tubs for food preparation (eg 4L ice cream tubs or similar). We also need a portable gas hotplate. Please let us know if you can help with this.

**FAIR HELPERS:** Thank you so much to everyone who has been working so hard, quietly in the background, on projects for the Spring Fair. As well as the organising committee, there are a number of parents who have been propagating plants for months, filling hundreds of jars with amazing Christmas baking treats, jams and preserves, plus others who have generously been supporting class teachers for other class stalls. This is a true team effort, and the support of the school

community has been amazing. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far, and those who can help over the next fortnight, and on the day.

If you need to contact the P&C, please drop us a line at [junctionpandc@hotmail.com](mailto:junctionpandc@hotmail.com).

### UPCOMING P&C EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event
30 Oct	All Day	Spring Fair Set up
31 Oct	7am-12pm	Spring Fair Set up
31 Oct	12pm-4pm	Spring Fair 2015
31 Oct	4pm-6pm	Spring Fair Pack Down
31 Oct	5.30-7.30pm	Family Halloween Disco
2 & 4 Nov	9am	Kindy Welcome Morning Teas

### Other P&C MEETING DATES THIS YEAR:

- Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov at 7pm
- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Dec at 1.30pm

Other meetings may be held as required, and notice will be given accordingly.

Julie Wharton  
P&C President

**Want to keep up with P&C news “on the go”?**  
**You can:**



Facebook:  
*The Junction  
Public School  
P&C*



Twitter:  
*@TJPS\_PandC*



Instagram:  
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