HARMONY DAY!
March 21st @ Nicho

Dates

- 8/3 - Whole School Assembly led by 3/4M @ 9:30am
- 20/3 - Stage 1 @ Gelato
- 21/3 - Harmony Day
- 22/3 - Whole School Assembly led by 3/4C @ 9:30am
- 22/3 - Stewart House Bags due back
- 26/3 - Stage 1 @ Easter Show
- 28/3 - Last day for Book Club Orders
- 29/3 - Public Holiday - Good Friday
- 1/3 - Public Holiday - Easter Monday
- 12/4 - Anzac Day Whole School Assembly led by 5/6H @ 9:30am
- 12/4 - Last Day Term 1
- 1/5 - Students return for Term 2
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ms Bianca Carson, for gaining permanent appointment at Nicholson St Public School. As you are all aware Ms Carson has been employed at Nicho for two years. In that time she has proven her abilities in the classroom. She has also taken on the development of technology integration throughout the school and is now looking at developing the performing arts even further at Nicho.

Well done Ms Carson!

KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

To be ready global citizens students must learn to traverse the online world. It is understandable though that there are certain expectations and rules for students depending on their developmental level. This is why from within the DEC, sites and apps such as Facebook, Kik and Instagram are blocked for primary students. We do promote students use blogging tools, wikis and Edmodo, that provide the experience and learning opportunity required without putting students in danger.

It has come to our attention that there are a number of students using social media outside of the school context. As parents you should note that there are age restrictions on signing up to these sites. There is content on these sites that is not appropriate for primary school students.

At school we are addressing Cybersafety, including online reputations, and have planned a whole school approach to teaching students how to keep safe online and how to maintain a positive online identity.

Some resources for parents can be found at: http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx

BOOK CLUB

Book Club orders are due back at school by March 28th.

STUART HOUSE BAGS

Stewart House Bags are due back to school by the March 22nd.

HIGH SCHOOL IN 2014

If your child is going to High School in 2014, please return the Expression of Interest forms to your child’s teacher by the 22nd March.

TRANSITION

Last Thursday, 7th March, students from Years 7 and 10 came from Balmain High School to talk to 5/6H students about moving into high school. The Balmain High students had lots of advice for our Nicholson Street students including what the classrooms look like, a typical day in the life of a high school student, the programs that run at Balmain High and the excursions that are run each year.

Nicho students had lots of questions for the high school students covering issues including how many students go to the school, how hard it is to make friends, if the work load was very different and how big the tables are at high school.

The students from Balmain High spoke extremely well and I would like to thank Balmain High School for taking the time to organise such a program.

Rob Haigh – Stage 3 Teacher

THANK YOU

Thank you to Simon Collingwood & Simon Rush for sharing their expertise in animation & advertising respectively.

HOMEWORK POLICY

After the 2012 community consultation regarding homework a school policy has been developed. The policy is attached at the end of the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

To receive the school newsletter and other updates via email go to http://www.nicholson-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/news-notes and register.
PSSA Sports Report

On Friday of week 6 (8/3/13) Nicholson Street Public School students took part in PSSA weekly sport for the first time! It was a very exciting time for all students participating.

The scores for week 6 term 1 are as follows:

**Oz Tag**
Junior Boys – Game 1 – Stanmore A’s 5 defeated Nicho 1

Junior Boys – Game 2 – Nicho 7 defeated Stanmore B’s 5

Senior Mixed – Stanmore 4 defeated Nicho 3

**T-ball**
Junior Mixed – Stanmore 20 defeated Nicho 8

**Softball**
Senior Mixed Softball – Stanmore 8 defeated Nicho 4
Senior Girls Softball – Played in a practice match

Rob Haigh

P&C NEWS

The latest P&C meeting was held on Tuesday 12th and this month we were visited by Amy Millar from Social School and the local member Jamie Parker. Amy spoke to us about a new online scheme she has put together where schools and businesses can easily come together to discover funding and sponsorship opportunities that may be available across the Inner West. If you are interested in finding out more visit www.socialschool.com.au.

Jamie Parker spoke to us about some government funding opportunities that could be available to our school and that he was very keen to assist us with any application that we thought we may submit in the future. We were able to discuss the Vision for the school including a new Visual Arts space and he was as enthusiastic about this plan and vision as we all are.

We also had a terrific update from our Nicho Flicko organising parents and things are moving along well towards a fantastic evening on May 18th. It was mentioned that there are just a couple of areas that need a little more help so if you are keen to assist this community event please get in touch with Jennifer Smart or Kate Quirk for more information.

We have one more meeting for Term 1 ends and that’s on Tuesday April 9 starting at 730, all welcome!

Nicole Sorby

MUSIC NEWS

**Training and Concert Band – Tutorials on this Wednesday lunchtime, Week 8**

All band members divide up into their instrument groups – Flute, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion – to have a fortnightly small group tutorial at lunchtime. Training Band kids go to their tutorials in the first half of lunch, Concert Band kids go in the second half.

Mrs Kelly will let you know which room you are in.

**Junior Guitar Ensemble – now on Mondays at recess!**

**Create East 2013 – “Junkyard Garden”**

On Friday, 20 of our Nicho kids auditioned for the Create East Workshops and Performance in Band, Choir, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts. We will know the results this week, best of luck to you all!

Create East is a wonderful opportunity for students in years 4 to 6 nominated by their teachers from across the Sydney Region to join together for three days of workshops – at the end of which they perform their production of “Junkyard Garden” at the Seymour Centre.

Workshops 8-10 April. Performance at the Seymour Centre Wed 10th April. Tickets go on sale for the Full Dress Rehearsal and the Premiere Show this Friday 22nd March – book as soon as you have confirmation of your child’s place – tickets sell out fast!

Kathryn Reynolds

An excited 1/2P move into their new classroom!
The Nicho Flicko Fest needs some fantastic water themed decorations for our big night. We would love some large* and colourful; fish, boats, coral, seagulls etc. Show us your wonderful creativity and imagination.

*Parents please note that for maximum impact, artworks will need to be done on poster cardboard (available at newsagents) and be bigger than 20cm.

**Competition details:** Each week students will be given prizes for the most creative and imaginative decorations AND the class that contributes the most decorations will **ALL get a special prize.** This competition will be run by the Nicho Year 6 Leadership Team.
NICHOLSON STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY
Policy and Statement of Practice as at 29 January, 2013

Homework has a valuable purpose because it:
- Gives structured opportunities to practise, consolidate and extend work done in class programs
- Develops students’ skills in identifying and using information resources
- Establishes and enhances habits of study, concentration, time management and self-discipline

At Nicholson Street Public School homework will be provided regularly and will:
- Reflect a student’s age, ability and community and relate to what is being taught in class programs
- Encourage the use of technology without disadvantaging students who do not have access to it
- Be marked promptly and positively
- Take into account students’ family and after-school commitments as appropriate
- Be the responsibility of the student supported by parents/caregivers

Types of Homework
- **Practice exercises** let students reinforce or review newly acquired skills, e.g. memorising mathematical tables, practising spelling and reading for pleasure
- **Preparatory homework** enables students to gain background information on a unit of study to better prepare them for future lessons, e.g. library research, surveys
- **Extension assignments** encourage students to pursue knowledge imaginatively, e.g. researching current events, writing a book review

Organization and Expectations
- Homework will be set considering the developmental needs of students.
- Staff will exercise their professional judgement in selecting homework tasks to meet the needs of their students. Tasks will include open-ended activities to provide opportunities for creativity and higher order thinking.
- Deadlines for the completion of homework will be fair and negotiable. It is expected that homework be handed in on time, completed to the best of the individual student’s ability. Parents will be notified if homework tasks are not handed in or not completed to a satisfactory standard at the discretion of the teacher.
- Recreational reading, spelling and learning of mathematics tables will be on-going homework for Years 1-6.

The Homework Policy will be posted on the school website and given to new students on enrolment.

Homework Duration

**Kindergarten (Early Stage 1)**
Home Reading will be the main form of homework but teachers may also provide homework to cater for the needs of individual students and groups as deemed appropriate. Home and play activities assist children to develop knowledge and skills. Language and number concepts can be enhanced through many family activities, e.g. shopping, food preparation, reading aloud, listening to music, story telling, etc.

Parents and caregivers can help by:
- Ensuring a regular time and place is dedicated to homework and study
- Communicating with teachers regarding any concerns or difficulties with homework
- Encouraging children to read about, research and take an interest in current events
- Reading to students, modelling reading and writing, story telling, discussions
- Alerting the school to domestic/extra-curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration
- Helping students to develop strategies to improve time management, planning and organization skills
- Reading newsletters, returning notes and money by due dates and assisting children to get organized for school the night before

Georgia Constanti
Principal

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<th>Years 1&amp;2 (Stage 1)</th>
<th>Approx 15 minutes each night</th>
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<td>May be set weekly or fortnightly</td>
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Easter Holiday road safety tips

As the Easter long weekend approaches, thousands of families are set to hit the roads for holiday trips. A concern for everyone across the country is always that of road safety over the long weekend. There are more people using our roads at this time meaning there is a higher risk for accident, injury or even death. Motorists are urged to be extra cautious especially at night and when passing through residential areas, due to the unpredictable actions of pedestrians. Here are some useful road safety tips you can take in to make sure your journey is a safe one:

- Don’t set off on a long trip at the end of a day’s work.
- Sleep well before travelling. Don’t drive at times you would normally be asleep.
- Take a 15 minute break outside your car every two hours. There are almost 100 community driver reviver sites that operate throughout NSW during holiday periods.
- Eat well balanced meals at regular times. You need the energy for brain activity and concentration while driving.
- Don’t use your mobile phone while driving. Turn off your mobile phone or keep it on silent.
- Pack some quiet activities for the children in the car such as portable DVD players, books, small computer games, portable music player with headphones.

Easter / ANZAC double demerit period

Double demerit points apply to all speeding and seatbelt offences from Thursday 28 March to Monday 1 April Inclusive. Demerits also apply in the ANZAC period 24-28 April Inclusive.
The Mad Hatter has wandered out of Wonderland and into our world. Can you help him get back into the story in time for tea with Alice?

Leichhardt Library
Tuesday, 16 April, 2pm
School aged children - bookings essential
Phone: 93679266

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Possum Magic at the Library

Leichhardt Library
Monday 22nd April 2013 2pm
Bookings 93679266

Balmain Library
Thursday 18th April 2013 2pm
Bookings 93679211
Bookings essential

Open age

Rock, Paper, Scissors

Paint Works
Monday, 15th April, 1pm

Autumn Prints
Monday, 20th May, 3.30pm

Winter Fun
Monday, 17th June, 3.30pm

Leichhardt Library
School Aged Children
Bookings Essential 9367 9266

Tony Murphy’s Cartoon Workshop
Tuesday, 23rd April, 2013
2pm
Balmain Library
6-12 years
Phone: 93679211