Welcome to Term 2. The term has begun with two very productive staff development days. Leanne Kemp, Kristine Sharkey, Tracy Gooch and Kylie Lacey presented a full day workshop on Assessment for Learning (AFL) and then Kristine again presented a workshop on Modelled, Guided and Independent activities to promote more effective learning in Mathematics. All teachers also used the new syllabus to develop units in Mathematics using Exemplary Maths as a foundation, and the new Program Builder, which is a new online tool from the Board of Studies which assists with programming.

By adopting the work of Dylan Wiliam and Assessment for learning, the teachers’ knowledge of where students are with their learning will be deepened and lead to a more focused approach to the expected student learning during each lesson.

Students will also be very aware of what they are learning during each lesson and will participate in a variety of activities which enable them to judge their understanding. For example: students who understand the concept can give a ‘thumbs up’; students who are on the way to understanding can put their thumbs horizontally; or students who have no idea or are confused can give a ‘thumbs down’. Immediate, visual feedback such as this example is designed to give teachers timely information from which the modification of the lesson (or subsequent lessons) can be made.

Students will probably come home with stories about ‘wait time’, paddle pop sticks, thumbs up/thumbs down/thumbs horizontal, ‘hands down’, learning intentions and student/self-assessment. The following descriptions will ensure you have a clear idea of what these words mean for students in the classroom.

**Paddle pop sticks:** The use of paddle pop sticks for questions and answers ensures all students have thinking time and the opportunity to share their thoughts and understanding. Each child has a paddle pop stick with their name on it. The teacher draws a paddle pop stick from a container and the student whose name is on the stick has the opportunity to answer or ask a question. Students have been assured that it is ok not to know the answer. It has been explained to them that if they all know the answer, we are wasting their time and should be learning something new.

**Wait time:** Teachers will be endeavouring to increase the amount of wait time they use when asking questions etc. This will give the students more time to think, and where appropriate, time to discuss the question with others before answering. This will be a tough new habit for teachers but they will be trying!

**Learning intentions:** ‘The learning intention (or objective) for a lesson or series of lessons is a statement which describes clearly what the teacher wants the students to:

- know
- understand; and
- be able to do

as a result of the learning and teaching activities. The learning intention emphasises what the students will learn, rather than what they will do.’

The learning intention will be visible in the classroom for the majority of lessons where appropriate. This will be another new habit for your teachers to embrace.

**Student/self-assessment:** Teachers will provide students with a variety of tools for students to assess their learning. This will be part of the assessment procedures teachers use to assess where students are against the new NSW syllabuses.
As we are focusing on mathematics, most activities and techniques will take place during maths lessons. Teaching staff will be investigating the new English syllabus during the coming term and during the staff development day for Term 3. Parents may wish to use the internet to learn more about our research work. The following links may assist:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKLo15A80I

There is a wealth of information on You Tube. We also have a series of DVD presentations which parents are welcome to borrow.

As with any work at school, we take what is relevant for our students and modify what we do according to our student needs. Not every strategy or suggestion from AFL will automatically be implemented. Teachers will be starting small and working with their own learning in this area. We will not be ‘throwing the baby out with the bathwater’ and will continue with what we know works in tandem with the implementation of new ideas and strategies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher for clarification.

ANZAC DAY
Congratulations and thank you to the students, staff and parents who represented our school at the ANZAC Day march and ceremony in Kootingal. It is wonderful to hear that we were well represented and that our students looked fabulous. We held a short ceremony in the school hall on Wednesday morning to ensure all students were able to have the time to think about the significance of this day. Well done everyone!

AFTERNOON PICK UP AND BUS LINES
Thank you for your cooperation regarding our new procedures to keep our students safe as they prepare to go home from school.
I ask that parents remain in the grassy areas at the front of the school while we gather the students, read out bus messages, hand out notes or give last minute reminders or information. School does not officially conclude until 3.20pm so you can expect to collect your child or children at about 3.25pm. It is usually about 3.25pm before we move to the new hall COLA and students are dismissed to the parents as it takes a little time to get everyone organised with their bags, hats etc. Rushing will only cause accidents and the loss of property or notes, etc.

If parents, carers, grandparents, etc wait in the grassy area, teachers are more able to account for their students and ensure they go with the right person and to the right place each afternoon. Please do not call your child over to you before they have been dismissed from bus lines.

You are welcome to collect your child early if you need to get to appointments etc. Please go to the office to fill in the partial absence register and your child will be called to the office for you. Please try to relay any changes (how students are going home, or if someone other than the unusual person is to pick up your child) to the office before 3.00pm so that this information can be passed on through the bus board. We understand when unavoidable, last minute changes occur, so please do not hesitate to contact the office as soon as you can.

NAPLAN
The National NAPLAN tests will be held on 15-17 May 2012 for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Parents or carers of students who sit for the NAPLAN tests will receive a written report of their child’s achievement in September 2013. Parents with students in Year 3 and/or Year 5 should have received information today. Please contact the office if you did not receive this information. There is also more information available for all parents on the following link:
http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/7-12assessments/naplan/parents/

Parents are able to withdraw their students from the tests but must let the school know beforehand so alternative arrangements can be made and the official paperwork can be completed.

It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests only provide a snapshot of where students are against the outcomes that are measured in the test. It is an idea of how students coped on those particular days. Students make mistakes
which means they may have an understanding of the concept covered but did not show their understanding during that test.

The value of NAPLAN depends upon how the results are interpreted by classroom teachers and how effectively schools work to address any common themes or areas of concern that become evident through that analysis.

As a member of the Primary Principals Association’s Educational Measurement Reference Group, I have been actively involved in developing new ways to evaluate the success of schools which will complement NAPLAN results and therefore provide a broader analysis of whether a school is successful in improving learning outcomes for its students. This group has been invited to visit the NAPLAN marking centre on May 30 and May 31 to gain a greater understanding of how NAPLAN results across and between schools are calculated. This will give invaluable insight and deepen my understanding of the process which will then be passed on to schools in the New England Area.

**SCHOOL CONCERNS**

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child’s teacher if you have a concern about your child or need clarity regarding what is happening in your child’s classroom. If you have concerns regarding broader school based issues, please do not hesitate to contact the school office to make an appointment to see me.

Sometimes I am given information from second and third hand sources about concerns regarding decisions or changes made. Such information is easily misinterpreted. We all make mistakes and there are times when all factors are not considered due to a lack of relevant information.

It is important that if parents have a concern they come directly to the source – usually me. Sometimes a decision won’t be reversed due to other, broader reasons which cannot always be disclosed or due to DEC policy. In any organisation, it is impossible to keep everyone happy all the time. At NPS we do our best.

Nemingha Public School is an excellent school. I am always open to new suggestions or to receiving feedback so that the structures and systems we employ are continually improved. That’s my job. I may not always agree and I may not always adopt suggested changes, but I will take them on board and perhaps find a ‘third alternative’ which make our organisation even better. I can’t fix what I don’t know is an issue.

I can assure all parents that every decision and organisational change is made with the best intentions.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone for being so understanding towards the end of last term. Hopefully we are back on track regarding dad, with minimal disruptions ahead. A special thank you to Leanne and the staff for all taking on extra responsibilities to ensure the school continued as usual. It is lovely to be working in such a caring environment every day. I am very lucky.

**REMINDERS:**

Parents and carers are reminded to send in their child’s/children’s awards so that teachers can make a record of where each child sits within the current award system. This will enable us to judge whether the system needs amending to improve equity across the school. Please don’t forget to send any ideas or suggestions you have regarding the award system so that they can be considered when we have enough data to analyse the situation. All comments should be in writing.

Homework and Anti–bullying policies are still in the consultation phase. As of today, we have had no feedback in writing from parents who were not present at the P&C meetings when these policies were discussed. You can obtain copies by contacting the office. These will be copied and sent home with your child. We will need to finalise these policies this term if possible. This is the time to have your say.

Take care.

*Kerrel Haire*

*Principal*
NOTELINK

Please check your child’s red communication folder each day for notes. If your child has lost his/her folder, a new one can be issued for the cost of 50¢.

Notes sent home last week of Term 1 were:
- Inappropriate websites letter
- P&C meeting cancellation
- Y 5 opportunity class entry 2014 letter
- 2013 Legends and Girls League Tag
- Active After School Expression of Interest
- Wests Rugby League

CLOTHING POOL

Welcome back everybody. There are orders of winter/sports uniforms waiting for payment and collection from the school office please finalise these orders as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Karen Darling
Clothing Pool Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Invoices for unpaid contributions/workbooks have been sent home today. If you pay these amounts via the internet, it is absolutely essential that you;

1. Use the reference number provided on your letter
2. Send the remittance slip to the school office immediately after making the payment.

If these steps are not followed the acquittal of the amount to the correct family cannot take place. Your assistance with this procedure is much appreciated.

WORKBOOK PAYMENTS

Could parents who have not yet paid for their child’s Targeting Handwriting workbooks please send their money in as soon as possible as teachers are anxious to begin using them. Classes are unable to use the workbooks until all members of the class have paid for and received their books.

What’s Cooking in the Canteen

Welcome to Term 2

We will be selling Beef Burgers during the month of May for $3.50, they will include caramelised onion, tomato or BBQ sauce, cheese and lettuce. The choice is yours. Look out for our next Meal Deal. It will be held Monday 20th May and will be “M is for Monday” the menu will include all things starting with “M”...meat pies, meatlovers pizza, Milky Ways, milk poppers (including iced coffee) and hopefully donated muffins. Notes to go home soon.

Our volunteers for the coming weeks are;

Fri 3rd May  Nanna Margaret
Mon 6th May  Tracey Mayman, Bronwyn Stewart
Fri 10th May  Melissa Gallagher, Kym Louise Patterson
Mon 13th May Michelle Lane, Olly McCormack

Marion Woods
Canteen Manager

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is pleased to announce we will be running our Recipe for Success-A Positive Behavior Workshop in Tamworth It is a practical three day workshop for families of children with autism spectrum disorders and challenging behavior.

The workshop is funded by the NSW Government and is free for families. Professionals are invited to attend with the family they are supporting, at no charge. Professionals who wish to attend without a family will be charged $450.00

The workshop has been running for the past 8 years across NSW and in 2010 was evaluated independently with very positive findings.

WHEN: 21, 22 and 23 May 2013
WHERE: West Diggers Club, Kable Avenue
TIME: 9.30am TO 2.30pm
COST: FREE
REGISTER: On line at our website www.autismspectrum.org/recipe

CONTACT: Jodi Woodward
jwoodward@autismspectrum.org.au
PARENTING COURSE
1,2,3 Magic—Managing Difficult Behaviour in Children 2-12

This very popular Parenting Course began at Nemingha Public School this week.

Mrs Kerrie Ardill, Learning and Support Teacher, will be conducting the course for 5 sessions fortnightly on Thursdays, 2nd May, 16th May, 30th May, 13th June and 27th June from 2.00pm to 3.15pm. Sessions will be held in the TLA beginning with a cuppa.

If you are interested in this excellent and informative course, could you please contact the school office to register

Nemingha Student Shines

Lexi May competed in the first North West Regional Gymnastics invitation for 2013 and was very successful, winning a Silver Medal on Vault and a Bronze Medal on Bars. Lexi finished 4th overall in the very tough level 3 intermediate division and will next compete in the Gunnedah invitation on 15th June. Well done Lexi.

Boys PSSA Soccer team played against Timbumburi Primary School on Thursday 11th April and won 6 to 1, well done boys.

The PSSA Girls Cricket Knockout competition will be played at Riverside Oval on Friday 3rd May. We wish the girls all the best.

TAMWORTH REGIONAL GALLERY

Tamworth Regional Gallery currently has an exhibition in Ray Walsh House Community Space entitled ‘Built for the Bush’. This exhibition is on display from 10 April- 20 May and entry is free.

The exhibition has a focus on energy-efficient strategies that were practised in traditional rural architecture are reappearing in contemporary sustainable architecture.

2013 GREAT NUNDLE DOG RACE

The Nundle Public Schools’ Annual Dog Race will be held at Nundle Recreation Ground this Sunday, 5th May from 10.00am.

For further information contact 67693253 or nundle-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
The students of Nemingha Public School displayed pride and commitment when marching at the ANZAC service in Kootingal last Thursday morning. The children looked very smart in their winter uniforms, and once again their behaviour was exemplary.

Thank-you to the parents, carers, students and teachers who were able to represent our school at this ceremony. Our numbers continually grow each year and it was a pleasure to be associated with the Nemingha community during the service.

Thank you once again to Jenny Klepzig for designing the wreath.

*Leanne Kemp*

School Captains, Mitchell Klepzig and Jasmine Shumack placing the Nemingha Public School Wreath.
Nemingha Public School will once again host a morning tea on behalf of the Cancer Council of NSW.

All parents and community members are invited to come to the school and have a ‘cuppa’ at the hall on Friday, 24th May at 10.00.

Tea, coffee and cool drinks will be available along with cakes and slices. Everything will be served by our Year 6 students.

All donations over $2 are tax deductible.

Following the morning tea we will be holding the fortnightly assembly at 11.15 am in the hall.

STEWART HOUSE

Each family has been given a Stewart House Donation envelope. If you wish to donate to this cause, please follow the instructions on the envelope and return it to the school by Friday 10th May 2011. Late entries will not be accepted.

The winning entry for the $4000 holiday to a destination of choice will be drawn on Friday 24th May at Stewart House.

FOUND

One set of car keys in parking area in front of hall, Sydney Swans and Breast Cancer symbols attached. Please contact the office if you might know who owns these.

WHO WILL BE AT NEMINGHA SCHOOL NEXT YEAR?

If you know of any child wishing to enrol at Nemingha in 2014, could you please fill in the information below and return it to the school office as soon as possible. Once this information is received, enrolment forms and all associated information will be forwarded to prospective families.

Child’s Name: __________________________

Child’s date of birth: ____________________

Parent’s name: __________________________

Parent’s address: _________________________

Phone number: __________________________

Email address: __________________________

CHANGING SCHOOLS FOR 2013/14

If your child is leaving Nemingha (K—Yr 5 only) please complete this section.

Child’s name: __________________________

Class: ____________________

Expected date for leaving: ________________
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<td>10 Clothing Pool 2.50 pm</td>
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