I’m sure by now most of you are aware that we lost a parent to cancer over the weekend, Cathy Kempe. Not only was Cathy an integral part of our school, volunteering with all children K-6, but Cathy was an exemplar of positivity and determination. Cathy was determined not to be remembered as the mum with cancer, so she set about making a name for herself in other areas, the canteen mum, the Glee-Club mum and the concert mum - a target which she well and truly achieved. The message here for all of us is that if you want something, you need to work for it, it doesn’t just happen. This goes for kids too, students need to learn that if they want good friends they need to be a good friend first, if they want to be a school leader they need to show everyone that they are responsible, they want good marks, they need to work hard in class. It is a good lesson to learn for all of us, thank you Cathy.

Cathy’s funeral will be held in Taree this Friday at 9.30am. There are several parents and students who have told me that they would like to attend, so if we get enough people, I am happy to hire a mini-bus and we all travel together, leaving the school at 7am on Friday. Depending on numbers, it should be about $10 per head. If you are interested, please email me on teeny.blatchford@det.nsw.edu.au

If you are not able to attend the funeral, but wish to send your condolences to her family (Adam –husband and Maddi Yr 2) there is a condolence book in the office for you to sign. We shall also have it available on Thursday (Presentation Day) at the front of the Performance Centre. We shall take the book with us on Friday to give to Cathy’s family.

I have had a few enquiries recently about starting a school band and so have made some enquiries of my own to see how it all works. To run a successful band, you need at least 20 students (Yr 3–Yr6). Students would be required to bring their own instrument (which can be hired from Musos Corner or similar for approx. $25/month), they would also be expected to be having private tuition every week, as band is not tuition it is more of a rehearsal, bringing all the instruments together. Instruments in a concert band include: trumpets, sax, drums, bass guitar, keyboard, trombones, percussion, flutes etc. On top of that it would be approx. $50 per term for the band teacher. If you think your son/daughter would be interested and be committed, please contact the school either by phone or email.

Well we finally come to the end of another very busy year. Looking at class data and reading reports, I am really proud of how much the students have progressed and how much fun they have had along the way. Thank you to our wonderful staff and parents for making this possible.

Teeny Blatchford
Principal

School Dates 2015
Term 1
Teachers return Wednesday 28th January
Students return Thursday 29th January
Kindergarten start Friday 30th
Term End Thursday April 2nd

Presentation Day
Please join us this Thursday, the 11th December from 9:30am until 11am for the annual Presentation Day school assembly. Together we will reflect, farewell and celebrate our year 6 students who are moving onto high school. This assembly will also acknowledge student achievement and application in classes as well as in the school community. Your presence to acknowledge the students efforts and application would be greatly appreciated. Parents/carers will be notified by mail if their child/ward is receiving an award at the assembly.
We look forward to seeing you on Thursday.
Kellie
Infants Swimming Carnival

Our carnival is to be held on Friday 12th December at Lambton Pool from 9.30—12.30pm. Pool activities and the equipment will be enjoyed on the day. The cost is $9.00 per student travel is by bus.

Families are welcome to come along and join in the fun. Entry is $3.10 payable at the pool.

Jenny Manning

Mrs Davison and Mrs Crotty’s Special Assembly

We will be holding a special assembly for two of our teachers who are retiring at the end of the year- Mrs Davison and Mrs Crotty. It will be held on Monday 15TH December from 10.15-11 am in the Performance Centre. There will be a morning tea following the assembly at 11am. We warmly invite all parents and friends of the school who would like to come and share this special occasion.

Jenny Manning

Run Newcastle

A big thank you to all of our students, staff and their families who supported Run Newcastle. It was a fantastic event, and we loved seeing you all out there supporting this great cause!

see you all and maybe some more next year!
Kellie Smith

ARCO – Anti Racism Contact Officer

As part of the department’s commitment to anti-racism each school has an Anti-Racism Contact Officer (ARCO). As the new ARCO at Hamilton Public School my role is to:
1. Receive the suggestion, compliant or allegation regarding racism
2. Assist the complainant to write the compliant, if required
3. Advise the complainant of their rights and the process to be followed in lodging a complaint
4. Refer the complaint to a member of the school executive who will be responsible for resolving the compliant.

In the beginning of 2015 school year I will be talking to students and staff about my role, so they can come to me if needed.
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, Thank you for a great year.
Mrs P Leung

Sale

We will be holding a $3 Santa Hat Sale on Monday 15th. There is a limited amount of hats but they would be great for any Carols in the Park event.

Sale

The Summer Reading Club runs from December 8 until January 28. Students can read books from home and the library. All Newcastle Region Library’s off incentives (bookmarks, tattoos and wristbands) each time children borrow. Those that read 10 books go into the draw for our major prizes.

Registration is FREE! All students need to do is visit their local library to collect their reading log or go online to www.summerreadingclub.org.au

Library

Thank you to everyone who have returned their library books. Could you have a good look around home and return books with the school barcode. Have a safe and happy holiday.

PLEASE CLOSE THE SCHOOL GATES AT ALL TIMES.
**P&C Update**

We would like to acknowledge the brilliant work, dedication and good humour of Cathy Kempe. She was a wonderful supporter of the P&C. We have all been touched by her generosity and creativity.

**Fundraising Update**
The Christmas raffle is looking fantastic - definitely get your tickets into the office by Friday 12th December. We have had donations from a whole range of businesses... drumroll please for.... Estabar, Total Balance Chiropractic, Casa de Loco, Guzman Y Gomez, Eurobar, The Exchange, Ill Bean, Longbench, Cudgerie B&B, Fitness Junction, Pivot Dance Fitness, Shane Dorian, MacLean's Booksellers and to all the families who have sent in fantastic gifts to include in the hampers - they will look great.

**Canteen Update**
Regular fortnightly thanks go to: Kim F, Kim G, Neroli, Chris, Alison, Bec, Nicole, Nat, Kate, Laura, Jane and Kim F.

**2014 recap!**
Last meeting for the year is on **tonight Tuesday 9th December from 6-7pm** in the staffroom. Babysitting available for a gold coin donation.

**Fundraising Update**
What an enormous 'year of effort' from our community. Generous donations from local businesses for our Easter and Christmas raffles, flowers for mums, catering for concert nights, paintings for dads, BBQ-mania both at school and Bunnings and any other event the P&C needed support with. With everyone's efforts we were able to contribute to the school in many ways - the shade cloth, air conditioning for 4A, maths resources, Harmony Day and gifts for retiring staff members!
Thanks everyone for volunteering your time and effort.

**Technology Update**
The Skoolbag app has been a great tool, tell your friends at school with a smartphone to download it for free, if they haven't already. Great for letting our community know what is happening at school and even the recent school trip to Canberra sent updates - what a great idea.

**Canteen Update**
Another awesome year everyone - customers, volunteers and supporters!!

- **Our brilliant year 6 volunteers** - thank you so much to Oscar, Henry, Tui, Leah, Skye-Louise, Holly, India, Jye, Manish, Darci and Jake. You also helped raised approximately $200 for your chosen charities. You should be really proud of yourselves.
- **Parent/grandparent volunteers** - Thanks EVERYONE who signed up and came in to help out.
- **Facebook people** - thanks for your regular feedback, questions and using this as a tool for communicating.
- **Customers** - thanks for buying. Keep on coming for yummy food in 2015! :)
- **Blue Gate Garden** - thanks Patsy and Linda for helping out and growing great produce.

Kim G and Nicole S - thanks for being great co-ordinators.

Thanks to Teeny, Carol & Debbie and all staff for your support. We'll be in touch in 2015.

Regards
Hamilton P&C

**Lids**
2M are collecting 2L milk or juice bottle lids. Please start collecting and bring to 2M please.

**HEADLICE**
We have had reported cases of Headlice. Over the school holidays is an ideal time to check and treat your child/children's hair.

**Xmas Tree**

Wesley Uniting Church in Beaumont Street have a wonderful Xmas tree display which raises money for different charities. This year our 'Snowman' tree is not only amazing but money for Motor Neurone Disease.
You’re Invited!
Join us to get into the spirit of the season at these **free community events** and support your local young performers.

**Do-Re-Mi Christmas Performances**

- **Sat 15th Nov, 10.00-11.00am**  **MYER GIFTORIUM**
- **Fri 28th Nov, 12.30, Speers Point Park**  International Day of Disability, interactive music with Julie
- **Sun 30th Nov, 9.30-2.00**  **Hopscotch Markets**, join the fun with drums, parachute, loud games & prizes!
- **Fri 5th Dec, 6.00-6.30pm**  **Honeysuckle Boardwalk** with Newcastle Youth Orchestra, audience participation.
- **Fri 6th Dec, 6.15- 7.00pm**  **Carols @ Anglican Church**, Lambton

*For more details & holiday sessions for all ages:*
  
julieloganmusic.com.au
  
4963 2026

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**The Voice Plus Holiday Music Camp**

*Does your child love to sing?*

Meet like-minded kids in the holidays to create harmony, dance moves + play instruments together.

Have a blast in Sing Off’s, Play Offs, Open Mic sessions, even make your own instrument!

+ a whole lot of fun ‘n games, whilst improving your Voice, your Performance Skills and Confidence.

Specialist tutors and a concert on the last day.

- **13th &14th January, 2015**
  
HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

SAVE WITH THE EARLY BIRD FEE - REGISTER ONLINE NOW

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