



## Calendar

### November

Wed 21 November	Captain Speeches <i>2.05pm in the hall - all welcome</i>
Thursday 22 November	Beach to Bush Workshop
Friday 23 November	Family Fun Afternoon
Wednesday 28 Nov	Responsible Pet Day <i>Kinder-Year 2</i>
<b>Friday 30 November</b>	<b>Assembly</b> <i>K-1 item - 2.40pm in the hall</i> <b>Gingerbread House Night</b> <i>6.30pm in the school hall</i> <b>Orders close tomorrow, 16 November</b>

### December

Saturday 1 December	Bunnings BBQ <i>P&amp;C fundraiser</i>
Tuesday 4 December	Peel High School Year 6 Orientation <b>Tamworth High School Year 6 Orientation</b>
Thursday 6 December	Farrer MAHS Year 6 Orientation
Friday 7 December	Presentation Day <i>9.45am - all welcome</i>
Tuesday 11 December	Scripture Service <b>CAPA Concert</b> <i>featuring students involved in music tuition</i>
Wednesday 12 Dec	P&C meeting <i>7pm in the staff room</i>
Thursday 13 December	Year 6 Farewell Dinner <i>West Tamworth League Club, 6-8.30pm</i>
Monday 17 December	Moving Up Day <i>Children allocated to classes for 2019</i> <b>Stage 2 Camp</b>
Tuesday 18 December	Class parties
Wed 19 December	Nemingha's Got Talent <b>End of Term 4</b>
Sunday 23 December	Bunnings BBQ <i>P&amp;C fundraiser</i>

## 2019

### January

Tuesday 29 January	Start of Term 1 <i>Staff Development Day</i>
Wednesday 30 January	Start of Term 1 <i>Students (Year 1-Year 6) return</i>

Clothing Pool - open each Monday, 9.30-10.30am  
and on assembly days at 1.30pm

## Welcome to Kinder 2019

The students who will be in Kindergarten 2019 completed their orientation program last Friday.

All students enjoyed their time visiting 'big school' and participated in literacy, numeracy, craft, musical and outdoor activities. Everyone joined in happily and we are especially grateful to the Year 5 students who are the buddies for our new kindergarten people. The buddies helped transition the students into the classroom routines every morning and helped at recess and lunchtimes.

We look forward to seeing these students again at the beginning of 2019.

**Emily Holcombe and Jen Pearson**



## A Time to Rhyme

Kindergarten has been learning so much about rhyme and rhythm in the unit called 'A Time to Rhyme'. We have read many stories and poems that contain rhyming words. The class wrote rhyming couplets about each child and some about the class.

Here are two rhyming couplets we wrote about the class.

*We kids can count, read and write.  
We do this morning, noon and night.*

*Mrs Pearson teaches us every day.  
If we work hard, she lets us play.*

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# The benefits of composite classes

Christopher Jackson, Principal

**Over the last few weeks the school executive and I have been looking at our enrolments for next year. As some of you are aware, our numbers at Nemingha have steadily been increasing and, like every public school in the Tamworth district, we have exceeded our enrolment buffer.**

A couple of weeks ago I attended a Principals' meeting to discuss school zones and what each school will need to do with regard to out-of-zone enrolments. We have a strict criteria for students who apply as out of zone placements and this criteria has worked well as our committee is consistent in all applications.

Our 2019 enrolments so far is 224, which is approximately 10 shy of forming our tenth class. Taking into account the distribution of children in each grade, we are looking at two straight Kindergarten classes, a straight Yr 1 class and composites for 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, and two 5/6 classes. I realise some parents are nervous about their children in composite classes but I hope the research I have outlined below eases their apprehension.

Firstly, as our grade distribution is not consistent across each grade, we are limited by how many students we can place in each class. We have one grade with 37 students, which is far too many to place in one class.

Secondly, most "straight" grade classes have distinct groups in each class. Every good teacher will arrange their students in a smaller groups. Some may be based on ability in a particular KLA, (remediation or extension), it could be for a behavioural aspect, or perhaps based on a social reason. Our school regards the structuring of composite classes as optimal for student learning and incorporate them as an educational choice, rather than a purely administrative one.

Research, which has been predominantly conducted in primary schools, suggests there is no real difference between composite and straight classes in terms of academic performance. However, benefits relating to student independence, responsibility and study habits have

been highlighted. For example, younger children within a composite class generally aspire to emulate older children in their work, and older children enjoy leadership and mentoring opportunities that lift their self-esteem. I have noted over my teaching career that composite classrooms are more flexible, allow children to work at their own pace, offer a wider range of friendship opportunities and encourage more co-operation and tolerance.

Our school has a very strong belief in stage structures as teachers in their respective stages work closely together during their release time each week as well as designated "planning days" which are held at the end of each term. This is a day designed so teachers can plan together for the term ahead. I believe this is one reason why we are so academically successful here at Nemingha Public School.

On Tuesday the staff spent our afternoon staff meeting drafting up classes for 2019. Initially they were asked to consider each student's academic ability and then they were asked to consider social aspects of student placements. The current teachers were able to give insight into which students would work well with a number of their peers and those who may not.

According to experts, education is about more than academic achievement and age is not necessarily an accurate predictor of a child's development. I am very confident that here at Nemingha Public School we cater for individual students' needs so therefore we can easily accommodate the composite class scenario.

It's all about the quality of teaching, combined with student interest and engagement; these are considered more important than class structure, whatever form it may take.

## *A Time to Rhyme ... from page 1*

At our assembly last Friday we read some narratives about monsters, showed our monsters made from recycled materials and danced to 'The Monster Mash'.



We enjoyed showing the sharks that we made in craft and we were joined by the students who will form next year's Kindergarten to sing 'Baby Shark'.

**Jen Pearson**



# Remembrance Day

On Sunday 11 November Cheyanna Norman and Forbes Murdoch joined with Leanne Kemp and Joshua McDonald to represent Nemingha Public School at the annual Tamworth Remembrance Day Service.

The students participated in the service and laid a wreath on behalf of the school and its community.

Both Mr McDonald and I were very proud of the way Cheyanna and Forbes represented the school and gave up their weekend to attend this special 100th year memorial service.

**Leanne Kemp,**  
Assistant Principal



Next Wednesday at 2.05pm we will be conducting our speeches for the School Captains in 2019.

This year we have already had a selection process where the Year 4 to 6 students voted in eight Year 5 students for the Student Representative Council (four girls and four boys). These students will be now become candidates for our 2019 School Captains.

The candidates are Max Gallagher, Jordan Lewington, Robert Murphy, Max Sartori, Louisa Hawkins, Alice Murdoch, Macie Thornton and Maddison Train.

Congratulation to these students.

Parents are more than welcome to come along and listen to the speeches. Directly afterwards all our school will vote and the announcement will be made at our Presentation Day on Friday 7 December.

# Week 6 - Sharpen the Saw



Sharpen the Saw means preserving and enhancing the greatest asset you have - you. It means having a balanced program for self-renewal in the four areas of your life: physical, social/emotional, mental, and spiritual.

Next week is "Sharpen the Saw week".

# FAMILY FUN

On Friday 23 November our school will be holding a Family Fun afternoon replacing our regular Charity Day.

It was felt that due to the drought we would not make our afternoon have a fundraising focus.

There will be a number of fun activities such as a "Jaffa Smash" with Mr McDonald, a "Gumboot Toss" with Mrs Reid and the students favourite "Water bomb the Principal". We hope to make it a traditional fun afternoon involving parents and community members with three-legged and egg-and-spoon races as well.

Come along and join in the fun.



# Lunch bag

Our Canteen is selling these great re-useable lunch bags for students to use when ordering their lunch.

They are \$10 and available at the school canteen.

Get yours today.





## Help wanted

If anyone has some spare time and would be willing to cover readers for our K-2 classes we would love to hear from you.

Mrs Ryan will provide lessons on how to easily cover the books and provide the contact for you to use.

Please contact Mrs Ryan in the front office if you are able to help us out.

Thank you, Leanne Kemp

# Wahroonga Concert Band visit

Today our school was treated to a wonderful performance by the concert band from Wahroonga Public School, in Sydney.

Wahroonga, known in their local area as “The Bush School”, is touring our region on the “From the Bush School to the Bush” tour. The school’s band program was established over 20 years ago and now has 260 students involved from Years 1-6 in one of five bands or in the very active recorder program.

Students in Concert Band, the top concert band in the school, have had a wonderful year. They were chosen by audition to perform on the Concert Hall stage of the Sydney Opera House at the 2018 NSW ‘Festival of Arts’ Australis Concert in July. They received 1st place in the Ryde East Eisteddfod, and a Gold Award at the NSW School Band Festival. In August, the band performed as the ‘pit orchestra’ at the school’s play which involved every student in the school.

Kate Spencer, coordinator for the school’s Band Program said ‘While the Concert Band Tour is a reward for all the students’ hard work, this year the focus is on linking communities through music and giving to communities in need. The Bush School’s Concert Band will be partnering with the nationally-acclaimed Gunnedah Shire Junior Brass Band in a Drought-Relief Concert on Thursday 15 November. All proceeds are being directed to the drought appeal. Tickets are available at the door (\$10 each or \$20/family). Both bands will perform their repertoire at the concert, and then join as one to perform two works by Concert Band’s conductor, Mr Barrie Gott – In the Stillness and Pine Rivers March.

The joint performance is shaping up to be an exhilarating occasion, with over 70 young musicians from two communities, linking and playing as one band. Concert Band students are looking forward to meeting the members of the Gunnedah band, enjoying a BBQ dinner one night, and sharing music and friendship’.



# Tupperware®



Nemingha P&C is having a Tupperware fundraiser to support our school. All proceeds will go towards the school’s choice of Tupperware for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen.

Brochures are available at the office for those who would like to have a look. Wendy Newby will also be at the Nemingha Public School Library on Wednesday 21 November from 3-4pm for those who want to see the latest products.

Ordering can be done either online, by filling in an order form from the office or by coming to the demonstration on Wednesday.

The online link is below:

<https://empower.tupperware.com.au/OrderSystem/partyregistration/registrationEntry.htm?token=arcfbdrvPF>

A link is also available on the P&C Facebook page.

Please feel free to ask friends and family if they would like to place an order. The more orders that are placed, the more gifts for the school. This is a great opportunity to get some Christmas shopping done!

Please contact Andrea Smith (0402 034 184) if anyone has any questions.

