

NORTH EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION



TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2024



Education for many different learning contexts

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This is a small sample of the Term 1 goings on within our school community. A chance to pause, acknowledge and celebrate the hard work of our amazing students, Parents / carers, teaching and administration staff.

W Newman Deputy Principal NEPSODE.



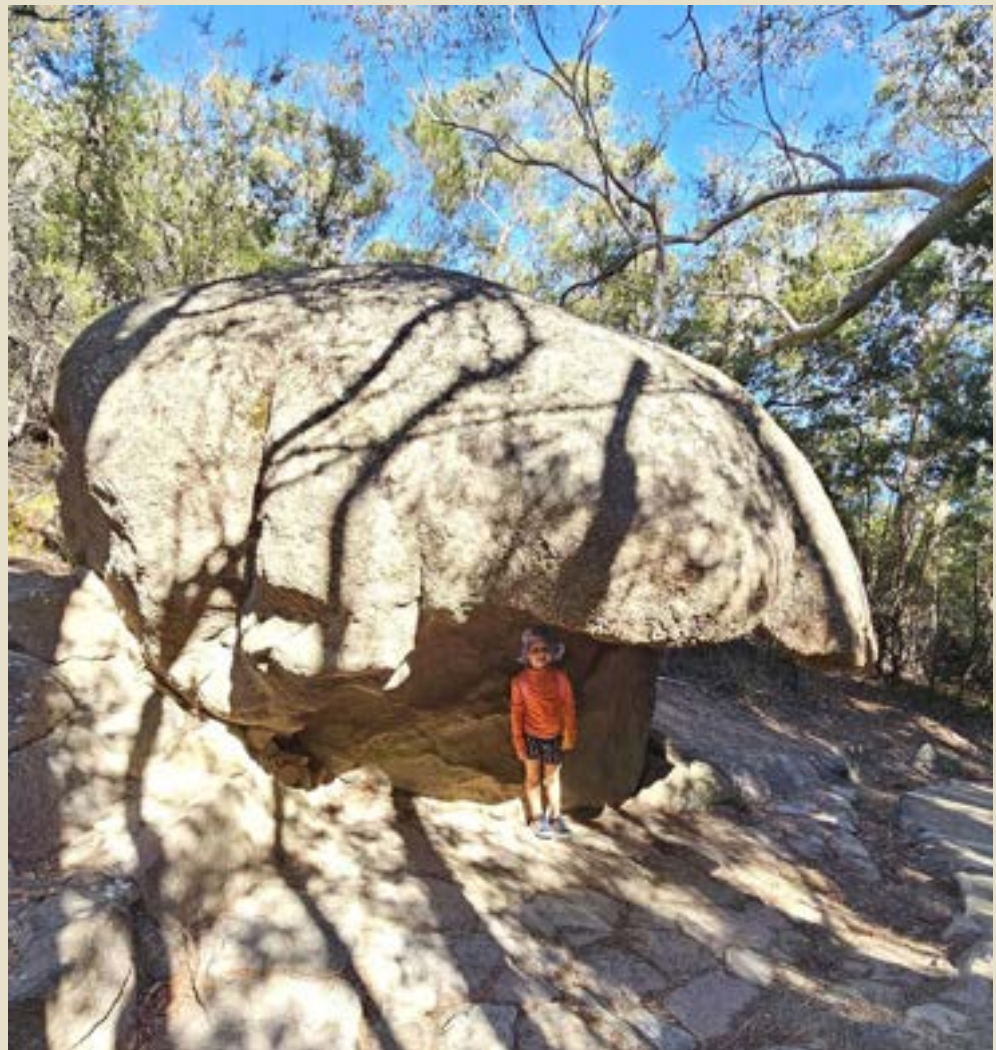
Acknowledgement of Country

North East Public School of Distance Education acknowledges the Birpai people of Australia, who are the traditional custodians of the land where our school campus is located and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where our students and family members are located.



OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES MIGHT BE LEARNING WHILE ON A WIDE RANGE OF TRADITIONAL OWNER COUNTRY AREAS.

THIS IS ONE OF OUR AUSTRALIAN TRAVEL CATEGORY STUDENTS EXPLORING WINEGLASS BAY – COUNTRY OF THE THE OYSTER BAY NATION.



Principal's Message

Term 1 has been a great start to the 2024 school year, as can be seen throughout this newsletter.

So what's in store for term 2? We will be continuing our fun in the Playground on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For those students who can make it to the Harbour Hangout at 1.30pm Eastern Standard time – you can join in on the fun in Clubs Hangout OR you can move on into the challenges in the Games Hangout OR you can mix with friends and other people who have the same interests as you to chat in the Hook Hangout. We will be asking for some feedback from students at the end of term 2 to give us more ideas about the Playground space for the second half of the year.

Assembly is a time to celebrate the things that our learners have been doing and achieving, but also Fun Facts with Mrs Jackson has attracted some interest. You can contribute to this segment by emailing your teacher (by Tuesday of the week is great) or the school email. I can't fit every contribution into the segment but do my best to get a range of ideas from those students. Keep those contributions coming in!

Although the Flynn challenge was launched for Term 1 House cup – those bears will still be out and about through term 2. New students to our school can still take Flynn or Flynnette on a challenge and contribute to the House Cup points.

Term 2 Muster details will be coming soon. A 3 day gathering for some students and 2 days for others, here at Port Macquarie. We have a performance excursion planned and many other fantastic lessons and activities. Yes, there will be Band workshop day with Mr Pole for our concert band members. Parents/supervisors – we have something planned for you too!!

I am looking forward to all the learning adventures that are in store for our students and their families in Term 2 – see you then!!!

Mrs J



PRINCIPAL

THE CLASSROOMS AT NEPSODE CAN COME IN MANY DIFFERENT CONTEXTS. WHETHER OUR STUDENTS ARE HOME-BASED, EXPLORING AUSTRALIA OR EVEN OVERSEAS - THEY ARE SUPPORTED WITHIN OUR DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.



Student in the Travel Enrolment Catgory

To find out more about our school and services - please contact our office
02 65841118
northeast-d.schools@det.nsw.edu.au



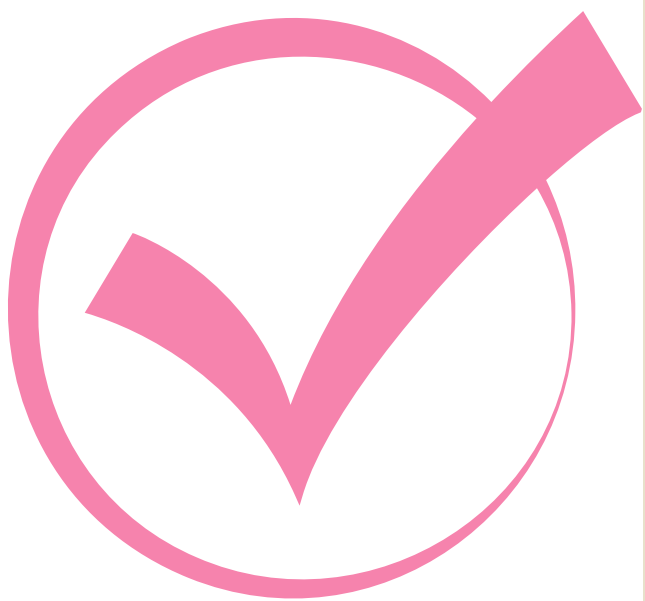
Supporting our local High School

During term 1 we were fortunate to receive a technology resource update from Distance and Rural Education as part of the Rural Access Gap digital uplift program. This resource uplift saw the provision of ICT equipment for our staff to apply as part of their day to day roles. The new ICT resources allowed us to update some of the older equipment, provide more 'fit for purpose' ICT tools to support the teaching and learning and also update the administration areas as applicable. The uplift program is very much appreciated and has made a positive impact on the school's services and available tools our staff can utilise to support and cater for the education needs of the students.

As we looked at our existing older ICT equipment to be replaced by this update, it was noted that this 'older equipment' was not really that old and still very viable within an appropriate educational context. With this in mind, we wanted to ensure the ICT equipment we were updating was still used within the broader Department of Education context to support students. Through discussions with one of our local High Schools (Port Macquarie - Hastings College) we were able to donate this replaced ICT equipment consisting of a large number of laptops and monitors.

The local Technology Support Officer was very appreciative and planned to introduce the equipment into their existing structures to directly benefit student learning in the Hastings College setting. It is good to know that through this professional collaboration, student learning might be further enhanced through the sharing and considered resource management from NEPSODE.

Particular thanks goes to our Assistant Principal Ms Geihe, SLSO Ms Woods and our Administration team, for the many hours work behind the scenes to enable this ICT 'sharing' of resources within appropriate NSW DoE Policy and administration requirements.





The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress. NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

As sourced from <https://nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/default-document-library/naplan-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers.pdf>

The NAPLAN testing window was during weeks 7 and 8 Term 1 with the NEPSODE test window running Wed 13th to Mon 18th of March. Students were offered a range of options to access the tests depending on individual enrolment contexts. For those students who accessed these tests, the results will be made available from the school once these have been made available to us.



Term 1 House Cup Challenge



NEPSODE Flynn and Flynnette Bear Animal Challenge

Our term 1 challenge:

Students were presented the challenge to take a photo of one of our NEPSODE Flynn (or Flynnette) Bears with an animal. This might have also been with a Virtual Flynn or Flynnette on a phone or tablet with an animal.

The students were encouraged to then send the photo back to the school where each entry received 5 points for their Sports House (North / Blue or East / Green). These house points all add up through the year and go towards the awarding of NEPSODE House Cup at the end of the year.

What is the House Cup? All students, teachers and families at our school belong to a team or HOUSE (apart from our Principal, who is a member of both Houses). We engage in friendly competition through challenges throughout the year. At the end of the year, the House with the most points gets awarded the 'House Cup' which has their name and the year engraved to record the momentous achievement.

The Term 1 Animal Challenge saw students sharing lots of wonderful photos of Flynn and Flynnette Bears with a wide range of animals. There were many creative entries and lots of family engagement in the challenge which is great to see. A selection of entries (with permission to publish) will be made available for viewing in our NEPSODE Virtual Exhibition Space early next term so keep a look out for information about how to access this when available.



The challenge for schools in a busy educational landscape



Making sure they are
student centred rather than system centred

At NEPSODE we work hard to make sure the students are 'visible'
and at the 'centre' of how we operate

North East Public School Of Distance Education
Port Macquarie
northeast-d.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Best Start 2024

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is a state-wide assessment that helps teachers identify the literacy and numeracy skills which children bring with them at the beginning of kindergarten. The Best Start Kindergarten assessment has been conducted in NSW public schools since 2010 and helps teachers understand a student's literacy and numeracy knowledge upon entry to school.

The assessment is conducted in line with existing school practices and builds upon teaching and learning programs that support students in the transition to school.

The Best Start results are mapped to the National Literacy and Numeracy Progressions and is useful not only for our teachers but those teachers in applicable Public Education settings beyond us.

During Term 1 Ms Geihe supported our classroom teachers and parents / carers to work through this assessment. Assessment resources and information were provided to families and the Kindergarten students then completed the assessment coordinated by the class teacher within a synchronous online opportunity.

A big thank you to Ms Geihe, the teachers, and all those parents / carers for working in partnership with us to provide this valuable information gathering opportunity for the students.



As sourced from <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/literacy-and-numeracy/assessment-resources/best-start-kindergarten>

**THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
WITHIN NEPSODE CAN INCLUDE
WHEREVER YOU FEEL LIKE
EXPLORING TODAY.**



Students in the Australian Travel
Enrolment Catgory

NEPSODE TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2024

DE Leaders Meeting - Distance Education Conference Term 1 2024

During this term, 3 members of our executive team travelled to Broken Hill for a 2 ½ day combined Distance Education Leaders conference, hosted by School Of the Air Broken Hill/Hay (SOTA). Our school has been partnering with SOTA over the last few years, as we have been sharing our knowledge and expertise between the schools, to ensure our school communities of learners are the beneficiaries of our collective skills.

The Distance Education Leaders met to share and learn from each other, to strengthen our skills and the services for our students and families. Some highlights included:

Teams Application: The use and functions of this platform for communication and connection for learners. This learning was provided by member of our Department of Education State Digital Support team.

Mathematics: This learning gave an insight into how to support our teachers in their skills to become teachers of Reasoning in mathematics. This learning was provided by members of our Department of Education State Learning and Teaching Directorate.

Technology Uplift: This update was in relation to our teaching and learning technology tools in distance education schools and the pending upgrade to our technology studio. This information was provided by members of our Department of Education State Digital Learning and Information Technology Directorate.

Our executive team were able to share projects and initiatives in our school as well as learn about projects in other NSW distance education schools, that we may be able to adapt, adjust or modify to advantage our learners.

The opportunity to have many leaders in one venue was a very valuable time to link our schools within the NSW Department of Education distance education Network of 11 schools. We may be all very different as we support diverse learning communities but share common goals and aspirations for our learners.

A huge thank you to the team at SOTA and all the presenters for a very productive conference and an amazing time.

Debby Jackson



Assembly and Band

Our weekly school assembly runs each Friday 2.00 to 2.30pm using the TEAMS platform. All students and family members are welcome to attend the whole school moments and it's wonderful to see students from a mix of enrolment categories joining in.

There are merit awards and birthdays announced, news and information about current initiatives and learning opportunities, teachers share a selection of student feedback and engagement, and information is provided about upcoming events and important dates to make note of. As a school in which our students are spread far and wide (some even overseas) the weekly assembly is a regular opportunity to come together virtually as a school community.

Our school band runs each Friday using the TEAMS platform. Mr Pole coordinates this opportunity and students work on developing individual skills with their instruments as well as combining, practicing and performing as a band through the occasional Band Workshop days and Muster Day moments.

For more information about the school band or the weekly assembly - and how to get involved, please contact the school office on 02 65841118 or northeast-d.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Virtual Playground - new 'Hangout' spaces



As Mrs Jackson mentioned in the Principal's message, our weekly virtual playground has a number of 'Hangout' areas students can choose to visit. These Hook, Harbour, Clubs and Games Hangout spaces provide opportunities for students to connect, share and collaborate as a school community. There are teachers 'on duty' in these different areas and students can visit one or more 'Hangouts' during the playground time depending on their interests.

It has been wonderful to see a number of regular student visitors using the playground and we encourage any students who have yet to jump in to come along and join the fun.

For more specific details about our virtual playground - please contact the office on 0265841118.

“Choose Your Own Adventure”

Deputy Principal's Message

Back in the 1990's I was teaching in a large Sydney Primary school of 700 plus students. During this time there was a particular series of books that captivated my students and sparked a real interest in reading. These were the *Choose Your Own Adventure series* (I am sure that some of you may have heard of these books).

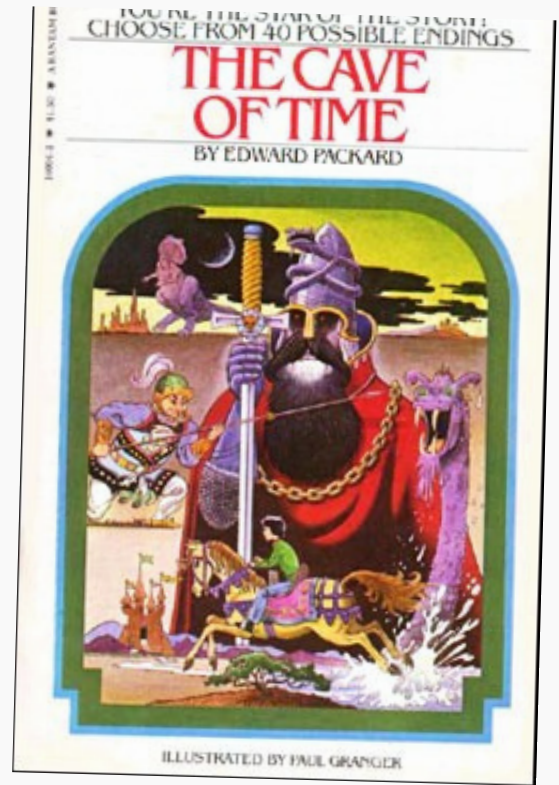
The unique thing about these books is that the reader assumes the role of the protagonist and is invited to make choices that determine the main character's actions. The students' choices effectively influence the different adventure pathways and the plot's outcome (my students were hooked).

It seems that the wide range of enrolment categories and student learning contexts within NEPSODE, has much in common with those 'Choose Your Own Adventure' books. The different enrolment entry points, the individual student learning contexts, the structure of the available supervision supports, and the efforts from the class teacher to align the learning at the student's point of need. The learning partnerships with parents and carers helps to provide feedback, and the adjustments needed to keep the learning opportunities matched to each student's specific needs. This shared decision making and the flexible responses all have similar attributes to those 'Choose Your Own Adventure' books.

The goal of this multi-pathway approach to learning within our school is to establish a unique set of learning outcomes and experiences for each student. We try to achieve this capacity to 'choose' and direct the learning decisions for each student context by working in partnership with the students, DE Supervisors, and other schools and specialists as relevant. NEPSODE is very much a unique educational setting and I think - a good example of what 'Choose Your Own Adventure' in learning can look like.

Wayne Newman

Deputy Principal



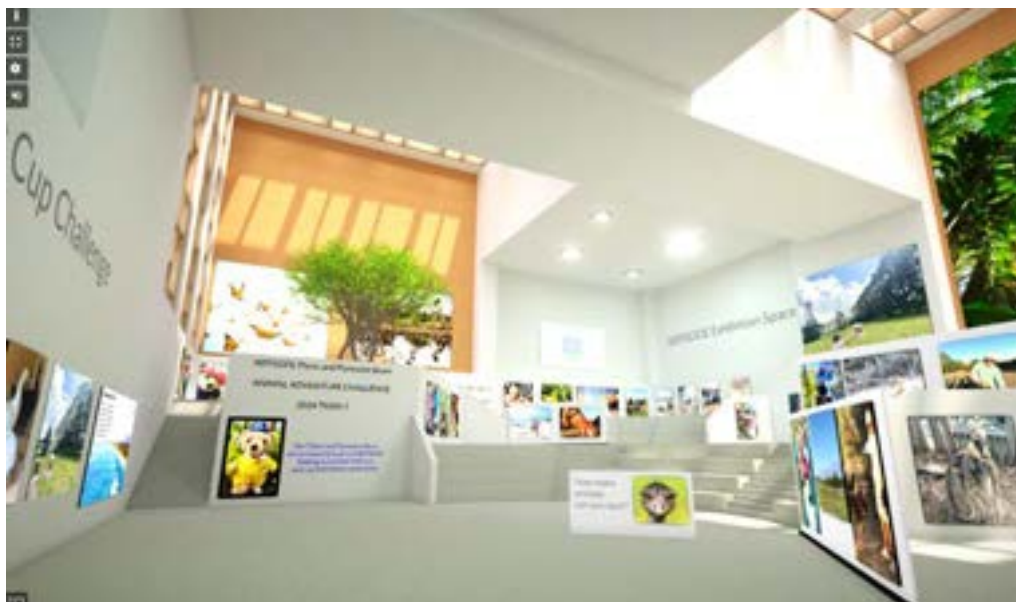
NEPSODE Online Exhibition Space



Our NEPSODE Virtual Exhibition Space is an online area that we use to share short-term exhibitions of student work and engagement. Students, family members and staff can access the virtual space when exhibitions are running and connect, celebrate and acknowledge achievement and engagement as a school community. Last year we saw the space used to share engagement with our Poetry Idol challenge and also share the wide variety of learning contexts for our students.

The next available exhibition will be connected to the 2024 Term 1 Flynn and Flynnette Bear Animal Challenge. We have some wonderful entries to share so keep a look out for when the exhibition window is open and take a moment to jump in and have a 'virtual look around'.

For more information about our NEPSODE Virtual Exhibition Space - please contact the office on 0265841118 or northeast-d.school@det.nsw.edu.au



**FLYNN AND
FLYNNETTE BEAR
ANIMAL CHALLENGE
EXHIBITION OPEN
EARLY TERM 2**

Glossary of terms you may hear at NEPSODE

There are many words and terms you might encounter within the NEPSODE educational environment. Some of these might be fairly well known while others might be a little more specific to our context. The following selection are terms you may come across within NEPSODE and a basic description:

MUSTER ✓

These are regular events provided for students and families to come together for two to three day learning opportunities. These events can also include presentation moments, band workshops and performances, excursions and professional learning for parents and carers. Communication about these Muster moments and applicable dates and locations are shared via school communication platforms regularly.

LEARNING CYCLE ✓

This is the learning window the teacher has planned and is actively supporting for a student/s. The usual learning cycle 'window' is 2 weeks however, this is sometimes adjusted to better suit individual student learning needs on a case by case basis.

LEARNING INTENTIONS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA ✓

Learning Intentions are descriptions of what learners should know, understand and be able to do by the end of a learning cycle. Learning intentions are the basis for tracking student progress, providing feedback and assessing achievement. In addition to learning intentions, students may also have individual learning goals that they address in their learning. Success criteria are the measures used to determine whether, and how well, learners have met the learning intentions.

FLYNN AND FLYNNETTE BEARS ✓

These are a collection of Care Flight Bears we have purchased and collected over the years. They form what is known as our 'Fleet of Flynn and Flynnette Bears'. We use these bears to help engage and connect with the students and their family members in a variety of whole school community challenges - usually linked to our House Cup.

REVIEW MEETINGS ✓

These are meetings that align with Department of Education and Distance Education Enrolment Procedures. The reviews are aligned to specific enrolment categories. They are planned opportunities to review the current DE context and engagement, look at how we can maintain quality learning outcomes for the student/s and invite input from external supports and personnel as applicable. These meetings are managed through the school's Learning and Support Team.

SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS ✓

Synchronous means 'live' learning - real time moments, usually utilising a face to face (as well as Virtual face-to face) learning moment.

Asynchronous means learning outside these 'real time' moments - such as via a shared teacher video in TEAMS or on USB, or via instructions provided as part of the learning cycle.

Glossary of terms you may hear at NEPSODE

NEPSODE glossary of terms continued:

FEEDBACK

This is the communication back and forth between the teacher, the student (and DE Supervisor) that helps to drive the teaching and learning design, the tracking of student progress, and the inclusion of student voice into the design of personal learning goals.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY PROGRESSIONS

The National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions describe common pathways or developmental sequences for the acquisition of aspects of literacy and numeracy development. The progressions provide a tool to; locate the literacy and numeracy development of students and identify the literacy and numeracy development that should follow, and facilitate a shared professional understanding of literacy and numeracy development (and expectations for student progress).

TEAMS PLATFORM

This is the current available online platform supported by the NSW Department of Education our teacher and students use to share, collaborate and communicate. Our synchronous connections are usually run through TEAMS as well as the sharing of resources and asynchronous learning opportunities.

LEARNING DISPOSITIONS

These are a selection of dispositions aligned with a 'growth mindset' we support and focus on within our school. They consist of 7 dispositions - flexible, open-minded, patient and persistent, reflective, resourceful, risk-taker, and ubiquitous.

SMART GOALS

The setting of these goals are useful for all students. The SMART stands for (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic, Time-based). Through feedback and self-assessment, students can identify specific actions to improve and plan their next steps. They can also define their short and long-term goals with increasing confidence.

For further information about these terms or any other aspect of our school community - please contact the office. We are always happy to unpack and explain what we do and how we do it.

Office number - 02 65841118

Email northeast-d.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Important Dates

Coming Up For term 2

Here are some important dates and events to make note of for Term 2.

- Term 2 Monday 29th April staff whole school professional learning day
- Tuesday 30th April is the first day of Term 2 for the students.
- Wed 22nd May (Wed Week 4 T2) is National Simultaneous Story time 2024
- Term 2 Band Workshop and Muster Dates – 4th, 5th, 6th June 2024 / details will be made available early Term 2.
- NAIDOC Week runs from 6th to 14th July
- Term 4 Band Workshop, Muster and Presentation Dates – 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th Nov 2024 / details will be made available through term 3.

These are 'claim the dates' information for parents / caregivers - there will be more detail regarding these events as we move through the school year. For more detail about any upcoming event or opportunity please contact our office.



We welcome enquiries, questions and feedback



Contact Us

For enquiries please contact our school.

Phone
02 6584 1118

Email
northeast-d.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website
northeast-d.schools.nsw.gov.au

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/northeastpublicschool>

NSW Education Parent App / Free download from Apple or IOS stores



NEPSODE Website QRcode

