



From the Principal

This is our last newsletter for Term 2 of 2020 and the last week of my first term as acting principal of NEGS. I am really enjoying this role and I am very lucky to have had the support of our NEGS Business Manager, Shaun Cassidy, who started at the end of Term One amidst the beginning of the pandemic. Next term we are hoping that everything will have almost returned to normal, while continuing to monitor and adapt to the fluid COVID-19 situation.

I am very happy to announce that we have a new date for the NEGS Ball, the 21st November. A huge thank you to the parents who are helping to organise this. It will be a wonderful night and a great way to celebrate together as a community 125 years of NEGS.

There are some staffing changes to announce. We would like to welcome Amy Layton who is returning to our school in a new position as the Equestrian Centre Coordinator, and welcome back for Term 3 both Alice Turner and Kristen Cohen who are returning from maternity leave - we are very excited to have them back. Michelle Wilsmore will be taking leave in Terms 3/4 and will be replaced by Kristen Cohen. Phil Oxley our music teacher is retiring. Fraser Ashman is returning home to England. Mr Ashman would like us to pass on a message for the girls "I would like to thank the girls for making this a great place to work and I wish you all the

best for the future". Briony Freeman is also moving on and will be replaced by Tam Ramsay as the new Chaplain and Christian Studies teacher. We would like to thank Mr Oxley, Mr Ashman and Mrs Freeman for all their contributions here at NEGS.

As you can see there have been a lot of changes this term, however, as a school that this year is celebrating 125 years, I am confident that we will always rise to any challenges.

I am very impressed with how well all the girls have handled the restrictions this term, especially the boarders who have had a tough transition. I have been really proud how both the Junior and Senior school teachers adapted to teaching remotely and how well the Master Classes for Senior School have gone. Thank you to all the parents and carers for your ongoing support in this difficult time.

MR MARK FLYNN
NEGS ACTING PRINCIPAL

JUNIOR SCHOOL *Update*



From The Head of the Junior School

Well, we made it to the last week of Term 2.

I again congratulate our families on their fine efforts managing remote learning this term, I was pleased to hear from many families about how impressed they were with our distance education programme. Prior to COVID-19 we certainly did not envisage that all our students would be accessing our distance education platform. However, students and teachers alike are all pleased to be back learning in our classrooms. Our school report cards during COVID-19 may look a little different taking into consideration the coronavirus pandemic we are experiencing.

The Department of Education have granted to all schools an exception not to grade a student this semester, (as you will know all students are graded to a national benchmark not against each other), and I am sure you will all acknowledge that it could be difficult for teachers to report and grade their students with almost a quarter of the work completed at home.

NEGS has decided to offer families a modified report for Semester 1. The report will include a general comment, A-E mark and detailed content statement for each KLA. When looking at these marks please remember that teachers have had to modify their teaching and reporting procedures. All new students who have not been enrolled for both Terms 1 and 2 at NEGS will be receiving an interim report. This report will then be followed by Parent/Teacher interviews in Week 4 of Term 3.

I am sure you will agree that after many weeks of home learning, teachers do not have the same insight into students' behaviour, understanding and progress as they usually would at this point in the year. Our teachers have commented they are impressed with the way their students have addressed this COVID-19 situation, their reaction to social isolation, returning to classroom routine and learning, their response to missing their friends, and the processes of getting back to normal routines.

Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled for Week 4 Term 3 face-to-face, however, they may be held over the phone or by Google Meet depending on health regulations.

Kind regards,

ANDREW TRAVERS
HEAD OF NEGS JUNIOR SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL Update

Coding Club

Congratulations to Albatool A (Year 9) and Bridgette C (Year 10) on both achieving a merit award in this year's Grok Web.Comp. This is an international coding competition where students use HTML and CSS to code, design and style web content. This is a fantastic achievement. If you are interested in your daughter learning to code, please email coding@negs.nsw.edu.au



Girls' Night In

NEGS will be hosting our annual "Girls' Night In" and Experience Day for Year 7, 2021 on 14-15 August.

Moving from junior to senior school is a big transition. It can be a time of fun, excitement and new experiences, but it can also be a challenging or worrying time for many children and their parents. We are here for you through this change and want to help make it as smooth and positive as possible.

If you know of any families who may be looking at Year 7 for their daughter and who would like to join us for the Girls' Night In, please call our friendly Enrolments Team (Selina Croft and Muffie Sproat) on 02 6774 8700.



NEGS
MORE THAN
A SCHOOL

125
YEARS
1895-2020

MEET THE
TEACHERS

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE YEAR 7, 2021

JOIN THE
CLASSES

Girls' Night In

14 -15 AUGUST 2020

STAY A
NIGHT IN
BOARDING



NEGS Newsletter

2020 TERM 2 | WEEK NINE



NEGS
MORE THAN
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125
YEARS
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NEGS Pie Drive

Dear NEGS Families and Friends,

Year 6 brings you a winter warmer! We are teaming up with Moxon's Bakery to do a pie drive for our Year 6 fundraiser that will help fund our end of year gift to the Junior School, before we set off for high school. Ideas so far are a water tank, flag pole, a path, outdoor classroom space, trees and plants...

Thanks to Moxon's, we are able to sell families pies, lamingtons and other treats at less than retail price. All the goods are deliciously fresh so stock up and put some large family pies in the freezer for easy dinners and buy some lamingtons for divine after school treats.

Orders will be available to be picked up on Friday, 21 August (week 5) from the junior school. All goods are cold and fresh. Please share this note with extended family and work mates; everyone is welcome to support this initiative.

Please bring orders and cash to school and give it to Mrs Dent. All orders need to be in by Friday, 7 August (week 3). We are sorry that direct debit and cheque are not available as this is not a school or P&F initiative – this is Year 6 hoping to provide the best gift we can for the Junior School!

Lots of love from,
NEGS YEAR 6



2020 Important Dates

This calendar will be updated each fortnight as COVID-19 restrictions ease and we can start adding events to our school year.

TERM TWO

Year 11 P/T interviews (by phone)	25 June
Last day of Term 2	25 June
Holidays Commence	26 June

TERM THREE

Boarders return	20 July
Year 7-10 P/T interviews (by phone)	20-21 July
Term 3 classes commence	21 July
Booklympics Day for Junior School	31 July
Senior School photos - Round 1	5 August
PSSA Athletics	7 August
Brisbane Royal Show commences	7 August
Senior School photos - Round 2	11 August
HSC Trial exams commence - TBC	12 August
Junior School photos	12 August
'Girls Night In' for all Year 7, 2021 students	14 August
Yr 10 Illuminate Challenge	17-21 August
Junior School Pie Drive Collection	21 August
IPSHA Athletics	24 August
Book Day	26 August
IGSSA Athletics trip departs - TBC	26 August
Year 5/6 Camp departs - TBC	30 August
Junior School PAF trip departs	31 August
IGSSA Hockey/Netball trip (Round 2) departs	3 September
Grandparents' Day - TBC	4 September
Year 11 Exams commence - TBC	9 September
IGSSA Hockey/Netball trip (Finals) departs - TBC	17 September
Year 11 Leadership Camp departs	21 September
Year 12 Valedictory Day	24 September
Last day of Term 3	24 September
Holidays Commence	25 September



"I'm looking forward to seeing many familiar parent and student faces in Term 3 and also to meeting the new students and families who have arrived during my absence."



Introducing Amy Layton to NEGS Equestrian

I am very excited to return to NEGS this week, in what I can only describe as a dream job "in my element" where I can utilise my effective organisation, communication (and finance) skills in one all round coordinator position. It really is the ideal job role for not only my skill set, but my affinity for all things equestrian amidst a very special school environment that I have really missed being a part of.

A little bit of history for newer families, I worked at NEGS previously, commencing as Receptionist and Debtors Assistant in 2012 and later progressed to full time in the Finance Office where I worked up until March 2019. At that time, I made a tough decision to return home to our farm at Bundarra during the worst of what most of us know as the longest drought we have seen. Of my 6 and a half years at NEGS previously, I spent most of that time residing on campus with my children to reduce our commute to Armidale. It was lovely to be home full time again after so long, with the children all in high school and happy to catch the bus, I was able to work just 2 days per week over the past 15 months assisting a visiting surgeon to establish a productive permanent practice in Armidale.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, communication with families is high on my priority list for the Equestrian Centre

and if I don't know the answer straight away I'll make it my mission to get one for you in a timely manner. I have a fairly good idea of how things work as a former parent, staff member, event volunteer and occasional user of the EC, however I am taking the next few weeks to get my head around any changes and all up to date policies and procedures so that I can communicate information to you effectively. I have worked closely with EC staff in the past with assistance to billing and receipting but there are some areas regarding agistment protocols and such, which I will do my best to be on top of by Term 3.

I'm looking forward to seeing many familiar parent and student faces in Term 3 and also to meeting the new students and families who have arrived during my absence. I will try to reach you all personally by telephone over the next week or so, to chat about your needs for return to the Equestrian Centre in Term 3. Please reach out if it is more convenient for you to call or email me when you are available. If you know of any families who have not received this communication, could you please let me know so that I can ensure nobody misses out on any important information.

AMY LAYTON
NEGS EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

We are really looking forward to having the students and horses back in the EC next term, it's unusually quiet!

All upcoming events will be advised to families as they come to hand, strict COVID-19 Safe protocols must be followed to allow us to attend events that still plan to run in these uncertain times. Each event will be required to have their own COVID-19 Safe plan which we will have to ensure it meets our own guidelines for minimising risk to our students. However, we are looking forward to the program returning to some kind of normalcy.

NEGS On The Road

NEGS is back on the road and Muffie Sproat has just returned from her first trip out West!

After months of COVID-19 restrictions we can finally meet prospective parents and catch up with current parents and Old Girls. In Narrabri Kim Howarth, Old Girl Mathilda Howarth's mother, hosted us at her beautiful Tea House and plant nursery. In Walgett I met with current and prospective parents at The Stone's Throw Cafe. Both of these businesses have been started by amazing rural women and are definitely worth a visit for anyone passing through. You will find great coffee, lovely gifts and interesting conversations with the friendly locals. In Moree I met with people at The Town & Country Club. Thank you to Phoebe Watts for helping me organise this. It was so great to see green landscapes, crops, healthy cattle, happy farmers and local business people.

MUFFIE SPROAT
DIRECTOR OF ENROLMENTS



HKK NURSERY AND TEA HOUSE, NARRABRI



MOREE TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB



STONE'S THROW CAFE, WALGETT

NEGS Business Directory

We understand that families have experienced and been affected by ongoing challenges with drought, bush fires and the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

To support our community we are establishing a NEGS Business Directory. This professional network connects our current families, Old Girls and the wider NEGS community to their businesses and services.

The Directory will be updated regularly and shared on our social media platforms and our website. To advertise in this Directory will be free of charge to our NEGS Community.

If you would like to have your business or services included, please select the link below or email selina.croft@negs.nsw.edu.au.

We look forward to supporting our NEGS community today and into the future.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE NEGS BUSINESS DIRECTORY FORM](#)

100 days to go for Year 12, 2020

The countdown is on. As of Wednesday, 17th of June, Year 12 at NEGS only has 100 days left of schooling and we celebrated in as much style as possible.

This is the opposite of what usually happens in Kindergarten where students celebrate their first 100 days of schooling, instead the girls are celebrating their exit. Of course, for many of the students their education will continue outside of NEGS through University, TAFE and apprenticeships however these 100 days mark the end to their official compulsory schooling years.

For many the emotions are mixed. They are sad that their time at school is coming to an end but also excited that those HSC exams are nearly here and done.

This year has been a trying one for Year 12 as they have missed many of the opportunities that Year 12 in the past have had. The school has done its best to ensure the girls are being able

to experience everything that they can, however COVID-19 restrictions are an unavoidable obstacle. Nonetheless the girls have persevered and reacted positively towards their situation (a trait that this year group is well known for) and have met the challenges head on. We hope that their last term will be one of enjoyment and that they can cram in all of the events that they can to make their final days memorable.

We look forward to having the rest of the year group return to boarding and returning to full capacity. Year 12 we are so proud of you!



COVID-19 Update

UNWELL STUDENTS

We request that you do not send any student to school who is exhibiting ANY signs of illness or states they are feeling unwell.

We also ask that if you answer 'yes' to any of the following 3 questions, that you keep your child at home and contact the Health Centre (6774 8700) to discuss.

- Has anyone in your household been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Has anyone recently returned from traveling?
- Does anyone in your household have any of the following symptoms? Fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue or shortness of breath?

In the event that a student needs to be tested please inform the school immediately. Before returning to school we require a certificate from their GP stating they have returned a negative result for COVID-19 and are fit to return to school. If your child receives a negative result, we still ask that you keep your child home until all symptoms of illness have passed.

Despite some reports from the Government about social distancing in schools, our situation is different as we are considered a residential facility. Restrictions about no adults on campus remains the same as does the restrictions for drop offs and pickups.

The situation remains fluid and all changes are made in consultation with the advice from the Australian Government Department of Health, NSW Health, Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).



COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Information for parents and carers

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. Schools work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

Legal responsibilities for PARENTS AND CARERS ▼

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with NSW Education Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of ARRIVING ON TIME ▼

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Makes sure that students do not miss out on important learning activities early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to spend time with their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents or carers.



Absences FROM SCHOOL ▼

Sometimes your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment during school hours
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence, you must provide your child's school with an explanation of the absence within seven school days. However, the school may contact you to discuss the absence if they have not received an explanation from you within two days.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens, the principal will let you know the reasons why they have made this decision.

The school may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long-term absences are explained as being due to the child's illness. Principals may also seek parent's permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the absences can be recorded as unjustified.

When your child has difficulties

ATTENDING SCHOOL ▼

You should contact the school as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to support within the school or linking your child with appropriate external support networks.

The principal may seek your assistance to help develop an Attendance Improvement Plan that identifies the issues that prevent your child from attending school regularly and collaborates with you and your child to seek strategies to enable your child to get to school.

Consequences of

CONTINUED ABSENCES ▼

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- **Compulsory Schooling Conferences**

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference that is convened by a person authorised by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place, so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

The Compulsory Schooling Conference is the final school-based intervention that can be taken to address matters of unsatisfactory school attendance. It is important to understand that the school may refer the case to the Department of Education Legal Services to take further action where children of compulsory school age continue to have unacceptable unexplained or unjustified absences from school, despite attempted interventions at the school level.

- **Compulsory Schooling Order**

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- **Prosecution in the Local Court**

School and Department legal staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

Travel during

TERM TIME ▼

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school before the proposed period of travel. An Application for Extended Leave-Travel may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and will contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.



School LEAVING AGE ▼

In New South Wales, students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in PARTNERSHIP ▼

Working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school. We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Please get in touch with the school for support with getting your child to school.