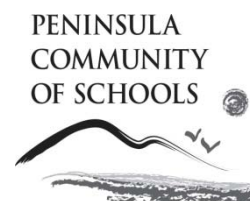




NEWPORT NATTER



NEWPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Phone: 9999 3588, 9999 4100 Fax: 9979 6928
After School Care: 9979 9874
Canteen: 9979 6504

Wednesday 8th August, 2012

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I would like to welcome a new staff member to our school, Linda Maclaurin. Mrs Maclaurin has been appointed to Newport PS as the Learning and Support teacher for four days per week. This is a new initiative under the Every Student Every School program. Mrs Maclaurin will be working with students requiring additional assistance and supporting staff to make adjustments to learning programs to meet the needs of children experiencing difficulty. Mrs Maclaurin has come from the intensive reading class at Brookvale PS and we are thrilled to have someone with her extensive expertise in our school. Welcome to Newport Linda, I am sure you will enjoy working in this wonderful community.

School Uniform

Although the saying goes, 'Don't judge a book by its cover', many people do, and at the moment the amount of jewellery, wrist bands, weekend sports jumpers and additions to our school uniform are detracting from our proud Newport spirit. We do want the children to wear the correct school uniform, as a sign of respect for our school and to promote a sense of belonging to our wonderful community. I often find that children, who don't respect our school and its uniform, may also begin not to disregard our school code and at worst our teachers.

We are asking for your assistance in ensuring the students are wearing the correct winter uniform each day, minus the weekend accessories and non-regulation items like skins, sporting jerseys, scarves and leggings. Changing behaviours comes before values and we hope, with your assistance that our students become responsible for their appearance, value the need to dress appropriately and take pride in their appearance.

P&C Olympathon Thursday 9th

Tomorrow we will be holding our Olympathon. The children are very excited about representing their various countries in a variety of 'Olympic' events. This is the P&C's major fundraiser for the year. Please support this event as it contributes significantly to the resources of the school. Annually the P&C provides funds to employ an additional support staff member to work with students experiencing difficulty with their learning as well as supporting students requiring enrichment. They also contribute resources to our library and our Music Program. Your support of our school is invaluable. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Congratulations to our Debating Teams

This week our Year 6 debating team won their fourth round debate against Harbord School. Well done to Pippa Pryor, Ella Clements, Joseph Reeman, Michaela Bates and Erin Murphy in all the debates you have competed in this year. It has been a fantastic experience for all concerned.

Our Year 5 team has been increasing their experience with debating when we hosted a video conference debate with Waitara Public School. This was the first time Newport has hosted a VC debate and it was a new experience for everyone. Well done to Glenn Sands, Charlotte Labrie, Zane Farquarhson and Anja Kastowsky on your first debate. We look forward to seeing you involved in more debating in the coming months.

Student Health

We have another case of whooping cough identified in our community. Also a case of chicken pox has been identified. Please be vigilant about your child's health and notify us if anything like this occurs. It is important for us to notify our community of these.

Lost Property

We have growing number of school jumpers in our lost property. Please come and check if your child is missing an item of clothing. When the pile gets too large we need to dispose of them. There is a lost property in both the eastern and western office areas.

Dogs at School

I would like to remind parents that it is a Department of Education policy that dogs are not allowed on school premises. This policy was made with the safety of children in mind. I would ask that parents help to keep our children safe and not bring dogs to school. We have had parents and children walk in dogs' droppings outside our school fence. Please make sure that you pick up after your dog. Thanks for your cooperation.

Congratulations Jasper

Congratulations to Jasper Welsh who was selected as representative for the Sydney North Softball Team. He was chosen to participate in the State Carnival at Penrith in September this year. Congratulations and good luck in the carnival.

Spring Working Bee

Saturday 1st September – Put it in your diary

Our Working Bee for this year is to be held on Saturday 1st September between 8.00am and 1.00pm. Working Bees are an invaluable way of maintaining our pleasant and positive environment for the children. We are aiming for a general tidy up of the grounds with some specific maintenance and ground enhancement jobs. If you can assist, even for a couple of hours, it would be very much appreciated. In the coming weeks we will outline in detail the jobs required. There is a job for all levels of expertise. The Working Bee is a great way for new families to get involved and help out at school. Our canteen always provides a great morning tea and lunch. I hope to see many of our families on the day. Please complete the Working Bee slip attached to the Natter and return to school if you can assist us on the day.

Regards

Margaret Charlton

Parliament Report Week 3, 2012

On the 31st of July, Year 6 had Parliament and Year 3 came to watch.

In the portfolio, Student Welfare and Safety, Lucy and Zac put forward the motion of having more bike racks behind 5/6AH because the racks we have now get over crowded. This motion was defeated.

For Sport and Leisure, Elise and Harry put forward the idea of the school buying new basketball rings and back-boards for the eastern playground. This motion was carried and will be discussed with Ms Charlton.

Ella and Charlie, the ministers of Fundraising and Charities, put forward the idea to support NEPCAM. This is a charity that helps children in Nepal by raising money to buy books. This motion was carried and hopefully we will have a mufti day at the end of Term 3 to raise money.

Natasha and Kyle, the ministers of Grounds and Environment, suggested that we should put synthetic grass and high fences in the far north-east corner of the playground. That means we get a new sporting area. This motion was carried and we will talk about it with Ms Charlton.

Thanks to our special guests, teachers, Year 3, Mrs Baldi and Ms Charlton for coming along and supporting Parliament. By Natasha Bryant and Elise Van Mierl

Dear Parents,

Last year I attended a "Food for Thought" breakfast which included a presentation by Michael McQueen from The NextGen Group. Michael's presentation made comparisons between ways of thinking for Gen Y (12-30 year olds approximately) and Gen X (born approximately early 60s to early 80s). Below is the list of differences that Michael highlighted;

Truth – Truth is absolute vs. Truth is relative

Resilience – Life is meant to be hard vs. Life is meant to be easy, fair and convenient.

Future – Linear careers vs. Mosaic careers

Communication – Communication is about form vs. Communication is about function

Learning – Intrinsic value of education vs Utility of education (connectedness)

Respect – Respect is bestowed vs Respect must be earned.

Risk – Accidents happen vs. Lawsuits happen.

As educators I can see how these observations are worth considering as we search for the best way to connect with our students and determine the learning opportunities and experiences which are essential in developing student well-being.

This week I have included an article from Michael which is sure to ignite some debate. The article explores why 'intelligent neglect' is vitally important (but often lacking) in modern parenting.

Please read on...

Regards,

Natalie Baldi

Deputy Principal

Thank you

The Deathridge Family would like to thank the Newport School Community for the compassion, support and assistance that has been extended to Naomi, Jessica, Bo, Mia and Zac during the past few difficult weeks. Naomi is eternally grateful.

Pink Shirt Day

A pink shirt fundraiser was incorrectly advertised in the term planner as occurring next Wednesday 15th August. This event will not be occurring this term.

Bus and Ferry Travel

During the first four weeks of this term there have been a number of complaints regarding student behaviour when travelling to and from school on buses and ferries. Although this travel does not occur during "school hours", the school rules do apply and are enforceable. I would like to remind all students of our Newport CARE code and our expectation of their ongoing respect and cooperation when travelling to and from school. Students who are disrespectful or unsafe when travelling to school may have their student travel passes suspended or school based sanctions imposed. Please take this opportunity to remind your children of appropriate behaviour when travelling to and from school.

Anthony Moran Deputy Principal

Library News

Library Book Donation Sale

A big thank you to all the grandparents, parents, students and their families and friends who donated books to the library on Open Day. It really encourages the children to borrow when they can see new and up-to-date books in the library collection. Once the donation stickers have been put in the books, those who donated them can then borrow them in their library session. If you were unable to donate a book on Open Day and would like to do so (\$10), we still have many left to choose from in the library.

A special thank you to our helpers on the day Nicola Elliott, Sue Punton, Sue Ellen Bennett, Tina Bracher and Virginia Schultz who helped to cover the hundreds of books. We couldn't have achieved such a fantastic outcome without you all.

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge/MS Readathon

Just three weeks to go to complete your reading for the Premier's Reading Challenge and the MS Readathon (read the same books for both!). MS Readathon information can be found on the website, www.msreadathon.org.au. If you need some help finding books to finish the Challenge, please see us in the library. It would be a pity to start and not be able to finish and get your certificate. Make sure you have your books entered onto the website before the end of August (the end of Week 6 to be on the safe side). We have to validate your reading records on the website before September 1st for you to receive your certificate at the end of the year, and we cannot do this if all your books have not been entered by you. Please see us in the library if you are having problems – we can help. Don't leave it to the last minute! Happy reading,

Stephanie Bracey, Sylvia Fisher and Rita Ericsson

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Prize donations needed!

As part of our fundraising initiatives for this year, in term 4 we will be running a monster raffle for the school.

If you would like to donate any prizes for the raffle please contact Anissa Upton anissa@sparkup.com.au or 0413 511 690.

Thank you

Anissa & Meg

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 21st September

LAST DAY OF TERM 3

MERIT AWARD WINNERS

KDF	Harry Gordon, Jesse Cavanaugh	3DD	Victoria Smyth-King, Tyger Cox
KEE	Daisy Reffold, Kieran Bryant	3RN	Daniel Wheeler, Samantha Dale
KGS	Naomi Dodkin, Aron Brennan	3LS	Tita Stokes, Jonathan King
KJP	Lilyana Wawavanua, Chu Yu Zhuang	3GB	Benjamin Jones, Chloe Bracher
KSO	Joel Attewell, Holly Hines	4IW	Grace Fisher, Hunter Hanson
1AJ	Lucas Cilia, Phoenix Davidson	4KC	Wilson Hall, Emily Hinton-West
1EJ	Ariel Belic, Tomas Richards	4LC	Ella Thomas, Blake Griffiths
1JG	Archie Sergi, Angelina De Vera	4MW	Grace Carroll, Vincent Supierz
1SN	Bianca Shepherd, Nathan Holowaty	5/6A	Alec Jones, Arnu Matthews
1/2KH	Daisy Datto, Scarlett Rowland-Smith	5PA	Luca Madlin, Layla Perkins-Crane

2TD Rachel Kelso, Callum Pratt
2JF Daniel Rogers, Piper Lerpiniere
2BG Finlay Young, Elani Crichton
2JJ Billy Cardiff, Anna Reeman

5SC Selena Fethers, Jasper Welsh
5LH Finlay Sturzaker, Jonathon Byrnes

CHOOK LOTTO WINNERS



KJP Jeremy Kirkland
5IH Rebecca Milham

1EJ Reilly Fitzgerald
4IW Michael Amir

2BG Holly Bracey
4MW Vincent Supierz

Music News

Combined String Ensemble Fundraiser:

Attention all String Ensemble Parents - Orchestra, V1 and V2's.

Please add to your diary to bake cakes for Saturday 18 August for the next Newport Artisan Market. Your manager will be emailing details shortly. I know Saturday's aren't great because of sport etc. but please just bake a cake, slice or biscuits and we'll sell it!!!! Happy baking, Melinda Hall, String Orchestra.

Next Music Committee Meeting: September 5th at 7.30pm in the staff room. All welcome.

Thanks so much

Jude Knott

Musica Viva

Next Week Musica Viva will present the Sounds Of The Australian Spirit on Monday and Tuesday in the Newport Hall.

JACANA – A musical quartet will take the children through the familiar landscapes of city and outback, as well as different time periods of Australian history using contemporary, jazz and classical music.

The children have been learning the songs of Jacana in their music program over terms 2 and 3. Jacana will perform four concerts.

Monday 13th August – 10am – Years 1 & 2

11.45am – Kindergarten

Tuesday 14th August – 10am – Years 5 & 6

11.45am – Years 3 & 4.

To attend the concerts children MUST have paid their term 3 account.

Chess News

Last Friday Newport B Juniors played their 10th and final round of the NSW Junior Chess Leagues Ten Week After School Tournament. The Juniors – Luke Morley (Captain), Thiago Ortiz, Aaron Hughes and Harrison Taurins defeated Wheeler Heights Juniors 4 to 0. A great finish to a very long contest. Our juniors finished with a total of 37 points from a possible total score of 40 and for the 4th consecutive year were Zone Junior Champions.

Congratulations boys, well done!

Female chess players are reminded to return their permission notes for the Sydney Academy Of Chess All Girls One Day Tournament if they haven't already.

Mark Tickle

Snow Sports News

Payments are due for the State Titles beginning August 21st at Thredbo. Please send money/cheques to Mr White.

Uniform Shop

ONLINE ORDERING HAS COMMENCED!

The Uniform Shop is now online at FlexiSchools. If you already have an account, you will see that you can select to order from the Canteen or Uniform Shop. If you do not yet have an account, go to flexischools.com.au and set up an account. If you need help setting up your Flexischools account, call FlexiSchools on 1300-361-769.

Orders are distributed once a week so orders placed by 9.00am on Monday will be distributed to your child's class that day. It's that easy!

Of course, we will still be open as usual on Mondays and Tuesdays and we still take payments through the office if you are unable to make it during our open times. Order forms can also be emailed on request or collected from the office.

A massive thank you to our current team of volunteers who help on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Uniform Shop is open every Monday 9-10am and Tuesday 3-4pm. For enquiries, please contact newportuniformshop@hotmail.com or Carla Pettitt 0413-804-015 & Kate Raffles 0413-519-872.

Canteen News

Canteen Roster

Monday August 13th: L. Brooks, K. McCabe, L. Van Dam, S.Crittendon

Tuesday August 14th: C. Martin, T. Oetojo, J. Cowper

Wednesday August 15th: J. Paton, C. Borg

Thursday August 16th: B. Lowden, V. Norman, J. Luckman

Friday August 17th: J. Greeves, V. Watkin

If you are unable to make your rostered day, please call Tammy on 9979 6504 or email the canteen newportschoolcanteen@hotmail.com.

We need a few more volunteers for Friday August 17th - if you are able to assist for any time on this day, it would be greatly appreciated.

Calling All Volunteers!

Our school canteen runs so smoothly thanks to the help of all of our wonderful and dedicated volunteers! Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Grandfriends are all welcome. If you can spare anytime at all between the hours of 8.30 am and 2pm we would love to see you. Even fifteen minutes or half an hour for morning tea service is greatly appreciated! Call Tammy on 9979 6504 or email newportschoolcanteen@hotmail.com

"Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!"

A Huge Thank You for Open Day!

What a wonderful day Open Day was this year! Tammy sends out a huge thank you to every single one of the fabulous volunteers we had on the day. They made tea and coffee, served cakes, served the hungry visitors and did loads of washing up! Thank you to everyone involved and special thanks to Jo Zontsich, Merryn Bracey, Peta-Jane Hewlett, Libby, Melissa Ramsay, Jenny Neill, Cath Tulloch, Melissa Turnock and Kellie McMahon. We look forward to next year's open day!

Online Ordering

Online ordering has been a huge success and it's so easy! To make it even easier there is an APP available which can be downloaded at the iTunes App Store! If you need any more information or assistance with Flexischools, please come and see the canteen or phone Flexischools on 1300 361 760

New Addition to Menu

The canteen now offers a Soy Milk option. Pricing is as follows:

Soy Milk Popper 250 ml @ \$2.00

SPECIAL! Olympathon Sausage Sizzle

To celebrate the Olympathon on Thursday August 9th the canteen will be putting on a SAUSAGE SIZZLE at lunch time! You can order sausages online, over the counter or buy at lunch time on the day. Sausages will be \$4.00 per sandwich.



Sausage sizzle lunch special

Available Lunch Time Thursday 9th August

Order on-line or over counter

Can also buy at lunch time on the day

Pre ordered no Waiting

\$4.00 per sandwich



Garden Club

Garden club is on this **Thursday 9th August** and will be on the first Thursday of every month. Bring gloves, hat, drinks and friends, children etc.

Any questions call Carla Pettitt 0413 804 015

Avalon Bulldogs Touch football 2012 – 2013 Season

Registration now open on line go to:

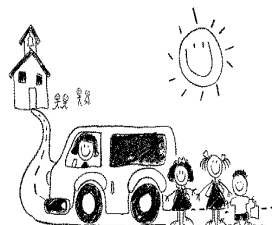
www.avalonbulldogs.com.au and follow the links

Enquires contact Lisa Matthews 0430437892

Note: New age group this season "opens" 14+

KINDERGARTEN IN 2013

Is your child starting Kindergarten in 2013? It may seem early but planning has already begun for next year's Kinder classes. If you haven't already done so, you will need to lodge an enrolment form at the office as soon as possible. Should you require an enrolment form, kindly complete the tear-off slip below and return it to the office. A form will be sent home with your child.



✂-----

KINDERGARTEN IN 2013

Please send home an enrolment form with my child, _____ of class _____. I will return the completed form to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Parent's name: _____ Date: _____
(please print)

Enrolling child's full name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Our Orientation Program will be operating on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9.30 – 11am commencing 15th October.

My preferred mornings are 1st _____, 2nd _____, or 3rd _____

Please tear off and return slip to the office

✂-----

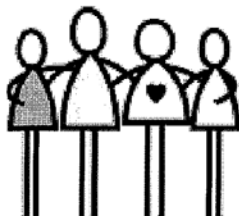
Dear Margaret,

I would like to help at the **WORKING BEE** on Saturday, 1st September 2012.

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Name & Class: _____

Specific Skill or Project (if applicable): _____



Mums for Mums

Mums for Mums Movie Fundraiser

United Cinemas Warriewood

Wednesday 29th August
7:15 pm

Lucky door prizes

Raffle



Sometimes to keep the magic, you need to learn a few tricks.

Meryl STREEP
Tommy Lee JONES
Steve CARELL

Hope Springs

A new comedy from the director of "The Devil Wears Prada"
"It's a beautiful story about a woman who's been married for 20 years and is suddenly realizing that she's not really known her husband. It's a beautiful story about a woman who's been married for 20 years and is suddenly realizing that she's not really known her husband." — *Roll in love again this summer*

Ticket Prices

Normal Seat \$40

Recliner Seat \$50

(tickets include entry,
a glass of bubbles
and a treat on your seat)

Tickets available at

**Newport Public Uniform Shop
Wild Lotus Florist**

mums4mumsnewport@gmail.com



NSEHC T/A

NEWPORT OUTSIDE of SCHOOL HOURS CARE

OPEN: 7am – 9.00am & 3.30pm – 6.30pm
SCHOOL TERM ONLY

☎ 02 9979 9874

Working, studying, training etc send you child/ren along to NOOSHCH – we run a program during the morning and afternoon with a wide and varied range of activities for your child to choose from, have a play with their friends, make new friends. The children rave about the afternoon tea menu – fruit and a varied menu (pizza, spring rolls with chili sauce, quiche, nachos, hummus ...). NOOSHCH provides essential, convenient, quality before and after school care on-site, enabling parents / carers to work, undertake study/training or other activities, with the knowledge that their child/ren are being well cared for in a safe, healthy and happy environment. The centre offers before and after school care during the school term. Your child/ren must be enrolled with NOOSHCH to use the centre on either a permanent or casual basis.

NOOSHCH is run as an Incorporated Association with a Centre Coordinator (trained teacher), experienced permanent and casual staff, a part time book keeper and a parent committee who meet twice a term. The centre offers rebates in the way of CCB (Child Care Benefit) & CCR (Child Care Rebate) to eligible families.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

Centre Policy – Dropping Off & Picking Up

It is centre policy that *ALL children MUST be signed in (Morning) and out (Evening) by an authorized person (parent or guardian over the age of 16 years).* You are required to sign in/out and indicate the time. This ensures the safety and wellbeing of all children in our care. Please ensure that you let staff know that you are collecting your child/ren.

PLEASE NOTE – EXTREMELY IMPORTANT re Absent Children

If your child is ***NOT*** attending for their booked session (especially afternoon - casual or permanent) please phone the centre (answer machine available) to let us know, so that we don't worry where your child is and have to scour the school grounds looking for them, then the phoning around to check whether the "absent child" is sick, on a play date or grandma has collected.... Unfortunately this takes considerable time and worry, not to mention staff time away from the children who are in attendance and places a strain on other staff that has to supervise the children whilst this procedure is being completed. Again this is for the safety and wellbeing of your child. If you do receive a message concerning the whereabouts of your child PLEASE phone the centre back ASAP to confirm that you have received the message and that your child is actually absent for the session. There have been days where phoning to no avail, staff has spent the afternoon with their "hearts in their throats" hoping for 6.30pm to come and that a parent doesn't arrive to collect the "absent" child. Not a happy thought and hopefully this will NEVER occur.

Please advise your child, as soon as the bell rings in the afternoon, to make their way to NOOSHCH promptly. There have been a few 'lagers' stopping at the equipment area or to have a 'quick' play with their friends on the way to NOOSHCH.

Enrolment Enquiries please phone the Co-ordinator Jo Newton ☎ 02 9979 9874

In Defence of 'Neglectful' Parents

Why parents who resist the pressure to over-protect may be doing their children a favour!

By Michael McQueen

Parents beware – allowing your child to walk to the shops or catch the bus unaccompanied may result in you being reported to child protective services. According to a [recent article](#) the message is clear – the world is a dangerous place and parents who fail to protect their children from it at all times run the risk of being branded negligent.

As someone who grew up in the 'play outside till the streetlights come on' era, I find this trend both fascinating and bizarre in equal measure. After all, despite the picture portrayed in current affairs programs of modern society being one where crime, abuse and violence are rife, the data is clear – our society is actually a safer place for children than it was in 1975.¹

Reflecting on both current research and my personal observations, I am firmly of the belief that the pendulum on child protection has swung too far in the nurturing direction. We often talk about the bubble-wrap kids and helicopter parents with a wry smile and a dismissive chuckle, but simply because something is common, this does not mean it is normal (or constructive).

A number of years ago I came across an insightful quote from American political figure Ivy Baker Priest who in reflecting on her own childhood stated:

My father had always said that there are four things a child needs – plenty of love, nourishing food, regular sleep, and lots of soap and water – and after those, what they need most is some intelligent neglect.

Drawing on over 5 years of talking with 'neglectful parents' who fear they are doing their children a disservice because they are out of step with the more over-protective child rearing attitudes in modern society, I felt it was time to speak up on their behalf.

Naturally, I would never espouse neglectful parenting in the absent or abusive sense. Similarly, I am not condoning a return to the inexcusably harsh, mean-spirited or emotionally austere parenting days of old where the focus was on raising 'tough' kids who would be able to face the world with a stoic resolve.

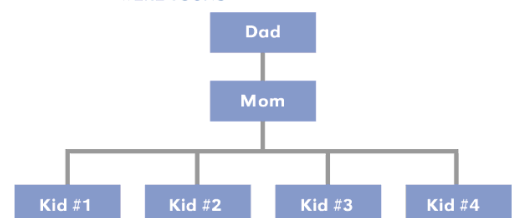
Rather, the type of neglect I aim to affirm below is of the intelligent type – a neglect that is based on a commitment to 5 core values:

1. Emphasizing the collective over the individual

In his book *Grown Up Digital*, Don Tapscott highlights a dramatic shift in the place children occupy in a family unit. He contrasts the power-dynamic of families that existed when baby boomers were children (figure 8.1) with the structure of families in our modern age (figure 2). As the diagram reflects, there has been a dramatic shift away from seeing children as a *part* of the family, to that of being the centre of the family.



FIGURE 8.1 THE FAMILY ORG CHART WHEN BOOMERS WERE YOUNG



Source: The Net Generation: A Strategic Investigation, © nGenera, 2008

Prof. Jean Twenge from San Diego State University explored how this shift is being expressed practically in families. She describes how modern parents begin asking children their preferences even before the child can answer and points to the trend of parents who would never dream of making a single decision for their child without first asking what the child wants. Twenge argues that this results in children coming to believe that *their* wants are the most important.”ⁱⁱ

This is, of course, a far cry from the ‘be seen and not heard’ days where children fitted in around the parent’s lives and not vice versa.

Intelligently neglectful parents recognize that while a child is a precious and valuable member of the family, he or she is not the centre of the family as a collective. Furthermore, they acknowledge that while a child may have preferences and desires, these preferences and desires are no more or less important than anybody else’s.

In this way, intelligently neglectful parents realize that their child may be disappointed, upset or even downright incensed by a failure to have their desires and preferences met at every point – but that this is important preparation for an adult world where not getting one’s own way is an unavoidable reality.

2. The value of saying ‘no’

One of the trends that I have found fascinating to watch evolve in recent years is that of parents who feel a pressure to be their child’s best friend. Naturally, this parental popularity contest often results in one very powerful word dropping off the radar – ‘no’.

In his book *No; Why kids of all ages need to hear it and parents can say it*, Dr David Walsh argues that saying no at the right times, in the right way and for the right reasons is critical for the character development and even the emotional security of adolescents. Intelligently neglectful parents realise this and so are willing to risk the short term resentment and silent treatment of their child when the answer needs to be ‘no.’

3. The importance of experiencing the full spectrum of life’s emotions

While the desire to protect children from the darker sides of life is an important and natural parenting instinct, intelligently neglectful parents realise that sugar coating life by removing the exposure to all negative emotions will do a child few favours in the long run.

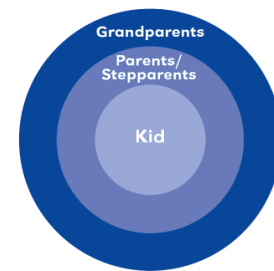
Furthermore, they realize that the 3 negative emotions that all children must experience if they are to have a holistic understanding of real life include:

a. Boredom. Intelligently neglectful parents recognise that it is important that kids and teens experience boredom and learn that it won’t kill them. After all, boredom has a unique ability to force the human brain to invent, create or even simply meditate on the deeper issues of life.

b. Risk/Danger. While few parents would willingly expose their children to danger, intelligently neglectful parents recognise that removing all risk and danger from a child’s life invariably does more harm than good. Reflecting on this fact, Lenore Skenazy in her book *Free Range Kids* describes how children who aren’t allowed to take any risks turn out to be *less* safe than those who do!ⁱⁱⁱ

c. Disappointment. Resisting the pressure to place a toy between every wrapper of paper when preparing a ‘pass the parcel’ game for a child’s birthday party, intelligently neglectful parents recognize that sometimes in life you will face disappointment and that hiding this fact is futile. In the same way, intelligently neglectful schools and teachers are beginning to realise that giving every runner in the race a ribbon does little more than de-value achievement and promote mediocrity.

FIGURE 8.2 THE FAMILY ORG CHART WITH NET GENERATION KIDS



4. Character development rather than confidence.

Since the early 1980's, self esteem has been a key area of focus in parenting and educational circles. Reflecting on the more negative aspects of this trend, principal of Sydney's Barker College, Dr Rod Kefford, [suggested recently](#) that from the 1970s onwards, teachers were prohibited from doing anything that would harm the supposedly fragile self esteem of students. He goes on to suggest that this has come at the cost of character formation saying "If we are serious about building resilience, we have to let young people fail. It is only through our failings that we learn anything."

A number of months ago I wrote an article entitled [The Dark Side of Self Esteem](#) which explored some of the unintended consequences of focusing on building confidence in young people at the expense of fostering character and self-driven resilience. These included increases in depression, apathy, narcissism and dependence in young people.

Intelligently neglectful parents recognise these dangers and focus on affirming not simply who a child *is*, but also what he or she *does*. In linking reward and affirmation to achievement and effort, these parents help their children build a lasting self-confidence and well-grounded character.

5. A eagerness to encourage but a reluctance to rescue

I recently heard it said that the greatest gift you can give a young person is a high expectation of their abilities. Intelligently neglectful parents know this to be true. As such, they will always give encouragement, support and coaching - while at the same time being unwilling to step in and rescue a child from circumstances or consequences.

Such a perspective reminds me of the story I heard years ago of the dangers of helping a bird break free of its egg during the hatching process. While we as humans may feel compelled to help the struggling bird, the very act of offering assistance prevents the bird from thriving or surviving once it is out in the real world. There is something in the struggle that prepares the bird for life and the removal of this struggle actually does far more harm than good.

Intelligently neglectful parents recognise that a similar dynamic exists in humans and will readily cheer long and loud from the sidelines but will resist every urge to step into the ring and fight battles on their child's behalf.

While protection and nurture are perfectly natural parental instincts, I agree wholeheartedly with Ivy Baker Priest – intelligent neglect is critically important in parent-child relationships. My hope is that this vote of confidence is an encouragement to the countless thousands of intelligently neglectful parents who often fear they are on the wrong track. Both I and the weight of all the current research is on your side – keep up the good work!



Michael McQueen is a 3-time bestselling author speaker and social researcher.

Having presented to over 140,000 people across 5 continents since 2004, Michael has his finger on the pulse when it comes to emerging trends shaping business and culture.

To find out more or to purchase one of Michael's books, visit www.TheNexgenGroup.com.



ⁱ Louv, R 2005, *Last Child in the Woods*, Algonquin Books, North Carolina, p. 127.

ⁱⁱ Twenge, J 2006, *Generation Me*, Free Press, New York, p. 75.

ⁱⁱⁱ Skenazy, L 2009, *Free Range Kids*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, p. xiii.