

**Issue No. 35
8th November, 2007**

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

November



Friday 9th

Mango order forms going home tomorrow. Check your child's

bag!!!!

Tuesday 13th

Policy & Finance - 4.00 to 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday 14th

Book Fair begins

Friday 15th

Mango order forms to be returned

Wednesday 21st

Whole School Photograph

Wednesday 21st

Book Fair ends

Friday 23rd

Ready Set Go! Session 1 (prep orientation)

Monday 26th

Grade 5/6 Excursion

Tuesday 27th

Italian Day



Tuesday 27th

Policy & Finance - 4.00 to 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday 28th

Ready Set Go! Session 2 (prep orientation)

Thursday 29th

Last Day Junior Swimming

Change of date

December

Tuesday 4th

Ready Set Go! Session 3 (prep orientation)

Tuesday 4th

Grade 6 Transition Day at High School

Wednesday 5th

School Council - 7.00 pm

Tuesday 11th

End of Year School Concert

Wednesday 12th

End of Year School Concert - Backup

Friday 14th

Prep-Two Excursion to Hays Paddock

Tuesday 18th

Grade 6 Graduation - 5.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Friday 21st

Last Day of Term 1.30 p.m. finish

2008

Wed. 30th January

Gr. 1-6 children commence

Thursday 31st January

Preps begin

GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

Student Achievement

Well done Preps LA 10!

Last week, our very hard working Preps (and some mums, dads, Niki and Reynelle) spent many hours making, baking and decorating animal shaped cookies. Then on Friday at lunchtime, the cookies went on sale, with our Preps serving the children who came to support the cause. Over 400 cookies were sold and the Preps raised an amazing \$162 for 'Friends of the Earth' conservation projects assisting endangered animals.

Fantastic effort Preps! It is great to see them learning how to take action in the community for a very important cause. The Preps chose 'Friends of the Earth' because they had been studying a unit on 'Animals and their Habitats'.

Assessment and Reporting

Teachers are working hard and spending many hours on their weekends, evenings and on their pupil free day, finalising student assessments and transferring student achievement information to the student reports. Teachers are also meeting together to moderate their judgements of student performance against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). We do this so that teachers are clear and agree on what constitutes particular standards against the VELS, and teacher judgements remain consistent across the school.

Year 3 and 5 AIM test results

Overall, both Year 3 and Year 5 have made improvements from last year's results in Maths in AIM. We will have a close look at the teacher judgement of students in Maths against the VELS at the end of the year and see if there is similar improvement. The staff and School Council are pleased with the improvements, and the overall results and we feel that we are right on track to continue the improvement into the coming years of the School Strategic Plan 2007 - 2011.

2007 Year 3 AIM test results: Excellent results in both Year 3 (remember only 15 students in this cohort) Reading/Writing with school mean above the State and Like School benchmarks; Spelling for the Year 3's is just below State and LSG; Number at median 2.4 is just below State (2.5) median and just above LSG (2.3) with Maths median exactly the same as State and LSG at 2.2 median.

2007 AIM Year 5 results: Excellent results in Reading/Writing and Spelling with school median above both State and LSG in all 3. In Number, Year 5 median score came out at exactly the same as State and LSG (3.0) and slightly above at 3.1 the State 3.0 and LSG 2.9.

2008 Student Enrolments

I am currently in the process of finalising enrolment numbers for 2008. At this stage, we will have around 240 students (2007 = 245). If you are aware of any families who are yet to enrol their child at school, could you please encourage them to make contact with us as soon as possible so that a place can be made for their child for 2008. We would hate them to miss out! Also to assist us determine final numbers for 2008, if you intend to leave the school this year, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Warm Regards

Kerrie

What's happening in our school?

Prep, Grade 1-2

The junior team has an 'animal' focus this term. The preps are looking at different animal habitats and endangered animals and the year 1's and 2's are focusing on lifecycles. Heather in LA11 has bought some Hermit Crabs for her room and some of the other classes already have fish tanks. The prep rooms are slowly transforming areas of the room into different habitats. So far we have: the ocean, pond, the bush and the jungle.

Students visited the Melbourne Zoo, and had a session booked at the education centre. A special guest visited the prep classes, from Friends of the Earth to talk about their role in looking after animals in danger of being extinct. This is also a way of linking into the community (VELS)



The swimming program has begun with weekly sessions held at the Northcote Aquatic Centre. There are 101 students participating in the program.

Grade 3-4

The 3-4s are investigating food – healthy eating practices and food handling, food packaging and what it means. They will be designing their own food product and package, and presenting and eating them at the NPS 'Eat It' Expo. Later in the term, students will participate in a drug education unit, focusing on keeping safe and making smart choices.



Grade 5-6

Students are engaged in a personal research project, involving a design brief, working with materials and presenting. Student action teams are also underway, ranging from film viewing and discussion to playground games. Inter-school summer sport has begun, with training in some sports after school.



Visual Art

P - 2: painting, drawing, printmaking, clay modelling, constructions and textiles.

3 - 4: printing, still-life drawing and painting, functional pottery. As the Welcome Mosaic nears completion, students will also complete their own individual mosaic panels.

5 - 6: silk-painting, lino-printing, mask-making and textiles

Towards the end of term some time will be set aside for Christmas craft activities for all grade levels.

Science

P - 2: Minibeasts

Students will take a sensory approach in exploring minibeasts within their habitats

3 - 4: My Body

Students will be identifying and describing the structural features of the human body

5 - 6: Chemistry and Chem-mystery

Students will be exploring chemical and physical properties, changes and reactions.



Italian

Italian this term will be busy with lots to learn and an Italian Day scheduled for Tuesday the 27th of November.

Preps will be looking at colours and a unit on Alla Festa in preparation for our Italian Day.



The grades 1 and 2 will be looking at Gli Animali (animals) and Christmas.



The grades 3 and 4 will be focusing on Italian Festivals and the grades 5 and 6 will be learning about gestures and conversations as well as 'La Befana.'



For the first 3 weeks of this term the students were learning Italian with our student teacher Giuliano.

Karen Rush
Assistant Principal

BOOK FAIR

Our annual Book Fair is arriving soon! For newcomers to the school, it is a 'book shop' organised by Scholastic Books. Books and trinkets, such as fancy pens and interesting rubbers, are available for sale after school, from 3:30 to 4:00. It will be arriving on **Wednesday 14th November** and stay in the Library until the following Wednesday, 21st November. It's a great chance to buy some Christmas presents and help the school library at the same time. The school receives a percentage of the sales and uses that to buy more books for the Library.

To run the Book Fair I need to have some help in the afternoons. It is not difficult – just a matter of taking the money! The trickiest part is using one of those old style credit card machines, and if I can do that, anyone can. If you are able to help for an afternoon or two, please fill in the form below and return it to the office or me, in LA14. Thanks for taking the time to think about this.



Cheers, Anne Lawson, LA14

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BOOK FAIR REPLY SLIP

I can help at the Book Fair on the following day/s.

Wednesday 14th November

Thursday 15th November

Friday 16th November

Monday 19th November

Tuesday 20th November

Name: -----

Contact No.: -----

Child's name: -----

LA: ____

DANCE! DRINK! TALK! LAUGH! SLEEP! WAKE! VOTE!

Northcote Primary School Benefit Gig (see attached flyer)

Tickets go on sale next Monday in the yard at school pick-up time and in the office after 3.30 p.m.

WALKTOBER NEWS

Well Walktober is well and truly over, so now its time to tally up those distances and see if you met your target distance. We need you to record your dog walk distance, your red dot trail total distance and your walking to and from school distances on your distance record sheet.

Tally it up and see if you met your target distance total. Did you reach it? Or you walked even further than you thought.

Next we need you to talk to your family and friends and collect their sponsorship money if they sponsored you. When you have done that can you return your collected money to school along with your distance record by 15th November. Then we can start building our bike shed and once that is built we can ride our bikes to school.

Evelyn & Jane (Walktober Organisers & Parents)

Visit the Northcote primary school website at: www.northcoteps.vic.edu.au for further information with a direct page link to Gardening and Cooking Program at www.northcoteps.vic.edu.au/parents/cooking.html

**COUNTRY HOUSE TO RENT
MALMSBURY
ONE HOUR NORTH OF MELBOURNE
(Calder hwy)**

SHORT TERM/HOLIDAY RENTAL AVAILABLE
Beautiful fully furnished country house
2 bedroom - sleeps 4.
Fully self contained.
\$90 per night weekend (\$80 weeknight)
\$550 per week

Book now for school holidays.
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Flyers and brochures are available outside the school office.

MILO HAVE-A-GO CRICKET with Dennis Cricket Club. Starts 4th November at 9.00 a.m. (for registration) then 9.45 to 11.00 a.m. Call Frank on 0434 330 939.



Work – School Hours –
Free Training
29 October - Northcote
Are you looking for part

time work in the community services sector?

Employment Focus will provide you with 5 weeks training and support into a Part Time Home and Community Care traineeship.

☐ Fantastic supported way to break back into the workforce

☐ Family friendly hours

☐ Supported flexible training

For more information please call Tatyana at Employment Focus 9450 5700

SPRING INTO COMPOST

Until December 14 2007, residents can buy discounted compost bins (\$25), worm farms (\$50) and Tumbleweed rotating composters (\$130). These prices included free delivery in Darebin. During the promotion, Council also runs free composting and worm farming and sustainable gardening workshops to help residents get their new system underway. Last year, a waste audit of household rubbish bins found that nearly half of all the items contained in the rubbish bin is food scraps and green waste. Most of these materials are perfect for composting and worm farming, which will dramatically reduce the amount of waste sent to land fill and make a fantastic product for your garden. To order your compost bin or worm farm simply download an order form from www.darebin.vic.gov.au/composting or phone Customer Service on 8470 8888.

HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE GARDENS

Together with other local Councils, Darebin is offering residents recycled and discounted Mulch (\$30/cubic metre) and Compost (\$40/cubic metre). Mulch is a great way to retain water in your garden and will be ideal for the upcoming summer months. You can contact the following suppliers to personally pick up your compost or mulch or arrange delivery. This offer is available until December 14 2007 also.

Evett's Building and Garden Supplies

55 Victoria Road, Northcote; Tel 9482 5858

Green Planet Pty Ltd

480 Cooper Street, Epping; Tel 9408 4555

Coburg Sand and Soil

154 – 156 Gaffney Street, Coburg; Tel 9354 2299

If you would like any more information about these great offers feel free to contact me on 8470 8220.

Thanking you in advance, Sandra



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE INAUGURAL MERRI MERRI WOMEN'S DINNER

What to Bring?

A Friend – Women and girls only

A pastry to share (sweet or savoury)

A plate, cutlery, drink & a chair

(\$10 adult women, girls free)

Sorry no dogs.

RSVP by 26th November 2007 to 0417552593

Where? Merri Park

Cnr Sumner Ave and St Georges Rd Northcote

(mel ref 30 C9) Parking on Sumner Ave

Featuring the Brunswick Women's Choir

RSVP amanda.watkinson@rmit.edu.au or Jacqui

9489 1313 or Lena 0417 552 593

Brushy Tales; next series of classes for visual art at CERES, will be commencing on Saturday Nov 10th 2007 from 11.15 am until 12.15pm in the Training Room! Creating awareness through different techniques and subject matter both contemporary and traditional. Contact Valerie on 0410 327 863 or email brushytales@yahoo.com.au Check out our website at www.wildartistsaustralia.com.au CERES 8 Lee Street, Brunswick East.