

**Issue No. 9
10th April, 2008**

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Thurs 10 th April	Last day for payment of school fees
Fri 11th April	Curriculum Day – No School for Students
Sat 12 th April	Working Bee for Bike Shed
Wed 16 th -Fri 18 th April	Grade 3/4 Camp to Waratah Bay
Tues 22 nd April	Cultural Performance – Surfing Safari
Thurs 24 th April	Prep Excursion to Collingwood Children’s Farm
Fri 25th April	ANZAC Day Holiday – No School
Fri 2 nd May	Grade 3/4 Cooking Morning
Mon 5th May	Curriculum Day – No School for Students
Tues 13 th May	Tri Skills begins
Tues 20 th May	District Cross Country
Wed 21 st May	Grade 5/6 Museum Excursion

WORKING BEE FOR THE BIKE SHED
Saturday 12th April

Contact Shayne Dennehy on 0408 119 257



GREETINGS FROM KERRIE **Student Achievement**

Welcome back to everyone in our communitiy!

I hope you enjoyed yourselves and the children during their first term break holidays, as they certainly looked refreshed, happy and relaxed on Monday with only one major injury – Lauren Thompson sustained a broken arm during the holidays. We hope you get well soon Laus.

Student Achievement

Congratulations World Maths Day Winners

LA2 and LA6 accumulated the most points – over 10,000 – on World Maths Day. These grades have won a year’s free subscription to mathletics.com.au, one of Australia’s most popular interactive maths sites. Well done our enthusiastic Mathematicians in both grades!!

Welcome to the Tomich family

Max Tomich, grade 3, LA1, commenced at our school on Monday. Max's family have come from Sydney and are now living in the area. Max likes sport and is getting used to AFL football! Welcome Max, we are pleased to have you at our school.

Storm over the holidays

Melbourne also sustained some damage during the holidays with the big storm that swept through on the tail end of the cyclone. When I heard the news, (I was holidaying in New Zealand), I quickly checked news online to see how Northcote fared. I was relieved to hear that the brunt of the storm had bypassed Northcote and very pleased to see that there was no damage to our school buildings and environment on the first day back. There was plenty of leaf and twig litter all over the yard. Hugh got to work on Tuesday, cleaned it all up using the leaf for mulch for our garden areas and has got our school looking gorgeous again, thank you Hugh!

Thank you Nell and Jane Miller

Jane, mother of Nell Ayers, LA5, and on Buildings and Grounds committee, both came into the school after the storm and collected the fallen branches in their wheelbarrow, and put them away. Thank you Nell and Jane.

Green Green Green

Have you seen it? Heard about it? Walked on it? Lay on it? Played on it? What are we talking about? Our field of lush Artificial Turf is **IN!!** Hooray! It was put in over the holidays and we all came back to a beautiful sea of green on the laneway side of the school. It looks fantastic and is a big hit with all the children and teachers in the school.

How can we share it?

On Monday & Tuesday we asked the grade 3-6's and Junior School Council for their suggestions as to how can we best share this new space so that **all the children** in the school can have a turn to play on the new turf for the first little while.

The children came up with some great suggestions and they decided that the fairest way would be to have morning play times for everybody, with no ball games. Monday to Thursday Lunchtimes to be split in halves, with grade levels rotating through each half on a roster basis, and Fridays, open to everyone to play with no ball games. The roster was drawn up, and classes have a copy and are using the turf for ball games during their rostered time.

This way, when grade levels are not rostered on, they can still elect to play their ball games (soccer; football; netball; basketball) in the huge area down the other end of the school yard.

We will keep to this roster for a little while and then we will review the need for any changes.

I have gone out into the yard each day to watch the children get used to the fact that they can run around, jump in the air, and fall over ... AND not get hurt! The children have been rolling, tumbling, racing, running barefoot, playing chasey, laying on it, kicking balls and generally having a ball!

The teachers have also been taking their grades out for Physical Education lessons on the new turf.

"We did some stretches on the ground for once! Ever since I've been teaching here, we have had to do all our warm up and cool down stretches standing up!" Ross told us.

"It is amazing how it also absorbs the sound of the kids running, and I don't have to try and project my voice so much during lessons any more!" Margaret reported.

A reminder ...

In order to make sure our grass lasts for a long time, it is better not to eat food or drop food scraps on the grass as the spillage gets into the matting underneath and rots it.

Thank you to all parents who have contributed funds over the years to pay for the new turf. It has been worth every cent! Just ask the kids, they'll tell you!

Term 2 is up and running!

Term 2 has started well, it is an important term for students as they build on the learning they achieved in term 1; continue to connect with their teachers and school programs and build on their friendship groups, old and new. We have some wonderful activities and events planned for term 2.

Week 1: Curriculum Day on Friday – a whole day of professional learning for all teachers with a focus on Modules for Maths teaching and learning; using the computer Lab to work through online assessment modules; assessment practises that include frequent constructive student feedback that supports their further learning, that informs planning and teaching, and makes assessment criteria explicit to the children. We are using the expertise and training of our own staff (Linda; Karen; Nicky McKinnon; Ross) to present and facilitate the day. This really contributes to us as a community of learners, in that we are learning from each other all the time.

Week 2: Grade 3/ 4 Camp to Waratah Bay, they are very excited!

Week 3: Cultural Performance on Tuesday

Week 5: Curriculum Day 2

Week 6: Tri-Skills Gymnastics commences (children are looking forward to it!)

Week 7: Education Week Open Day on Tuesday for our community.

During this term also, we will commence tours for prospective 2008 families, we are just finalising some dates so as not to clash with our other activities. If you know someone who has a pre-school child, let them that they can ring our office and book into a tour of our wonderful school.

Student Reports

And of course, this term, the focus is on finalising half year assessment and reporting. The student reports will provide recognition of student's learning and achievements for the half year, and strategies for each student to improve their learning and achievements for the second half of the year. Stay tuned to the newsletter for important parent teacher interview dates.

Bike Shed

This Saturday begins the first preparatory work for our Bike Shed. A group of parents under the supervision of Shayne Dennehy (Max's dad) and Hugh, with other volunteer parents will begin clearing the site for the construction of the Shed. This is very exciting, as we have been planning and waiting for permits from Darebin Council, and grants monies to get our Bike Shed up and running. The area will be out of bounds for children to play in for the duration of the works.

As you can see, a lot happening, and a great deal going on that makes our school a wonderful learning environment for our children.

**Warm Regards,
Kerrie**

ITALIAN UPDATE - Term Two

Ciao A Tutti e Bentornati (Hi everyone and welcome back)!

Hope everyone had a great two week holiday!☺ Term Two will be a busy one for Italian.

Competition News: The annual state-wide Dante Alighieri Society Poster Competition is happening and Northcote Primary School will be entering yet again. We have experienced success over the last three years in this competition receiving Honourable Mentions, Finalists and a 2nd Placing in the state for a Grade 6 student. I am hoping that we will have more students entering this year and hopefully receive some more winners!☺

All Northcote Primary School students will be given the opportunity to enter this competition. All students will be working on the competition theme in class and will be encouraged to enter this competition. All students who choose to enter will have their entry submitted and all those who choose not to enter, will have their poster on display here at school.

The competition theme is divided into two categories:

Grades Prep to Grade 2 = Nel Bosco Vedo...(In the bush I see....).

- All entries must have a minimum of 5 words not including the beginning sentence.

Grades 3 to 6 = Una Cartolina Dall'Italia (A Postcard from Italy).

-All posters must contain the picture and the message entirely on the front of the A3 sheet. It must also include 5 sentences in Italian.

The entry is to be completed individually and on A3 size paper (that is, two A4 sheets of paper put together). No 3D entries will be accepted. The form of presentation is up to the student.

Competition prizes:

All prize winners will be required to attend a presentation evening at The University of Melbourne in late September (date unknown at this stage), with family and friends welcome.

There will be a trophy, certificate and prize awarded to all first, second and third prize winners in each year level. Each year level eg. Grade 3 will be competing against other Grade 3 students in Victoria. All prize winners will have their photo taken for the Italian Newspaper 'Il Globo'.

This all sounds exciting! I wish all of our students the very best of fortuna (luck). More on this competition as the entry draws near.

Units This Term:

Topics will be as follows in Italian:

Prep - Ecco Pinocchio (Here is Pinocchio).

1/2 - Complete Il Pappagallo unit and competition work.

3/4 - Family and Italy.

5/6 - Family and Italy.

Grazie mille (many thanks) for your continuing support,
Signorina Rosa.
Italian Teacher and Co-ordinator.

WENDY'S MUSIC

Welcome back to instrumental lessons. Just to let parents know, we have been asked not to continue lessons in week 2 until Term 2 invoices are paid. We are planning a concert for early Term 3, more details to follow.

From the Wendy's Music teachers

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Flyers and brochures are available outside the school office.

For information regarding secondary school open days, please see noticeboard outside the office foyer. Schools are: University High, Northcote High, Doxa School (west Melbourne) and Melbourne Girls.

Kelly Sports – Enrolment forms available outside the school office.

Guest's Martial Arts – Brochures available outside the school office.

To all members of Community Child Care - The LHMU is conducting an on-line survey of parents using child care - it will generate some useful information about how parents view child care. The Union will share the results with Community Child Care and our national peak body NACBCS. Please check at www.lhmu.org.au/parentsurvey. Barbara Romeril, Executive Director

Action Indoor Sports Northcote – Junior Sports and activities. See brochures outside school office.

The Term 2 **2008 Parentzone** Northern newsletter is now available at: <http://www.anglicarevic.org.au/Parentzone>. The link will take you to 'Welcome to the Anglicare Victoria Parentzone Web Portal'. Once there click on Northern. Click on the download button. (You may also like to view the other regions' sites/newsletters for parenting programs in other areas.) A more direct link to the Northern only newsletter is: <http://www.anglicarevic.org.au/Parentzone/northern/default.asp>