



# NEWSLETTER

No. 1401

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**Issue No. 40**  
**13<sup>th</sup> December, 2007**

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

### December

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Prep-Two Excursion to Hays Paddock

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Parent Helper Morning Tea - 11.00 to 11.30 a.m.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Grade 6 Graduation - 5.30 to 9.30 p.m.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Last Day of Term 1.30 p.m. finish

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>**

Merry Christmas!!



**2008**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Grade 1-6 children commence

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Preps begin

## GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

### Student Achievement

**All student (and staff!) participants in the annual School Concert - Around the World**

Congratulations! What a fantastic night's entertainment! Our school community were treated to some wonderful performances from our children, incorporating songs of various countries around the world. Each class put on an excellent item, including an original 'Kookaburra' song from LA12 - Grade 1/2; 'Help' LA6 - 5/6; 'Christmas Boogie' LA9 - Prep; 'Pokeman' LA8 - 5/6; 'Land of the Silver Birch' LA11 - 1/2; 'Wake me up' LA 5 - 5/6; 'La Bamba' LA1 - 3/4; 'Zorba' LA10 - Prep; 'The Colours I Know' LA14 - 1/2; 'Dancing in the Cha Cha Cha LA2 - 3/4; 'Silent Night' on the Indonesian Angklung instruments LA6 - 5/6; culminating in the colourful cultural parade and extraordinarily polished number 'Across the World' from the staff!

### Thank you ...

... to all children, staff and parents who performed and supported the evening, there was a great BUZZ of joy, happiness, and laughter at our annual end of year picnic afterwards, with many discussions around each performance. The Prep 'Zorba' featured in many chats, weren't they great? It was also a good opportunity for me to catch up with parents and families and ask how the year has been. From feedback I received, it has been a very successful year for the children and the school.

### **Congratulations Thea Lang**

Thea has been awarded the Northcote RSL award for displaying exemplary community or school involvement. Thea has made an excellent contribution throughout the year to the Junior School Council. She has also been an active member in her student action team. Congratulations Thea on your high level of commitment.

### **Congratulations to Grace Potts**

Grace has been awarded the Martin Ferguson prize for outstanding achievement. Grace has matured as a student and developed in to a strong role model for other students and your peers. Grace has also showed great improvement despite having a difficult year and showed great courage in taking on the challenge of public speaking and performing very well at it. Congratulations Grace.

### **Congratulations Jack Hurst LA1; Gabe Oliver LA1; and Barn Ritman LA1**

Last week, Jack, Gabe and Barn participated in belt gradings in Karate. Jack received his orange belt grading; Gabe received orange belt grading and Barn received green belt grading. The boys belong to Aerostrike and go to Karate every weekly. Well done, boys!

### **It's a record! Congratulations Fundraising sub-committee and school community!**

The final total is in and yes, this year, we have broken the record, and raised an incredible **\$31,900! Wow!** An amazing effort and one to be very proud of! We have spent some of the money this year on the new artificial grass deck at the edge of the Junior Playground and towards the construction of our Bike Shed, which is planned to commence work during January 2008. I would like to congratulate Nicky Dulfer, this year's convenor of the Fundraising sub-committee and all the members of the committee. You have put in an extraordinary effort, with your time and commitment, thank you so very much. And thank you also to our community for continuing to generously support all our fundraising efforts with your money and time each time we have run an event. Your support makes not just the money raising a success, but also opportunities for us all to work together as a community for the benefit of our children.

### **We need parent help with our Library in 2008, can you?**

Are you able to commit an hour or two per week to assist with processing new books, shelving returned books and cataloguing? As you know, we are unable to fund a Library Assistant (Sian's role) in 2008, but we are very keen for our well cared for and well utilised Library to continue in the way it has been. The Library needs 4 hours minimum and up to 8 hours maximum to keep it running effectively so that the children can continue to regularly borrow from the maximum range of books available.

If you are thinking about it, or know you can contribute your time, please contact the office as soon as possible. It would be preferable to identify any volunteers this year, as Sian is available next week on Monday and Friday morning to show any volunteers how it works. Sian assures me it is very easy to learn, and operates around a good system.

### **2008 Class Orientation visits**

Yesterday we had the first of our 2008 orientation program. The children spent a couple of hours in their new classroom, with new class members and new teachers, for some. I visited every classroom and nearly all children were delighted with their 2008 class. We are planning to have another orientation visit next Wednesday to finish up the year, to smooth the transition into the new class.

It is a very natural response for some children to be anxious about change, (new class, new teacher, new classmates, out of their comfort zone) and we need to support children with positive talk so that they may feel that they can be resilient, and that they will be ok.

Teachers have spent many hours on the combinations in each class, on trying to place every child with at least one of their selections. If your child is experiencing concerns or anxieties and you are worried that it is more than general anxiety about change, please contact either your child's 2007 teacher, or Karen or myself at the office to discuss.

## **Australian Government Community Water Grant**

As announced in last week's Newsletter we have received notification that our application for the above grant has been successful. We have received \$45,372.73!!!!

This will provide the following for our school

- Tanks for the boys and girls toilets, includes pumps and mains backup
- Flow restriction taps in toilets
- Tank for the vegetable garden
- Dual flush cisterns in staff toilets

Funding also includes design, engineering, water monitoring system, project management, promotion and education components. A huge thank you to Eric Noel from the Darebin Green Precinct who put the application in for us. Also thanks to Jane Miller and other members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee who did a lot of the work in the preparation of the application. Work should start in the New Year and an important part of this grant is the education aspect. We will be encouraging students to continue to be water conscious.

## **Please remember to be careful with any prescription drugs**

Last Monday, after assembly, a loose prescription drug, (pink & grey capsule), was found on floor in Hall. The capsule was handed in to the office and after seeking information from our local pharmacist, we have discovered that it was a low dosage anti-depressant. I am very concerned about the fact that it was found in an area of the school that is commonly used by children, particularly the Junior classes. As it turned out, one of our 5/6 students found it when helping to put the Hall equipment back together after assembly. We have no knowledge as to how it got there and can only guess that it may have fallen out of someone's bag or pocket. Just a reminder to all parents and staff, please be careful with prescription drugs, and preferably, do not have loose capsules or tablets in your bags or pockets.

## **Farewell Rita Di Clemente and Sian Cameron- Roberts**

I would like to thank Rita for her work with the 3/4 children LA2, this year. Rita shared the class in term 1 with Cathy Marson, and then with Karen, our Assistant Principal, for terms 2- 4. Thank you Rita, for your adaptability, and hard work and we wish you all the best in your future pursuits.

I would also like to thank Sian, who has worked tirelessly to make our Library an inviting and welcoming learning environment for our children this year. Sian is back to some more study next year, and work connected with this. Best of luck with your future pursuits too Sian.

It has been great having you both in the school this year.

## **Farewell to children & families**

I would like to farewell the following children and families from grades Prep to grade 5, who will be leaving us at the end of the year. Grace Foard LA2; Max Massarotti LA11; Lidia Boniwell-Lombardero; Nele, Marla and Cade Adams-Jacka; and Felix Bridie LA11. Also farewell to Marcello and Leo Mantait, who are leaving at the end of this week. We will miss you all, good luck in your new schools and best wishes to you and your families.

## **Last Week**

We will have our final Monday Morning Assembly and then on Friday, at around 1.10pm, weather permitting, we will assemble outside the Library on the Helen Street side of the school to farewell in particular our Year 6's and to wish them all the best for 2008 in the next part of their journey.

**Remember, school finishes at 1.30pm.** Please confirm arrangements with your child about going home at the end of the day at 1.30pm as it is very distressing for any child to be left at school on the very last day, when every other child and their parents, sisters, brothers, friends are happily heading off on holidays.

Ole!

Matador-ess Kerrie

## GRADE 6 GRADUATION DETAILS

Where: Uniting Church Hall  
 When: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
 Time: 5.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m  
 B.Y.O.: Soft Drinks

### Agenda

5.30 p.m. Arrival of guests  
 5.30-6.30 p.m. Entrée & main course  
 6.30-8.00 p.m. Welcome & formalities  
 8.00-9.00 p.m. Cutting of cake, dessert  
 9.00-9.30 p.m. Graduation certificates  
 9.30 p.m. Close



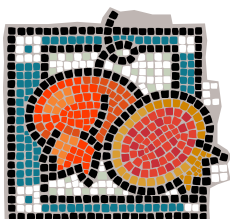
### HAVEN'T PAID FOR AND COLLECTED YOUR MANGO ORDER????

Some trays of mangoes have not been paid for and collected. If you haven't done so, please come in ASAP and pay (via the office), have your payment and collection recorded, then collect from the multi-purpose room.

**Any trays not paid for and collected by this Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, will be re-sold.**

### MOSAIC HELP

Help is needed with the school mosaic (grouting and tiling) within the next two weeks. If you can help speak to Helen or call Lois on 9481 4259 (anytime).



## NORTHCOTE OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS PROGRAM

Hi Everyone ...

I write this, my last piece for the newsletter, with sadness and many good memories. This will be my last newsletter article for the Out of School Hours Program. I have been working here as an assistant and then co-ordinator for the last four years and I have had a wonderful time. I have had the privilege of meeting so many amazing kids from both Northcote Primary and St Joseph's Primary. There have been a few challenging days but on the whole, my job has allowed me to have fun, laugh and watch so many kids grow up to be truly amazing people. It makes me sad to know my time here has come to an end, but I take with me so many memories that will last me a lifetime. To all the parents and kids who I have met over the years, THANK YOU for making my time job a real pleasure and not feel like work at all.

We will be having a **XMAS AND FAREWELL PARTY** at after care on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone who has ever been to Before or After Care is welcome (with a parent or guardian) to come over and say Merry Xmas and a big goodbye.

I hope to see a lot of you then, if not, Merry Xmas and best wishes for a wonderful future...

Love Meagan (Co-ordinator)

## LIBRARY STOCKTAKE HELPERS PLEASE!!!!

Could you spare a little time to help with mending and stocktake of the picture story books? Please return the form below by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> or call Sian at school on Friday on 9481 0009.

✂-----

**I CAN HELP!  
WITH LIBRARY STOCKTAKE**

Name: -----

Child's Name: -----

LA: ----- Tel: -----

✂-----

# CREATIVITY & FUN NEEDED FOR THE 2008 CRAFT STALL!

We need your inspiration and creativity put to work for next years Craft Stall at the school fete. What better way to spend the Summer holidays than to make wonderous and quirky items for the 2008 craft stall! Get the kids involved. HAVE FUN! Exercise your brain and fingers and CREATE!

Janet, Pete and Angus (LA9) are already busy knitting spiral beanies and hand puppets. We'd really like to have a weird and wonderful range of things for sale so please let us know if you would like to contribute items.

We can be contacted by phoning our home number 9481 4153 or

Janet Buick - mob: 0408 195969; email [janetb@oxfam.org.au](mailto:janetb@oxfam.org.au)  
Peter Muir - mob: 041 992 7001; email [peter.muir@rmit.edu.au](mailto:peter.muir@rmit.edu.au)

## PRODUCE WANTED



The Helen's Harvest stall for the 2008 School Fete is calling for donations of fruit and vegetables before the end of the school year. If you have a vegie garden, fruit trees or access to fruit and vegetables, please send along a donation so they can be cooked into jars of produce for next year's fete. A bag of tomatoes, zucchini, onions, cauliflower, apricots, plums, or other stone fruit would be most welcome.

Donations of unlabelled clean jars with fitted lids, sugar and vinegar would also be welcome. A box will be set up at the office for donations.

Extra hands are always welcome, and if you would like to cook for the stall, contact Cathy Drinkwater on 9481 0356 or [drinkmorr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:drinkmorr@optusnet.com.au).

## JNR SWIMMING PROGRAM

The Junior Swimming program is over for yet another year. It was great to see the enjoyment and laughter on the students faces as they swam with their friends. The progress made over the 8 sessions was also quite amazing ranging from water confidence - putting one's face in the water

to the more advanced skills of our good swimmers.

A big thank you goes out to all parents who helped at the swimming pool. We had 101 swimmers yet the sessions ran smoothly with your assistance in helping to dress, undress, fold clothes, repair goggles, find missing shoes, lost towels and underwear!

Thank you also to the junior team staff for their efforts in running the swimming program.

I only received 2 replies back on last year's evaluation and would appreciate any comments you have to help evaluate this year's program and make things even better next year.

Thank you  
Niki Skoullou

## Junior School Swimming Program 2007 Evaluation

Parents Name:  
Child's Name:  
LA ---

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## BAR AT PICNIC TEA/ CONCERT NIGHT

We made \$842 on the bar at the Picnic Tea/Concert night Many thanks to those who helped either working on the bar, moving the bar or packing up at the end. - Katherine Wositzky, Julie McBride, Sue Drummond, Jo Brockwell, Matt O'Connor, Terry O'Reilly, Linda Budd, Jen Audsley & Shayne Dennehy.

Apologies to anyone who was left off the thank you list.

## GRADE 3-6 PARENTS 2008 CAMPS & TRISKILLS

We would like to inform you about the **camp and Triskills programs for Term 2 2008.**

Firstly, the staff make every effort to ensure that excursions and camps planned for the children are of a high quality; represent value for money; that the costs associated with camps and excursions are spread out across the year; and that parents are given ample notice of costs coming up.

Last year (2006) we booked two camps for 2008 for the 3/4 and the 5/6 camps. We also booked camps for 2009 and we are currently booking camps for 2010. By booking camps so far in advance we are attempting to secure high quality camps in the first half of the year.

Of course other schools also book high quality camps well in advance too. Popular times of the year, and quality camps, are often booked out years in advance in rotational cycles, making it very difficult to access these camps.

Booking camps takes a huge amount of time, as camps are visited, programmes investigated and activities reviewed. We only book camps that are accredited and of the highest quality.

Other considerations are staffing the camps, as some staff would be needed to attend more than one camp. For this reason, camps are booked as far apart as possible, but still in the first half of the year. We have been trying to secure a regular booking with the two Camp Rumbugs at Foster North and Waratah Bay. They are both outstanding camps where all activities are focussed on initiative and building team work. It is perfect for our kids.

We have been offered the following dates for 2008:

3/4 camp 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April (Term 2) Waratah Bay

5/6 camp 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June (Term 2) Foster North

We also have the Triskills programme booked for term 2, 2008. This program is not only greatly enjoyed by the students,

but is also of extremely high quality and well supported by parents.

Costs would approximately be:

Rumbug Camps: \$215 (3 / 4 2007 3 days)

\$239 (5 / 6 2007 4 days\*)

Triskills: \$25.50 (2007)

We could probably expect that camping costs would be 10% higher. As well as this, the 5/6 camp will be a \*FIVE day camp in 2008, which will be a little more expensive than the four day camp in 2007. We appreciate that this would mean, for some parents, that they may incur three costs in the one term, if they have children in both the middle and senior areas of the school. We hope that receiving such a long period of advance notice will help you to budget for these events.

Thank you

Lynne Barrett

Camp Booking Co-ordinator

### ADVERTISEMENTS

The Dept. of Education does not endorse the products & services of any private advertiser or notice contained in this newsletter. No responsibility is accepted by the Dept. of Education or this school for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

Flyers and brochures are available outside the school office.

**FOR SALE:** VCE Geography Units 1-4 "New Perspectives" - \$30.00. Contact Rayleene on 0404 151 785

### **DAREBIN COMMUNITY SPORTS STADIUM (YMCA)**

– School Holiday Program – brochures available outside the school office.

**Professional Tennis Coaching in Clifton Hill** - A complete tennis coaching program is on offer at Mayors Park Tennis Centre, Clifton Hill. Classes are offered Monday to Friday from 4.00pm and Sundays from 9.30am. The opportunity exists to play Saturday morning junior competition with the Clifton Tennis Club. **Term 1 coaching, 2008 commences Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008.** All enquiries please contact Jeff Baldassarre (Tennis Australia accredited) on 0418 359 791 or 9482 5200.

Jika Jika Community Centre 2008 January - June Classes & Activities Brochure – out now!

We have classes and activities for everyone!