

**Issue No. 3
14th February, 2008**

SOME IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Mon 18th Feb	Closing date for School Council Nominations
Tues 19th Feb	Healthy Relations for Grades 3/4/5/6
Fri 22nd Feb	Grade 5/6 sport begins
Mon 25th Feb	Picnic Tea & Twilight Games from 6.00 p.m.
Tues 4th-Thurs 6th	Life Ed van for Prep to Grade 4
Sat 15th Mar	School Fete – 1.00 to 6.00 p.m.
Tues 18th Mar	Science of Spin Show
Thurs 20th Mar	End Term 1 – <u>2:30 Dismissal</u>
Fri 21st Mar	Good Friday
Mon 24th Mar	Easter Monday
Mon 7th Apr	Start Term 2
Fri 25th Apr	ANZAC Day Holiday – No School

GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

Meet & Greet very successful

We have had an excellent turn up for the 'Meet & Greet' appointments with most families taking up the invitation and to meet their child's teacher early in the year. It has proven to be a great opportunity to share information about each child in order to best support the child in their learning for the Term. In some instances, children attended and actively participated in setting learning goals for themselves for Term 1, with input from parents and teachers.

From the feedback we have received, children and parents are very happy about the start to their 2008 school year, about the programs in place to meet the children's needs and interests. Thank you to all the parents and children who took part.

This is just one of the ways the school provides opportunities for parents to engage in a meaningful, two-way dialogue with the school about the children. If there are any parents who missed out on the opportunity but would still like to meet with their child's teacher, please ring the office and we will pass the message on to the class teacher.

Artificial Turf is coming!

Due to the unseasonal rain we have had in January and February (personally I love it and so do the gardens!), the company we have engaged to install our 'field' of Artificial Turf, have been held up on other jobs.

We have secured an installation date commencing the first week of the school holidays, as long as they are not held up any further. This means that we have been able to confirm our Twilight Picnic

Tea date (see below), and we can proceed with the organisation of stalls in the outside area for the fete.

Twilight Picnic Tea and family fun events Monday 25th February (Week 5)

We will be holding our 'Welcome Picnic Tea & Family Fun Evening' Monday 25th. It is an opportunity for the entire School Community, to gather together socially, at the beginning of the school year. It is also an opportunity to welcome our new families into the school, and have some fun for all the family.

Gather the clan after work, pack a picnic basket, grab the picnic rugs and deck chairs, and head down to school for a fun evening. The idea is to have a hassle free, low-key event, BYO everything (deck chairs, rugs, food and drink). Start the evening with some yummy food and drink, catch up with friends and chat to our new families.

We will finish off the evening with fun (read novelty) events for all grades and parents (volunteers only!) – no need to start the training schedule, emphasis is on fun and participation.

Where: Northcote Primary School (around back of school, Henry street side, around the beautiful maple tree area)

When: Monday 25th February, 2008

Time: 6.00 – 7.30 p.m. (events will start around 6.45 p.m.) **Don't miss out, we had a ball last year!**

School Council News

The School Council 2007-2008, held an extraordinary meeting last night, held over from last year, to focus on the 3 opinion surveys from 2007. Council discussed the data from the Staff Opinion; Parent Opinion and Year 5/6 Attitude Survey with a view to develop strategies in an Action Plan to address some of the identified issues raised in the surveys. There are always many things we could work on to improve in any organisation so Councillors decided to prioritise one issue, and work on that first. The broad issue School Councillors identified to work on was improving communication throughout the school community and in particular to look at our school's 'approachability'. I look forward to implementing the ideas to improve our communication strategies. Stay tuned for further details in coming newsletters.

School Council 2008-2009 Elections – closing date on Monday for Nominations

Please remember that School Council Nominations are due on Monday, 18th February at 4.00pm. I have been delighted to receive the nominations so quickly so far. It is great to see our community members willing to become involved in School Council.

Correction: In last week's newsletter I wrote that School Council meetings were twice per month. They are **twice per Term** with sub-committee meetings occurring prior to each Council meeting.

Personal Property bought to school

Personal property is often brought to school by students, parents/guardians, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, valuable toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. If children bring any valuable items to school, they do so at their own risk.

I strongly discourage you to bring any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Mobile Phones

All children's mobile phones must be handed in to the office at the start of the day, and picked up at the end of the day. Children are not permitted to use their mobile phones in the classroom. If a parent needs to contact a child for any reason, please phone the school and the office staff will pass on the message to your child or the child's teacher. Under no circumstances is a child to ring home sick unless they have spoken to their class teacher, Karen, Assistant Principal, myself, or the office staff. This assists us to monitor and keep track of where all children are at any time.

**Warm Regards,
Kerrie**

BOUNCE BACK TERM 1

Our focus in term one this year will be Relationships and focus on the skills we need to develop to get along well with each other, to develop friendships and to manage conflict.

The Healthy Relations program and Life Ed van sessions will complement our ongoing work in this area. Why do Bounce Back?

Research shows that resilient children grow up into resilient adults and there is a great deal we can do both at home and at school to develop resilience in our students. The Bounce back program aims to develop these skills in children and enable them to cope with difficult circumstances. When you feel unhappy you can BOUNCE BACK again and feel better.

- B** Bad times don't last. Stay optimistic.
- O** Other people help if you talk to them. Get a reality check.
- U** Unhelpful thinking makes you feel more upset.
- N** Nobody is perfect – not you and not others.
- C** Concentrate on the positives (no matter how small) and use laughter.
- E** Everybody experiences sadness, hurt, failure, rejection and setbacks sometimes. They are a normal part of life. Try not to take it too personally.
- B** Blame fairly – how much of what happened was because of you, or others, or even just bad luck or circumstances?
- A** Accept the things you can't change, but try to change what you can first.
- C** Catastrophising exaggerates your worries. Don't always believe the worst possible picture.
- K** Keep things in perspective.

SCIENCE OF SPIN SHOW

The show will now be held on Tuesday 18th March. Prep to Grade Twos will be from 2.30 to 3.00 p.m. and Grades Three to Six will be from 2.30 to 3.30 p.m.

FOUND

Two lots of keys were handed in to the office last week. One is a set of car keys the other appears to be a set of bike lock/chain keys. Also found was a Neopets game. If you have lost any of the above items, please see Jo or Lyn in the office.



HATS, SUNSMART, CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

Just to let everyone know that we only have a few medium and large hats available at the office. Our usual supplier is not dealing in hats any more and I am looking into other possibilities. As soon as we get a new supply in I will let you know. In the meantime, children can wear other broad-brimmed or bucket style hats to school as long as they have a minimum 6-7cm brim.

Please remember to ensure your child has a hat, sensible clothing (not sleeveless t-shirts or dresses) and sunscreen for school, particularly during the summer months. There are the "Outside 5" rules. 1. Shade. 2. Sun-protective clothing. 3. Sun-protective hat. 4. Sunglasses. 5. SPF30+ broad spectrum sunscreen.

We have noticed a few children wearing thongs and open-toed sandals to school. This is not appropriate footwear as toes can be easily stubbed and the back of the thongs can be stood on causing falls. If your child is wearing sandals it is preferred they have a covered toe and heel.

ITALIAN UPDATE

Ciao A Tutti e Bentornati (Hello Everyone and Welcome Back) to another busy year for Italian at Northcote Primary. I hope everyone had a great vacanza (holiday).

Italian this year will be lots of fun with many activities, games and songs to learn. We will be learning to communicate more in the Italian language and learning about the Italian Culture as well. All Grades have Italian once a week for one hour on either a Monday or a Tuesday except for the Preps who have one hour sessions every fortnight.

So far we have had two sessions in Italian and I am quite impressed with how much the students are able to recall. The classes have been quite positive and the students are focused, full of energy and are willing to learn!☺

In Term One we will see the following topics taking place:

In Prep we will be introduced to the Italian language with Pinocchio the puppet. We will learn some very simple words and learn the colours of the Italian Flag.



In the Grade 1/2 area we will be revising some simple words and phrases and learning about our family via a funny unit on Il Pappagallo (The parrot).

In Grade 3/4 we will be revising and learning about more greeting and courtesy words and how to respond in full sentences through role plays and other hands on activities.

In Grade 5/6 we will also look at Greetings and more courtesy words and learning how to respond and write common questions in the Italian Language. We will role play situations and perform these in front of our class. If time permits, we will video tape and evaluate our performance!

As you can see there is tanto (lots) happening in Italian in this very short term!☺

I think this is all for now. If you have any queries about the Italian Program here at NPS, please feel free to see me at the school on either a Monday or Tuesday.

Saluti (cheers),
Signorina Rosa
Italian Co-ordinator and Teacher.

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR PARENTS re 3-6 CAMPS & TRI-SKILLS 2008

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to inform you about the **camps 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.

In 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 16th – 18th April (Term 2) Waratah Bay

5/6 camp 16th – 20th 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 <u>4</u> 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 advance notice will help you to budget for these events.

Thank you, Lynne Barrett

Camp Booking Co-ordinator

PLAYGROUP

Hi everyone in our school community! Did you know that a playgroup is starting up on Thursday mornings in the Before & After School Care house. We have places for 10 families.

When: 10.30 a.m. Thursday mornings

Where: 42-44 Henry Street, Northcote

We are looking for someone to co-ordinate this playgroup under the guidelines of School Council. If you are interested in co-ordinating or would like to attend our playgroup please contact Sharon Stewart on 9489 2545.



LIBRARY NEWS

As many people are aware, Sian, who was our library technician last year, is no longer working with us. However we have set up a library committee who met for the first time last Friday. The ideas for making sure our Library looks fantastic and functions well flowed freely! We hope to have new cushions and shelving soon, as well as plants to add some greenery. We have volunteers to help with cataloguing and covering, so new books will be coming on stream too.



The parents who are on the committee are:

- Helen Rainsford (mother of Zach in LA14) who will be in the Library on Mondays to help with book returns, shelving, tidying etc. She has worked hard already to make sure the barcodes are ready for the children's borrowing and that the Library is clean and ready for use.
- Janet Buick (mother of Angus in LA14) who will be cataloguing new books. She is also organising a group of willing helpers who will cover and mend books. Let us know if you want to be involved here.
- Philip Jackson (father of Jesse and Luke in grades 6 and 3) who will be organising the overdue notices once a month. He will also be available to help on Tuesday mornings in the Library.

My role will be a liaising one. We would love to have further input from the school community. This may be offers of help (book covering, sewing cushions, helping to write funding applications, making displays etc), ideas of ways to help make the Library even more appealing and used or just some feed back on how we are going. Speak to any of the committee members. Or you can leave a message for me at the Office (9481 0009) or email me on lawson.anne.c@edumail.vic.gov.au or use the school's email address.

Every child in the school will have the opportunity to borrow books from the Library. One of the ways every parent and carer can help is by encouraging their children to borrow regularly, take care of the books at home and return them on time. There are great books there - something for everyone!

THE GREAT FETE OF 2008! SATURDAY 15TH MARCH, 1PM-6PM Northcote Primary School Fete

AHOY ME HEARTIES – SEEKING TREASURES FOR BURIAL

Do you have any potential small treasures at home that you could donate for the Treasure Island stall at the fete? Items need to be small and durable enough to be able to be easily raked into the sandpit. They also need to be safe for young children who will be digging with their hands (i.e. no sharp edges or easily breakable items).



Some suggestions for suitable items include: broken jewellery, orphaned earrings, foreign coins, small trinkets, polished stones, beads, marbles, shells - anything that might be seen as treasure by younger kids (although gold doubloons, rubies or pearls will also be willingly accepted as contributions to the fete coffers!). Please leave the treasures in the pirate chest in the office foyer.



Donations or loans for the day of any pirate gear (e.g. skull and crossbones flags, pirate hats) and details of business contacts who might be able to donate treasures or sand for the sandpit would be appreciated. Also, if you would like to join the pirate crew on the day of the fete, please contact Genevieve or sign up for a Treasure Island shift when the list goes up in the foyer.

If you have any questions, please contact Genevieve McMahon (Xavier in LA14's mum), Ph: 9482-7874 or 0429 33 00 19 or email: genmcm@bigpond.net.au.

HELEN'S HARVEST STALL

One of the highlights of our school fete is the Helen's Harvest stall where lots of yummy home-made jams, sauces and chutneys are sold. If you have a vegie garden, fruit trees or access to fruit and vegetables, it's not too late to send along a donation so they can be cooked into jars of produce. A bag of tomatoes, zucchini, onions, cauliflower, apricots, plums, or other stone fruit would be most welcome. Donations of sugar or 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, or have already been busy in the kitchen contact Cathy Drinkwater on drinkmorr@optusnet.com.au or 9481 0356, especially if you need jars.

AN EXCITING EVENT IS COMING TO THE FETE

After great success at neighbouring schools, we're launching

HELEN'S PLATE SMASHING SIDESHOW

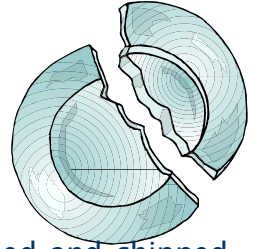


Plate smashing is a safe, fun and deeply cathartic event for all ages in which unused and chipped plates, as well as cups, teapots, saucers mugs, vases, pots, etc., etc. are sacrificed for the greater good. Of course, we're mindful of recycling and all broken china will be offered to the art room as material for mosaics.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We want all your old chipped and unwanted china crockery. We'll take pottery too but we definitely do not want anything with glass. Ring Andrew (Lucy and Tim's dad) on 0419 323 610 to arrange collection or bring it into school in a box clearly marked HELEN'S PLATE SMASHING SIDESHOW.

GOING, GOING GONE!!! THE SILENT AUCTION IS ON! HAVE YOU GOT WHAT WE NEED?

The Silent Auction at the Fete has proved to be a great success over the last couple of years, raising thousands of dollars due to donations of goods and services from local and state-wide businesses, as well as from the school community.



Friends, families, friends of families, and teachers at Helen Street, have in the past generously donated some fantastic items for auction! This has included weekends at holiday houses, original artwork, accommodation gardening advice, vouchers for natural therapy sessions, music, books, picnic hampers, AFL season passes, organic food discounts, restaurant vouchers, golf clubs and much more. If you can help support the Silent Auction with donations of similar it would be much appreciated. We are seeking the support of local businesses, but would also like to ask our Northcote PS families and friends to consider asking a family member/friend or business you regularly support to donate specialist skills/services or products.

Any help or offers to source donations would be appreciated. If you have something you wish to donate, or know of a business or person worth approaching, please contact Sue Lawson (Hamish in LA11's mum) on 9489 4409 or email selawson@bigpond.com or Jo Hurst (Jack in LA2's mum) on 9481 3920 or hurstpj@bigpond.net.au. Donations can be left at the school office for Jo.

HI EVERYONE

Thank-you for your phone calls and e-mails this week about the 2008 Fete. We are always blown away by the generosity of the Northcote Primary School Community. We've had many offers for help, toys donated, books handed over, clothes recycled and trash handed in to be treasured. In the next couple of weeks we will be asking for help distributing postcards, posters, and generally making sure that everyone in the community knows when and where the fete is happening. Remember if you have questions, ideas, or just a bit of free time to contact me. Keep up the good work!

Nicky Dulfer (mum of James in LA2 and Josh in LA12)

Email nickydulfer@hotmail.com or Ph 9489 1439

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.

AMAZING DEAL: Guitar: Brand new, full size Valencia TC14 guitar, with carry case. I will swap my new guitar for your old 3/4. Must be in excellent condition. Please call Laura on 9482 4613 by Tuesday 19th February.

BABYSITTER – Do you need a babysitter? I am reliable, get on well with children, aged 17 and a half, in Year 12 at high school. Please ring Monique on 9480 6493 (daughter of Lyn in school office)

EXCHANGE STUDENTS AND HOST FAMILIES

Exchange students from many different countries including Italy, Germany, Belgium, France, Brazil, Japan, Austria, Norway and Sweden are hoping to be able to come here in July to study. If you and your family would enjoy hosting one of these girls or boys aged 15-18 for a half, one or two semesters, are happy to share your lifestyle, so possibly making a friend for life with the person you choose and their family overseas, please call me on (03) 97584279. You are asked to provide for one extra at mealtimes at home and a share room or own room. Hope to hear from you.

Yours sincerely, Klaus Schumann, WEP Community Co-ordinator

Ph: (03)97584279 Home or (03)95984733 WEP Office

www.wep.org.au

klaus.schumann@hotmail.com

sm@cranbournesc.vic.edu.au

KELLY SPORTS – Sensational Summer Sports. Enrolments forms for Term 1 are available from outside the school office.

NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL - OPEN DAY April 16th, 2008 at 5.00 or 7.00 p.m. Visit www.nhs.vic.edu.au

Information sessions 2.00—6.45 pm: Tours, Displays. Northcote High School celebrates an 82 year tradition of educational excellence in the northern suburbs in Melbourne with our 2008 Open Day. **School day tours** are also available by arrangement, from February 2008, at 9.30 am, on Monday and Thursday mornings. (Bookings 9488 2300)

FITZROY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB 2008 Registration - 10am – 2pm, SUNDAY, 17 February at Community Rooms, Brunswick Street Oval. All new and current players wishing to play in 2008 should register before or on Registration Day as places cannot be guaranteed after this. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au and either mailed to the Club or handed in on Registration Day. New members must supply a photocopy of their birth certificate/extract or passport that can be kept on file. Teams begin at Under 10s (for players born in 1998 and 1999) and run to U17s. Enquiries: Sophie Arnold 0421 214 334 or enquiries@fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au

From March 25 to April 5, the 'Melbourne Kids Comedy Festival', Magic Unlimited present **ILLUSIONARIUM** starring Ellis & Webster at the Northcote Town Hall. Visit <http://www.magicunlimited.com/illusionarium.htm> or see brochures available outside the school office.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS – Back to School Children's Book Sale. Thousands of books at heavily reduced prices. Titles starting at \$1.00. Held on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd February at Scholastic Book Fairs Warehouse, 9-11 Northern Road, West Heidelberg. Tel. 1800 024 840 or bookfairs@scholastic.com.au

DAREBIN KOORI CULTURAL DANCE CLUB – For Koori children aged between 5-12. Sundays from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. Starts 10th February at Croxton Hall, 2 Watt Street, Thornbury. Contact Daria Atkinson on 0431 144 473 or Aunty Eva Jo on 0432 402 516.

HOMEGROWN New CD launch featuring The Small Knives and Emma Tonkin on Friday 15th February from 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. at the Northcote Library.

AEROSTRIKE EXTREME KARATE – Junior & Teen Karate, Mini Juniors, Adults, Freestyle, Kickboxing, Philippine Combat, Traditional Karate, Aerobic Combat, Tournaments, XMA. Training held at Northcote Aquatic Centre, Wales Street Primary, 2 Watt Street, Thornbury and Melbourne University. Contact Sensei Stavros on 0414 818 045 or 9481 8045 or email aerostrike@inet.net.au

YOGA FOR CHILDREN – Wednesdays from 10.00 to 11.00 a.m. for 2-3 year olds (plus parents) and 4.00 to 5.00 p.m. for 5-9 year olds at Prana House, Level 1/885 High Street, Thornbury. Bookings on 9484 5344.

GUEST'S MARTIAL ARTS – Ninja Stars ages 5-9, Samurai Warriors ages 9-12, Junior Adults ages 13-15, and Adults ages 16 and over. For more information on our introductory programme call us on 9470 4411.