



NEWSLETTER

No. 1401

Helen Street
P.O. Box 210
Northcote VIC 3070

Phone: (03) 9481 0009
Fax: (03) 9481 4080

Email: northcote.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Web: www.northcoteps.vic.edu.au

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IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

November

Friday 15th

Last Day for Mango order forms

Monday 19th

Junior Swimming Catch-up Lesson

Tuesday 20th

Book Fair ends

Tuesday 20th

Grade 5/6 Disco – 5.00 to 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 21st

Teachers Stopwork Meeting - details later

Thursday 22nd

LA1 & 2 Cooking Day

Friday 23rd

Ready Set Go! Session 1 (prep orientation)

Monday 26th

Grade 5/6 Excursion

Tuesday 27th

Italian Day – see separate yellow note

Tuesday 27th

School Photograph envelopes return date

Tuesday 27th

Policy & Finance – 4.00 to 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday 28th

Ready Set Go! Session 2 (prep orientation)

Wednesday 28th

Whole School Photograph



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

Thursday 6th

Wendy's Music Concert

Friday 7th

LA1 & 2 Cooking Day

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

Farewell Helen

It is with some sadness that I announce to the community that Helen Morfesse has formally notified me of her intention to resign from the Department in January 2008. Helen commenced her teaching at NPS in 1982 and has a long association with the 'Helen St' community over those years.

I would like to acknowledge her enormous contribution to the students and the school in the area of the Arts both with her Art Teacher role and her passion for the Cultural Awareness program.

She has also coached many cricket teams over the years, and has lately co-ordinated the Junior School Council so that our children had a voice and opportunity to make a difference.

I have always been impressed with Helen's ability to bring out the best in our children's creativity, to nurture children via Visual Art, to not only teach children the skills of art & provide the environment for artistic expression, but also the value and importance of artists and their art throughout history. She has worked successfully with boys' needs, guided students voice and action through the Junior School Council and of course, the hard work she has put in year after year, with our annual Art Show. For Helen, it is time to stop work, take stock, and perhaps try something different in life besides teaching. We will miss Helen, no doubt.

We will farewell Helen as a whole school at one of our assemblies towards the end of the year. We will let you know in the coming newsletters.

Our commitment to The Arts

The staff and I are committed to maintaining a strong Arts program in our school, we recognise that this is of vital importance to our school community and to the rich and vibrant experience we are able to offer the children who come to our school. With Helen's resignation our school has the potential to consider the various ways we can provide a specialist Arts program. I am currently in the process of consulting staff regarding the 2008 teaching roles and responsibilities, and specialists programs. Over the coming weeks I will be assessing the options of filling the Arts Specialist role for 2008. The options include a replacement from within our current staffing profile or advertising to fill the vacancy. Given that it is late in the year, we may have to find a temporary replacement for term 1 (shorter term of 7 weeks), with a view to advertise during this time for the replacement.

Statewide Stopwork for Teachers on Wednesday November 21st, 2007.

Parents, please be aware that there is a full day Stopwork meeting on the above date. I will send out a separate notice closer to the date to let you know which classes & programs will be operating on the day.

Class Structures and Student Numbers for 2008

Staff are currently looking at our projected student numbers for 2008, and possible class structures.

I invite parents to submit your thoughts in writing to the office, by next Thursday morning, 22/11/07, on class structures for 2007. Please keep in mind, any models must have lower numbers of children in the Prep, 1 (around 20 - 23) and if at all possible, grade 2 classes.

Student numbers for 2008 are at this stage 235, less than 2007 total enrolment of 245. Despite the drop in enrolments, at this stage, we are planning to run 10 classes again as we believe this will be the best learning environment option for our children. If for any reason, our 2008 enrolments drop significantly again, we may have to go to a 9 class model.

I believe there will be some more student enrolments between now and the start of the 2008 school year at the end of January.

If making composite (2 levels in one class arrangement) or multi-age (minimum of 3 levels in one class arrangement) grades, try and make sure there is a reasonable representation of a single level class in that structure. Also, try and balance the gender representation across the class where possible.

Please see the table below for year level and gender breakdown for 2008.

Year Level	Males	Females	Total
Prep	15	22	37
One	24	17	41
Two	20	11	31
Three	17	19	36
Four	5	10	15
Five	13	28	41
Six	16	18	34
TOTAL			235

Do you know of any families who are yet to enrol their Prep 2008 child?

At the moment, we have room for more preps in 2008 but would obviously like to finalise our Prep enrolment for planning purposes. If you know any families in your street, or your kindergarten, or at your workplace that live nearby, who have yet to enrol their child, please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible. Your help is appreciated.

Are you intending moving to another school for 2008?

We have started the planning process of for 2008, which means working out how many children we think we might have at each grade level, and therefore, how many teachers the budget will allow us to fund. Accurate student numbers are crucial in being able to make resource plans regarding staffing, curriculum provision, and possible grade structures for 2008.

If you know you are **definitely leaving** our school, could you please let the office know **as soon as possible**? We would very much appreciate knowing sooner rather than later.

Children with a friend for 2008

Soon, we will be asking the children to nominate friends they would like to be with in 2008. We will soon begin the *enormous task* of allocating students to classes, and wish to make sure children have at least one nominated friend in their 2008 class.

Once again, if you need to let us know anything regarding your child's 2008 placement, please put it in writing, and send to Karen or myself via the office by the end of November. Don't forget to talk with your child first, as often parents have requested that their child be put in a class with another child, and we find that the child has nominated completely different friends! Please note, I do not consider requests for specific teaching staff.

Some exciting things coming up, next week the 5/6 Disco organised by the Junior School Council; Friday night is our fantastic fundraiser at Bar 303 – don't miss out on some great music and a fun night; the mango tray fundraiser orders due in by this Friday – mmmm I can almost smell and taste those delicious mangoes now! And, our fabulous Italian Day the following week – Yes! We are all looking forward to it!

Hope to see you at the fundraiser Bar 303,

Warm Regards
Kerrie



IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR JUNIOR SWIMMING

Don't forget to bring your swimming gear on Monday 19th November for our make-up lesson.

COOKING - STUDENT ACTION TEAM - A Grade 5/6 initiative

The Cooking/Canteen Student Action Team (S.A.T) wants to improve the school by giving students the option to buy food from the canteen on designated days and/or the opportunity to do a cooking workshop. We are all working in groups and hope to raise money for a variety of projects around the school as well as raising money for charity.

We were hoping to find enough volunteers in the community to assist us to prepare food in the canteen. So far our plans include a Pancake Day, cooking workshop, mini homemade pizza day, milkshakes, muffins and selling fresh fruit juice and fruit juice icy poles on hot days.

Before we organise these events, we need to see if anyone is able to help us with the preparation of food. So anyone with a 'Food Handling' certificate would be an added bonus. We are planning for these events to be on Wednesdays and Fridays but are able to plan around the availability of adult volunteers. Without volunteers/helpers we won't be able to organise these events. If you can volunteer please fill out the slip below and return to your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible.

If you are unable to volunteer, we are also in need of ingredients such as eggs, flour, pizza ingredients etc. (Further details will be in the newsletter.)

With all our thanks,
Lydia, Yan, the Cooking S.A.T and Linda (L.A.6 teacher).

I, _____ parent/guardian

of _____ L.A. _____,

Am available on

Thursday

Friday

To work in the canteen and assist one of the Student Action Team groups.

I am going to donate ingredients _____ (e.g. flour, eggs).

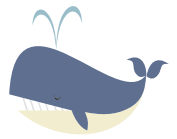
LA10'S BISCUIT BAKING DAY

A story by LA10

On Thursday the 1st November 2007, LA10 made animal cookies. We made the cookies to raise money for Friends of the Earth. Friends of the Earth is a foundation (club) which looks after animals all over the world. They help save animal habitats. The money we raise will help save orang-utans in Borneo. It will buy milk to feed the small orang-utans and petrol for the milk delivering trucks.

When we made the biscuits we had to work very hard. Lots of parents helped us. They were: Nicky Dulfer, Ari Laufer, Tony Balint, Reynelle, Niki (our teacher) and Genevieve McMahon.

When the biscuits were cooled, we got one to eat for free. Some of the animal shapes were: cat, Australia, fish, wombat, bear, butterfly, lion, whale, starfish, koala, kangaroo, echidna, pig and a platypus.



The icing part was a lot of fun. Some of the colours we had were: blue, green, pink, purple and yellow. Genevieve helped a lot with the icing. Xavier and Oliver stayed back after school until 4:00 pm to help.

We sold the biscuits at lunch time and after school for 50c. We made \$162.50c. We had a great time with this adventure.

Come and see us if you would like the recipe. Maybe you could make some at home.

BOOK FAIR ROSTER

Don't forget to come visit the Book Fair in the Library after school. There are lots of exciting books to read! The following parents have volunteered to help out with the Book Fair which started yesterday and will continue until next Tuesday. Cheers, Anne

Wednesday 14th

Thursday 15th

Friday 16th

Monday 19th

Tuesday 20th

Helen Shipperlee

Cathy Drinkwater

Michelle Manly

Jo Hurst

Helen Shipperlee

Edwina Preston

Can't wait 'til the school benefit gig next week?
Need a music hit this week? Get a preview of Frank Jones' new band "Big Folk" this Friday night (16th November) at the "Lomond Hotel" (Cnr. Blythe & Nicholson Streets, East Brunswick). 9.00 p.m. start, free entry.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION

We have generously been donated the use of a PA for the Grade 6 graduation and are looking for someone – could be a Grade 6 parent - who is PA savvy to set it up on the night Tuesday 18th December. It is a small desk Behringer Eurorack MX 802A and JBL EON15 speaker. Please call Mary Belfrage 9489 0406 / 0434 918 568.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT - November 2007



Junior School Council has been busy lately and has organised a Disco for Grade 5 and 6 on Tuesday, 20th November from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. This should be an exciting end of year event for our “senior” students.

We have also accepted an invitation to be part of an exciting project which is called “Letters of Mass Construction”. This project involves our students and teachers communicating with students and teachers in Iraq. It is a non-political and non-religious project aimed at giving students and teachers in schools in Iraq some contact with the outside world, and hopefully, giving teachers in Iraq some insight into teaching methods in the Western World.

We have 7 Grades ready to participate, which should be very exciting. So if you hear your children talking about writing and receiving letters from Iraq, you’ll know what they are talking about.

Bandana Day on 26th October was very popular, except I should have ordered more bandanas. We sold 150 bandanas, virtually in a day, and really needed more, which was great. Thank you all for your support for Canteen. (Teenagers living with cancer.)

We are still waiting for confirmation and a photo of our “adopted” baby orang-utan. Thank you all for your support for “Bad Hair Day”, which enabled us to raise the required funds.

Best Wishes, Helen Morfesse
(Junior School Council Co-ordinator)

Hi Everyone – A reminder to book your tickets for The Tank playing at Wesley Anne, High Street, Northcote on Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th November. Tickets \$30.00/\$25.00 concession with \$5.00 of each ticket sold via NPS going back to the school. Show starts 8.30 p.m. sharp. Call Carmel on 0419 437 396 or 9484 6850

WALKTOBER!

Many thanks to all those who joined in during Walktober. To the children who powered around the red dot trail to the tune of 242 kilometres! and to the parents –

Lisa Kokkin
Maria Irfan
Jo Brockwell
Piroska Moustakas
- who kept track.

Anna Civitico
Katherine Wositzky
Peta Newbound

What next?

Add your total kilometres walked during Walktober on your personal distance record. Don't forget to include the Dog Walk (2.5km) if you came along to that. Put this total onto your sponsorship form. You could either be sponsored per kilometre, or by a lump sum. Return forms and money to school by the 15th November.

Once we have the forms in, we can add all the distances our school has walked together, for a grand total.

Thanks again!
Evelyn Boyce and Jane Miller.

GRADE 3-4 EAT IT EXPO

Children in LA1 and LA2 are designing, making and sharing wraps for lunch, as part of their ‘What’s in your lunchbox’ investigation for Term 4.



On Thursday 22nd November, with the assistance of our wonderful parent helpers, they will be making and presenting their wraps in the multi-purpose room. All parents are warmly invited to come along to view, question the cooks, and even sample some of the wraps!

This is a great opportunity for the parents of Grade 2 children who will be moving into Grade 3 next year to meet parents from the cooking/environmental group, meet our current Grade 3-4 students, and participate in one of the many fun activities we do in Grade 3-4!

If you are a present Grade 2 parent and would like to help on the day, please contact any of the Grade 3 -4 teachers, or organising parents, Marina Henley (LA2) 9481 4817, marina25@bigpond.net.au or Jane Miller (LA1) 9489 3591, jmiller@slv.vic.gov.au

The Expo will be happening from 12.30 – 1.30pm. Hope to see you there!

From the 3-4 teachers: Rosemary, Rita and Karen



DANCE! DRINK! TALK! LAUGH!
SLEEP! WAKE! VOTE!
NORTHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL BENEFIT GIG
BIG FOLK FRANK JONES
T-BONES PUPILLO
ONE AND THE SAME OPENING FERRY
3 GREAT BANDS!
FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
BAR 303 303 HIGH STREET NORTHCOTE
8.00PM TILL LATE
\$10 IN ADVANCE \$12 AT THE DOOR
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

I would like to pre-order my tickets for this incredible music night at just \$10.00 each.

Name: _____

Child's Name & LA: _____

No. of Adults: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please return order form and payment to the school office before Friday 23rd November. The tickets will then be sent home via your child. Tickets are also available after school from the office or in the school yard.



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TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER
STARTS @ 5.15PM
BILL LAWRY OVAL
WESTGARTH ST. NORTHCOTE
BBQ, snacks & drinks at bar prices
Free Admission

Turn off, switch to play

For the next 3 months Kids Go For Your Life will be focusing on "Turn off, switch to play". This means:
 Turn Off = reduce sedentary behaviour and turn off screen based activities, including watching TV, DVDs and playing electronic games, and

Switch to Play = get active!

Families can promote this message at home by:

Setting house rules around the amount of time children spend on screen based activities

Restricting TV viewing to no more than 2 hours a day

Turning off the TV whilst having meals

Not allowing TVs in children's bedrooms

Being a good role model by limiting your screen time

Providing other active recreation options, for example equipment, adequate safe space or a list of possible activities for children to do.

For further information please contact the Healthy Schools Program at Darebin Community Health Ph: (03) 9403 1245



Whilst Girls and Boys successfully integrate in the quality co-educational environment of Thornbury High, we do recognise that they have different learning styles and emotional and curriculum needs.

I would like to invite you and your daughter to attend a 'Girls Night Out'. The evening is an opportunity to hear first hand from a panel of current Year 7 and Senior Girls, about **their** experiences of Thornbury High.

Your daughter will be invited to participate in a variety of activities which showcase some of our innovative and exciting curriculum options including Performing Arts, Multimedia and Science.

What better way to make a decision about your daughter's secondary education than by meeting and chatting with the girls who experience it every day.

We look forward to welcoming you and your daughter to this fun and informative evening.

Kind regards

Peter Egeberg
 Principal



Date: 27 November 2007

Time: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Place: The Library
 Thornbury High School
 238 Collins Street, Thornbury

RSVP: By 20 November 2007
 Ms Vicki Denovan

Phone: 9480 4066