

**Issue No. 20  
16<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> July-Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Upper Dept. Swimming
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	-	3 Way Conferences
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> August	-	Whole School Sports Carnival
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> August	-	School Photo
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	-	Cultural Performance No. 3 - 9.15 a.m.
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	-	Life Ed Van
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	-	District Athletics
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	-	Trivia Night (more details later)

## **GREETINGS FROM KERRIE**

### **Welcome back**

Welcome back everyone from school holidays to Term 3. I have heard some lovely stories of holidays where families got out there in the winter environment and rode their bikes, went for walks, or snuggled up inside for an all day-pyjama-day together. Of course, there were those that escaped our Victorian weather and went north in search of warmer climes. Whatever your activity or preference, I hope you had a relaxing time with your family and that all students are ready for a great Term 3.

Welcome back also to Ruby, who is now in Niki Skoullou's grade 1/2 class, lovely to see Ruby again. Welcome to Pele, our new student from Singapore and his family. Pele is in Nicky McKinnon's grade 1/2 class.

### **3-way Conferences – our year 6's in Ross' class have their say**

The year 6's in Ross' class have just completed their 3-way Conferences on Tuesday and we have some very good feedback from the students, Ross and some parents as to how it went. Overall, it has been a very positive experience for all. Here are some comments from our year 6's:

**Positives** – it was a good way to show my parents what I have done in school; I liked running the conference; I felt very proud; it was fun and exciting; I was in control; I had positive comments from my parents; I got to explain my work from my point of view; it was good to show my parents how I have improved in my school work; us talking – it was good that the kids got to do most of the talking; I was pretty organised; I thought I would laugh but I didn't; how much my parents learnt about my work;

**Minus** or not so good –didn't have enough time to show everything or all my work (lots of these comments); feeling nervous and anxious; felt awkward because it was the first time; Mum was late; the conference was too short; I don't think that my parents had a good enough idea of our work in class; I should have went faster so I could show more; having too much work to show; I forgot to greet;

**Improvements** – conferences should be longer; more time to show all your work; have the conferences over two days; don't be shy; talk more clearly because I talked really soft at the start; start on time so you get the full 15 minutes; after every 4 conferences have a spare block to catch up; more time to prepare; be more organised with my preparation.

Some very important thoughts from our year 6's. They were all 'abuzz' back in class after their conference and still talking about it the next day. It was such a positive experience and Ross shared his reflections with teachers at our staff meeting on Wednesday. Other teachers are going to ask the year 6's to come and talk to their children about their experiences and perhaps assist the little ones prepare for their conference.

### **Monday Assembly – NAIDOC Week focus**

Although NAIDOC Week officially occurred during the school holidays (5 – 12 July), the teachers have been following up back at school with activities in the classroom. This year's theme is 'Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth'. We will commence our assembly with an 'Acknowledgement of Country' as a way of demonstrating respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and the ongoing relationship of traditional owners with the land. The year 5/6 class (Linda's class) are going to present to the assembly some of the things they have learnt about NAIDOC Week 2009.

Please see further on in the newsletter a report from Karen (Assistant Principal) about some of the things each class has focused on.

We would love it if you could come along to our assembly on Monday as a show of support if you are able to.

**Warm regards!**

**Kerrie**

# *Pupil of the Week*

LA9 – Heidi & Everett

LA10 – Cecilia & Sabrina

LA11 – Pele

LA12 – Kiralee & Rebecca K

LA14 – Deniro & Will

LA1 – Electra & Raphael

LA2 – The whole class!

LA3 – Caterina L

LA13 – TBA

LA4 – TBA

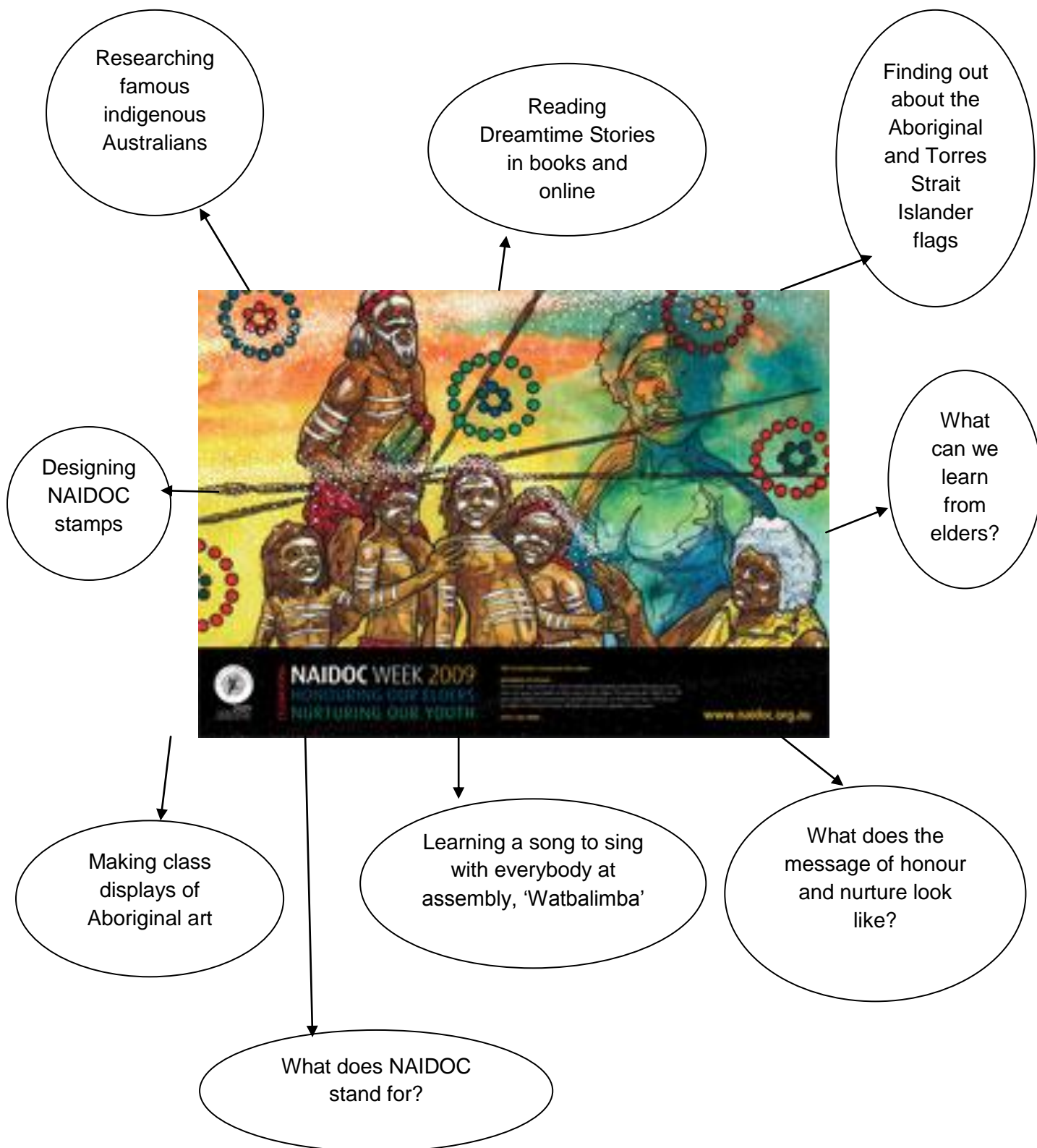
Italian – The Italian Committee - Nell, Pandora, Alex S, Mitchell, Alex H, Max H, Lily D-J, Beth, Julia H, Sophie F, Mathilde

Office – Nell Ayers (LA13)

## NAIDOC WEEK 2009 AT NORTHCOTE PRIMARY

This week we have recognised and celebrated NAIDOC Week.

As this year's theme is 'Honouring our elders, nurturing our youth', students have been learning about what this means. Here are some of the activities teachers have been working through with students:



Karen Rush,  
Curriculum Co-ordinator

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

*If you applied for EMA in Term 1 and your circumstances have not changed, you do not need to re-apply this year.*

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently, parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card. The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13<sup>th</sup> July, 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August for the second instalment. Please bring your card with you for photocopying.

## LUNCH ORDERS

Don't forget to put your lunch orders in by Thursdays for Friday lunches. Lunch orders resumed this week!



## NEWS FROM ABROAD ...

Dear LAI and Rosemary,

i went on camp on the third week since I had arrived at that school. Last Monday i got an award for joining the class so well and fitting into the class really fast and just 2 weeks after I had started I went on camp. Here is what or some things that i did on camp. I went to the top of the highest building in Cromer (that's in Norfolk i also went to Norfolk for a week) anyway we saw a lovely view from the church (that is what that the highest building was) and then we had a look around the church. On the Wednesday after we walked through the mud flats and went on the boat to see the seals we had a disco that went from 7.30 to 9.00 and it was really fun. We went on a Lord of the ring adventure trail and you had to find your way around the local woods and find clues but there were orks (they were really the leaders with masks on) in the woods and they had water pistols so they scare you then they shoot you with water. It was very fun. I do want to come back.  
Lydia

## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE REMINDER

The challenge finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Don't forget to go online and register your books before then.

## HELEN STREET TRIVIA NIGHT



Yes, it's back by popular demand. The annual quiz event, hosted and masterminded by our own parent community, will be taking place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm. Ticket order forms will be coming home soon, but in the meanwhile, please put the date in your diary and book a babysitter. Watch the newsletter for further details in coming weeks. Any questions, phone Emily on 0419 205 417.