

**Issue No. 19
19th June, 2008**

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Term 2

Mon 16th June Planning Week

Mon 23rd June **Learning Progress Meetings this week (parent/teacher interviews)**

Wed 25th June Sports Colours Day

Fri 27th June Prep 2009 Enrolments due at school

Fri 27th June Communication Survey due back at school – please check our website for a copy

Fri 27th June **Last Day of Term 2 – 2.30 p.m. finish**

Sat 12th July Northcote Nit Day – All families please check your children's hair before coming back to school

Term 3

Tues 15th July Grades 3-6 Swimming Program for two weeks

GREETINGS FROM KAREN

Merhaba (Hello!)

Nahsilsiniz? (How are you?)

I have a few more stock phrases, then I have to dig into single words to impress you with my recently acquired (holiday) Turkish language. Thank you all the students, parents and staff who have given me a very warm welcome back to school from my Turkey trip. Did I have a good time? Did I ever! I explored a lot of the west coast of Turkey and spent the majority of my time on the south west peninsula and in Istanbul. I was lucky enough to go on a 5 day sail with some friends around the Dacta peninsula to explore some of the coastal areas & islands (Turkish & Greek) off the tourist tracks. The Turkey I experienced was fantastic and the people were so lovely and helpful and often went out of their way to assist, so hospitable. I'd go back there in a flash.

Anyhow, enough of my holiday, and back to school now!

Student Achievement

I would like to congratulate all the students in our school who have received their mid-year reports. All students try very hard with their work, and it is great to have a formal opportunity to celebrate their strengths and achievements with their families and teachers, and at some stage also discuss with them, their improvement areas for the second half of the year.

Learning Progress Meetings/Parent Teacher Interviews

Don't forget your scheduled meeting and please let the school know if you are unable to make your allotted time. If you are late, you may find that your time has been reallocated to a waiting parent, and you may have to wait until the teacher can then fit you in later in the

evening. Also, if it looks as though there is more to discuss than fits into the allocated times, the teacher will suggest that you make another mutually suitable time together on another day, where you both have more time and are not keeping the next parent waiting. Thank you all parents for demonstrating your commitment to your child's education by attending the meetings.

Principal Professional Development – Building Pedagogical Capital

Karen and I will be attending the 2008 Northern Metropolitan Regional Principals Conference from Wednesday to Friday this week. Officer in Charge will be Rosemary on Wednesday and Niki Skoullou on Thursday and Friday. Please direct school inquiries to either Rosemary or Niki during this time.

Thank you Karen and Niki

I would like to thank Karen Rush, who took on the role of Acting Principal in my absence on Long Service Leave. Karen has been busy giving me a briefing of all the important things going on whilst I was away. It is not an easy task stepping up to the Acting Prin job, and I would like to acknowledge the time and effort that Karen has put into the acting role. Karen has done a fantastic job! I would also like to thank Niki Skoullou for the great job she has done as the Acting Assistant Principal, (stepping into Karen's job) and supporting Karen with her leadership. They both worked hard to ensure the continuation of the smooth running of the school.

Thank you also, to all the staff, who provided both Karen and Niki with strong team back up during this time, and to the parents who provided Karen & Niki with moral support too.

Karen has some further news to report on last week whilst I was away but I have heard about the great Trivia Night on Friday night, and the opening of the Bike Shed! Well done Northcote Primary School community!

Hoscakal or gule gule! (Goodbye)

Kerrie

HELLO FROM KAREN

Student Reports

You should have received your child's mid year report last Friday.

The report aims to give you, as parents, an understanding of where your child is at in relation to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (Statewide Standards), your child's achievements and areas for improvement. Learning Progress Meetings are scheduled for next week, most meetings occurring on Monday after school and into the early evening. If you haven't received your time yet please contact your child's teacher.

Big Fun at the Trivia Night

A fantastic (and lively) evening was had by many parents and teachers last Friday night at the Trivia Night. The Hall looked beautifully decked out, the questions were (at times) challenging, and the prizes hotly sought after, (I ran for the jam). Trivia table teams eagerly awaited each question amidst luscious spreads of dips, breads, cheeses, salads, pasta, even desserts! Table teams of course had table names, some carefully considered, some on the spot jobs...the Dead Presidents, and the Disco Ducks, to name a few. Then there was the Disputing Table, the 'Quiet. Shhh!' Table, and the "We were right so we're going to stand up & grunt" Table. Yep, NPS has a diverse parent community!

Congratulations and well done to the Fundraising Team for the pre-event organisation and their energy and enthusiasm on the night, which resulted in a funds raised total of \$3033!!!

Photography Shoot at NPS!

A number of students from LA10 and LA2, teachers - Niki Skoullou, Margaret Barrett, Ross Bennie and myself, and one parent, Philip Webb, participated in the Curriculum Corporation photo shoot at school on Tuesday. We were all involved in different 'learning scenes' around school, which the photography team set up in order to capture a range of different learning

activities at NPS. They included learning with computers, learning with technology – knitting with needles and wool, reading big books, learning with music, and physical education. A very big thank you to all the ‘models’ who worked hard to get their positions just right! We look forward to seeing NPS featured in new Curriculum Corporation publications, and the entire collection of images being forwarded to us for our own use.

Karen

LIBRARY TRUST FUND – A message from the School President – Celia Pollard

You will have received the new Library Trust Fund brochure this week (if not, check the bottom of the school bag) put together by the Library Committee, a parents committee which any parent is welcome to become involved in. The great looking brochure is aimed at providing you with more information about what the Committee plans are for the library trust fund, a simple note about which went out a few weeks ago asking for donations.

If you haven’t yet donated, please think seriously about it as it will be great for our kids if we can put in place the improvements to the library outlined in the brochure.

Also just a reminder that any information distributed to the school community on behalf of the school must have formal endorsement of the School Council so that everyone knows it’s legitimate. The Library Trust Fund brochure has been endorsed by school council.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

At last week’s school council meeting there was some discussion regarding parent participation at school, and in particular, on sub-committees. NPS has six sub-committees: Policy & Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Publicity & Promotion, Northcote Out of School Hours Care, Junior School Council, and Fundraising. Sub-committees are advisory bodies to the school council and assist council in all the work that needs to be done. They report regularly at school council meetings and provide advice and make recommendations to the school council, which has the final responsibility for decisions.

Sub-committees are open to non-school council members and therefore provide opportunities to involve many people in the school who are not members of school council.

Most of our sub-committees meet regularly (usually once a month) prior to the next scheduled school council meeting. The practice has been for meeting times to be agreed upon by members at a mutually convenient time and location.

School Council would like to ascertain whether the current meeting times are suitable for the majority of our community to be able to participate in our school.

On the tear off & return strip below, please indicate the most convenient time for you to participate in a sub-committee or parent forum if you wished to.

Thank you,

Karen Rush

Convenor, Policy & Finance

✂.....

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Child’s Name: _____ LA No.: _____

I would most likely to be able to participate:

During school hours 9.00 – 3.30 _____

After school 4.00 – 6.00 _____

Evening 6.30 onwards _____



LIBRARY REVAMP UPDATE

The first steps in making the library a more relevant, vibrant and appealing learning space for our kids is under way. In the last couple of weeks, the Library Committee, with support from parents and staff, has made the following improvements:



- . new picture book shelving has been installed
- . culling tatty and outdated picture books is nearly complete
- . colourful new floor cushions have been added to the reading space
- . a special dinosaur display shelf has been donated and set up in a dark corner
- . posters, models and other 'objects' have been added to shelves and walls to make the library more a more lively and interesting place.

If you haven't been into the library for a while, drop in and have a look!

And from the initial response to the '*big plans* for the NPS Library' flier, the improvements to the library will continue. Judging from the comments at drop-off and pick-up it's clear that the value of a good library is appreciated by many parents.



Contributions can be made to the Library Trust Fund at any time but remember that to be eligible as a tax deduction for the 2007-2008 financial year your donation will need to be \$45 or more and ***must be received at the Office by Tuesday 24th June***. The donation form and instructions are on the back of the flier so if you didn't receive one, please contact the School Office.



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Thanks to everyone for their support and please contact us if you have any ideas or feedback about our library and its future.

Anne (LA14)
Helen (Zach, LA14)
Janet (Angus, LA14)
Phillip (Luke LA1, Jessie LA8)
Vanessa (Oliver, LA14)

The NPS Library Committee

GRADE 5/6 CAMP

A display of Camp Rumbug photos is outside the Library and we welcome all parents to come and have a look, perhaps between interviews next week.

Linda, Ross & Nicky

PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Please make sure you do not park in the "No Standing" zones around the school. It is making it very dangerous for children to cross the road when cars are parked so close to the corners. Children are having to step out behind parked cars onto the road blocking them from the drivers vision.

TRIVIA NIGHT - THANK YOU!

We raised in excess of \$2,500 and had a great time doing it! Thank you so much to all of the parents and staff who came along on Friday night and made the evening such a success. My very special thanks go to the group of people who made it all happen - Red Smith, Stuart Morrison, Matt Walsh, Linda Budd, Nicky Dulfer, Jane Miller, Janet Buick and Sue Lawson.

Thanks, Emily (Henry LA12)

FETE INFORMATION

Fete Co-ordinators

Yes we are still on the lookout for our new fete co-ordination team. I thought it might help if everyone knew how the fete organisation usually works, so I've produced a guide to what currently happens and how. This is all able to be changed, depending on what the new people would like to do.

Stall Co-ordinators

They are asked to organise their own stall. Sometimes people come forward with a new activity, sometimes they take over one that has been going for a long time. They provide, organize, produce, price and sell their stuff on the day. These people do an enormous amount of work during the run up to the fete, and work on the day. This year we already have volunteers to a number of these stalls. Examples of stalls might be craft, second-hand toys, Juice bar, etc... We already have some volunteers, but always welcome more.

Area Co-ordinators

These people take on a slightly bigger role. They oversee an area of the fete. In the past this has been broken down into Children's activities, Food, Drinks, Entertainment, Fete Collective contact, Selling stalls, Second-hand stalls. It is their job to make sure that each stall co-ordinator knows what they can and can't do, handle specific requests for equipment, book the rides, liaise with other schools to borrow equipment, organise for food and alcohol permits, and generally keep things running as smoothly as possible. Again we already have a few volunteers .. but need more

Fete Co-ordinators

There are usually two or three of these people. They will take on any of the area jobs that haven't been picked up by other people. Oversee publicity, rosters, health and safety guidelines, liaise with the school, make sure that all the equipment is available, be the go-to person for everybody. Often it's as simple as pointing someone in a direction "Why don't you ask Fred what they are doing or have done in the past.?" The fete co-ordinators do not do all the work. They are simply the keeper of all the details, and yet another pair of hands. We have one person who is happy to be part of this team ... but no-one else has put their hand up. Any volunteers?

Please contact Kerrie if you are interested. The fete is only as good as the community that runs it.

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.

A RARE APPEARANCE BY "BETTINA'S MARTINI" (ex parents of our school and guest artists at various fetes) at the Artisans Market, Northcote Town Hall, 189 High Street, Northcote. This Saturday 21st June from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Flutterbuys: School Holiday Program - For beautiful card making and scrapbooking products, classes and demonstrations. For children of all ages. For times, please ring or email. Ph: 03 9478 7880 or email: flutterbuys@optusnet.com.au at 653 High Street, Preston, 3072. Thank you Samantha & Robyn

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2008 from Germany, Italy, France, Sweden, Denmark Finland, Holland, and Brazil, Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 5 or 10 months and they all attend local high schools whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness - invaluable characteristics in today's world. We organise all the flights, school enrolment, transportation, insurances and support systems. Call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au or email scceaust@scce.com.au

CERES is calling for participants in a Design Workshop on June 21st at CERES Education Centre 10am to 1pm. Be part of the creative process to redevelop the CERES Childrens Adventure Playground. Bring along ideas and images and help create something WILD! Enter though the Lee Street, East Brunswick entrance to the Education Centre. Morning tea will be provided. Please RSVP stephen@ceres.org.au or call reception 03 9387 2609. Please note this session is intended for adults, a children's ideas session will be run at a later date. Please call if you have any questions. Sandra Castro Marketing Co-ordinator 03 9387 2609



Do you want to LEARN TO PLAY an instrument or LEARN TO SING at your school?

Wendy's Music offers PIANO/KEYBOARD, VIOLIN, GUITAR, BASS GUITAR, DRUMS, CLARINET, FLUTE, SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, TROMBONE and SINGING lessons.

Individual classes of 20 or 30 minutes, FREE Beginner Method books, Instruments for hire or purchase, Comprehensive syllabus including all musicianship skills, Experienced teachers offering performance and exam opportunities. Instruments offered will depend on numbers of students interested. After school lessons for all ages and levels also available. Enquiries and enrolments PH 9457 1148 or enrol online at www.wendysmusic.com.au

AMES (Adult Multicultural Education Services) is a not for profit organisation which delivers a range of services around Melbourne, including English language courses and settlement for newly arrived migrants, AMES Employment and Vocational and Educational Training (VET) packages. We are intending to run Certificate III in Aged Care Services as a full-time six month course and Certificate I in Information Technology modules (part-time) starting in July. The classes will be held at Collingwood College. If you would like to know more about AMES, you could have a look at our website www.ames.net.au. Jenni Guilfoyle, AMES Education, Cromwell St., Collingwood, 3066. www.ames.net.au or 9926 4763 Mon-Wed 9417 6134 Thur-Fri

Jika Jika Community Centre - July - December 2008 Classes & Activities Brochure – out now! We have classes and activities for everyone! Pick up our new course brochure from your school now or drop in to the office! Jika Jika Community Centre Cnr Union & Plant Sts Northcote . Tel. 9482 5100 office@jikajika.org.au At Jika Jika you can develop friendships, find support, exchange ideas, learn new skills, take classes & become involved in our community.