

Issue No. 33
23rd October, 2008

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

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| Fri 24th Oct. | - Whole School Photo Orders & Money to be returned |
| | - Junior School Council & Neapolitan Photo Orders & Money to be returned |
| Sat 25th Oct. | - Working Bee from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. |
| Mon 27th Oct. | - Whole School Photo - 1.00 p.m. |
| | - Last Day for Walktober Colouring in Competition |
| Tues 28th Oct. | - Ice Cream Day |
| Wed 29th Oct. | - Last Day for Mango Orders & Money |
| Mon 3rd Nov. | - Compensatory Day in Lieu for teachers - No School |
| Tues 4th Nov. | - Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday - No School |
| Wed 26th Nov. | - Art Show/Picnic Tea (more details later) |
| Fri 28th Nov. | - Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 1 from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. |

This song is to be sung to the tune of "Love is in the Air"

NITS ARE IN THE HAIR, EVERY HEAD YOU LOOK AROUND,
NITS ARE IN THE HAIR, BE IT RED OR BLONDE OR BROWN,
AND WE ALL KNOW THAT THEY'RE ANNOYING,
WE ALL KNOW THEY ITCH LIKE MAD,
BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH,
EVERY BOY, EVERY GIRL, MUM AND DAD

Just a bit of light-hearted humour to start things off, however nits are nothing to laugh about. We need every family to check their children's hair every week. The conditioner on dry hair and combing through is a great way of checking for the beasties. If you do find nits/lice, please treat appropriately and make sure you remove all nits and eggs. If the eggs aren't completely removed, the whole cycle will start over again! It would be appreciated by everyone at the school I'm sure if all families could do a "nit check" over the weekend.

GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

Student Achievement

2008 Premier's Reading Challenge - Certificates

Congratulations to all of our children who participated in the Reading Challenge and to those who succeeded in meeting the challenge. You've shown us that you really love your books, that you are continuing to build on your literacy skills, and you love a challenge! Special Certificates have been sent to the school this week from the Premier's Office, and children will receive their very impressive certificate at Monday morning assembly.

I also extend my sincere thanks to all members of our school community for your support of the Reading Challenge, and in particular to Dora, who coordinated the challenge at our school.

Welcome Trainee Teachers

This week we welcome the following trainee teachers to our school:

Chris Boddy (from England) in Ross' grade 5/6 LA 6/3; Christino Sant in Heather's grade 1/ 2 LA11; and Melissa Fulton in Niki's Prep LA10. We wish them all the best with their time with us. It is worth noting that I have had confirmation that two of our trainee teachers from this year Simon (swimming Simon!) and Simon (Musical Production Simon) have both been successful in picking up teaching positions for 2009, Year 7 for Swimming Simon and Preps for Musical Production Simon. Congratulations to both Simons, we were very impressed with them when they were here with us.

World Teachers' Day - Friday 31 October, 2008

It's that time of year again when I encourage our community to honour our teachers on World Teachers' Day. The UNESCO-declared World Teachers' Day is a great opportunity to say 'Thank you' to your child's teachers and show them how much they're valued for all the hard work they do throughout the year for your child.

World Teachers every Day

This year's theme, 'World Teachers every Day' recognises that teachers open the world to their students in many different ways in the work they do every day. In the curriculum they teach and how they teach it, and through the connections they make with and for their students, teachers bring the world into their classrooms and help to build a better world for their students as local and global citizens.

World Teachers' Day is an important acknowledgement of the professionalism of teachers and their enormous contribution to the future of our society. I encourage you to make the most of World Teachers' Day in 2008 - a great opportunity for our students and school family to acknowledge the highly committed and professional teachers in our school.

Alternative Art Show 2008 - Wednesday 26th November

We will be changing the regular format of the 'Spring Art Show' this year predominantly due to the unavailability of space as the Multi-Purpose room out of action as a space whilst upgrade work is on and the Hall also has limited space.

The Art Show will be held on the night (early evening) of Wednesday 26th November. Parents will be invited to participate in an 'Art Gallery Walk' through the classrooms to view the student's art work in each room and adjacent area and then to adjourn to our usual area for a picnic tea to celebrate the fabulous Art Work and end of the year. If the evening brings unpleasant weather, we will have Thursday 27th November as the backup date. The fundraising sub-committee will run a drinks bar on the evening to raise money for the school. Please watch out for further information coming out in the newsletters and we hope to see you there.

What?	Art Gallery Walk & Picnic Tea
When?	Wednesday, 26th November -
How?	Parents, students and family to view Art work between 6.00 - 7.00pm, then classrooms will close and we can all adjourn to our school grounds (Henry St. side) for our picnic between 7.00 - 8.00.
What Should I bring?	BYO picnic rug, chairs, food & family!
Cost?	Your time, good humour, and appreciation of great student art work!

NAPLAN Results for our school (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy)

2008 Year 3 NAPLAN test results

Excellent results in Year 3 Reading/Writing/Grammar & Punctuation & Numeracy with school mean above the National benchmarks; Spelling results for the Year 3's show school mean just slightly below National benchmark.

2008 Year 5 NAPLAN test results

Excellent results in Year 5 Reading/Writing/Grammar & Punctuation & Numeracy with school mean above the National benchmarks; Spelling results for the Year 5's show school mean equal to National benchmark.

2008 5/6 Student Attitude survey results (years 5 & 6)

The survey results are excellent! In Student Wellbeing – Student Morale and Student Distress results are above the State-wide benchmarks and scoring into the 4th quartile at 80% & 85% (the higher the score the better).

Student's perception of Teaching and Learning at our school

Teacher Effectiveness; Stimulating Learning; School Connectedness; Student Motivation were all in the 3rd quartile scoring in the 60% range. Teacher empathy and learning confidence soared into the 4th quartile scoring above 75%. In student relationships, Connectedness to Peers was in the 3rd quartile at 74% and Classroom Behaviour and Student Safety soar into the above 80% category.

Congratulations to all teachers but particularly to the teachers in 5/6 Team, Ross Bennie; Linda Batten and Nicky McKinnon and the 5/6 students.

Casual Administration position for the Out of Hours Care Program

This position would ideally suit a parent from our school. School Council would like to seek an expression of interest from parents from our community who may be interested in taking up the job.

Generally it involves part-time work, 1 day per week, working from the house on a range of Administrative and coordination roles regarding the NOOSHC program. School Council is looking for someone who has bookkeeping skills; computer literate; high level interpersonal skills; able to work closely with the Principal, Business Manager, School Council Committee of Management and NOOSHC Program Coordinator, to ensure we can continue to offer a high quality Out of Hours Care to our Program.

Listed below are some of the tasks involved in the position. The school would provide on the job training and

OOSHP ADMINISTRATION TASKS

Skills required in:

Excel spreadsheets
Bookkeeping and budget awareness

Training provided for :

Qikkids OOSH software
CCB administration

A summary of tasks includes the management of:

- Childcare Benefit
- Attendances, holding fees, late fees
- Payment of accounts, banking, aged debtors
- Accounts to families each fortnight.
- End of year administration including fee setting, parent handbook, information sheets and booking forms.
- Ordering printing of OOSH envelopes as needed, stationery.
- Liaising with Principal on weekly basis re program when necessary and attendance at NOOSHC sub-Committee meetings twice per term
- Liaising and organising IT maintenance.
- Grant applications
- Financial reports to the committee and school council

If you are interested, please call Kerrie (Principal) at the office, to discuss any further details regarding conditions of employment and remuneration and submit in writing, your Curriculum Vitae and expression of Interest outlining why you would be interested in the position and suitable for the job by 9.00am, 30th October, 2008.

Thank you Laura Sheridan

Laura (Mum to Milo in LA11) has been responsible for administrative assistance for our School Council for at least the last 2 and a bit years, and has always done a highly professional job taking minutes, producing hard copies for Council Members, collating the mail-outs prior to School Council. Laura has done a fantastic job keeping up with the discussion points on School Council. Laura has notified me of her resignation from School Council as of the last meeting, as she and her family are moving out of Northcote very soon.

Thank you so very much Laura, your work has always been of a very high standard. Best wishes for your life across the bay, we will miss you around the school, in the office and on School Council, particularly with the fantastic work you have done for us on our Travel Plan (Walking School bus; Travel Plan Grant; Walk to School Day; bike Shed) and we will miss Milo and Joshi too!

Vacancy for School Administrative Assistant to School Council

As Laura Sheridan has now officially retired, School Council has a vacancy for an Administrative Assistant. This is a paid position, and the person would be employed by the School Council. School Council usually meets twice per term, and

We are looking for a person who:

- has high level note taking skills (able to keep up with meeting discussions and formalities;
- has competent word processing skills to produce the official minutes documents for School Council;
- is available on the Fridays before School Council meets the following Wednesday, to prepare the agenda (in consultation with the Principal)
- is available on the Wednesday evenings when School Council (7.00pm – 9.30pm at latest)
- understands and is able to comply with the confidential nature of sensitive matters raised at School Council
- has a good sense of humour and enjoys working with a great group of committed parents and teachers!

The position is paid by the hour on a casual basis, at School Services Officer 1 casual rate. The hours can vary, but usually it is approximately 12 hours per term x 4 terms.

If you are interested or would like to know further details, please ring the office and speak to myself or Lyn, the Business Manager.

2009 Student Enrolments

I am currently in the process of finalising enrolment numbers for 2009. If you are aware of any families who are yet to enrol their child at school, could you please encourage them to make contact with us as soon as possible otherwise they may miss out on a place at our school in 2009. Also to assist us determine final numbers for 2009, if you intend to leave the school this year, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Birthday Remembrance for Atticus 31/10/1999

This coming Friday, 31/10/2008 marks Atticus' birthday and he would have turned 9 years old. Our community's heartfelt thoughts are with Matt and Sam at this difficult time as we remember Atticus and his love of parties and birthdays.

**Warm regards,
Kerrie**

WORKING BEE

Saturday 25 October - If you are able to come - please RSVP to Jane Miller on 9489 3591 for catering purposes. We have used up the sausage mountain - so need to know numbers!

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY COLOURING IN COMPETITION

Yesterday's Walk to School Day saw a large number of our students making their way to school on foot, bike or scooter. Thanks to all students who took part and to their families for supporting them.

Each child received a certificate at the gate which they can now use to enter our "Walk to School Day" colouring-in competition. All you need to do is colour in the picture and put it in the labelled box in the office foyer by Monday 28th October and you may win a prize. Don't forget to put your name and LA number at the top!

A big thank you to Coles Northcote Plaza and Keep It Fresh Northcote Central Plaza for donating the beautiful fresh fruit to give out to the kids after their gruelling commute. Also thanks to Annette Hogg, Fiona Duncan and Kylie Bentley for helping on the day.

Michelle Laufer/Laura Sheridan

UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARY

Thank you to all of those families who have made donations to the Library Trust Fund this year. With your generous help, we have been able to make a number of real improvements to the library, with more to come. Drop by and have a look - you will find:

- brightly coloured shelving with display shelves and tubs for picture books, puzzle books and first chapter novels;
- a funky new red TV/AV cupboard;
- a huge range of new books, covering topics such as indigenous communities, economics, government, space, human relations, animals and their habitats, IT, global warming and recycling; and
- more first chapter books and a big range of novels for girls aged between 7 and 10.

Before the end of the year we aim to have purchase a new High Definition LCD television and hard drive recorder with set top box; investigations are underway to find the model that best suits our needs and has future flexible uses. We also plan to invest in new signage for the library and continue to build up the non-fiction collection.

HELP NEEDED

We have a great need for more book-covering, given the purchase of new stock, so would any parents who can help please contact Janet Buick (parent of Angus, LA14) or Helen Rainsford (parent of Zac, LA14). You can always take some books and covering home and cover a few books when you have time.

And please remember, for those who haven't done so, you can still make a donation to the Library Trust Fund at any time, and it will be tax deductible this financial year.

A very big thank you, again,

Friends of the Library Committee