

Issue No. 16
29th May, 2008

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Term 2

Fri 30 th May	Entries close for Dream Away Poster Competition
Wed 4 th -6 th June	Grade 5/6 Camp Rumbug
Wed 4 th June	Policy & Finance - 4.00 p.m. - Staffroom
Mon 9th June	Queen's Birthday Holiday - No School for Students)
Wed 11 th June	School Council - 7.00 p.m. - Staffroom
Thurs 12 th June	Pyjama Day
Mon 16 th June	Planning Week
Mon 23 rd June	Learning Progress Meetings this week (parent/teacher interviews)
Wed 25 th June	Sports Colours Day
Fri 27 th June	Prep 2009 Enrolments due at school
Fri 27 th June	Last Day of Term 2 - 2.30 p.m. finish

Term 3

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

Student Achievement

Well done Maddy Kruspe who represented Northcote at the Northern Zone Cross Country yesterday. A huge number of students from all over the region competed in the event. Maddy came 69th in the field, which is a magnificent achievement.

Congratulations to all NPS students on their achievements in numeracy and literacy. I have been visiting classrooms, talking with students and teachers about what they've been learning and doing. Here's just a snapshot from the grades:

Prep

- Investigating letter sounds on the Starfall website
- Counting, estimating and measuring on the Rainforest Maths website

1-2

- Chance - playing dice games and predicting whether a 1-6 die or a 1-12 die is better
- Presentation skills - handwriting and spelling

3-4

- Writing different types of texts – procedural ‘how to’ do something – LA2 have created some individual weavings and are now writing a procedural text about it. LA1 have been investigating questions. They devised a series of questions for Yuiko, a Japanese visitor to our school, which she did her best to answer.
- Measurement – making clocks to assist with telling the time, calculating perimeter and area

5-6

- Many students have been developing the reading skill called ‘Getting the knowledge ready’. This skill involves students asking the right questions about a text before using it for a guided reading session, or when trying to read an unfamiliar and more challenging text, eg, an article from the newspaper

Bike Shed

Our bike shed is open for business!! On Monday we had an outdoor assembly to ‘semi-officially’ open the bike shed for cyclists and scooter-riders. Hugh Wayland, our wonderful and resourceful handy person engaged the students with some safety and bike rules questions, Heather LA11 and Niki LA10 ably demonstrated safe walking and securing of their bikes in the shed, and showed us which gates to use (Henry Street and Helen Street nearest the crossing). Already there are many bikes and scooters in the shed – and well done to all riders for walking through the school safely and sensibly.

The store shed is now ‘decommissioned’; however there are still a large number of scooters in there. Unclaimed scooters not collected by the end of term will join the lost property clothing and be donated to a local Op Shop. As these are expensive items please take some time to check that none belong to you.

Reconciliation Week

“It’s all our story”

National Sorry Day on May 26th is a day to acknowledge the impact of the policies of forcible removal on Australia’s Indigenous populations.

Students in Grades 5 and 6 have spent time this week discussing the ‘Bringing Them Home’ report, and listening to some of the stories of people who were removed from their families.

Artist in Schools Update

Sarah Faulkner, our artist in residence, and the Grade 5-6 students have almost completed their mural. It consists of nine large panels, divided into three scenes of the Merri Creek, from the past to the present, and it looks incredible. Sarah and the students have worked every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays to create three vibrant works of art – the colour and detail are striking and thought-provoking. Plans are now underway to prepare for the launch of the mural in early term three. Watch this space!

When children are absent from school ...

When parents keep children home, due to illness or family circumstances, parents are only required to send a note along to school explaining the absence when the child returns to school. Parents only need to ring the office if the children have a contagious illness, or are going to be absent for than a few days. If you are planning to head off on an extended holiday, a brief letter detailing the dates your child will be absent would be appreciated. Teachers can then prepare some ‘travel learning tasks’ for your child to complete whilst away.

Building Upgrade Update

Thank you to everyone who took the time to view the schematic plans in the office foyer – your feedback was passed on to the architects this week and they will begin to make adjustments to the design. Some of the comments included:

- Openness promotes teachers able to work more collaboratively
- More teacher resource and student storage space needed
- Multimedia area great
- Toilets upstairs will mean less unsupervised movement of students around the building
- Could we have a space that could be partitioned off for a class group, & then opened up again?

Ciao,
Karen

Parents Victoria Online Conference

26 May to 1 June

The Parents Online Victoria Online Conference 2008 is now in its second day. Log on to the conference website (at no cost) at: <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv/>

PRIZES FOR PARTICIPATION – BUT REGISTER FIRST, PLEASE

An interactive whiteboard will be won by the Victorian government school with the greatest number of registered participants commenting on the message boards on Day 3 (Wednesday 28 May). A second whiteboard will be won by the Parents Victoria member school with the greatest number of registered participants commenting on the message boards throughout the entire conference. In order to be eligible to win the prizes, parents must register themselves online (before participating in the message boards) - indicating the name of their child's school - at: <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv08.htm>

The conference will feature seven 'live' daily online discussions, each of them hosted, for several hours each day, by a member of Parents Victoria, expert staff from the Department for Education and Early Childhood Development or the Victorian Parents Council. Each 24-hour period will focus on a topic that is currently of concern to parents. There will also be one continuous online discussion that will last all week on the topic: **'If you could improve one thing about your child's school, what would it be?'**

THURSDAY 29 MAY: 'Should canteens sell only healthy food? How does your canteen rate?'

Hosted by Sharon Healy, Parents Victoria, from 10am to 11.30am and 8.30 pm to 10pm

FRIDAY 30 MAY: 'What do you think could be done to improve family/school partnerships? Do you have examples of good practice?'

Hosted by Jo Silver, Victorian Parents Council, from 9.30am to 11.30am & 1.30pm to 2.30pm

SATURDAY 31 MAY: 'Binge drinking and drugs – What can be done to keep our children safe?'

Hosted by Elaine Crowle, Parents Victoria, from 11am to 12.30pm and 2.30 to 4pm

SUNDAY 1 JUNE: 'Bullying - What is the best advice you could give to the parent of a child who is being bullied?'

Hosted by Leanne McCurdy, Parents Victoria, from 2pm to 3.30pm and 7pm to 8.30pm

REMINDER – TRIVIA NIGHT – 13TH JUNE

Only 2 weeks to go until the trivia night, so please organise your table and your babysitter and come along for an excellent night out, helping to support the school at the same time.

Ticket order forms can be collected from the office. Any questions, please call Emily on 0433 366 075.



LOST – Red and black ladybug watch lost at school last week. Greta in LA1 would love to find it.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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Flyers and brochures are available outside the school office.

BIG FOLK (Frank Jones) – Friday 30th at 9.30 a.m. Lomond Hotel, Cnr. Nicholson & Blythe Street, East Brunswick. Free entry, new songs. All welcome.

HEIDELBERG SYMPHONY \$5.00 CHILDREN'S CONCERTS – Sunday 27th July at 1.00 p.m., 2.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. For kids aged 4-14 the concerts go for 50 minutes. Tickets on sale Saturday 14th June from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. at St. James Church Hall, Cnr. Noel Street and Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe (directly opposite Town Hall). Check www.heidelbergssymphony.com.au for more details.

ANGLICARE – Raising Happy Healthy Primary Schoolers – Tuesday 3rd June from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., level 1, Northcote Town Hall. Bookings essential on 8470 9999.

BLUE LIGHT DISCO – Friday 30th May – 6.30 to 9.00 p.m. - \$5.00 entry – Preston Town Hall

CERES PRESENTS – the Melbourne premier of 'earth' on Thursday 29th May from 6.30 p.m. at Cinema Nova. Tickets \$20 adults/\$15 children from CERES reception.

'Midwinter Masala' – Warm up with a spicy Indian dinner at CERES café on Saturday 14th June from 6.00 p.m. A delicious feast of Indian vegetarian delights for only \$15.00. Book at CERES reception.

AFL MASCOT MANOR FOOTY FEST – On during the school holidays – check www.footyfest.com.au for details on tickets.

DISCO ON ICE AT DOCKLANDS – The coolest place to ice skate. Only until 15th August. Call 8628 6000 for more details or visit www.waterfrontcity.com.au