



# NEWSLETTER

No. 1401

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**Issue No. 38**  
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## IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

### December

#### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>

Ready Set Go! Session 3 (prep orientation)  
Grade 6 Transition Day at High School

#### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

Last Day for orders of Whole School Photo & Prep-Buddy Photo  
School Council – 7.00 pm

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

Wendy's Music Concert

#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup>

LA1 & 2 Cooking Day



#### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>

End of Year School Concert

#### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

End of Year School Concert – Backup

#### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Last Day for Payment of Hays Paddock Money

#### Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

Prep-Two Excursion to Hays Paddock

#### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>

Grade 6 Graduation – 5.30 to 9.30 p.m.

#### Friday 21<sup>st</sup>

Last Day of Term 1.30 p.m. finish

#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>

Merry Christmas!!

Please note: All monies owed to the school  
must be paid at the school office  
by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December

### 2008

#### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Grade 1-6 children commence

#### Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Preps begin

# GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

## Student Achievement

Every Monday Grace Potts and Sylvia Xiao (LA6) make up bags of ice cubes for the week. They never need to be reminded and enthusiastically tackle this service to our students, even in the middle of winter. Many thanks to Grace and Sylvia – they are examples of the great (often unsung) contributions that our senior students make to our school.

## 2007 Premier's Reading Challenge - Congratulations

I was very pleased to read in the weekend's Age (a few weeks back) the names of all our children who participated in the Reading Challenge. It was also wonderful that quite a few of our students came to school on Monday and told me that they had read Atticus' name in the list. This was very important to all of us, as we know how Atticus loved reading books, and was a very good reader. Special Certificates were sent to the school from the Premier's Office, and children received their very impressive certificate this week. Matt and Sam proudly received Atticus' certificate too.

Congratulations all children who participated, 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!

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 co-ordinated the challenge at our school.

## What a great night at Bar 303!

Last Friday night, a great group of our very talented parents and friends donated their time and creative musical skills to raise money for our school at Bar 303. The music was seriously very good with Frank Jones (Christie in LA2's dad) & the Big Folk; Pip Pupilo's (Lila in LA11's dad) band T-Bones; and Terry O'Reilly's (dad of Max LA1 & Maggie LA2) band One and the Same. I would like to thank the parent band members and band members who weren't parents, and the community who came along to support the evening.

If you didn't come, you missed a very enjoyable Friday night's entertainment! Great music, great company, great venue!

**Thank you Frank Jones** for your co-ordination of the evening, and your 'MC-ing' on the night. I look forward to the next one!!

## Bravo Italiano Day! (that's in my best Italian!)

Wow! It was fantastic! A whole day devoted to all things fun in Italian! There was dancing; puppetry; soccer; mini mosaics; bocce; Pinocchio film for the juniors; pignata making; Leaning Tower of Pisa making; waiter's races; pizza lunch and gelato afternoon tea! Wow! The children really enjoyed the day, despite the warm temperatures and welcomed the cold gelato in the afternoon.

I would like to **thank the hard working group of parents** who braved the hungry children at the canteen window to serve up the pizzas and gelato! The children couldn't have had such a great day without your help.

To **Senorina Rosa**, a master of timetables, organisation, fun, enthusiasm and passion for Italian, a very **BIG THANK YOU!** She had everybody where they should be, at the right time, and everybody smiling! I love your personal assistant too, thanks Joe!

## Did you know?

1. We have been successful in our application for funding for the **Free Fruit Friday** (say that six times and see how you go!) **Program for students in Prep, 1 and 2 for 2008.** The funding will provide fruit and/or vegetables for all students in those grade levels on a weekly basis (may not necessarily be Fridays, we'll confirm next year). The funding is

based on actual student enrolments and provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development semester by semester. Watch out for more details of implementation next year! Well done Niki Skoullis for submitting the application!

2. Our last 'Ready, Set, Go' Kinder to Prep orientation is coming up on Tuesday. We had a great session on Wednesday this week, with the children meeting some of the grade 5's who will be their buddies next year, and the parents participating in some very interesting Thinking Process activities. They are both very good groups and having lots of fun!
3. Best wishes to our year 6's who head off to their Year 7 Orientation Day on Tuesday. We know you will do us proud.

### **Upgrade Grant to our school**

I have just got off the phone from talking to Fiona Richardson, our local MP, who told me that she has included in her budget submission to Treasury for 2008, the \$500,000 upgrade to the 5/6 area upstairs.

The background is that we were invited by the Northern Metropolitan Region to submit an application for an upgrade project to our school. There were certain parameters around which we had to submit, eg. Improvement & modernising to teaching and learning areas and School Council chose the upgrade to the 5/6 area. We submitted very excitedly at the end of Term 2 and heard nothing more.

When Fiona visited our school to talk to the children about the Premier's Reading Challenge, I took her on a tour of the school and talked about our application. Fiona promised to follow up for us, and she has since spoken with Northern Region, and now has included our project as part of her budget submission to Treasury. We have our fingers crossed and truly hope we will receive much needed funds to modernise the 5/6 learning area. Fiona will let me know when she hears anything further. Thank you Fiona for keeping on the case for us!

### **Allocating children to classes**

Soon we will begin the process of allocating children to classes. Most children have completed the process of nominating other children that they might like to be in a class with. I have also received some requests for consideration from parents, thank you.

### **2008 Class Structure**

The final structure has been decided upon after much deliberation over a number of models. This model supports keeping the 5/6's as a separate group, allowing a focus on transition towards secondary education; the composite structure is fairly even across the school, except for a single grade 3 class, and the Prep children; keeps the cohort of grade 4 children together in the 3/4 combination; classes are reasonably well represented in both gender and year level, with the exception of the larger number of boys in the 1/2 area; allows for further enrolments in Prep classes between now and the end of the year.

We are still receiving enrolments across various levels of the school, and some late confirmation of our current children leaving to move to other areas as family circumstances change. Therefore the numbers below may be tweaked slightly here and there between now and the beginning of the 2008 school year, but will be based on this model.

### CLASS STRUCTURE - 2008

Grades	Boys	Girls	Total Boys	Total Girls	Total Students
Prep	7	12	7	12	19
Prep	8	11	8	11	19
One Two	7 6	0 11	13	11	24
One Two	9 7	8 0	16	8	24
One Two	8 7	9 0	15	9	24
Three Four	5 5	5 10	10	15	25
Three	12	13	12	13	25
Five Six	5 5	10 6	10	16	26
Five Six	5 5	10 6	10	16	26
Five Six	5 6	9 6	11	15	26
Totals			112	126	238

**Warm Regards  
Kerrie**

## GRADE 3/4 EAT IT EXPO

We were **WRAPT** to have so many parents give up their time last week to help prepare and assist students in making their healthy lunch wraps. With so many people to thank we hope we haven't left anyone off our list. An extra special thank you to **Jane Miller** for all her behind the scenes work in the days leading up to the Expo.



**Thank you** also to:

Amanda Watkinson, Elena Sturkil, Cathy Drinkwater, Lois Wadelton, Anthony Hudson, Marina Henley, Frank Jones, Katherine Wositzky, Narelle Onofretchook, Kathleen Boyer, Carolyn Radford and Kim Humphrey.



Your support and assistance on the day made the end of our investigation into healthy eating a really **delicious** celebration!

Rosemary, Rita & Karen  
Grade 3-4 teachers

## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE YET?

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to check out our website. It is jam-packed with all sorts of info. such as our newsletter, important dates, etc. Make sure you visit us as [www.northcoteps.vic.edu.au](http://www.northcoteps.vic.edu.au).

## LOST PROPERTY

Many thanks to Lucy Ackroyd, Alex Selim and Carole Jiang from LA7 who spent all their lunchtime sorting through the mountain of Lost Property on Wednesday. All the named items have been delivered to children in their classrooms. The rest ... well ... a display of all items will be on the grass deck by LA9 on Monday. Parents and children please have a good look!!!

Whatever is left will be donated to charity on Monday night. The Lost Property cupboard is located near the entrance to the Sick Bay. Please leave items as beautifully folded as you find them. The girls spent a lot of their own time to make it easier to find your lost items.

## WALKTOBER NEWS

Thank you to everybody who participated in our organised Walktober activities.

Our Northcote Primary School community walked a recorded grand total of 881.8km - that includes the dog walk, the red dot trail, and walking to & from school. If we are looking at comparisons, we came within 10km of the centre of Sydney, walked 60km past Dubbo, a good 100km past Adelaide, and 230km past Canberra. And while we walked we raised just under \$1000 for the Bike shed. Fantastic effort everybody. Thank you to all those who participated.

Evelyn Boyce & Jane Miller

P.S. If there is anybody else who still has funds to send in for the bike shed could you do so by next week thank you.

## WENDY'S MUSIC CONCERT

Our concert will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Families and friends are most welcome and the concert program will be:

- 11.30 a.m. Preps, Grade 1 and 2 performers
- 12.15 p.m. Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 performers
- 1.00 p.m. All drum students in "a percussive story of loss and hope"

Look forward to seeing you there! Jenny, Geraint & Russell

## 2007 GRADE 6/PREP BUDDY PHOTO ORDERS

The Grade 6/Prep Buddy photos were taken yesterday. An order form on a separate note has been sent home to all preps and grade 6s and must be returned by **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**.

If you missed out on ordering a whole school photograph, envelopes are available from the school office and need to be returned to school by **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**.

**HAVE A LOOK** at the new Parentline website at [www.parentline.vic.gov.au](http://www.parentline.vic.gov.au). Students of LA1 and LA2 might recognise some of the children on it!



We have received notification of our Mango delivery date.

Mangoes will be arriving **Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>**. Pick up will take place after school, and please remember the trays are too large and heavy to come home via your child.

Those who ordered mangoes will soon receive an order confirmation, including numbers of trays and total price. Payment can be made on the day, or sent via your child's class teacher. Cheques should be made payable to Northcote Primary School.

Happy eating!!!

## DEPT OF EDUCATION & EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT-VICTORIA

### Student Scholarships - Primary

**Graham Davidson Scholarship** - this scholarship which is valued at \$600.00 will be awarded after consideration of the student's end of year results together with the student's involvement in school and community activities. Students must be currently completing Year 6 in 2007 and be sons or daughters of members of the police force, police pensioners or police widows. This scholarship is for two years and carries an allowance of \$300.00 per year.

**John & Maud Askew Scholarships** - Thirty eight scholarships which are valued at \$300.00 each will be awarded to students who are currently completing Years 4, 5 or 6 in 2007 at a Victorian government primary school. The scholarships are for one year and will be awarded on the following criteria:

- . the student's end of year results
- . the family's financial need
- . the student's involvement in school and community activities

## 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.

**FREE, FREE** kittens - Two available now (tabby tortoiseshell) and five available in six weeks time (three tortoiseshell & two ginger). Contact Kevin on 9481 1863 or Robyn on 0433 565 178.

**NEED A BABYSITTER?** Ring Monique Ramsay-Lewis (17 years old) on 9480 6493 (daughter of Lyn in the school office).

**City of Darebin School Holiday** brochures and registration forms are available from out the school office.

**Skateboarding lessons** at Northcote Skate Park forms are available from outside the office as well.

**Southern Cross Cultural Exchange**, an Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is **URGENTLY** seeking volunteer host families for students due to arrive in February 2008 from Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Colombia, Brazil, Japan, the USA and Canada. 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. We organise all the flights, schools, transportation, insurances and support systems. Call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, or visit [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au)

**FC Melbourne City Soccer Club** - Free social day on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at Darebin International Sports Centre. Brochures available outside the school office.

**Merri Community Childcare Centre** - Christmas Tree Fundraiser. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. at Merri CCC, 313 St. Georges Road, Thornbury. Orders taken today telephone 9416 9227. Pay by cash or credit card. Collection from the centre on 9<sup>th</sup> December or organise delivery for \$10.00. 6' ft trees \$50.00 or 7' ft trees \$60.00.