

**Issue No. 17
11th June, 2009**

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Friday 12th June	-	Statewide Reporting Day – No School for Students
Sat 13 th & Sun 14 th June	-	Northcote Nit Weekend
Monday 15 th June	-	Dante Alighieri Competition Closes (see Italian Update)
Tuesday 16 th June	-	Tri-Skills Prep-4
Wednesday 17 th June	-	Prep-Grade Two Fairytales Incursion
Thursday 18 th June	-	Tri-Skills – Dance – 5/6
Tuesday 23 rd June	-	Tri-Skills – Prep-4
Wednesday 24 th June	-	Last Tri-Skills - Prep-4
Thursday 25 th June	-	Tri-Skills – Dance – 5/6
Friday 26th June	-	Prep 2010 Enrolment Forms Due
	-	Last Tri-Skills – Dance – 5/6
	-	Last Day for Term 2 - 2.30 p.m. dismissal

GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

Student Achievement - Well done Josephine, Rosa and Issy

On Wednesday, 10th June, three of our Cross Country representatives competed in the Northern Zone Competition. Unfortunately, Nino Lazzaro and Maddy Kruspe were both still too ill to compete so it was down to our last three representatives. The girls braved the bone chilling temperatures to run the 2 kilometres in wet, muddy and rainy conditions in true cross country style. It was tough and all girls ran a very respectable race. There were sixty competitors in each race and the results out of 60 were: Josephine Laufer LA1 – 27th; Rosa Humphrey LA13 – 51st; and Issy Ermacora LA13 – 41st.

A great effort all girls in the very challenging conditions, we are very proud of you!

Student Reports

Currently teachers are putting a great deal of time and effort into writing student reports. The teachers aim to provide clear information on what each student has achieved. There will be a focus on each student's progress on the basis of assessment evidence gathered over a semester of work.

There will also be suggestions for areas of improvement that the student should work on and a focus on future learning to be addressed in the following reporting period. The reports will contain information on how the school will help the student to improve and also make recommendations for actions to be taken by the school to help the student's future learning. A section on how parents can help the student to improve taking into account the areas for improvement or future learning.

Parents can expect to receive their child's report by the end of Term 2.

Three-way Conferences – a different approach to Parent Teacher Interviews

Our usual practice is to conduct Parent-Teacher Interviews at the end of Term 2 to discuss the mid-year report. This year we are trialling a different approach to reporting to parents on student progress that actively involves all students in the process. We will be implementing '3-way Conferences' that involve the teacher, parent/s and the student to follow up and clarify what is written in the report. I know that some teachers have involved students in the past at parent teacher interviews, but this approach provides opportunities for the students in a more defined way.

Everyone will hear the same information which means everyone is on the same wavelength and can decide what needs to happen for the student's future improvement.

It is also about building relationships between the teacher, student and parents. Having these conversations helps the student to take responsibility for what happens next, and they know they have the support of their parents and the teacher. Ultimately, it is important that parents know that the teacher knows their child and that parents know what they can do to help their child. This approach also reflects our work in our School Strategic Plan around Personal learning – 'to enable students to manage and assess their own learning', and our work in the Northern Metropolitan Region's 'Achievement Improvement Program' with one focus on explicit goal setting and reflecting on learning.

How and When?

In order to conduct the 3-way Conferences properly, we will hold the conferences over one day and evening on: Monday, 27th July in Term 3.

We would have like to have held it earlier in Term 3 but the term begins with Swimming for all students in grades 3 – 6 for the first 2 weeks of the term and it doesn't give us a day clear to run the conferences.

Children will be expected to come along to their allotted 3-way Conference with their parents. All class teachers will be involved in conducting their 3-way Conferences on this day and will not be running their normal class programs. If you need to send your child to school on that day for the whole day, there will be an alternative program running for children. We hope that by giving advance notice of the date and purpose of the day that this may assist parents in deciding how they might manage the day and their child's attendance at the 3-way conference. The alternative program will operate with mixed classes and specialist and relief teachers will run class programs across the day where necessary.

From our end, to assist us to manage the day, further information will come home soon in a separate note, requiring you to send back a notice to let us know whether your child requires the alternative program.

Again this is an approach we are trialling as we believe it has the potential to improve the way we communicate with each other around student learning and what and how we are trying to achieve with each student. We will be seeking feedback from parents and students after the 3 way conference day has finished. We look forward to your participation and involvement in this approach.

Please see the article further on in this newsletter regarding 3-way Conferences.

Grade 5/6 Upgrade news

The final works are being completed on the refurbishment upstairs of the double storey building. It has taken longer than anticipated due to the many variations School Council has included from the original contract e.g. insulation in the ceiling; replacement of security system; new cabling for potential digital telephone communication system; improving ventilation through repairs to all windows internally; installation of external sunscreens on the west wall and so on. It is important that all works are finished before moving the classes back upstairs. At this stage, it will be sometime in beginning weeks of Term 3. We will have an official opening so watch out for news of this in the newsletters in term 3.

Thank you Daniel – Grade 5/6 LA13

On behalf of the students in grade 5/6 LA13, parents and staff, I would like to thank Daniel Anderson, relief teacher, for teaching the class in Linda's absence. Daniel has done (another!) fantastic job for the last few weeks with the class and we are all getting used to him in the school

now as he also taught for a few weeks in Term 1 replacing Lynne Barrett in LA2, grade 2/3. In fact, Daniel has been on both the 3/4 Camp to Phillip Island AND the 5/6 Camp to Cape Schank! The students in both classes reported to me that they really enjoyed their time with Daniel. Thank you once again Daniel, we hope to see you again soon. Linda is due back on Monday.

Student and Staff illness

As winter begins, we seem to be experiencing the usual outbreaks of colds, coughs, tummy bugs and general feeling unwell. This is affecting both students and staff at the moment. We have been lucky to have escaped a case of swine flu in our community however, the advice about good hygiene practices that came with it including not sending your child to school if they are ill still applies. You may find a relief teacher in your child's class instead of the usual teacher. If there is something you need to tell the relief teacher about your child, please don't hesitate to let them know before school starts as once the children are in the class, the relief teacher will be focusing their efforts on getting to know the children for the day. If you prefer to let the classroom teacher know, let the office know and we will pass on the message or deal with it that day for you if need be.

2008 Annual Report

At last School Council meeting, we discussed the 2008 Annual Report and noted the strengths. It has now been posted on the school's website for your interest and information. If you have anything you would like clarified or concerns about, or indeed some positive feedback, please email the school.

Warm regards!

Kerrie

THREE WAY CONFERENCES IN TERM 3

At Northcote Primary, we want our students to be the best they can be.

We teach them how to communicate effectively, to ask questions and solve problems, to interact in a friendly way with each other, to learn how to take greater responsibility for their learning, and to celebrate theirs and others' success.

This year we are trialling a different way of sharing children's learning progress and achievements. In the past, after student reports were distributed, parents and teachers would meet for a parent-teacher interview. Student learning issues from the written report would be raised, strategies for future improvement outlined, and parent concerns also discussed. In the past, some students were invited to the parent teacher interview but generally there was no defined role for our students to play in this process.

This year, after student reports are distributed, students will be present at school for a **Three Way Conference**.

This replaces the mid-year parent-teacher interview and is different in its format and content. Students will be sharing their learning progress and achievements with their parents and the class teacher.

What are three way conferences?

In three way conferences, students typically lead by explaining their learning achievements, as well as areas for further improvement. This may include displays of student work across a number of subjects and across a semester.

Conferences are an important avenue for involving parents and students in the learning process and help parents understand the teaching and learning, assessment and reporting process.

Three way conferences have benefits for teachers, parents and schools. Some of these benefits are outlined in the table over the page.

Teachers	<p>Allows for shared responsibility of student learning, assessment and reporting Flows naturally from work produced in class Strengthens communication channels with parents about student's learning and progress</p>
Students	<p>Enhances self esteem by allowing them to share their learning opportunities in a positive environment Critically involves students in self assessment and allows them to take responsibility for their own learning Empowers students as they work toward and achieve learning outcomes</p>
Parents	<p>Increases their understanding of learning and assessment Allows them to participate in the reporting process rather than merely responding to it Provides evidence to support twice yearly written reports</p>

How might 3 way conferences work in practice?

In 3 way conferences, students, parents and teachers have specific roles and responsibilities.

Students:

Students are required to plan and prepare their work for presentation. This may involve a set period of time (e.g. 10 -20 mins). During the conference they should attempt to demonstrate their understanding of the topics that they have completed through discussing and answering questions that may be posed. This enables students to share their work in a confident, assertive and articulate manner.

Parents:

Parents are expected to attend the conference and take an active role in their child's presentation. Parents can offer support and encouragement to students and ultimately, through discussion at the end of the conference, help set achievable learning goals for the child for the remainder of the year.

Teachers:

Teachers help students develop the confidence to share their work and understandings effectively. They play a crucial role in preparing and planning the students' work for presentation and discussion. They may model effective presentation skills. Teachers will also assist with other information for parents regarding their child's learning.

More information about the Three Way Conference will be in forthcoming newsletters. If you have any questions about the process please contact me through the office.

Karen Rush
Curriculum Co-ordinator

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

LA9	-	Thomas N		
LA10	-	Ethan M	&	Ethan C
LA14	-	Lucia S		
LA11	-	Charlie	&	Ella & Mariah
LA12	-	Henry	&	Mirriyindi
LA1	-	Jasper	&	Natasha D
LA2	-	Oliver H	&	Ella HD & Xavier
LA3	-	Jayden	&	Romany
LA4	-	Lucy W		
LA13	-	The Whole Class		
Art	-	Nell (LA13)	&	Ethan M (LA10) & Luca (LA10)
Science	-	Tali (LA12)	&	Flynn (LA11)

SPARE CLOTHES CUPBOARD

Hi everyone. Well we finally have rain and are now ending up with a few wet kids!! We have a spare clothes cupboard at school however it is sadly lacking in clothing at the moment. If families have clothes they no longer need (in good condition) that would fit children from 5-12 years old please contact Jo in the office from Mondays to Thursdays on 9481 0009. Clothing includes items such as tracksuit pants, jumpers, socks, t-shirts (short and long-sleeved), etc.



LA3 GRADE 3/4 COOKING PROGRAM

On Friday 19th June, 9.15 - 11am, Margaret's grade 3/4 class, LA3 will be participating in the school cooking program. Could any parents from this class let me know if they can help with cooking on the day. More details to follow.

Sally Gilder (Spencer's Mum) - email sally.gilder@rmit.edu.au or 94810090

FOUND

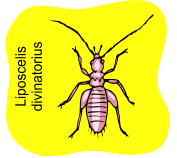
A beanie kid on the turf last week. Please call at the office to collect them.

TISSUES

Please do not forget to send along a box of tissues to your child's class teacher. Thank you!

NORTHCOTE NIT WEEKEND

Due to an increase in the occurrence of these little pests, Northcote Primary School is having a "Get rid of nits" weekend. We would like all families to check (and treat if necessary) their family's hair. See below for the best methods of checking and treating nits and lice (available on the Better Health Channel website). If all families check and treat their hair, we may be able to send the little critters packing!



Head lice (nits) – treatment and control

Head lice are small, wingless insects that live, breed and feed on the human scalp. They do not carry or transmit disease. They have been around for thousands of years and, given the chance, will move from head to head without discrimination.

Head lice facts

A female louse will lay between three to eight eggs (nits) per day in the hair, within 1.5 cm of the scalp. These eggs resemble dandruff but cannot be brushed off. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl. People get head lice from direct head to head contact with another person who has head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together. Head lice are most common among children and their families. If your family has head lice, tell anyone who has had head to head contact with them, so that they can check and treat their family if needed. There is no need to treat the whole family, unless they also have head lice.

Concentrate on treating the affected person's head. There is no evidence to suggest that you need to clean the house or the classroom. The only linen that requires specific washing is the affected person's pillowcase this should be washed in hot water (at least 60°C) or put in a clothes dryer on hot or warm setting for 10 minutes. The itchiness may not disappear immediately after treatment. Persistent itch is not a reason to repeat the treatment.

Finding head lice

Half of the people who have head lice never scratch their head so itching is not a reliable sign. Lice can be hard to spot because they move quickly. The easiest and most effective way to find headlice is to follow these steps weekly:

- Step 1** Comb hair conditioner on to **dry, brushed (detangled) hair**. This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around.
- Step 2** Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.
- Step 3** Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.
- Step 4** Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least four or five times.
- Step 5** If the person has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, you may not have to treat them again since the eggs could be from the old infection.
- Step 6** If lice or eggs are found, the person should be treated.

Treating head lice

The two preferred treatment options available for treating head lice are the 'conditioner and comb' method and the use of an insecticide.

Using insecticide products

Any head lice treatment product you choose should carry an Australian Registered or Listed number. If you use lotions, apply the product to dry hair. For shampoos, wet the hair, but use the least amount of water possible.

Head lice (nits) – treatment and control

Head lice live in the hair and go to the scalp to feed. Therefore, head lice products must be applied to all parts of the hair. Care should be taken when using these products:

- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- In children less than 12 months old
- In people who have allergies, open wounds on the scalp, or asthma.

All products can cause reactions. If you are unsure, check with your chemist or doctor. Insecticide resistance is complex and common, so you need to check that the lice are dead. If the insecticide has worked, the lice will be dead within 20 minutes. If the lice are not dead, the treatment has not worked and the lice are resistant to the product and all products containing the same active compound. Find a product with a different active compound or speak to your chemist or doctor. No treatment kills 100 per cent of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications, seven days apart.

The conditioner and comb method

If you choose not to use an insecticide, the comb and conditioner method described under 'Finding head lice' can be used every second day until no live lice have been found for 10 days.

Head lice combs

Head lice combs with long rounded stainless steel teeth, positioned very close together, are the most effective. However, any head lice comb can be used.

Preventing head lice

There is no product available that prevents head lice. However, tying long hair back and checking weekly for lice, using the conditioner and comb method, can help prevent the spread.

Things to remember

- Head lice have been around for thousands of years and anyone can get them.
- Using the conditioner and comb method once each week will help your family control head lice.
- Head lice do not carry disease.

Where to get help

- Your doctor
- Your chemist
- Your local government health department
- Department of Human Services, Public Health and Development Division
Tel. (03) 9096 0000

HELEN'S HARVEST COOKBOOK

Thanks to the NPS Community. Sales of the cookbook have gone extremely well with over 240 sold to date. They will continue to be available throughout the year (order form at the office).

It's a great reflection of the eagerness of the community to share recipes and perhaps a sign of how desperate some of us are for new meal ideas.

The Cookbook organisers have a great list of people to thank as well as the kids cookbook launch organising committee so here goes:

Issy Ermacora, Lucy Morrison, Lucy Wadelton, Mathilde Ritman, Brigid Kruspe, Julia Harrison, Grace Bennett, Ruby Brockwell-Walsh.

Their responsibilities included drafting newsletter notices and order forms, creating posters, wrapping books, filling and delivering orders and staffing stalls. They all did this with skill, application and great enthusiasm. Again thanks. Your contribution made a huge difference and thank you to all the children who did posters.

Thanks also to:

Jo and Lyn in the office – newsletter, processing orders, accounting and banking.
Linda Batten who facilitated the work of the Kids Committee.
School Council for advancing the funds for printing.

Finally a very big thanks to the school community who shared their recipes and have brought the books. Apologies to anyone we may have left off this list we apologise.

We have ended up with a well edited beautifully designed and illustrated cookbook. Signing off The Cookbook Organisers – Jane Miller, Francesca Coles, Claire Loughnan, Lois Wadelton, Sarah Faulkner, Luisa Ermacora and Helena Cameron.

Building and Grounds Committee - call for new members

Our brief is to both generate projects relating to the buildings and grounds at the school, and to provide advice to school council on these matters. There is a masterplan, that we are working towards completing, with several projects in the pipeline. The Committee also co-ordinates working bees. Meetings are held monthly, on Wednesday nights 7pm start. If you would like to find out more, please contact Rosemary Owen (LA2), or any of the committee members: Jo Brockwell, Shayne Dennehy, Marina Henley, Doug McPherson, Jane Miller, Eric Shulz, Vanessa Walker

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.

Sisters Market - Brunswick Town Hall, Cnr Glenlyon & Sydney Rds, Brunswick on Saturday June 13th from 10 – 4.

Handmade, photography, craft, jewellery, bags, local designers, kids clothing, stationary and more ... Proudly supporting Beyond Blue.

Holiday Basketball Clinic - Introduction to Basketball on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd July, 2009

Head coach: Dale Waters, coach of the Dandenong Rangers WNBL program at **9.30am–3.30pm, Thur; 2nd & Fri 3rd July, 2009.** Where: **Collingwood College, McCutcheon Way, Collingwood Melway Ref: 2C G10**

Cost: **\$60 (inclusive of GST)**

Who: **Boys and Girls in Grades 2 – 6**

All participants will receive a new basketball and water bottle inclusive of their registration fee. **More information and registration forms available on our website:** www.collingwood.basketball.net.au **or call** Jenny Brown on 0419 874 130 or Nigel Rose on 0411 526 384. **Limited places available**

