

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

November

Fri 7 November	Grade 3/4 Excursion to Collingwood Children's Farm
Thurs 13 November	Grade 5/6 Photography Excursion School Council - Parent Forum: 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.
Fri 14 November	Grades 3-6 Triathlon
Tues 18 November	Cultural Performance – Street Sense
Fri 21 November	Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 1 – Preps for 2015
Tues 25 November	Environment Sub-Committee Meeting – 7.00 p.m.
Wed 26 November	Whole School & Grade 6 Graduation Photos
Fri 28 November	Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 2 – Preps for 2015 Last day for Prep-2 Swimming Program

December

Tues 2 December	Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 3 – Preps for 2015
Mon 8 December	Art Walk/Concert & Picnic Tea
Tues 9 December	Grade 6 to Year 7 Transition Day to Secondary School In-school Transition No. 1 – 12.30pm to 1.30pm Grade 3/4 Incursion – Zoom Cooking
Wed 10 December	Art Walk/Concert & Picnic Tea – Back Up Date
Tues 16 December	In-school Transition No. 2 – 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Grade 6 Graduation Night
Thurs 18 December	Grade 5/6 MSAC Excursion
Fri 19 December	Last day of Term 4 – 1.30 p.m. finish



(Assembly item by Preps)

Remember the Stormy Monday that forced assembly to be cancelled? Well, the Grade 1/2s presented their assembly item to each other and to their parents, family and friends that were brave enough to ride the storm out. The Preps held their own Special Assembly on that day to congratulate their students and award them their certificates. Students really enjoy having you be part of their achievements.

We love how we can all adapt to suit the situation too! So, students from the other grades will be receiving their certificates and congratulations at Monday's assembly (10/11/14). They are:

*Finbar K, Rosie O'L, Athena K-F, Tiahna T, Lexi M, Junaid E, Baxter K, Sachin R,
Isaac F, Alec J, Hannah Z.*

Due to the disruptions, we have decided to alternate classes and grades for some doubling up of Pupil of the Week for the rest of term. So keep your eyes on this important list celebrating our student's achievements!! This week's additional Pupil of the Week recipients are from Prep and 5/6M:

<i>00A</i>	-	<i>Myrina K</i>
<i>00N</i>	-	<i>George P</i>
<i>00L</i>	-	<i>Elsie McL</i>
<i>56M</i>	-	<i>Bobassa A</i>

Greetings ...

Our ex-students doing well!

Flynn Gilder-Smith and Esther Bentley, both recent ex-students of NPS, received the Northcote High Meliora Sequamur award for contribution and commitment to the school. There were only 28 students at the school who received the award - 3 at year 7 and 3 at year 8.

Flynn has also been elected to be Year 8 captain next year.

We love to hear how our ex-students are going at their respective secondary schools and we are always very proud of their achievements. Well done Flynn and Esther!

Teacher Learning on Pupil Free Day

On our Pupil Free Day on Monday 3rd November, teachers focused on the development of the new School Strategic Plan, in particular looking at the recommendations from the School Review Report in the sections of student Achievement; Engagement; Wellbeing and Productivity. Part of the day also focused on teacher's Performance and Development plans and the links between the School Strategic Plan and their current goals with Professional learning and development. Teachers spent the afternoon meeting within teams and across teams, moderating their judgements on student samples of work to ensure consistency across the school.

Reminder: Parent Forum Invite

School Council would like to invite all parents to a parent forum on Thursday evening, November 13th, 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. The purpose of the forum is to gather input for school council's review of the school's purpose statement, school values and the environmental context. This feedback will help

form the framework for the development of the School Strategic Plan and is one component of a broader strategic approach to School Council Planning. The evening will be facilitated by an Educational Consultant, Susan Gilheany.

This is a compulsory part of the Education Department's accountability framework that began this year with our school's thorough and comprehensive School Self Evaluation. The School Self Evaluation was then reviewed by an independent Reviewer and a report was written 'School Review Report'. The School Review provides recommendations for the development of the ensuing School Strategic Plan and is focused on Student Achievement; Student Engagement; Student Wellbeing and Productivity.

The review of the Purpose, Values and Context form a vital part of the School Strategic Plan. While this part is going on, staff are working on finalising the recommendations of the School Review. This combined with the community input, will go to the upcoming Education Sub Committee and staff meeting for final input and endorsement by School Council at the December 3rd meeting. Once approved, it will be sent to the Region and to the School Accountability section of the Education Department. The School Strategic Plan will then be reviewed by DEECD and become active for the next 4 year period.

This is an exciting time and we encourage you to come along as your input is highly valued as part of our school community.

Please see last week's newsletter for further detail.

A How to RSVP is located on Page 5. Also, if you are unable to attend and wish to have your input considered, please contact Kerrie or Karen via school email by Friday 14th November.

Class Structures and Student Numbers for 2015

We have been working on our planning for our 2015 student numbers and the possible class structures that might support the children. At this point in time, we have 356 confirmed enrolments, with 68 new preppies for 2015. With enrolment enquiries on an almost daily basis, the total enrolment number may vary by +5 or -5 at least, before the commencement of the 2015 school year.

The confirmed student numbers at the end of February 2015 will determine the amount of human (teachers/staff) and financial resources that we are entitled to in the Student Resource Package from the Education Department. Given the increase in total school enrolments, the school will operate with a 15 class structure to accommodate the anticipated student numbers.

I would like to invite parents to submit your thoughts in writing to the office (email school address, by next Wednesday morning, 12/11/14, on suggested class structures for 2015. Please keep in mind, any models should have lower numbers of children in the Prep, 1 areas and if at all possible, grade 2 classes.

If making composite (2 levels in one class arrangement) or multi-age (minimum of 3 levels in one class arrangement) grades, try and make sure there is a reasonable representation of a single level class in that structure. Also, try and balance the gender representation across the class where possible.

The student numbers may change between now and the start of the 2015 school year and we would have to adjust models accordingly, especially if the Prep numbers were to increase significantly.

Please see the table on page 4 for year level and gender breakdown for 2015. I have included the model that the staff have been working on for your interest as well. I look forward to your suggestions.

Year level	Male	Female	Total	
Prep	29	39	68	68
Year 1	29	26	55	95
Year 2	19	21 *includes one International funded student	40	
Year 3	27	33	60	101
Year 4	26	15	41	
Year 5	24	30	54	92
Year 6	24	14	38	
TOTAL	178	178	356	356

2015 class organisation – staff model

Class 1	Prep x 1	22	
Class 2	Prep x 2	22	
Class 3	Prep x 3	23	68
Class 4	Year 1/2 x 1	23	
Class 5	Year 1/2 x 2	24	
Class 6	Year 1/2 x 3	24	
Class 7	Year 1/2 x 4	24	95
Class 8	3/ 4 x 1	25	
Class 9	3/ 4 x 2	25	
Class 10	3/ 4 x 3	25	
Class 11	3/ 4 X 4	26	101
Class 12	5/6 x 1	23	
Class 13	5/6 x 2	23	
Class 14	5/6 x 3	23	
Class 15	5/6 x 4	23	92
TOTAL:			356

Children home group placement 2015

Given the collaborative approach to teaching and learning that the school has embraced and developed, students now frequently work alongside a range of other students across home groups. In the past when we had single classes only, children and parents were concerned about having specific friends in the same home group. The teacher teaming has made this less of an issue.

Soon, we will be asking the children to nominate friends they would like to be with in 2015. We will commence the *enormous task* of allocating students to home groups, and team learning areas.

If you feel you need to let us know something regarding your child's 2015 placement, please **put it in writing**, and send to Karen or myself via the office or email, by November 14th. Don't forget to **talk with your child first**, as often parents have requested that their child be put in a class with another child, and we find that the child has nominated completely different friends!

Please note, *I do not consider requests for specific teaching staff*, so please don't ask.

**Warm Regards,
Kerrie**



R.S.V.P. School Council Parent Forum

If you are planning on attending the School Council Parent Forum on Thursday 13th November from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., please email the school at: northcote.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au with your name and number of people attending. Please R.S.V.P. by Monday 10th November, 4.00 p.m.



School Council News

School council met last night with a record turn out and lots of enthusiasm. Some highlights from our meeting include:

Chris Thompson was thanked for his efforts on behalf of the Education sub-committee in summarising and celebrating the recent Peer Review Report. Please have a close look at Chris' article in this newsletter and bring your ideas, energy and enthusiasm to the parent forum on school strategic planning next Thursday evening at 7.00 p.m.

Education sub-committee also presented our new sustainability policy for approval. The policy was well received as part of our long-term commitment to practice improvement. It was well complimented by the proposal for a group of grade six students to participate in the annual leadership development program in early 2015. School council has set aside funds to support our team's participation for both the learning opportunities it provides the individual students and the ongoing benefits they generate for all of our students.

We are continuing our development program for the before and after-care house (NOOSHC) and agreed to distribute the current concept plans for costing a feasibility testing.

School council also considered the fee structure for compulsory and voluntary student fees next year. We are working toward a balance between affordability and supporting the increasingly inventive and creative learning needs of our children. More detail on fees will be sent to each family soon.

We also approved a new ICT policy which will allow us to improve the availability and sophistication of IT platforms to students as well as make more efficient use of our limited funds.

My thanks again to everyone on School Council and all those supporting us on sub-committees and other activities. I am very excited about the achievements we have made to date and the great things we have in the foreseeable future.

**Ian Taylor
School Council President**

It's Not Just Our Kids Who Get A Report Card ...

... Our School Does Too!

Every four years, the school receives its Peer Review Report from the North Western Victoria Region. You might recall the Kerrie mentioned it a couple of Newsletters ago ahead of the Education Sub-Committee discussing it at its last meeting. The Peer Review Report looks at the performance of each school and provides feedback that is essential to our understanding of how effective our school is at all levels of our operation and crucial to our forward planning as we develop the school's strategic plan for the next four years.

The good news is, Northcote Primary School passed with flying colours.

But don't just take my word for it. Here are a few of the 'gold star' comments we received in our report.

- ☀ *The Northcote Primary School community has much to celebrate about its achievements during 2010 through 2013. Sustained improvement in student learning from existing high levels is evident over that period, along with high levels of student engagement and wellbeing.*
- ☀ *There is clear evidence that the school adds considerable value to student learning ... students who were assessed in Year 3 in 2011 and again in Year 5 in 2013 reveal the school's results for Reading, Writing and Numeracy exceeded the state mean.*
- ☀ *... very high levels of student cognitive, behavioural and emotional engagement ... consistently higher than those for similar schools and well into the top 10% of all schools.*
- ☀ *Strong, clear leadership deliberately focused on establishing a school-wide framework for teaching practice.*
- ☀ *... a strong, supportive parent community.*
- ☀ *The school promotes the all-round personal development and self-esteem of each student.*
- ☀ *A wide range of extra-curricular activities are also offered including music, camps and sport.*
- ☀ *... a school environment and atmosphere where safety, caring attitudes, quality respectful relationships, consultative decision-making and high educational standards are encouraged.*
- ☀ *... a sharpened focus on supporting improvement and consistency in teaching practices throughout the school.*
- ☀ *All staff members are congratulated on their respective roles and contributions to the improvements.*
- ☀ *The panel's view of productivity performance was very positive. The success of the school over the last four years has been in some measure due to the effective allocation of resources.*
- ☀ *The panel wanted to acknowledge the school's achievements, its leadership, teachers, parents and students, and the benefits that will accrue from current directions.*

The Education Sub-Committee was delighted to read the Report and enthusiastic in its praise for everyone at our school, especially Kerrie and Karen and all the teachers, who were responsible for this excellent result.

And we thought we should share this feedback with the whole school community.

Of course the Report has a lot more to say than just these comments, and it makes some really helpful recommendations for where our energies might be focused in the future. Which is why you should go onto the school website and have a look at it for yourself, especially if you're going to be participating in the Strategic Planning session next Thursday night (November 13 from 7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.)

We don't just get a Report like this by accident. It's the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people and you can be one of these people by participating in the process as we develop our plan for the next four years. Hope to see you at next Thursday's session.

Chris Thompson
(on behalf of the Education Sub-Committee)



Library Help

Our lovely Librarian Susi has broken her wrist (no she wasn't doing her trapeze act) and requires assistance from parents/guardians with the re-shelving of books. The instructions are located on the end of each shelving section however if you are unsure, please call in and see her. Susi is in the Library on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Lost Property

On Tuesday 28th October, an iPod in a blue flip case was left in the school ground near the bike shed. If you have found an iPod fitting that description, please hand it in to the office. Josh C (12T) would be very pleased! It has his name on the case.



Craft Stall (Fete 2015)

Are you crafty? Can you sew, knit, crochet, make jewellery?

Do you have any great fabric, wool or beads hanging around that you would like to donate to be turned into something fabulous?

We NEED You!!! Please contact Stall co-ordinators Amanda O'Donnell or Helen Watson/Noonan via email: amanda.odonnell@gmail.com
hdnoonan@optusnet.com.au

Advertisements

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Office/Studio/Consulting Rooms for rent :

- . Fabulous position on High Street
- . Near tram and train
- . Lots of natural light
- . Bathroom & kitchen facilities

Contact: Patrick on 0438 077 202 or Laura on 0481 092 588



Yarra Bend Golf is holding a Community Day on Sunday 16th November. This is also our Adventure Mini Golf Grand Opening with plenty of exciting things happening including - Competitions, Celebrity Challenge, Jumping Castle, Face Painting and Free golf clinics. Event is run from 10am-4pm. For more information, contact 03 9481 3729 or golf@yarrabendgolf.com



FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

ALMA PARK EAST, 100 ALMA ROAD ST. KILDA
SUNDAY 23RD OF NOVEMBER - STARTING 12 NOON
 FREE BBQ, ENTERTAINMENT, ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS:

MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS, RAFFLES, JELLY BEAN COUNT AND MORE.

EVEN IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND THERE ARE PLENTY MORE OPPORTUNITIES, HERE IS A LINK TO OUR VERY ACTIVE WEBSITE <http://www.singleparentsactivekids.org/> LIKE MINDED SINGLE PARENTS TO CHAT WITH, ACTIVE KIDS WANTING TO PLAY WITH YOUR ACTIVE KIDS, WIN WIN!

“SINGLE DOES NOT MEAN ALONE”

PLEASE RSVP TO Info@Singleparentsactivekids.org Or Call Moush On 0430 504 119.

FREE 125th Anniversary Open Days at the clubs - Sunday 16th November 2014

The Royal Park Tennis Club and The Princes Park Bowling Club are celebrating a joint 125th Anniversary with both clubs opening their doors to the public through Open Days that are free of charge. Starting at the tennis club from 12pm with free tennis including Hot Shots courts and give-aways. The day will progress across the road to the Bowling Club at 4:30 where the public can join in free bare foot bowls for the afternoon. Both clubs will be offering food and refreshments for sale. Please contact either club for further details.

FREE

BIKE CONFIDENCE TRAINING FOR PARENTS

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER
 Preston West Primary School
 9.30am-12pm OR 1.00-3.30pm

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER
 Bell Primary School
 9.30am-12pm OR 1.00-3.30pm

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER
 Bell Primary School
 9.30am-12pm OR 1.00-3.30pm

the place to live

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT RIDING WITH YOUR KIDS, CITY OF DAREBIN IS OFFERING FREE HANDS-ON TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN OR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Working in small groups, an accredited trainer will cover issues such as:

- Who rides in front?
- Crossing roads and driveways
- Road and footpath rules
- Transition from footpath to road

BOOKINGS

stephanie.preston@darebin.vic.gov.au or 8470 8506

Note: You will need to bring your own bike along.

www.darebin.vic.gov.au/traveltoschool

CITY OF DAREBIN



National Relay Service

TTY dial 132 677 or
 Speak & Listen
 1300 555 727
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WEP

Experience The Magic Of Hosting

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose the right student for your family and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home!

Nine (15) from Thailand enjoys playing basketball, golf, swimming, camping, reading Japanese manga, drawing and playing the piano. He is excited to learn all about Australian lifestyles and to meet new people.

Giulio (17) from Italy loves music! He plays both the electric and acoustic guitar. As well as this, Giulio is extremely athletic and previously played basketball, soccer and volleyball. He currently enjoys going to the gym and also does acrobatic gymnastics.

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact me today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

- Sylvia Kelly, Inbound Program Manager

Enrich your home with a curious exchange student in January 2015

Request student profiles now to find out more!

www.wep.org.au 1300 884 733 info@wep.org.au