



# Newsletter

Issue 1 – 5 Feb 2015

No. 1401

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## Important School Diary Dates for 2015

### February

9	Mon	Welcome Picnic
10	Tues	Environment Committee Meeting: 7pm – Staffroom
12	Thurs	Grade 5/6 Incursion
16	Mon	Q&A Session 5.30-6.30: Grades 3/4 & Italian (Rosa)
17	Tues	Q&A Session 5.30-6.30: Grade 5/6 & PE (Krissy)
18	Wed	Q&A Session 5.30-6.30: Grades 1/2
19	Thurs	Q&A Session 5.30-6.30: Preps & Art (Lisa)
25	Wed	School Council Meeting

### March

11-13	Wed-Fri	Grade 3/4 Camp
14	Sat	NPS FETE – 10am - 4pm
18-20	Wed-Fri	Grade 5/6 Camp
23	Mon	Athletics Carnival Day
27	Fri	End of Term 1 – 2.30pm finish

## PUPIL OF THE WEEK

00LW	-	Eliza S
00N	-	Flo M
00W	-	Tatjana G
12DN	-	Eliza T
12S	-	Rosie O
12T	-	Tommy V
34A	-	Jonathan Hii
34D	-	Thomas S
34K	-	Elly H-H
34KL	-	Billie T-M
56C	-	Andrew I
56E	-	Jai H
56N	-	Hannah K
56S	-	Lachlan G
Library	-	Imogen N, Alicia C, Leah C

## Greetings from Kerrie ...

### **Welcome back to 2015!**

Welcome back to Northcote Primary and a special welcome to our new students and their families, and our new staff. We are delighted that you are all part of the wonderful Northcote Primary School Community! I hope you all had a relaxing break over the holiday period. We have had such a great start to 2015 and are so looking forward to an exciting year of learning together.

### **Welcome to New Students and Families**

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new students and their families: Felix, Ronan and Shantaye in year 6; Vera and Marcus in year 5; Olivia in year 4; Otto and Grace in year 3; and Monty in year 1.

### **Welcome back to our returning students and families**

Harry in year 6; Harrison and Caleb in year 5; Evie and George in year 3; and Yulhan in year 1.

### **Welcome back and welcome to our New Staff**

This year we have 4 new staff working at our school, although all of them have been in the school in previous years as relief teachers.

- Laura has joined the Prep teaching team;
- Leah has joined the 3/4 team;
- Nicole and Emma (replacing Margaret Barrett on Long Service Leave) have joined the 5/6 team; and
- Keziah has returned from family leave to join the 3/4 team.

I congratulate all the new students, families and staff, for settling in so well and already becoming part of the Northcote Primary School Community.

The beginning of the school year is one of our favourite times - there is such a great buzz around the school, with staff keen to meet their students and begin classes and students excited about seeing each other and the next year of learning.

### **Our new 2015 Preps and families**

We have 65 brand new Preppies, beginning school for the very first time, last Thursday. It is a significant and exciting time for these students. As families you will see so many changes as your child grows in age, size and maturity and develops their interests over the school years. We support them as they develop into emerging and independent thinkers with curious minds and keen and successful learners.

We are very proud of the way they have settled into school helped along by their experiences from Kinder, their participation in the school's comprehensive Ready, Set, Go Program, their dedicated older buddies from grade 6, their very proud and supportive families, and our excellent Prep teachers, Linda, Natasha and Laura. Welcome to our school both 2015 Preps and new families.

We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure they positively contribute to their own learning and fulfil their potential.

**Congratulations on becoming part of the wonderful Northcote Primary School Community!**

## Year 6 Buddies

The Year 6 Buddies have been very conscientious at their role as big buddy to the new Preps.

They have lived up to our expectations of them as leaders in the school. They were all so very excited (and a little nervous) about the Preps first day of real school and they eagerly met their new little buddies just before recess, shared morning tea together and got to know each other.

The big Buddies have given the new Preps the opportunity to explore the school environment at recess and lunchtime whilst feeling safe and supported.



Whilst on yard duty, I have seen the Big Buddies playing with their little buddies on the equipment; showing them the playground toilets and taps and delivering them to line up when the bell goes. Thanks Buddies, you are all doing a great job and are very good role models and leaders for other students in our school too.

## School Council Project completed over the holidays – Upgrade of the staff area

A much needed upgrade of the staff room area was undertaken over the holidays. It is such a well-deserved treat for the staff who have put up with working in the ‘old 70s tired looking staffroom’ for years. School Council recognised that staff needed to have a professional looking environment to work in and allocated funds to this project. All staff are delighted!



### Thank you Ainslee 😊

Ainslee, member of the Environment Committee and mum of Isabelle and Sterling, project managed the upgrade. A fantastic outcome, thank you so much Ainslee for the time and effort you put in to the project.

## Class newsletters and parent email addresses

A hard copy notice has gone home to each child to request parent’s email address for the purpose of teachers creating a distribution lists for emailing out team newsletters. Please reply by email to the teacher listed on the notice specific to your child. Replying by email saves our teachers hours of transcribing email addresses to create a group list.



## Coping with Hot weather at school



regularly.

We have had very easy, mild summer weather so far, highly unusual for this time of the year, but this is about to change this week. On days of high temperatures, we run a ‘Hot weather Program’ during lunchtime (generally called if temperatures exceed 33 degrees between 1.30 – 2.30). We give students the choice of either being outside in the shaded areas only, or inside in the cooler classrooms. Students are supervised by teachers whichever choice they make. If children are outside, they must wear a hat and are encouraged to hydrate

## Coming important school events ....

**Welcome Picnic – Monday 9 February (see information distributed via email and notice given to children on Wed 4 Feb).**

### **'Q & A' / Information sessions for Parents / Carers for all year levels in 2 weeks**

Teaching Teams from each year/home group levels will present an overview about curriculum content and how it will be presented in your child's learning area. In order for parents/carers to attend all siblings information afternoons, we will run the sessions throughout the week as below. Sessions will be held in each of the learning areas and will be for an adult audience, so parents will need to organise childcare for their children.

The sessions will be held from 5.30 – 6.30pm sharp. Refer to "Dates section" of the newsletter for your child's session.

Notices will go out very soon and will ask you if you are able to attend and let us know of any questions that you may have already so that we can customise the information to your collective needs where possible. Please note, the Q&A forums are not suitable for children to attend. I look forward to seeing you at one of the sessions.

### **Our 2015 Fete is coming!!!**

And finally ... in case you may not know ... our fete is coming!!

Please read the Fete News in the newsletter and if you haven't yet put yourself down for something ... you can do so on the night of the Picnic Tea! I look forward to your contribution to our community day on the fete day.

Come and join in, you won't regret it.

### **School Council Elections**

School Council elections are now scheduled to be held early in Term 1. The important key dates for nominations and elections are listed in the Newsletter – stay posted.

Information regarding school council roles and responsibilities are available from the school. Our Sub-committees will be meeting in the next couple of weeks. Families are welcome to be part of these committees – School Environment; Education; Community and the Northcote Out of School Hours Care (NOOSHC). See key dates for times etc.

### **School Council Elections**

The process of the elections remains unchanged from previous years. There are 4 parent and 3 DET positions that will be available for nominations this coming election. Like most government school we will work to the following timeline:

<b>Fri 13 Feb</b>	Notice of Election and Call for nominations (forms available from the office)
<b>Fri 20Feb</b>	Nominations close 4 pm
<b>Mon 23 Feb</b>	Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside School Office
<b>Mon 2 Mar</b>	Distribution of ballot papers to each family (by mail if necessary)
<b>Tues 10 Mar</b>	Close of ballot at 4:00 pm.
<b>Wed 11 Mar</b>	Counting votes and declaration of the poll
<b>Mon 17 Mar</b>	From this date the new council is able to meet
<b>Wed 18 Mar</b>	Annual General Meeting at 6.30, Council 7.00pm (members attend both)

Information for parents regarding sub-committees is available on the website: [http://northcoteps.vic.edu.au/?page\\_id=1866](http://northcoteps.vic.edu.au/?page_id=1866)

**Warm Regards, Kerrie**

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## School Council Elections 2015 - Information for Parents

### What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

### Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category** – more than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected DET employee category** – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional Community member category** – members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the member's term expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

### Great opportunity for parents!

School Council is a fantastic opportunity for parents to be directly involved and have input into policy development and directions of the school. School Council members are an enthusiastic group of parents and staff, who bring their skills & experiences to contribute to the smooth running of the school.

We deal with such an interesting range of issues that School Council members will tell you that they enjoy their participation and find it very satisfying to follow issues and projects through. Meetings are twice each school term for Council, with prior sub-committee meetings.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our current School Council President, Ian Nunn, or myself, or any other School Council member. Contact can be made by leaving a message (email is fine) at the office and this will be passed on to the School Council member.

### Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

### How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

### Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an *interest in your child's school* and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

### **What do you need to do to stand for election?**

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

### **Remember...**

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do;
- Consider standing for election to council this year; and
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

**Contact the principal for further information.**

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## **Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations**

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Northcote Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged **by 4.00 pm** on Friday **20 February 2015**. The ballot will close at **4.00 pm** on **Tuesday 10 March, 2015**.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<b>Membership category</b>	<b>Term of office</b>	<b>Number of positions</b>
<b>Parent member</b>	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015.	4
<b>DEECD employee member</b>	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015	3

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

### Contacting the School via Email

If you need to contact the school, please send your enquiry to the school email: [northcote.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:northcote.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au), rather than Jo's email address. If Jo is not present in the office, your enquiry will be missed until she returns.

### Fees for 2015

Parent statements regarding fees and voluntary charges will be posted home next week.

### Lunch Orders

To order lunches for children, please go to [www.classroomcuisine.com.au](http://www.classroomcuisine.com.au). Please note there are no lunch orders on TUESDAYS.



### Playground Supervision

Just a reminder that students should not be in the school grounds unsupervised. The school gates are usually open at 8.30, however, teachers start duty at 8.45 am. Please make care arrangements at the Before Care Program if you need childcare and supervision in the morning before 8.45am.

### Signing In and Out of School

All visitors and classroom helpers attending school need to sign the 'Visitors Book' at the office and collect a badge on arrival at school. When you are leaving the school, please sign out and return your badge. This is to ensure that we know who is in the school at all times – for safety and emergency purposes.

## FETE NEWS!!

### MUSIC

**'Do you play a musical instrument, have a singing voice, or play in a small band?'**

Ever dreamt about being on stage? This year the fete is having a children's stage where any student can get up in front of their peers, family and community and perform as part of the Northcote Primary school fete.

If you are interested or would like to find out more information, please put your name and grade on the sign up sheet in the school office and someone will be in contact with you shortly.

**Your Fete Music Team – 'Anthony and Melody'**



### SILENT AND LOUD AUCTION

If you have goods or services you would like to donate **OR** you have a great relationship with a local supplier please get in touch with me ASAP.

**Weekends at holiday houses have been a huge success in the past and raise loads of cash for the school. If you have a holiday house, or even have a friend or family member who would be willing to donate a weekend that would be fabulous.**

Contact me on 0422 004 962 or [flgenie791@gmail.com](mailto:flgenie791@gmail.com) Thank you , Fiona Lang (Dane 3/4 and Eliza 1/2)



The school fete is just over FIVE weeks away, on 14<sup>th</sup> March! It's a wonderful community event and a significant fundraiser for our school. All funds raised will go towards improving the school grounds, including the new "Block" for the 5/6's. So, please get involved in any way possible! [npsfete@gmail.com](mailto:npsfete@gmail.com)

### 2015 NPS Fete Coordinators

Please introduce yourself to Susan & Brooke when you see them at school or at the picnic. They would be thrilled for people to approach them and chat everything Fete (or drop them an email at [npsfete@gmail.com](mailto:npsfete@gmail.com)).



Have you seen our Facebook page? Please "like" it and share it with all your friends. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northcote-Primary-School-fete/585991008187452>

**Fete billboards** Do you or someone you know have a house or a business on Victoria Road? we are looking for a spot to post a Fete billboard on that street. Please contact [npsfete@gmail.com](mailto:npsfete@gmail.com) if you can help.



This week, we are highlighting the following three second-hand stalls: Books, Clothing, and Toys & Bric-a-Brac. The contact details of each stall coordinator are below. Please contact them if you can assist in any way. We will be posting information soon about volunteering on the day of the Fete. In the meantime, please leave all clean & sellable donations in the hallway near the office (outside the library).

### Books

Catherine Hart  
chgcbj@bigpond.com  
0414 445 081  
Jai (Grade 5)

### Clothing

Julie Todaro  
julieangelatodaro@icloud.com  
0439 391 345  
Marcus (Emma's 5/6)  
Olivia (Dane's 3/4)

### Toys & Bric-a-Brac

Pauline Ioannou  
psendejo@yahoo.com  
0418 336 754  
Austin (Stephanie's 1/2)  
Sienna (Natasha's Prep)

Fete Newsletter No 1 is on the website if you'd like to view it: [http://northcoteps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Fete\\_Newsletter\\_No1.pdf](http://northcoteps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Fete_Newsletter_No1.pdf)

NPS Fete Newsletter No 2

February 2015

## Advertisements

The Dept. of Education (DEECD) 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 (DEECD) or this school for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

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### **NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL - TOURS AND OPEN DAY 2015**

*School Tours commencing Mon 9 Feb*

School day tours for prospective parents and students run several times per week in Term 1 and early Term 2. The tours depart from our foyer at 9.15 am and take about one hour. See our website for exact dates. Please ring to book a place as numbers are limited (9488 2300)

*School Open Morning - Tuesday 28 April*

Open Morning will be held on Tuesday 28 April between 9 am and 12 noon. All prospective parents and students are welcome, and there is no need to book in advance for this event.

Northcote High School, St, Georges Rd, Northcote, 3070, Australia. Phone 9488 2300

### **Cat Protection Society of Victoria**

#### **Our Aims:**

- 🐾 To find suitable homes for un-owned, stray and surrendered cats wherever possible.
- 🐾 To assist with reuniting lost cats and their owners.
- 🐾 To provide best practice facilities and services for the care of homeless cats.
- 🐾 To provide sustainable low-cost veterinary services for the treatment of owned cats from low-income households in the local community.
- 🐾 To address cat overpopulation by promoting and supporting the de-sexing of all cats, other than those specifically used for breeding by a registered cat breeding business.
- 🐾 To promote and advocate for national, State and local government measures for the improvement of cat welfare.
- 🐾 To work cooperatively with other organisations that share similar philosophies to CPS Victoria.
- 🐾 To humanely euthanise cats which are not suitable for re-homing.

# Cat Protection

Society of Victoria

**ADOPT a CAT or KITTEN**

🐾 desexed 🐾 microchipped 🐾 vaccinated  
🐾 and go home in a free carry box



200 Elder St.  
Greensborough, VIC  
ph: 9434 7155  
[www.catprotection.com.au](http://www.catprotection.com.au)  
e: [info@catprotection.com.au](mailto:info@catprotection.com.au)

### **Support for busy Parents - Before Kinder/School & After Kinder/School Care**

My name is FIONA IRIA. I am a Cert III qualified childcare worker, with Police Check, Working With Children Check and Car licence.

I live in Thornbury and can offer the following services to you:

- Collect your child from home and take to kinder/school;
- Collect your child from school/kinder and take them to my house until you are able to collect them;
- Provide any meals they may require during those times;

If you would like to meet with me to discuss how I could help you, please call me on 0470 040 325 or email me on [fahima0011@yahoo.com](mailto:fahima0011@yahoo.com).