



Northcote Primary School Newsletter.

Issue 11 · 29 Apr 2021

Mon 3rd May - Pupil Free Day

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Important Dates & Information

Important Dates 2021

Watch this space for future dates

Term 2

April

Fri 30th - TriSkills starts for Grade 3/4s

May

Mon 3rd - Pupil Free Day - No School

Mon 17th - Photo Day

Tue 25th - Fri 28th - Grade 5/6 Camp at Somers

June

Mon 14th - Public Holiday - NO SCHOOL

Friday 25th - Last day of term 2, students finish at 2:30pm

Important dates from Northcote High School

NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL ACE PROGRAM

- **8 Feb 2021:** Applications open for Year 7 2022 ACE program
 - **23 April 2021:** Applications close **4pm**
-
- **8 May 2021:** ACE Testing Day onsite at NHS commencing at 9am



Greetings from Kerrie

Beeeyootiful farewell for Ross from the children!

This morning we all gathered in the great hall for our very first assembly in over a year. A sea of yellow and black greeted Ross (retiring Assistant Principal) as the children swarmed in, abuzz with excitement (sorry, can't help myself with all the 'bee' references) as they had been keeping a secret for two weeks.

Ross received presentations and gorgeously drawn cards and messages and handmade books from each cohort of children. Then the biggest surprise of all the 'Farewell to Ross' song. I've never heard the children sing so beautifully. Brought a tear to many of the staff eyes and Ross definitely had a big lump in his throat. Ross thanked the children after the song and talked to them a little bit about what he will do when he retires from school. We are compiling the film footage taken and hope to have it available for you to see too.

Welcome David, Natasha and Michelle

David Cauchi will commence in the office tomorrow and will eventually replace Grace. Grace's last week is next week. Natasha B, (not our other Natasha on family leave) will also commence part-time in the office on Monday.

Michelle will commence in the 5/6M class, replacing Melissa who is Acting Assistant Principal, replacing Ross!

We warmly welcome the new staff to our school.

Prep Enrolments for 2021

Tours for prospective parents will commence next week and will continue every Tuesday until the last week of this term. Every Tuesday morning, you will see a group of interested, curious parents, learning all about our school. We have had many enquiries and bookings already and tours are filling up fast.

If you know of any parents who are considering schools for their children for 2021, please let them know about our great school, and to ring our office to book in for a tour.

Siblings commencing Prep in 2021 – enrol now!

If you are a current family with children in the school and you have a child due to commence in 2021, I strongly advise you to fill in an enrolment form and lodge it at the office. Once tours commence, enrolments will fill up fast and we'd like to ensure a place for siblings of current families as soon as possible.

Warm regards,
Kerrie Williams



Farewell from Ross

Dear Parents, Carers and students

After a forty year career in teaching and twenty years of that at Northcote Primary School, I have decided to resign from my position as Assistant Principal. I joined Northcote Primary School in October 2000 and taught students from all grade levels before being successful with my appointment as Assistant Principal. I have many fond memories from these years and in particular of the students that I taught and the colleagues I worked with.

I have always had a passion for teaching and have loved my time at Northcote Primary School where I have had so many opportunities to connect with students, parents and colleagues. The communities at Northcote Primary School have always created an environment where everyone is welcome and valued. Over the years this has sustained my motivation, energy and interest in teaching and learning.

For a number of years I have been keeping bees in my garden and in the backyards of family and friends. I discovered that they are amazing creatures that are so essential to our environment and that their honey is delicious. Over the last two years this has expanded to the point where it has become a small business. Harvesting honey, capturing swarms, creating hives, breeding queen bees and teaching others how to work with bees has taken over my weekends and holidays. I have decided that this is where much of my time in the future will be spent.

I have also discovered that bee keeping is a very social pastime, I not only lose track of time with the colonies of bees I work with but also in the conversations I have with people who are so interested in the life of bees.

I will cherish the memories of this morning's bee themed farewell from students and staff and the song that they sung, 'Ross, Honey Honey' it was truly amazing and brought both a lump to my throat and tears to my eyes.

I say farewell but not goodbye as I do intend to stay in touch. Thank you for your support and the many kind wishes.

Ross Bennie



House Athletics

Last term we had our House Athletics Competition at the Coburg Athletics Track and what a day it was we had near perfect weather conditions all day. It was great to see everybody decked out in their house colours cheering on their houses. I saw a lot of ribbons being handed out (625 if anyone was counting) and a lot of fun being had (over 9000 fun had). We worked hard during the term to get ready for athletics day and all the training paid off with everyone doing really well and contributing some valuable points towards their house totals.

Speaking of points, the results for the 2021 House Athletics are as follows; in 4th place we had Yellow House with a total of 692 points, in 3rd place Blue House with a total of 708 points, in 2nd place Green House with 770 points and in 1st Place Red House with 782 points.

Congratulations Red House on being the 2021 House Athletics Champions.

I would also like to give a huge thank you to everyone who helped set up and helped the events all run, the day would simply not be possible without your help. Another huge thank you to everyone from the Northcote community who came out to support and cheer on our athletes the atmosphere at the track was amazing and I'm very happy we were able to allow spectators to come along. And finally, one last thank you to our House Captains and Vice Captains for encouraging and supporting the younger years.

I would also like to introduce our new perpetual shield that will be displayed in the front office and inscribed with the winning house each year.

If you have any feedback from the day feel free to email me
(dale.mclean@education.vic.gov.au)

Thanks Dale





Join Education Sub Committee

EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE - WANT TO TRY IT OUT?

The Education Sub Committee of the Northcote Primary School Council is a great way to get involved in the school. The group, made up of parents / carers, teaching reps, Principal and Vice Principal consult on education related matter that impact your child at NPS.

The next meeting is Monday 3rd May at 7pm. It couldn't be easier to try it out - it's an online meeting. If you can't make the meeting this month, there will be another next month.

If you are interested, please contact Andrew Murphy (convenor and member of School Council) for the link andrew1978murphy@gmail.com



Teaching your kids about consent

The concept of respectful relationships, including consent, has been discussed at a school level for some time, but it hasn't yet gained universal traction with families. Lacking confidence and unsure where to start, many parents have struggled to make headway in this area. If this sounds familiar, these ideas will help you make a start.

Establish home as a safe place to talk

Is your home a place where children can talk about any topic? Sexuality and relationship education are subjects that many parents place in the 'let's talk about this when you are older' basket.

Professor Kerry Robinson, who is in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology and the Sexualities and Genders Research Network at Western Sydney University advises parents to be factual when answering children's questions, emphasising the importance of staying informed about the subject kids are interested in.

In a recent article in The Guardian, she said "... have it set up early with your child that when they talk about certain things you give open, simple, honest answers. Then you set a precedent that you can build on."

Professor Robinson also advises parents not to fob off children's questions: "Straight away you're setting a pattern of not answering and putting it off. Kids learn really quickly that this is a taboo subject. They will talk to their friends about it: they won't talk to their parents and other adults about it because it's taboo."

Teach no means no

Children learn about mutual consent through their play and sharing. A child who doesn't want to share their toys has a right to be left alone, rather than being scolded to change their mind. A parent who withdraws a privilege in response to a teenager's poor behaviour shouldn't be subjected to repeated attempts to negotiate a different outcome. Reinforce with children and young people that a no is not an invitation to ask again.

Emphasise choices

Framing behaviour as a choice is a central consent strategy for children or all ages. A young child who shares a toy with a friend can be told, "Good choice Harry. Now you can have fun together." A primary school child who completes their homework assignment early can be reminded, "Now you've got plenty of time to relax. Smart choice." The teenager who quietly helps you prepare a meal can be told "You could have done anything after school, but you chose to help me. I appreciate that."

Teach kids to seek consent

Another important component of consent is that children and young people should also develop the habit of seeking consent from others. "Ask your sister if it's okay for you to play that game next to her." "Ask grandma if she feels like a cuddle right now." Permission-seeking is another piece in the respectful relationships puzzle that you can reinforce with kids.

In closing

The best age to start teaching your children about consent is when they are young. The second-best age is whatever age they are right now. Consent education is too big an issue to ignore or leave to schools to manage. It's something we all have to commit to if we want real change to occur.

Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.



Pupil of the Week

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Prep

00A - Anita - Cillian W
 00 R - Roisin - Holly H

Grade 1/2

12L - Laura - Oliver B
 12O - Olivia - Lennon C
 12KS - Keziah/Skylah - Charlotte C
 12G - Leah - Antigone W
 12S - Stephanie - Charlie McA

Grade 3/4

34N - Nicole - Magnus S
 34S - Steve - Hugo I
 34H - Heather - Joshua B
 34LP - Lisa/Penny - Nahzi T

Grade 5/6

56L - Linda - Grace H-M
 56M - Melissa - Scarlett B
 56S - Sharif - Phoebe M
 56J - Jennifer - Arjun C