IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Mon 17th February  
Grades 3/4 Information Session – 5.30 to 6.30 pm

Tues 18th February  
Grades 5/6 & PE Information Session – 5.30 to 6.30 pm

Wed 19th February  
Grades 1/2 Information Session – 5.30 to 6.30 pm

Thurs 20th February  
Prep Information Session – 5.30 to 6.30 pm

Thurs 27th February  
Last Day for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Forms

Wed 5th Mar-Fri 7th Mar  
Grade 5/6 Camp

Monday 10th March  
Labour Day Public Holiday – No School

Tuesday 11th March  
Pupil Free Day – No School for Students

Saturday 15th March  
Northcote Primary School Annual Fete

Wed 19th March  
National Ride to School Day

Wed 19th-Fri 21st Mar  
Grade 3/4 Camp

Mon 31st March  
Whole School Athletics Carnival

Thurs 3rd April  
Whole School Athletics Carnival – Backup Date

Friday 4th April  
Last Day of Term 1 – 2.30 pm finish

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

- 00B  
  Bailey H

- 00L  
  Niamh M

- 00N  
  Amelie M

- 12D  
  Kai S

- 12J  
  Jorja N

- 12S  
  Lily P

- 12T  
  Jonathan P

- 34A  
  Badhatuu A

- 34D  
  Daniel O

- 34K  
  Bella F

- 34R  
  Erin G

- 56C  
  Isabella B

- 56M  
  Monkhed & Bellissa

- 56S  
  Menzies C
Greetings from Kerrie!

Student (and Parent!) Achievement
Well done all students at the Twilight Picnic and fun Evening! Thank you to all families who came along, on a very pleasant summer evening, to our annual welcome picnic and fun events on Monday evening. It was a very enjoyable evening with many laughs and good natured competition amongst our participants.

The events ranged from 3-legged race (who were those dads carrying their child?!?!); hoop races; sack & hoop races; tree, rock and bridge race; bean bag race and didn’t we love the creativity of the mixed sports event that tested the imaginations of our year 2’s and their parents with tennis, soccer, synchronised swimming, skiing and the wonderful ballroom dancing!

We were all very impressed with the skills displayed by parents and we think the children had fun too! I would also like to thank parent school councillor, Ian Taylor, who welcomed us, Martin Bush, our fete coordinator, who got us all fired up and the staff for their attendance after hours and for their organisation of the activities. Thank you also to all parents who cleaned up and packed up and went home at closing time!

Our School Fete is coming!!
With only a few weeks to go, activity around the school is noticeably picking up. Our school fete is our community’s major fundraiser for the year and a big day where we ask our entire community to contribute in some way.

Do you have your name down yet?
Many parents have already been working on getting stalls ready for the day but we are at the stage where we need those gaps filled on the volunteer roster. If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to make contact with our fete coordinator, he’d love to hear from you. Call Martin Bush on 0417 160 009 if you can assist.

Put yourself down for an hour or two or whatever you are able to do, it will be much appreciated and of course funds raised go to a very good cause – improving our school for the children. Get involved, many hands make light work.

School Council Elections 2014

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 state-wide 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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) 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 DEECD 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 co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.
Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members 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 sub-committee meetings held in the weeks prior to each School Council meeting.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our current School Council President, David Jacklin, 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.

Council Membership expiring this year
The parents & DEECD members whose membership expires this year are:

- **Parents:** Ian Taylor  Annabel Thorpe  Catherine Hart  Victoria Harrison
- **DEECD:** Dane Noble  Ross Bennie

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.
- DEECD 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. Contact the principal for further information.
- Consider standing for election to council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections if they are held.
Schedule 3: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

First School Council Election

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 21 February 2014. The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Wednesday, 12th March, 2014.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Are you interested in joining the Out of School Hours Care sub-committee?
The committee is looking for some new members who are interested in ensuring our Out of School Hours program and facilities continue to provide high quality before and after school care for our school students. The committee meets twice per term, at the school, from 4.00pm to 5.00pm. If you are interested, please contact Kerrie (Principal) at the school.

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.

‘Q & A’ / Information sessions for Parents / Carers for all year levels
I look forward to seeing you at one of our Q&A sessions next week. The sessions will be held from 5.30 – 6.30pm sharp. Refer to important dates section of the newsletter for your child’s session.

Warm Regards,
Kerrie
Classroom Helpers Training  
**Wednesday 5 March, 9 – 10am in the Staffroom**

If you would like to help in the classroom, we invite you to come along to our training session. The session will cover confidentiality, strategies to use when working with students in groups and one to one, and will introduce you to some of the teaching aids used in class.

Classroom helpers undertake a variety of tasks including hearing children read, assisting students to select their take home book for reading, supporting small group tasks, and laminating and labelling resources. As helpers are working with students it is essential that school protocols around safety and confidentiality are clearly understood. It is also important for helpers to understand some of the language of learning that teachers use so that they can support students positively and with confidence.

To register, email rush.karen.m@edumail.vic.gov.au or call 9481 0009.

**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.

Karen Rush  
Assistant Principal

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**FETE NEWS!!**

- The roster is up in the office area. Please put yourself down for a shift. Some stalls still need someone to coordinate on the day - can you help?
- There are also postcards and posters in the office area. Please take some and letterbox your street. Don’t forget to mark it off on the map.
- Can you donate any goods or services to be auctioned? Please let me know.

Look out for next week’s newsletter for information about tickets and donations.

Martin 0417 160 009

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**National Ride to School Day!! – Wed 19 March**

Wednesday 19 March 2014 marks the eighth National Ride2School Day, where over 250,000 Australian students, just like yours, will ride, walk, scoot or skate to school, many for the first time.

National Ride2School Day is about celebrating active travel within the school day and encouraging those who haven’t started to give it a go. Commit to a healthier 2014 and create an active travel culture within your school community.
Three reasons to participate:

- Join over 250,000 other students, just like yours, across Australia
- It’s a great way to get fit, healthy and contributes to the 60 minutes of daily recommended physical activity for students
- Students arrive alert, more attentive and ready to learn

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.

Fitzroy Junior Football Club – Registration Day

For new players who wish to play in 2014, a Registration Day will be held at the Alfred Crescent Club Rooms on Alfred Crescent on Sunday February 16th, 2014, from 9 am until 12 pm. Intending players will be asked to provide the Club with a copy of a Birth Certificate or Passport and complete a Registration Form. Registrations cannot be processed until we receive the Birth Certificate or Passport. Payment of Registration Fees must be made on the day. The fee for 2014 will be $205 per player.

Players wishing to receive a subsidy should contact the club via our web site email address, or ring one of the Committee members as listed on our site.

Registration Fees do not include Shorts or Socks, these may be purchased from Northcote Sportsmart.

If you have any questions please contact registration@fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au

Hi, my name is Piroska and I’m a mum from NPS. I’m a Personal Trainer at Jetts in Northcote. I’m organising “All ladies” outdoor training classes at All Nations Park opposite Degani’s. The classes will be held on Tuesdays at 9.30 am and Fridays at 7.00 pm. The cost is: Jetts members $15/class or $50/five classes and non-members $20/class or $75/five classes. First sessions are FREE. Each class runs for 45 minutes. Come and join me 😊 If you are interested, ring me or leave a text on 0412 889 401 or just meet me at the park at the times above.

DramaZone

Wednesdays: 4:00pm – 5:00pm  Tutor: Liz McColl  Venue: SPAN Community House, Clyde St, Thornbury

Term 1: 12 February – 2 April

Unleash your child’s imagination through drama! Through a range of fun games and activities, your young performer will have the chance to increase their confidence, gain drama skills and make new friends.

Classes run by a qualified Drama Teacher and Professional Actor. For more information please contact: Liz McColl on 0438 974 201 or email: dramazonewithliz@gmail.com

Kids Saturday Basketball - Ivanhoe Knights

Competitive team basketball for girls and boys from ages 7 and up

Basketball is a good introduction to team sport for kids. No prior basketball experience is necessary for children of any age. The Ivanhoe Knights Basketball Club is holding a Registration Day for the Winter Season (school terms 2 & 3) on Saturday 15th February 2014, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at Ivanhoe East Primary School, Warncliffe Road, Ivanhoe East (Melways Ref 31, J9).

The cost is $110 per player for early registration or $120 per player on registration day plus uniform. The Ivanhoe Knights have beginner to advanced teams in all age groups. New players are welcome. The Winter Season runs from April to September (excluding school holidays and long weekends).

For further information go to: www.ivanhoeknights.org
What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?

- If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmo, Accmor and Butecon) as well as a spacer while at school.
- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan.
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly.
- Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms.
- Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool).

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 178 462 or www.asthma.org.au

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FREE BIKE CONFIDENCE TRAINING FOR PARENTS

City of Darebin

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.

You will need to bring your bike along and sessions are limited to eight people, so sign up early.

Bookings: stephanie.preston@darebin.vic.gov.au or 8470 8506. All participants receive a quality D-lock.

www.darebin.vic.gov.au/cyclingintoschool

SAT 22 FEB
9.30am-12pm OR 1:00-3:30pm
Bellarine Primary, Preston

SUN 23 FEB
9.30am-12pm OR 1:00-3:30pm
Proston West Primary

SUN 2 MAR
9.30am-12pm OR 1:00-3:30pm
Proston West Primary

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Interested in playing Saturday basketball?

Girls & Boys Under 9 – Under 19

Register online at:

www.collingwood.basketball.net.au

or attend
Registration Day
Saturday 15th February

Collingwood College gym
McCutecheon Way, Collingwood
10.30am – 3.00pm

New players welcome

Players must register and pay by 23rd February
to ensure a place in a Winter team

Enquiries: Megan Rouse 0417 106 490
manager@collingwoodbasketball.com.au

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SealPony Soccer is a developmental & participation program that introduces boys and girls aged between 5-10 to the game of football (soccer). It focuses on teaching the basic skills.

* Fun games & activities * Great giveaways
For more information call Joe (0415-388-028)
E-mail: jyamen@optusnet.com.au

Time: Every Sunday Morning
Starting Date: 9th of March 2014
Registration Date: Saturday 10 am - 11 am
22nd of February 2014
Address: James Street Reserve
Heidelberg Heights 3081
NATIONAL RIDE 2 SCHOOL DAY
WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH
RIDE • WALK • SCOOT • SKATE
Be part of the fun!

Attention all girls!
Aged 4-13
COME & TRY SOCCER DAY
DAREBIN WOMEN’S SPORTS CLUB
Sunday 23rd February
A.H.Capp Reserve, Halwyn Cres, Preston
9.30 – 11.00am
Darebin Falcons will run programs for girls aged 4 to Under 14’s in the 2014 season.
Get active, make friends, have fun ... try soccer!

New Under 14’s team in 2014
falcons.org.au
For more information contact
soccer@falcons.org.au

Dive-in movie night!
AT NORTHOTE AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE
Live music
Jumping castle
Face painting
All proceeds go to the Swim-a-thon

Fun family movie night
GHOSTBUSTERS
FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY
6PM - 11PM
$10/PERSON
TICKETS ARE LIMITED

Dive In. Help Out.
Australia's Biggest Swim
Sunday 2 March 2014
Every child deserves to learn to swim.