IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Wed 19 - Fri 21 Mar  Grade 3/4 Camp
Wed 26 Mar  Annual General Report 6.30 p.m. (see Kerrie’s column RSVP essential)

School Council Induction & Election of Office Bearers - 7.00 p.m.

Sat 29 Mar  Earth Hour from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.
Mon 31 Mar  Whole School Athletics Carnival
Thur 3 Apr  Whole School Athletics Carnival – Backup Date
Fri 4 Apr  Last Day of Term 1 – 2.30 pm finish

Pupil of the Week
(Assembly by Grades Prep)

00B - Myrina R
00L - Henry R-H
00N - Vicky K
12DN - Adam B
12J - Eena S
12S - Georgia K
12T - Lailie M
34A - Octave M
34D - Max M-M
34K - Molly B
34R - Christos K
56C - Leo R
56M - Everett O
56S - Arky W-G
Greetings from Kerrie!

A wonderful school fete!
Weather reports were dodgy and everyone was consulting the BOM site throughout the day however, we were not to be deterred by any little old weather report!! To our good fortune, the weather was absolutely lovely after all.

Early Saturday morning saw our families emerge and within a few hard working hours, the village had arisen and was ready to go, all in our school grounds!

Everyone had on their best smiles to welcome ours and the broader community, we were ready to go. Dane's (teacher) band struck up to set the mood aided by the aroma of freshly brewed coffee from the gorgeous vintage coffee car thanks to our expert barista, Tom Hay (Minnie’s dad). People soon bought some beautiful home-made cakes to go with their delicious coffees.

The Crafts Stall attracted the crowds and they moved on to the jams, sauces and chutneys stacked up and ready to go on Helen’s Harvest Stall. Catherine and crew, who headed up the wonderful Book Nook, had people involved in some serious ‘poring over’ of bargain titles to add to their reading collection and then on to the Silent Auction to chance a bid.

The second hand toys drew the kids like bees to honey with many bargains to have whilst the stylish ones made a beeline for the Hair, Nails & Face Paint and then over to the Vintage Clothes to pick up some real bargains.

The children flocked to the rides, the Giant Inflatable Slide, the Cup & Saucer, the Chair-O-Plane had them all laughing, as did the Tombola and the Lucky Dip. The Tunnel of Terror proved just as popular as in years gone by. We had some brave volunteer students offer themselves up for the Dunking Machine and plenty of ‘friends’ and family members to assist with the dunking! There was so much for the kids to do!

After all that energy, then there was the food, glorious food! The smells of the famous BBQ with Duncan & Sophie firing up all those hot plates, sausages sizzling, veg patties grilling, yum! The Salad Bar drew so many ‘mmmmms’ with the delicious salads on offer, as did the Sushi Bar and Pete’s divine little Poffertjes. The kids headed straight to the Kids Treats stall, filling their pockets and mouths with sweet delights while the fairy floss whipped about their hair and ears!

The Loud Auction, with Angelo from Ray White Real Estate, expert auctioneer, got underway, encouraging the crowd to dip into their pockets and snap up a bargain. Fine beverages were sold over at the Bar while the crowd were entertained by the talented bands playing up on stage.

So much to see, so much to taste, so much to smell, so much to hear.

The children had such a fun time, the adults relaxed and once again, it all came together at our Annual NPS Fete! Such a great feel to the day with everyone doing their bit to help out.

Thank you all
A very super huge THANK YOU to all of our community (parents, children, staff, friends of parents and staff, ex-NPS students) for giving up your time, enlisting others, and generously supporting the success of our fete.

In particular, the very hard work of our extraordinarily calm co-ordinator Martin Bush.

On behalf of our community, thank you to Martin, (first time fete co-ordinator) for his tireless work, enthusiasm, drive and energy to make our fete so successful. I know there was a core group supporting him, and we extend our thank you to that group as well as all Stall Co-ordinators and parents who worked on the day, before the day and behind the scenes.
Thank you to our students
There were many current and ex-student volunteers assisting with stall set up, serving on stalls, helping with games and at the end of the day, helping clean up.

Clean up & pack down
I would also like to thank all parents, staff and children who were involved in the ‘after fete had finished’ clean up. Many hands made light work and we were finished in around 2 hours with the school grounds and buildings returned ready for school on Monday.

Thank you Ian and Tony
Our fete maintenance people, who worked tirelessly prior to, during and after the fete, sorting out bits and pieces – big and small.

Thank you Phil
Phil, our sparky, who makes sure we are plugged in properly!

Fete Administration
Thank you to Ian Nunn, Charles Larkin, and Lyn Ramsay, for the important job of fete administration.

We are still processing fete payments and reimbursements so can't tell you yet how much was raised but will be able to let you know next week.

Email from one of our families re the fete

“Dear Kerrie, Karen, Teachers, and Martin Bush!!

Congratulations on such a successful Fete yesterday.

It was such a positive and happy atmosphere, a lovely feeling of the Community all coming together and pitching in towards supporting NPS.

Myself and 4 other NPS families, as well as 3 non NPS families had an easy fun experience. We all enjoyed delicious Sausages, treats from the Cake stall, and watched our kids have a great time on rides and other activities.

We finished the day listening to the delightful music and marvelling at how calm and well organised the day seemed.

Congratulations to you all and Thank you so much for all the substantial efforts it must have taken to co-ordinate.

Kind regards
Erin
( Parent of Audrey C, Prep B)”

Annual General Meeting
On Wednesday, 26th March between 6.30 and 7.00pm, the school will hold an Annual General Meeting to present the 2013 Annual Report to the School Community. The Report provides an analysis of school performance data in Teacher Judgement, NAPLAN, Student Attendance, Student Attitudes and the Financial Report for 2013.

Some of this data is currently on the Myschool webpage and the Annual Report will later be posted on the School Website.

If you would like to attend the Annual General Meeting, please email the school by Monday, 24th March, 12.00 p.m. (northcote.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) If there are not enough attendees, the meeting may be cancelled. If this is the case, we will send out an email to notify you.

Important information - Student Accident and Private Property Insurance
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), and government schools, do not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the
cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Reasonable low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development also does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors.

Students are advised not to bring any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school and are not allowed to bring any electronic toys and games to school.

Warm regards,
Kerrie

Volunteers in school
Thank you to the many parents and grandparents who have completed the Volunteer Agreements and returned them to the school office. At my last count we have 40 volunteers on our school register, helping in classrooms!

If you have forgotten to fill out your form, please collect one from the office. If you have a Working with Children Check card please provide this when you return the form so we can make a copy. All schools now need to keep a register of volunteers with WWC checks.

Thank you and appreciations to all our volunteers working in classrooms!

Karen
Assistant Principal

Lost Property!!!

Dear students, parents and friends,

A friendly reminder- please ensure that all of your child’s belongings are clearly labelled with their first and last name.

If you feel your child has lost an item, please check back regularly, as sometimes they go unnoticed for a few days out in the school yard.

With students on camps, the baskets get particularly full. Please try to help keep our baskets empty by paying particular note to what your children are leaving for school in, and coming home with over the last two weeks of term.

We’re now at the end of term 1 and our lost property baskets are looking rather full.

Lost property can be collected from the hall entrance near 1/2SJ and the Prep room (verandah area).

Lost property should be collected by parents. However, students can accompany you when browsing. Please leave the area neat & tidy.

You can collect lost property just prior to the beginning of a school day, and just after the bell rings for the end of day.
Lost property for the term will remain there until the end of each term. All lost property left in those baskets at the end of the term will be donated to The Salvation Army in the last week.

Happy browsing ;)
Found At The Fete!

- A pair of sunglasses
- A child's small handbag
- Security keys
- A bunny security blanket

If any of the above items belong to you, please call in at the office.

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Fete Pics

Round and round and round we go, where we stop, nobody knows!

Aaaarrrggghhhhh me hearties there's treasures to be found!!!!!!!
Every Day Counts – School Attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.
Main Points

- The National Guidelines for the Safe Restraint of Children Travelling in Motor Vehicles have been developed by Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) and Kidsafe – The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia.
- Children of different sizes and ages need different types of restraints. The guidelines recommend that children use a booster seat until they are too tall for the booster seat or can achieve good seatbelt fit as assessed by the 5 Step Test.
- A good adult seatbelt fit is generally not achieved before children are approximately 145-150 cm tall or 10-12 years of age. The Child Restraint Guidelines also recommend that children under 12 years of age are safest in the rear seat.
- The Guidelines include an easy 5 Step Test to assist parents to assess whether a child is ready to use an adult seatbelt. VicRoads recommends parents use the 5 Step Test to ensure their children’s safety at all times.
  - Can the child sit with their back against the vehicle seat back?
  - Do the child’s knees bend in front of the edge of the seat?
  - Does the sash belt sit across the middle of the shoulder?
  - Is the lap belt sitting low across the hips touching the thighs?
  - Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?
- To access the Child Restraint Guidelines, see: www.kidsafe.com.au/crguidelines

Advertisements

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Diakosmos Dance Academy – Holiday Program 8-10 April, 2014. Brochures are located outside the school office.

Looking For Volunteer Host Families

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2014. Our students from Argentina, Italy, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, and South America are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

"Wonderful - joyous - heartfelt. An absolutely wonderful idea and so beneficial for all involved, from family to school friends. We truly feel Enrico is another member of our family."

Marie - host mother of Enrico (Italy)

Hosting Is Fun! Find Out more!

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. To help you make this important decision, contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.

Sylvia Kelly
Manager – Inbound Exchange Programs
Phone: 1300 884 733 Email: info@wep.org.au Online: http://www.wep.org.au
Bright Sparks Creative Workshops
Holiday Program - April 2014

Bright Sparks is a creative arts program designed to help children learn about themselves and develop a sense of inner strength, promoting confidence, resilience and general wellbeing.

Children create artwork that is meaningful to them and share their creations and experiences with one another. Sessions are run by an Art Therapist and cater to small groups of children from Prep to Grade 3.

10.30am - 2.30pm April 8, 9 & 10
$170 / $150 for a 3 day course or $60 per session
Jika Jika Community Centre - Corner of Union and Plant Streets, Northcote

Bookings essential by Friday, April 4.
Contact Naomi on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au