Greetings from Kerrie!

Student Achievement
Preps running our whole school assembly!
I think there was a collective ‘bursting of pride’ in our school hall at assembly on Monday, as a group of our Preppies took the stage and ran the whole school assembly. It was so well done and we all smiled in amazement at their confidence and development. My, how much they have learnt in just a term! It was very special when the whole school joined in with the Preps, to sing along to ‘Mr Clickety Cane’. The year 6 buddies were supporting their little buddies by joining in the actions too.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 29 Mar</td>
<td>Earth Hour from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 31 Mar</td>
<td>Whole School Athletics Carnival – No Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 3 Apr</td>
<td>Whole School Athletics Carnival – Backup Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4 Apr</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1 – <strong>2.30 pm finish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 22 April</td>
<td>Term 2 begins at 9.00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 19 May</td>
<td>Education Week Begins</td>
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I heard on the grapevine that one little preppy was so excited about her Pupil of the week award that she slept with her certificate on Monday night! It is fantastic to see the preps already developing and demonstrating their sense of pride in their achievements at school. Those values are important to us and it is something we collectively and consciously, work on as their teachers, parents and buddies. Well done team, those Preppies are ‘rockin’!

**Sensational Somers Camp**

I have heard so many positives about the Year 3/4 camp down by the sea at Somers. Every child I have spoken to has enthusiastically rated the camp at an all-time high, with ‘awesome’, ‘fantastic’, amongst the many superlatives used to express how they felt about it.

These camps are so successful and safe, because of the work done behind the scenes in planning, preparation, checking the fine details, adjusting, and then the 3 days ‘on alert’ for the teachers, parents and camp staff. I would like to thank the 3/4 staff: Katinka, Dane, Andrea and in particular, Ross, team leader, who took overall responsibility for the co-ordination of the camp. Great work teaching team, your 3/4 students have had an experience they will never forget (read article further on in newsletter). I would also like to thank and acknowledge the parent group (see article) who supported the teaching team. The parents took their role seriously and were actively involved at every level across the 3 days. Without the parent support on camps, we couldn’t run them.

**New School Council President and Vice President**

Last night, the newly elected 2014 – 2015 School Council met. The agenda comprised an induction component for our new members and the election of officials.

I am delighted to announce our new office bearers:

President: Ian Taylor (father of Stella in year 2)
Vice President: Chris Thompson (father of Gully in year 3)

On behalf of the school community, I thank both Ian and Chris for accepting these important roles in our school. I look forward to working with both Ian and Chris and the rest of the School Council members over the term of this council.

Ian has an article further on in the newsletter for your information.

**Our Fete raised ....**

Martin (Fete Co-ordinator) and Ian (Finance committee convenor) have been working behind the scenes to determine the net tally of funds raised at our fete this year. Ian believes we have raised around $30,000+!! An outstanding effort from everyone involved, whoooo hooo! There are still some reimbursements to come in to be claimed, so if you have any receipts out there, from expenditure from the fete, please get them to the office asap so we can finalise payments and the net amount raised.

**Farewell and thank you to Paul, Art teacher**

As the term is drawing to a close, we farewell Paul Allen, who has been the replacement art teacher whilst Lisa has been on Long Service Leave. Paul has been a pleasure to work with and we have been delighted with the approach he has taken with the children and developing their responses to their art work. Paul is an artist himself, with a focus on sculpture, and has used his expertise to challenge and teach the children about visual arts. On behalf of the NPS community, I would like to acknowledge and thank Paul for the term of visual art at our school and having such a lovely manner with the children. We wish Paul all the best for his future and hope to see him around our school again sometime.

**Warm regards,**

Kerrie
From Our New School Council President
The new school council met for the first time last night. Thank you to those members who have just joined and those who are continuing in this vital role. School council formally acknowledged the great work of both David Jacklin, who stepped down as Council President (but remains on School Council) and Catherine Hart as Vice-President. Thanks also to the other outgoing school council members, Victoria Harrison, Annabel Thorpe and Dane Noble.

School council congratulated Martin Bush and his fabulous team for the outstanding success of the 2014 fete. It was a great day and fun for young and not so young alike. It also raised in excess of $30 000. These are much needed funds for improvement projects across the school. Well done to everyone involved.

Kerrie provided the new school council with an overview of school council responsibilities and roles. A detailed review of the 2013 Annual Report impressed us all with the efforts of students, staff and the community as a whole. The results are very positive and stand out in the report. They represent a significant and concerted effort from the staff team and reflect the great achievements of our students.

It is clear that school council has some interesting and exciting challenges ahead. This year we will establish a new four year plan, pursue a number of vital building projects and continue to build on the solid foundation we already have. All the school council sub-committees have full agendas for the year. They are a great place to make a contribution and to find out what can be done to make Northcote Primary even better. Please talk to the convenor of at least one sub-committee to see what you can do to help.

I encourage everyone in the school community to get involved.
Ian Taylor
School Council President

Classroom Helpers Training #2
Wednesday 2 April
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.

One of the actions that we need all visitors and classroom helpers to do is 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.
To register, email rush.karen.m@edumail.vic.gov.au or call 9481 0009.

Karen Rush
Assistant Principal

Fete News
I would like to add my appreciation for all of the stall coordinators, volunteers, kid helpers, school staff and parents who worked behind the scenes. The fete takes an enormous amount of effort from many people and it is only able to raise money for the school because all of this time is volunteered.

I would also like to put a shout-out to all of the businesses who supported our fete with their donations: major sponsors Ray White Northcote, Harvest Wine & Liquor and Rose & Crown Jewellers, as well as all of our other

These businesses generously donate goods for free to help fund our school so please keep that in mind and support them when you can.

Of course it’s never too late – planning for next year’s fete starts now! If you have a particular contact with one of these businesses or there is another business that you think should be added to the fete contact list, or if you are at all interested in helping plan for next year please drop me a line.

Finally, I am interested in hearing any feedback from the fete. In particular, what was the balance of experiences for the different age groups? The fete caters for pre-school, younger school-age, older school-age and high school children. If you think there was something that was particularly good, or not so good for a particular age group, please do let me know. The more feedback we get, the better position we are in for planning next year.

Martin Bush
Fete Co-ordinator

Lord Somers Camp
Last week the grade 3s and 4s went on a beach camp to Somers. We had the best weather with each day being fine, sunny and warm. So warm that there was no need for wetsuits but everyone needing large quantities of sunscreen. All students were challenged by the different activities, especially those that were in the water. The camp site was beside Merricks Creek with access to Somers Beach over a wooden footbridge. When the tide was up, the canoeing and stand up paddle boarding was done in the estuary and creek and when the tide was low all water activities took place in the sea. While some groups were paddle boarding and canoeing they were visited by an inquisitive pod of dolphins that got very close – what an amazing experience for our students.

Activity groups also bush walked along trails beside the beach and into the Coolart Wetlands where they observed water fowl and even a large Koala. The food was wholesome and there was plenty of fruit to snack on each day. On our last night we had a concert with a variety of funny skits, singing and impromptu performances. This week while reflecting on the camp the students have unanimously
voiced that this was their best camp ever, so we will see if we can rebook it for 2016.

The 3/4 team would like to thank the energetic and highly committed parents who helped us run the activities and manage the students (Craig Hedger, David Shackleton, Olga Kastoras, Mikael Ekholm, Nicole Oke and Richard Unsworth). They did a fantastic job and got special mention from the camp managers who were impressed by their willingness to always pitch in and help out. Also thank you to all the staff who attended. I am sure everyone who came on camp slept well over the weekend.

Ross Bennie
3/4 Team Leader

Secondary School Information
Tours in 2014 - for Year 7 Prospective Parents and Students
Please ring our office on 9488 2300 to reserve a place. Tours start at 9.15 am and take about one hour
Term 2, 2014 dates are listed on our website. Tours will end in mid-May.

Open Morning - 2014
Open Morning will be on Thursday 24 April, 2014, from 9.15 am - 12.00 noon
Information sessions will be held through the morning. A repeat information session will also run at 7 pm on Thursday 24 April. The open morning is a great way to see the school in action. (There is no need to book for this event)

ACE Program Yr 7 entry - 2015
Northcote High School's ACE program is now in its 18th year of operation. Applications Close: Thursday 24 April 2014, 12 noon
Test Date: Saturday May 3, 2014
Please see our website for details.
Local Community Minded Family happy to House-sit for six months

Family of five happy to house-sit for six months, from mid-June while their house is being renovated. Will pay rent and happy to look after pets but please no children. We do have two elderly dogs of our own; that sleep a lot and three rabbits. If you are interested ring Sharon, the clean freak on 0411 308 637 or Doug, the techno guy on 0416 033 805.

Guarantee

1. Well looked after home.  2. Well looked after animals.  3. Cash in bank.

Disclaimer: Cannot guarantee holiday

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Join the Orkeztra Glasso Bashalde for an Earth Hour concert of Balkan, Turkish, Klezmer and Australian tunes this Saturday March 29 at Northcote Uniting Church Hall (251 High St). Supper and chai included. Tickets on the door: $15/10 (families $25).
Basketball Clinics - April School Holidays
- Beginners, Experienced & Advanced
- 7th – 11th April
- 7 years+

Beginner Programs - Saturdays commencing 3rd May
- Aussie Hoops 5 – 8 years at 9am & 1.30pm
- Mini Ball 7 – 10 years at 10am & 12.30pm

Tuesdays commencing 6th May
- All Star Hoops grades prep – 3 at 4.30pm
- Mini Ball grades 3 – 6 at 5.30pm

Access for All Abilities - Saturdays commencing 3rd May
11.15am – 12.30pm. For children 6 – 16 with special needs

For more information and to register go to www.collingwood.basketball.net.au
Enquiries: Megan Rouse 0417 106 490