IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Fri 25 April  
Anzac Day Public Holiday – **NO SCHOOL**

Thurs 1 May  
Triskills Begins for Grades Prep to Four

Fri 9 May  
Grades 3/4 Excursion – The Human Body

Sun 11 May  
Mother’s Day

Mon 12 May  
Education Sub-Committee Meeting (see page 5)

Tues 13 May  
NAPLAN Begins for Grades 3 & 5

Wed 14 May  
NAPLAN for Grades 3 & 5

Thurs 15 May  
NAPLAN for Grades 3 & 5

Mon 19 May  
Education Week Begins

Tues 27 May  
School Photos – Order Envelopes going home next week

Wed 4 June  
Prep-Two CSIRO Toy Incursion

Mon 9 June  
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday – No School
Welcome back everyone!
So lovely to see you all back at school, ready to start Term 2 and I trust that you all had a relaxing break over the Easter and term holiday period. My how the autumn weather has come along and made us scurry to our wardrobes to hunt down our coats and umbrellas. I must say, I do enjoy the changes and welcome the autumnal rain and milder conditions and all that they bring.

Welcome to our new students
We would like to warmly welcome a new family from Brisbane via New Zealand, to the school: Connor in Prep and his older sister, Natasha in Year 1. Welcome to the Northcote Primary School Community.

Learning focus in Term 2
Preps
The Prep Inquiry this term is focused on Community. The preps are learning about similarities and differences and roles in communities. Today, the preps learnt about the role of the school crossing supervisor. Alan, one of our local crossing supervisors, came along to help the preps understand how to work with other important people in our community to keep themselves safe. Alan was so impressed with all of the preps that he made a special effort to come to the office after the lesson, to let me know that the Prep children were very good listeners and that he gave them 10/10 for behaviour! Well done Preps!

Year 3/4s
Anyone visiting the 3/4 area today would have thought they were in a hospital or laboratory. Two of the teachers were dressed in surgical gear and the children were launching their term 2 inquiry into the Living Systems and cycles, focusing today on the musculoskeletal system.

The children were divided into groups and rotating around different activities: Anatomy (Heart, lungs, brain); Music and percussion with Song about human body; Heart rate & physical movement; viewing, reading and recording – skeleton with a computer learning program called ‘Whack-a-bone’ where the children have to match and move, the correct bone into the body.

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It was all ‘systems’ go as the children gasped and squealed, conversations were abuzz and became riveted to their learning.

**After School Supervision**
Just a reminder to parents that the school yard is supervised by a teacher on assigned yard duty from 3.30 – to 3.45pm every night after school. The after school yard duty role for the teacher is to supervise the yard whilst the children are leaving the school to go home; to lock all gates except main Helen street gate, toilets and bike shed, bring in the crossing flags and locate any children who are still in the yard by 3.45 and have not been collected by family. Children are encouraged to leave the school grounds after school, immediately, and make their way home. That way, we are able to ascertain which children need to be sent to the office so we can call parents and find out what is happening for them.

Parents in the yard after school can support the yard duty teacher by exiting the school by 3.45pm and if they notice any child remaining, send the child to the office.

**Group Tours for Prospective Enrolments 2015**
We are commencing our group tours for prospective enrolments this term and already have many of our tours booked out. Every Tuesday morning starting from May 20th, you will see a group of interested parents learning about our school. We have had many enquiries and tours are booking up fast and at the moment, the first available tour at this time is not until early June. If you know of any parents who are considering schools for their children for 2015, please let them know about our great school, and to ring our office to book in for a tour.

**Siblings commencing Prep in 2015 – enrol now**
If you are a current family with children in the school and they have a sibling due to commence in 2015, 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.

**Fact sheet for parents and carers – new suspension and expulsion procedures from the Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD)**

Every member of a school community has the right to feel safe at school. As a parent or carer you should be confident that you are sending your child into a safe and supportive learning environment.

Suspension and expulsion are serious disciplinary measures and should be used as a last resort in managing a student’s behaviour.

As of 1 March 2014 changes have been made to how suspension and expulsion processes work in government.

The grounds for suspension and expulsion have also been updated to better enable principals to prevent and respond to behavioural incidents that may compromise the health, wellbeing and safety of staff and students. The grounds for suspension and expulsion can be found at: [https://education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/discipline.aspx](https://education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/discipline.aspx)

**The relevant person – ensuring students are supported**

It is important that every student has a person to support and advocate for them throughout a suspension or expulsion process. The new guidance on suspensions and expulsions has introduced the concept of a relevant person, which is the adult who will play this important support role.

**In most cases a student’s relevant person will be their parent or carer.** However, you as the parent or carer can also nominate another responsible adult to act as relevant person if you cannot, for whatever reason, take on this role yourself.

The role of the relevant person does not replace your role as parent or carer with regard to responsibility for decision-making about your child’s education, and for their enrolment and attendance at school. Rather,
it has been introduced in recognition of the fact that students come from diverse family backgrounds and that a parent or carer may not always be able to act as a support person for their child.

The principal will speak to you about who this person will be.

The suitable persons list

In some cases, a parent or carer may be unable to act as the relevant person for their child during a suspension or expulsion process, and may also be unable to nominate another adult to fulfil this role.

In these situations the school principal will appoint a person from the ‘suitable persons list’ to act as the student’s relevant person. The suitable persons list is a register of departmental employees with relevant welfare expertise, experience and training.

This is to ensure that every student has somebody to support and advocate for them.

Meetings with the school principal – the behaviour review conference

A principal is required to hold a meeting, called a behaviour review conference, when an expulsion is being considered for a student. The student and their relevant person must be invited to this meeting to discuss the student’s behaviour and possible consequences and strategies to address the behaviour.

The relevant person can also request a meeting with the principal at any point during an expulsion process if they have any concerns.

The relevant person – whether parent, carer or another adult – may bring an independent support person to any school meeting as long as they are not acting for fee or reward.

When suspending a student, principals are not required to hold a meeting with the student and relevant person either before or after the suspension, but the relevant person can request a meeting with the school principal at any point during the suspension process if they wish to discuss any concerns.

If you are unable to resolve your concerns with the school principal, you can contact the relevant department regional office to discuss further. To contact your closest region office see: Contact Us

Expulsion appeals

A student who has been expelled has the right to appeal their expulsion the relevant person may exercise this right on their behalf, taking into consideration the student’s views and best interests.

The school must provide every expelled student an appeal form along with the Notice of Expulsion.

More information

For more information on suspension and expulsion processes, see:
- Procedures following suspension brochure (link)
- Procedures following expulsion brochure (link)

Warm regards,
Kerrie
**Education Sub-committee Meeting**
Next meeting will be 6.30pm on Monday 12th May in the staffroom. 
All members of the school community are welcome. Please advise Miles Callaghan (Liam C’s dad from grade 2) on miles.callaghan@bupacare.com.au if you intend to join the meeting.

Many thanks
Miles

**Parent Information: National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)**

http://www.naplan.edu.au

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be conducted on Tuesday 13 May, Wednesday 14 May and Thursday 15 May 2014.

Most students at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in schools across Australia will be completing literacy and numeracy tests on the same days. The results from the national literacy and numeracy tests provide a measure of how Australian students are performing in the content strands of numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

These tests will include:
* Language Conventions incorporates spelling, grammar and punctuation.
** Numeracy incorporates Number, Space, Algebra, function and pattern, Space, Measurement, chance and data.

Years 3 and 5 teachers here at Northcote PS are preparing and familiarising students for the tests, by providing examples of ‘how to sit a test’, content and format.

It has been recommended that parents and carers can best assist students by making them feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests. They can assure their children that the assessments will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class. Parent information and test samples are available on the website http://www.naplan.edu.au or by contacting your child’s classroom teacher. **If parents and carers do NOT wish to have their child take part in NAPLAN please see your child’s teacher.**

**Timetable for National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2014 at Years 3 and 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Tuesday 13 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Language Conventions* 40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Language Conventions* 40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
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</tbody>
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**Andrea Read** - NAPLAN Co-ordinator
Hello All,

It’s great to be back and I am looking forward to catching up with all the news as well as getting to know our new (Not so new now!) preps.

This term will be all about clay and there will be lots of different projects going on. Below is a rundown of what each area is up to.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Paul who kept everything moving so beautifully and by all accounts was a great fit for the school.

**Years 5&6:**
Students are working with clay. We are looking at creating our own dwellings after looking at homes from around the world as well as the architects Frank Lloyd Wright, Robyn Boyd and Fender/Katsilidis. Students will practise making a small piece to iron out problems such as getting rid of air bubbles, not making sections that are too thick or thin, etc.

Soon students will have a 2 hour class on so that they can start and complete their piece in the same day and put a lot of imagination and effort into it. When the pieces have been fired, there will be lots of choices as to how they will be decorated.

**Years 3&4:**
The 3/4s will be mixing clay with a bit of weaving by making ceramic looms to create some interesting wall hangings. They will also be using Chinette plates to sketch a background for a striking, woven tree. The focus is on using a variety of natural materials.

**Years 1&2:**
The students are going to explore the world of fish and their habitat. We will be finding out what is needed to have a fish tank and then we will make our own ceramic fish bowl and fill it with colourful fish, pebbles and weed. If there is time, the students will also make a pinch pot using the techniques they have learned.

**Preps:**
Apart from getting to know our youngest students, we will be looking at clay suns from Metapec, Mexico. These are used for decoration, expressing warmth and life-giving energy. We will also use our new skills to create a face wall plaque.

Here’s to a busy and productive term 2!

Regards,
Lisa

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**5 Cent Drive is Back!**

Don’t forget to keep collecting your 5 cent pieces and bringing them to your classroom!

Cheers, Claire (JSC Teacher Representative)
How emptying the dishwasher can build independence

You can learn a lot about a family by knowing who clears their dishwasher. Who empties yours?

The choice of who empties the dishwasher in your family tells a great deal about your parenting philosophy.

If you or your partner usually do it then I humbly suggest that you maybe working too hard. You’re letting your kids off the hook.

On the other hand, if one or all of your kids (over the age of three) have this job then congratulations. You’re traveling down the road toward redundancy, and your children are heading toward independence.

Many parents would love their kids to do this task but pragmatism (“It’s easier to do it myself”), lack of faith (“They’re sure to break something!”) and unwillingness to let go (“it’s my job after all”) get in the way.

Why the dishwasher?

Good question. Here are seven good reasons:

1. These days almost every house has one, and it’s a job that just has to be done!
2. It’s fiddly and tedious, and it needs to be done right, which is a great lesson for kids to learn.
3. Kids learn that everything has a place in the kitchen, which is a great lesson for those who are organisationally challenged. Knowing their way around the kitchen is also an important first step toward children making their own snacks and preparing meals – a worthy aim!
4. It’s emptied every morning/day, second morning/day so kids learn about routine.
5. As it needs to be emptied whether they feel like it or not, kids learn about grit (the ability to stick at a task even though it’s boring) and self-control (through delaying gratification) – two important character strengths that contribute to kids’ success.
6. If they don’t do it then who will? It teaches kids that others rely on them, as well as the other way around. Believe me, I see many young people who’ve never learned this lesson at home.
7. Kids are hard-wired to help but they need the opportunity to do their bit at home. The dishwasher is the perfect opportunity that never goes away!

There are plenty of other reasons for putting the dishwasher on the kids’ chores list, but that should be enough to get you thinking.

Okay, but does it have to be the dishwasher?

Smart parents put principles into practice to suit their circumstances.

So, if you buy into the notion that kids should routinely help at home without being paid, and that your aim is to make yourself redundant – but getting them to empty the dishwasher just doesn’t cut it in your world – find a similarly regular, laborious task that they can do that will also benefit others.

No dishwasher? You have an advantage

Of course, families without a dishwasher have a great communication mechanism at their disposal. That is, one person washing (a parent) and the other drying (child/teenager) provides a fabulous shoulder-to-shoulder parenting opportunity. As many parents have discovered, when a child or young person’s hands are busy their tongue suddenly loosens up and the chat happens naturally.

Gradually, then suddenly

If getting kids to help is an uphill battle then I suggest you don’t let up. Keep expecting them to help. Keep working on a chores roster and keep at your kids to do the right thing. One day it will all click and helping out will become habitual, hardwired into their brains so that helping out becomes neurological as well as psychological.

That’s why ‘gradually, then suddenly’ is a really useful parenting mantra. The Australian cricket team’s recent success can be attributed to this approach. They’d been gradually improving by doing all the right things throughout 2013 without success and then suddenly it all clicked in the Australian summer. But that’s another story...
Positive Behaviour Support Workshop

For Parents and Carers of Children and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder
(see eligibility criteria below)

Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based three (3) day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Workshop in the Western Region of Victoria.

More than 1200 families have participated in Aspect’s Positive Behaviour Support workshops across Australia. Post workshop evaluations showed an effectiveness of the workshops, with participants reporting decreases in challenging behaviours and increases in confidence and capacity to support their children and young adults.

**When:** 21st, 22nd & 23rd May, 2014  
**Where:** Moonee Ponds Bowling Club - 776 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds, VIC, 3039  
**Time:** 9:30am-2:30pm (9:15am for registration)  
**Cost:** FREE (Tea, coffee & biscuits provided ~ participants to bring own lunch)  
**Registration:** Register online at [www.autismspectrum.org.au/registration](http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/registration)

Please note: You may search for this specific workshop location by entering the location into the ‘Search Keyword’ field.

**Eligibility to participate in this Workshop:**
- Parents or carers of children and young adults aged between 6 - 25 years, diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- The individual with ASD must be living at home
- Participating families are encouraged to invite professionals or service providers working with them to attend the workshop

**Families participating in this workshop will:**
- Develop an understanding of autism and how an ASD impacts upon learning and behaviour
- Learn how to be proactive by creating an autism friendly environment at home
- Learn how to write an autism specific behaviour support plan for one of their child’s behaviours
- Learn how to respond confidently when challenging behaviour occurs
- Learn how to teach new skills to promote their child’s independence and quality of life

**Enquiries:**
Contact Amber Day – Workshop Administrator or Heather Kirkhope - Service Coordinator  
Phone: 03 9377 6000 or email: aday@autismspectrum.org.au

**What participants say about Aspect Positive Behaviour Support Workshops:**

"Brilliant information and concrete strategies to use, thank you. I have learnt very important self-reflection, being able to step back and really look at and examine behaviour, so valuable. I really value the focus on being positive and improving my child’s, my own and my family’s quality of life. Great workshop – I will highly recommend it to others.”

"Fantastic presentation. Very interactive, affirming & capacity building. Ideas not just discussed but taught how to follow through on.”

"Best information session on Autism I have been to. So much clarity about getting to the core behaviour, unpicking the onion. Enjoyed all the visuals. Thank you so much.”

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Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) ABN 12 000 687 267

Aspect Victoria Suite 2B, Level 1, 12 Hall Street, Moonee Ponds VIC 3039 | PO Box 1116 Moonee Ponds VIC 3039 | T 03 9377 6800 W [www.autismspectrum.org.au](http://www.autismspectrum.org.au)

Established in 1998, Aspect provides a wide range of services and support. In 2010 Aspect commenced operation in Victoria. Aspect has been funded by the Department of Human Services to provide a range of positive behaviour support programs across Victoria.
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.

Play an instrument? Would you like to play as part of a group? The Orkeztra Glasso Bashalde welcomes new members for term 2! We are an inclusive community world music orchestra based in Northcote. Our vision is to develop musicianship and strengthen community by promoting positive awareness of diverse musical cultures. We play primarily Klezmer, Romani, Balkan and Middle-Eastern styles as well as music from local composers. Term 2 rehearsals begin April 23 (Wednesdays 7.15-9.30pm) at Jika Jika Community Centre (Cnr Plant and Union St, Northcote). Contact Talia Dyson for more information: Phone: 0468 657 181, or email: talliadyson@gmail.com

Pizza Mia for Kids! – A hands-on pizza making class - SPAN Community House. Kindy Groove Dance Classes for 5-7 year olds. More info at www.spanhouse.org or see the flyers outside the school office.

Community Weight Loss Challenge – Starts Wednesday 23rd April @ 6.30 p.m. Thornbury, Fairfield and Northcote areas. Weekly weigh in, weight loss coaching, tips and advice, nutrional education. Only $49.00 for the full 10 weeks. Contact Jan on 0412 226 565

Girl players required for local soccer club. Moreland Zebra's Under 11 and Under 12 Girls teams are looking for new players for the Football Federation Victoria season starting on April 27. Participation includes availability to play on Sundays and training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at De Chene reserve, (where Merri Creek crosses Bell St). If you have a daughter 8-11 years old who is keen to play please contact Sandro Marcolin by email on <Sandro.Marcolin@crema.com.au> or phone 0411 645 005. For more info on Moreland Zebras click here.

Take Home A Big Brother Or Big Sister - Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by volunteering to host one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain and Colombia will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

The Sustainable Homes and Communities Program (a Cities of Darebin and Banyule initiative) is hosting a waste related family fun day on Sunday 25th May, from 1.00pm til 4.00pm at the Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Road, Heidelberg. The event is free.

The theme of the event is ‘re-imagining waste’ (that is, seeing waste as a resource), and will feature the fabulous ‘Litter Sisters’ who will have people singing and dancing about waste, as well as a range of waste related art activities and games such as making jewellery and costumes from recyclable materials, and using recycled juice and milk cartons to pot up winter veggie seeds (like the picture at right).

I'm a student midwife at ACU and I live just nearby. As part of our degree student midwives need to find 20 women to support throughout their pregnancy. This is called the Continuity of Care Experience (ACU have an explanation of the program here at http://www.acu.edu.au/610338It's a free program that is vital to training future midwives. Women who have participated in the past have been really positive about the opportunity and the extra support.

Are you pregnant?

Would you like support from a student midwife?

Hi, I’m Zoe. I’m looking for women to participate in the continuity of care experience as part of my course. It is a wonderful, empowering opportunity and it’s free.

For more information:

www.zchristensen.com
zchri001@myacu.edu.au
Stop Motion Animation Workshop

Want to make your very own animated movie, just like Wallace and Gromit? Learn stop motion animation in a fun creative environment with an experienced animator.

8 WEEK AFTER SCHOOL WORKSHOPS, GRADES 3-6
PRINCES HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE
MONDAYS FROM APRIL 28TH
4-5:30PM
NORTHCOTE LIBRARY
TUESDAYS FROM MAY 6TH
4-5:30 PM
CLASSES ARE LIMITED TO 10, BOOK NOW!
alex@animachin.com
ph 0400 058 604

OPEN DAY: Thursday 1 May
OPEN CLASSES & TOURS: 9.30-12.30
INFORMATION SESSION: 6.30-7.30
BOOKINGS: 9488 1900
fitzroys.hs.vic.edu.au

Learn to sail with Tackers!

Tackers is a Yachting Australia program designed to get kids aged 7-12 into sailing.
Each program includes:
- 30 hours tuition from qualified instructors.
- Fun on-water & off-water games
- A Tackers Kit & Certificate.
Where
Elwood Sailing Club
When
Saturday mornings Term 2
Contact us now!
0417 589 683
learning@elwoodys.com or www.elwoodys.com

Mother’s Day Family Night

Thursday 8th May 6pm–8pm
Join us for a great night of fun!
- Make a gift for mum
- D.I.Y. workshops
- Light refreshments
- Free gift wrapping

Activities include
- Disco Party
- Funky Finger Nail ART

Discounts recommended. For more information or to book ask one of our team in store or visit www.bunnings.com.au