IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

- Tues 27 May: School Photos – (Family envelopes available from the office)
- Tues 27 May: District Cross Country
- Thurs 29 May: Healthy Relations for Grades 3-6
- Wed 4 June: Prep-Two CSIRO Toy Incursion
- Thurs 5 June: Healthy Relations for Grades 3
- Mon 9 June: Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday – No School
- Thurs 12 June: Last Day for Boscastle Pie Orders
- Mon 23 June: Three Way Conferences
- Tues 24 June: Boscastle Pie Orders Delivered to School

Pupil of the Week

- 00B: Aescha W
- 00N: Ella S
- 00L: William C
- 12DN: Oliver P
- 12J: Annabelle K
- 12S: Edward S
- 12T: Alice F
- 34A: Dane T
- 34D: Bailey F
- 34K: Max D
- 34R: Guy F
- 56C: Luca T-M
- 56M: Ethan C
- 56S: Miles F
Greetings from the Principal...

Student Achievement
Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer Research
Right across the school on Thursday, our children were discussing the important need to raise funds for research into curing cancer, especially for kids with cancer.

Children were asked to bring along something to share for a morning tea and a gold coin donation. In the 1/2 area, there were delicious fruit platters, cut into cubes so that children could make their own fruit kebabs and dip them into yoghurt, yum! Well done all children - we raised... $381.70!
Thank you Linda (Prep teacher) for coordinating the whole school event.

Sexual and Health Care Education Program years 3 - 6
The program commenced this week and is provided by educators from Family Planning Victoria. The reproductive system is part of the science focus in the 3 – 6 area this term which is investigating body systems. It is such an important program for the children to participate in. We recognise that many children may have a base knowledge of reproductive body systems, but to have the opportunity to learn from experienced educators and quell any doubts, myths and legends with their peers in a comfortable, non-critical and supportive way, means they come out of it with accurate information, and have a strengthened platform to continue to learn about this area.

The children were highly engaged in Thursday’s sessions and the educators commented that they were very impressed on the extent of the children’s knowledge and values held around gender stereotypes. When presented with scenarios, children were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with statements such as ‘Only girls should cry’ to which many children protested ‘That’s just sexist!’. Great to hear their values coming through. The program will run over three weeks.

Thinking like Mathematicians!
In the 3/4 area yesterday, one group had been introduced to the concept of ‘Ratio’. This is part of the work at that level on fractions. The group were given the following problem:

- Sandra and Sandy are walking together. Sandy takes 2 steps for every 3 that Sandra takes. How many steps will Sandra take while Sandy takes 60 steps?

Hmmm ... some thinking time ensued and children were asked what strategies they could use to help work it out. Their suggestions were: Highlight the key words of the problem (so we can work out what it is asking us to solve); make a table (to help us organise the mathematical information and relationships and work it out); draw the problem (to help work it out).

Strategy 1: Highlight the key words of the problem
Sandra and Sandy are walking together. Sandy takes 2 steps for every 3 that Sandra takes. How many steps will Sandra take while Sandy takes 60 steps?

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<th>2</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>60</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategy 2: Put key information in a table
Strategy 3: Draw the problem

The children were given another 2 problems and encouraged to work together to come up with solutions. Not all groups got the answer ‘right’ but the important parts were that they were able to verbalise their mathematical thinking and share strategies with other groups to reapply to the problems. They were thinking like mathematicians!

Farewell to the Roberts Family!
Today is the last day of school for the Roberts girls – Zoe (year 5); Stella (year 3) and Gemma (year 1) as they are moving to another area. We are sad to lose the girls and family as they have all been very active participants and contributors to our Northcote Primary School Community. Thank you parents, Anita and Mark, for your contribution to our fetes and other school activities. We would like to wish Zoe, Stella and Emma all the very best at their new school and hope you take a big slice of NPS with you.

Thank you Karen, Assistant Principal
Last week, I had to take a week’s leave at short notice for family reasons and Karen stepped up into the Acting Principal role. I would like to thank and acknowledge Karen for her leadership of the school during the week. It is great to know I am able to leave the school in very good hands in my absence.

Student safety and security at school
As part of our regular reviews of school security arrangements, the outside student toilets will not be opened until a teacher is scheduled to be on yard duty at 8.45am. Likewise at the end of the day, the toilets will be locked by the yard duty teacher straight after school. Students will be encouraged to go to the toilet before they finish the school day using the internal toilets. If a child needs to use the toilets outside of these times, they can come to the office for assistance.

A reminder to parents that children should not be in the school yard unsupervised before 8.45am and after 3.45pm. The after school yard duty teacher will lock all school gates (including the bike shed) except for the front gate, by 3.45pm. Please help us to ensure student safety by leaving the school grounds by this time, so that the yard duty teacher is able to ascertain which children have not been picked up from school and bring them to the office. We appreciate your support around student safety.

Warm regards, Kerrie.

School Council Report
The new School Council met this week with plenty to discuss. Lots of good ideas and goodwill carried us through a packed agenda.

Out of Hours Care House: School Council are moving forward with planning the extension of the Out of Hours Care house. Initial plans have been clarified and project parameters confirmed. We are looking forward to finalising plans and assessing building quotes.

Thanks to our supporters: We are grateful for the recent financial support of Bakers Delight Northcote, Aussie Farmers Direct, Karanga Nursery and Darebin Council. They have all contributed to projects we are hoping to complete for the students and school community.
Skills & Interests Survey: The “Skills and Interest Survey” is coming. Soon we will be inviting families to tell us about the skills and interests you can contribute to the school. A survey will soon be available online to collect your information and start a database of all the great things we can share.

Ian Taylor, President, NPS School Council

Introducing some more School Councillors...

Miles Callaghan
I’m excited to be joining the School Council for the first time this year. My wife, Susan, and I have Liam in grade 2, in Tracey’s class. To sum up the impact the school is having on Liam, I quote directly from him - "school is the best part of my life". We also have a little one, Drue who can’t wait to come to school too (in 2016). We have lived in Northcote for 8 years, and love it. I grew up in Melbourne, then lived in other states and overseas for 9 years, and have now been back in Melbourne for 9 years - I have really enjoyed experiencing everything Melbourne has to offer with fresh eyes and being part of our local community.

By day, I work in strategy, marketing and communications in health and care; and have a broad business background. I have volunteered to be the convenor of the education sub-committee and am passionate about the holistic education of our children. I am also keen to contribute to our next strategic plan for the school for this year, developing initiatives and plans that see us develop, adapt and evolve so we continue to produce great outcomes for all students.

After hours, I am also a happy helper in Susan’s Christmas and party decoration business, so if you see me delivering balloons on the weekend, give me a wave.

Fiona Lang
I'm Fiona Lang and I am pleased to be involved with school council this year, particularly with the community sub-committee. My daughter Eliza is in grade 1 with Stephanie and my son Dane is in grade 3 with Andrea.

One of the main reasons I joined the council was to become more involved in the school community and support the partnership between parents and teachers. Fund raising and community engagement are some of the key area of the community sub-committee and something I am interested in. If you would like to become involved, or simply have a question, please contact me.

My professional background is in travel and management and I've experimented with a number of work combinations since having a family.

At a council level I’m looking forward to establishing the strategic plan for the next three years building on the already existing excellent framework.

Lost

- On Monday I lost my bracelet in the big kids’ playground area. It has dusty pink and pearl coloured beads (similar to the one in the picture). The bracelet has sentimental value as my grandmother gave it to me. I am anxious to have the bracelet back and am offering a $30 reward from my piggy bank money. If you have found it please send it to the office as soon as possible. Thanks, Emma.

- Also lost last Thursday 15th May, a child’s guitar in a black case. It was left on the decking outside 12JS room during the morning. It doesn’t have a name but if you have seen it or know of its whereabouts, please left the office know.
Boscastle Pies

Boscastle Pie Fundraiser is here! Please see the order form further on in the newsletter.

ORDERS: Need to be in **Thursday 12th June**, which is after the long weekend.

HOW? Please place orders & payment (cash or cheque payable to “Northcote PS”) in an envelope marked “PIE DRIVE” and hand into the office. The minimum order is 1 family pie or 6 standard pies.

DELIVERY: Will be by **Tuesday 24th June** which is just in time for the school holidays.

Thanks, Fi Lang

Wanted: An MC to host the incomparable Northcote Primary School trivia night!

Our MC over the past several years has now moved on from the school and we are looking for a new host with the most.

Do you want to hold a microphone in your hand? Prefer to read out the trivia questions rather than answer them? Don’t mind being in the spotlight?

Then please call Emily (0419 205 417) or Bella (0418 362 905). We’re waiting for your call!

5/6’s Science Rotation – Wed 14 May

On Friday the grade 5/6’s had a science activity rotation. One of the things the 5/6’s did was a Taste test. We had to block our nose, close our eyes and taste all these different types of soft drinks. Our partners gave us the drinks and we had to guess what type of drink it was. One of them was Cherry Coke and it was DISGUSTING!!!

Our second activity was a memory test that we did with Brydie (our student teacher). She held a tray with items on it and she took one away. We had to guess what she had removed. It was really fun and we didn’t want it to end.

Our favourite activity was when Steven brought in some real sheep’s brains and we were able to touch them and we even got to cut them up! It was amazing!! We learnt that most of the brain is grey matter and white matter. We even touched a bit of the bone which was inside the brain stem.

Amazing Brain Facts

- The smell of chocolate increases the brain waves that triggers relaxation!
- When you are awake, your brain produces enough electricity to power a small light bulb!
- 60% of your brain is fat
- Your brain keeps developing until your late 40’s
- Inside your brain, your Limbic system controls your emotions, instincts and memory.
- Neurons communicate with chemical messages

We would also like to thank Genevieve (Hannah Kelly’s mum) for coming in and talking to us about the human brain and what she does. It was very fascinating and informative.

By Tahlia Doyle and Daniel Nischwitz
Open Morning - Monday 19 May

It was a pleasure to see so many parents and extended family members visiting classrooms for our open morning on Monday. Your interest in the learning programs and enthusiastic participation in learning activities was enjoyed by students and teachers alike.

In the 5-6 learning area, all students were engaged in spelling, and the parents who were in the rooms were encouraged to see how many words they could spell from the word ‘cardiovascular’.

In the 3-4 area, all lessons had numeracy as the focus.

Katinka had a parent team versus the student team in a number fluency activity and I heard a lot of laughter during the game. It was difficult to count all the parents in the 3-4 classes as they were sitting at tables, standing, and many engaged with tasks in small groups on the floor.

In the 1-2s, the number of parents almost outnumbered the students! Literacy was the focus in 1-2JS and 1-2DNT, with similes, spelling rules and plurals the learning focus.

In prep, again, there were so many parents it was tricky to move around the rooms!

Thank you for making the time to visit us and participate in the learning activities with your child, their peers and teachers.

Karen

Schools Spectacular

Hi All, You may, or may not know, that we have a group of 20 children joining the massed choir for The Victorian State Schools Spectacular in September. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience a huge production with an audience of thousands as well as television exposure.

We have the opportunity to purchase tickets at a reduced price for the first 4 days of next week. This is also the ideal time for the families of those who are singing to get good seats before the ticketing is open to the public. Please read the poster below and follow the instructions.

NOTE: You will need to use the code word Spectacular in order to gain access to the early ticket release.

Regards, Lisa

TICKETS GO ON SALE NOON MONDAY 26 MAY
EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR 4 DAYS ONLY!

WHEN: Saturday 13 September at 1pm and 6.30pm.
LOCATION: Hisense Arena, Melbourne Park
TICKET SALES: Tickets will be available from Ticketek 26 May 2014
Early Bird – noon Monday 26 May 2014
   Adult - $35
   Child Under 15 - $18
General Admission – 10am Friday 30 May 2014
   Adult - $40
   Concession - $30
   Child Under 15 - $20
To contact us please email: performing.arts@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone: 03 9415 1700.
NAME: 
GRADE/GROUP: 
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 
CHEQUE/MONEY PAYABLE TO: “Northcote Primary School” 
RETURN FORM TO SCHOOL BY: Thursday 12 June 2014 
COLLECT ORDERS: Tues 24 June 2014 

MINIMUM ORDER IS 6 PIES OR 1 FAMILY PIE 
ONE ORDER PER FORM ONLY 
All items on this form will be packed as a single order 
ONLY ITEMS ON THE ORDER FORM CAN BE ORDERED

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NORTHCOTE MOBILE UNIT
Northcote Town Hall
189 High, Northcote

Monday 16 June
1:30pm – 7:30pm

Appointments are essential & new donors are welcome

Call 13 14 95 to make an appointment