Greetings from the Principal ...

Student Achievement

Cross Country Regional Level Competition

Well done Hayden N & Lexi M!

Hayden and Lexi competed on Wednesday 18th June, in the Regional Cross Country event at Bundoora Park. It was a cold but clear day. Both ran very very good races and we are very proud of you for trying your best. Lexi commented that she paced herself, as Krissy has been teaching her to do in PE.

Well done to all our students!

As it nears the end of Term 2, or Semester 1, it is time to acknowledge the learning achievements of our students over this time. All students would have made progress relative to their learning goals and developmental levels. It is important to also acknowledge the effort they put in to each learning task and the outcomes they have reached, as you will see in the detailed reports coming home shortly.

Celebrate their hard work with them, their efforts, their perseverance and strengths. With their teachers, support them to reflect and acknowledge where they might need to improve and help them to think about some goals that they will need to focus on for the next semester. This will be covered in more detail in the 3-way conference on Monday.

Student Reports

Karen (AP) and I have finished reading all of the student reports and are impressed with all that children have achieved. Reading the student’s reports before they go home, gives us an opportunity to find out the learning
growth of the students. We have particularly enjoyed reading the student’s reflections and evaluations. Many children specifically mentioned their enjoyment of the specialist areas of Arts; PE and Italian. This year the specialist teachers are available for conferences so if you would like to know more about your child’s progress, book a time to meet with them on Monday. I am sure you are looking forward to reading your child’s reports too and they will come home this Friday.

3 way Conference day - Access to the school for parents
After school hours, only the front school gate will remain open. This will assist the school to manage safety and security after hours for our school community.

Pupil Free Day 3 – A very productive day
There was a lot to get through on Monday with the new Performance and Development model and the staff worked very hard all day, as the consultant, Susan Gilheany noted. Susan also commented on how the staff naturally worked in teams and pulled together to develop goals that supported the direction of the school and ultimately, aim to improve student learning at our school.

Feedback from staff was that it was invaluable to have the day to absorb, understand and make strong links with the School Strategic Plan and the Performance and Development Plans. Staff felt that they wouldn’t have been able to develop their plans in an authentic way without the time available to do so.

I would like to acknowledge the School Council and the school community for understanding the pressure the staff were under and for supporting the staff to have the time to participate in authentic and active professional learning that will have its impact in improving student learning.

Reminder
Parents please note that children are not permitted to be in the school grounds out of hours or on weekends.

Last day of term, Friday 28th June – 2.30pm dismissal
Please don’t forget that the children are dismissed from their classrooms at 2.30pm on Friday, the last day of term. Please remember to be at the school to pick the children up by 2.30pm.

There is nothing worse for the children, if they are still waiting at the office for someone from their family to remember to come and get them, especially after everyone else has gone home for the holidays! Please be punctual when picking them up on all days but particularly the last day of term.

Warm regards,
Kerrie

Education Sub-Committee

Policy review
The sub-committee and school staff have reviewed the Anaphylaxis Management Policy and School Camps Policy. The Anaphylaxis Management Policy went to school council for approval this week. The School Camps Policy these will be recommended to School Council for approval after community feedback has been taken into consideration. If you would like to read through the draft please contact Karen (AP) rush.karen.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Parent Survey
To assist with our School Review process, a sample of parents will be invited to participate in a short survey. This will capture further data from parents regarding their perspectives about our school.

Miles Callaghan
Education Sub-Committee Convenor

Environment Sub-Committee
The Environment Sub-committee meets a couple of times a term and discusses ideas and ways to improve the school grounds and buildings. The front garden project is a good example of where funds were applied for through a Darebin Council Community Grant and supplemented with school raised funds and then through a process of consultation with staff, the school community and students, a design was created. The bulk of the work has been completed during working bees and a student gardening program.

The Environment Sub-Committee has a number of projects that they are working on at the moment. These include the refurbishment of the staffroom, painting of the woodwork in the main entrance to the Admin building, future designs of the Admin building, signage in Helen Street and Hawthorn Road and re-establishing and building gardens beds.

The Environment Sub-Committee would like to extend an invitation to members of our school community who would like to join us to work on these projects. You can do this by coming along to our meetings or by contacting me to let me know in what capacity you can help.

**New Gardening Group**

The Environment Sub-Committee would like to establish a gardening group at school. They would meet on a regular basis at 2.00pm on a Thursday. Small gardening projects could then be worked on prior to working bees. If you are interested please contact me at school or by sending me an email.

Ross Bennie  
Environment Sub-Committee Convenor  
Bennie.ross.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

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### Northcote Primary School Trivia Night

**Friday 15 August 2014 at Thornbury Bowls Club**

Put the date in your diary, book a babysitter and start planning your tables folks - we are confirmed for Friday 15 August 2014 from 7pm to 11pm. Tickets will go on sale through TryBooking at the beginning of next term. Any questions/suggestions, please contact Bella Thorpe or Emily Nance.

### Pie Collection

A reminder that Boscastle Pies can be collected from the canteen from 3.15-3.45 next Tuesday 24th. If your child attends aftercare can you please let the office know and we can arrange for the order to go to NOOSCH.

Thanks again everyone for your support, the pies sales reached over $2900 this year. Enjoy them!

Fi Lang

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### Help Wanted!!!

Susi, our librarian, has identified that some of the damaged library books can be salvaged by peeling off the dried paint. If you have some time during the next couple of weeks, there will be a pile of books in the library with a sign “Salvageable”. Hopefully the paint can be peeled off using fingernails or a blunt knife. If you can spare half an hour or so and fancy picking off paint, your help would be much appreciated. There’s no need to contact anyone, just come in at your convenience.

### School Council News

School council met last night with a wide ranging agenda.

We recognised the quick and efficient response to the damage resulting from the recent break-in. It was great that staff and families pulled together to minimise the damage and get things back to normal as quickly as possible. We hope your children were not too upset or inconvenienced. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Education Department clean up team. Their work certainly reduced the physical and financial burden on the school.
We adopted a new suite of policies on Anaphylaxis. This is vital for the safety of children at school and during school activities and explains the ways all members of the school community can help. The policy was drafted by Karen in conjunction with the Education Sub-committee and includes a communication strategy. We want to ensure it is widely used across the school.

School council discussed the importance of our new website, particularly keeping it up to date and relevant. It is a great resource for the school and needs to showcase our achievements and community. We have agreed to engage a web specialist to maintain the site and provide a strategic review to coincide with school council planning for 2015. If you know anyone who would be great in the role please show them the advertisement when it comes out early next term.

The Environment Sub-committee presented a wonderful plan for the garden in the South West corner of the school. It will replace garden beds and seating and provide for extensive replanting in the area. School council enthusiastically endorsed the plan with hopes that it will be as great as the new gardens around the front gate. We reviewed a letter from Daniel Andrews on behalf of the ALP, inviting people to contribute to an on-line survey of the needs of schools in Victoria. The survey address is www.ourschoolneeds.com.au It is probably a good time to let as many as possible know what our school needs.

School council supported the Community Sub-committee in making a special grant to the library. It will buy books to replace some of those we could not save after the break-in. We have also received $3890 in Library Fund donations to date. If you would like to contribute there is still a little time left in this financial year. Donations to this fund are tax deductible. If you would prefer to donate a book, there will be an opportunity soon as part of a drive during Book Week in term 3.

Ian Taylor
School Council President

**Anaphylaxis Management Policy - updated**

The school Anaphylaxis Management Policy has been reviewed and updated to reflect the repeal of Ministerial Order 90. The Order has been replaced by Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Guidelines in Anaphylaxis Management in schools have also been updated.

Staff and parents have been consulted about the changes and have worked on the draft at Education Sub-committee meetings and staff meetings. Some parents of students at risk of anaphylaxis were also consulted.

School Council approved the new Policy at last night’s Council meeting and it will be available to download from the website shortly. Please contact the school or myself if you would like a copy before then.

**Minimising Risk**

One of the keys to limiting the potential for an anaphylaxis event is to ensure allergens are minimised at school. All of the allergens for our students are food allergens, so there are strategies in place to reduce exposure to risk such as eating food inside supervised classrooms, wiping down tables after eating, and screening boxes for use in art and craft activities (as allergen residue may be present). These are during the school day strategies that are managed by school staff. At this stage we are not a ‘nut free’ school, as some schools are.

We very much appreciate your support in maintaining a consistent approach to food risks at school during the times of drop off and pick up at school. The students know not to eat any potential allergen-containing food outside. If you want to provide a before or after school snack please do this outside of the school where you can manage the risk.

We also appreciate the many parents who now celebrate their child’s birthday in different ways at school. Sending a bag of drawing implements or donating a special book to the grade has been very popular as an alternative to providing cakes or sweets.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining a safe environment for all our community.

Karen
The lungs

On Thursday 12/6, David Tingay (Hamish Tingay’s dad) gave a presentation to the Grade 5/6 students. David told us about the lungs and how they work. Using a power point he showed different images of the lungs magnified up to 400x. He also showed us what a healthy lung looks like and what an unhealthy lung looks like under the microscope. To demonstrate how the lungs inflated (and deflated) he actually brought in a pair of pig lungs, a cylinder of oxygen and an air pump. Yep! Believe it or not he actually inflated and deflated the lungs using the pump.

We were allowed to touch the lungs (with a pair of gloves on!) and most students were very enthusiastic with looking at, touching and learning about the real pair of lungs. Everyone was enthusiastic with the talk and power point produced by David. We learnt about what a healthy/unhealthy lung looked like (on the microscopic level), how the oxygen actually passed into the blood and all the different components included in the lungs, the oesophagus, air sacks, muscles and many different types of cells! All in all the talk was a great insight into the lungs and the respiratory system.

Thank you David!

By Alec Johnson and Katie Mackey

Italian Update

Ciao A Tutti! (Hello Everyone!)

What a fabulous term! Si (yes), we have been busy in Italian!

The Year 5 and 6’s started the term with reviewing their scripts from Term 1 and performing their plays in front of the class. Students had a go at recording performances and then we evaluated ourselves and our progress. Students then were then busy learning about The Human Body and then having a go with the annual Dante Alighieri poster and IT competitions.

The Year 3 and 4’s completed their fabulous comic strips and presented these to their peers. We then moved onto The Body and did a few interesting activities before spending time on the Dante Alighieri poster competition. Students used laptops for research and some great posters were produced from this area.

The Year 1 and 2’s commenced a unit on ‘Toys’ where we looked at old and new toys in preparation for the Dante Alighieri poster competition on this topic. Students worked in small groups and also used the computers for online resources.

Looking forward to next term!

The Dante Alighieri Poster Competition

Entry to this competition is now closed as of this week. Grazie to the students who have paid their entry fee and have now registered for this competition. All final entries will be mailed off early next week.
who have paid and have seen me this week, you will need to ensure that your poster is at school by next Tuesday - no later. For those students who have already submitted their entry, GRAZIE!

I am proud to announce that we have a larger group entry this year with 25 students. All year levels have students representing their level which is fantastico!! I wish all students ‘buona fortuna’ - good luck with their entry for this state-wide competition. Results will be known sometime in August and any ‘Prize Winners’ will be required at the University Of Melbourne on the evening of Friday 12th September.

I think this is all for now. I look forward to meeting some of you on Monday for the 3 Way Conference and sharing with you some of the great work your child/ren have been doing in Italian. I will be located in the Art Room with Lisa.

Until next term, ‘buone vacanze’ happy holidays, stay safe and I look forward to another great term!

Saluti (cheers),
Signorina Rosa
Italian Teacher and Co-ordinator (Mon/Tues)

Fete News
Yes I know it seems a little crazy to talk about the fete, but planning for 2015 has begun!

Date: Saturday March 14th
Time: Noon to 6.00 p.m.

Lock it into your calendars.

Heading up the fete next year are co-ordinators Susan Callaghan (mother of Liam 12T) and Brooke van der Hoeven (mother of Indigo 56C and Ned 12ND). Both have been involved in previous years’ fetes through the Craft and Hamper stalls.

To kick off the 2015 fete planning we will be holding a social evening to brain storm some ideas. Anybody interested in helping out next year or has an opinion on what works or doesn't work in a fete are invited to come and join us. We hope to achieve a good cross section of ideas and understanding of what the school community expect or prefer from their school fete. No one will be asked to commit to anything on the evening, it's purely a sharing of ideas, so we can prepare a mission statement and proposed strategy for the 2015 NPS fete.

We believe starting the process now will encourage more people to be involved and not be scared off by the huge rush towards the end. Hopefully all of this will continue making the fete a huge success.

Our Social Evening will be hosted by Ben at Two by Two which we greatly appreciate.

Two by Two
235 High Street, Northcote
Wednesday 23rd July, 7.30 p.m.

If you can't make it but are interested please email us at NPSFete@gmail.com with any ideas or thoughts. We will listen to any crazy idea.

Mathletics Shout Out!

Every student at Northcote Primary School has a Mathletics Password. Teachers encourage students to do maths activities whenever it is convenient. We are sure you have all seen your children working hard on these fun activities at home on the computer. At times, they also complete Mathletics at school.

For every 1,000 points your child receives in 1 week, they will receive a certificate. Halfway through the year, we are overjoyed to see the wonderful effort many students are putting in. We would like to SHOUT OUT: We are proud of all students who are working on their tasks and we are ESPECIALLY
proud of the following students who have put that little EXTRA to change ORDINARY into EXTRAORDINARY!

Congratulations from Stephanie,
Mathletics Co-ordinator

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Advertisements

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For lease mid-July: Great 3/4 bedroom family home, ducted heating, working fireplace, d/washer and back garden. Lease transfer $2520 pcm, awesome spot: Gladstone Ave, walk to school, shops, train, tram and cafes in Northcote. pls Call Kim ASAP on 0402 822 021 Family preferred.

Babysitter Available - My name is Issy. I am a former Northcote Primary School student and am now in year 11 at Northcote High. I am available to do babysitting evenings and weekends as well as some before and after school times. I am an experienced babysitter and have referees. Contact me on 0430 457 720

Positive Behaviour Support Workshops 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 Northern 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.
http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/content/events-and-workshops

Please note: You may search for a specific workshop location by entering the location into the ‘Search Keyword’ field. Registrations for all workshops will close if minimum numbers are not met 1 week prior to the start date of the workshop.

Aspect’s Positive Behaviour Support Workshops are FREE for eligible Parents and Carers of children and young adults who are aged 6-25 years of age, who are living at home and diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (with the exception of the Carlton Aspect Practice workshop).

Due to popular demand, we are holding a weekend workshop this coming weekend in Carlton. This workshop, delivered by Aspect Practice, is open to professionals, as well as parents and carers who fall outside of the eligibility criteria for our free workshops. Parents who meet the eligibility criteria of our free PBS Workshops are also most welcome to register. Recipients of FaHCSIA funding may be able to access their child’s funding for this workshop but please liaise with your service provider. For further details about the weekend workshop and associated registration fees please refer to the attached flyer or contact Claire Kilner ckilner@autismspectrum.org.au or Phone 03 93776629.

Should you have any additional enquiries, specific training or other support needs, please contact Amber Day (Administration) or Heather Kirkhope (Program Coordinator) - Email aday@autismspectrum.org.au or Phone 03 9377 6600