IMPORTANT SCHOOL DIARY DATES

November
Fri 28 Nov
Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 2 – Preps for 2015
Last day for Prep-2 Swimming Program

December
Tues 2 Dec
Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 3 – Preps for 2015
Mon 8 Dec
Art Walk/Concert & Picnic Tea
Tues 9 Dec
Grade 6 to Year 7 Transition Day to Secondary School
In-school Transition No. 1 – 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Grade 3/4 Incursion – Zoom Cooking
Wed 10 Dec
Art Walk/Concert & Picnic Tea – Back Up Date
Thurs 11 Dec
Creative Melody End of Year Concert (see page 5)
Mon 15 Dec
Mango Orders delivered to school (see page 5)
Tues 16 Dec
In-school Transition No. 2 – 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm
Grade 6 Graduation Night
Thurs 18 Dec
Grade 5/6 MSAC Excursion
Fri 19 Dec
Last day of Term 4 – 1.30 pm finish

2015
Thurs 29 Jan
First day of school – All Grades
Greetings ...

Student Achievement

Annual Year 6 awards

Congratulations to the following year 6 students: Jakayla Rogers and Hayden Nunn - recipients of the 2014 Community and School Involvement Scholarships (sponsored by the RSL).

Hayden Nunn

Hayden Nunn has displayed a high level of community and school involvement and academic progress throughout the year at Northcote PS. Hayden attended the leadership conference, successfully running a senior schools sport program at lunch times as part of his action team goal. He was junior school council representative raising money for various charities. Hayden was captain of Blue House athletics team and an active participant in sporting events such as the netball and cricket interschool sports teams. Hayden was also an active participant in swimming, tennis and athletics events. Hayden has demonstrated a hard working approach to his school work and has been an excellent role model for his peers and a terrific prep buddy. Our school congratulates Hayden on his maturity and his responsible attitude.

Jakayla Rogers

Jakayla Rogers has made an excellent contribution throughout the year to the Northcote PS community. Jakayla has been an active member of the environmental team, demonstrating her commitment to creating a sustainable school. She was a passionate participant of the school softball and netball team, which successfully went through to division (undefeated)! She was Yellow House captain for athletics and a valued member of the ‘Edit Co’ action team. Jakayla has made outstanding progress in her academic studies this year due to her commitment to complete her work to a high standard. She has also been a terrific prep buddy and a loyal friend. Our school congratulates Jakayla on her maturity and her high level of achievement this year.

Our Growing School

Some important information for our school community from the School Council has been included in this newsletter. Please make sure you don’t miss it. The same letter has been printed off and given out to the eldest child in each family to take home today.

Congratulations Karen Rush!

We are delighted to announce that our Assistant Principal, Karen Rush, has been appointed as Principal of Reservoir Views Primary School. Karen takes up her promotion position at the commencement of term 1 in 2015. Karen has held the Assistant Principal position at our school for the last 8 years and has made a significant contribution to the leadership of our school particularly in the areas of student wellbeing and special needs and disabilities; curriculum development; policy development at the School Council level; development of Annual Implementation Plans and many more. We will be sad to see Karen go but on the other hand, are very excited for her and proud of her achievement. We will farewell Karen formally, at our final assembly. Well done Karen form us all in the Northcote Primary School community.

See you all at our final picnic tea and Art Walk

Regards,

Kerrie
ALL FAMILIES OF OUR SCHOOL – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dear Families,

Northcote Primary School’s student population is steadily increasing and this trend looks set to continue over the next several years. In 2015, our student enrolments will outgrow the number of classroom’s available for the first time since 1980 when the school was located on two campuses.

Fortunately for our school, we still have that room to expand. As many of you know, the land on the corner of Helen Street and Hawthorn Road is actually the property of the education department and part of Northcote Primary School.

In the coming weeks and months, you will start to see changes on what we at the school currently call ‘The Block’. Next year, a relocatable double-classroom will be delivered, the area will be re-fenced and made secure and some initial landscaping will be undertaken. Staff and School Council are already considering plans for utilising the existing green areas as outdoor learning spaces.

We understand that many of you will have questions and I will try to address some of these here.

**Question: Why not keep the school small and cap student numbers at current levels?**
There is quite a long process involved in capping the student numbers at any school involving consultation with School Council, the Education Department (DEECD) and our local schools. DEECD determines the capped number for all schools and advice we have received so far is that DEECD will consider this process when our school population reaches around 450 students.

**Question: Why won’t the relocatable classrooms be placed on the existing campus?**
Several weeks ago, an architect from DEECD, provided plans for both sites, showing several potential locations for the new relocatable classrooms. Amongst those options were three possible positions within the current school grounds, all of which encroached on our students play areas. Given that we will likely qualify for additional relocatable classrooms in the near future, the decision was made to retain as large a play space as possible for all students and to reclaim ‘the block’.

**Question: Which students will be in the two new classrooms?**
After much discussion, the school council and staff have agreed that the grade 5/6 level will utilise these new classrooms. However, rather than splitting the 5/6s between two locations in home group based formation for the whole year, the 5/6 team will use a teaching and learning model similar to the existing upstairs model. This way, all 5/6 students will be able to utilise all the available spaces and technology of both areas and help prepare them for high school where they will regularly move between classrooms for different subjects. If you visit the Northcote High School campus, you can see how well they have integrated the same type of relocatable classrooms into their existing environment.

**Question: Why not make these classrooms specialist learning areas (i.e. art/library/language)?**
Currently, there is minimal travel time between student’s classrooms and the art room/library etc. However, if we were to have specialist classes on the block, we would effectively reduce students’ art and language learning time by approximately 10 minutes per class. Across the year, this would amount to a substantial loss of learning time. When the 5/6s utilise this area, they will use it for two-hour blocks and travel time will be minimised. You may not be aware that when your children attend specialist classes, their teachers have allocated planning time. If home group teachers are walking students to and from ‘the block’, their planning time, and therefore their ability to properly prepare lessons, would also be reduced.

**Question: Will there be power, toilets and Wifi on the block?**
The education department will supply the relocatable classrooms and provide timber steps for access. The classrooms come repainted, with clean carpet and reverse-cycle air-conditioning. They are wired for electricity and Wifi and a toilet block is also provided. These are well appointed classrooms and a far cry from what many of us might remember as ‘portables’ from our own school days.
Question: What about the grounds and security?
Unfortunately, the education department does not cover these costs. As a school, our priority will be to secure the site and then progressively develop the environment. We are fortunate that the site already has some well-established trees and real grass areas which will all be maintained. Additionally, the position of the new classroom on the current asphalt area will allow us to retain the cricket nets.

Question: What about the future?
At this stage, we are entitled to one double, relocatable classroom. However, if numbers continue to grow as trends indicate, within the next two years it is likely we will qualify for additional relocatable classrooms. The position of the first relocatable has taken this into account, maximising the natural light when future classrooms are in place. The artist’s impression (see below) gives you an idea of how the block might look in years to come. As I mentioned previously however, the education department only pays for the classroom and connection of services. All other costs are the responsibility of the school.

An artist’s impression of what The Block might look like in the future – after some fundraising and a few working bees

Question: How can I help?
At the start of next year, the school will hold a parent forum and information session where we will start to talk about a number of fundraising activities and working bees that will take place across the year. There will be plenty of opportunities for parent involvement in both the planning and development of ‘the block’. If you have relevant skills (i.e. fundraiser, builder, landscaper, project manager, architect, gardener, painter, etc.) please contact the school or consider joining the school council or one of its subcommittees, all of which will be focussed on making the most of this exciting opportunity.

Many of you will still have questions that are not answered here. In fact, we may not know the answers ourselves yet. Please feel free to email me with these questions. Rather than replying individually, I will incorporate them into the agenda for the parent information forum to be held early next year.

In the meantime, I will keep you all informed of any new developments as they come to hand through weekly newsletter updates and via our website.
No matter what year level your child is in, the additional classrooms and the surrounding environment of ‘the block’ will, at some stage, become an important part of their school experience. We look forward to your support as we make these important changes and I know the students do to.

I hope to see you at our art walk and school picnic on December 8.

Kerrie Williams
Principal

**Summer Watering Roster**

We are looking for volunteers to water the gardens at school over summer. Sam Corrie (Angus & Lucinda’s mum) will be coordinating the roster. If you can help out, please leave your name and number at the school office and we will pass it on to Sam for you.

**Whole School & JSC Photographs**

If you did not order a photo but would still like to, order envelopes are available from the school office.

**The Mangos Are Coming!**

Thank you to everyone that purchased a tray (or two) of mangoes and supported the school’s fundraising initiative. This year’s Mango Fundraiser saw us sell 200 trays of Mangoes and raise over $1,000 for the school.

We’ve had confirmation that our delivery date will be Monday 15 December. Mangoes can be collected from the school canteen from 3.15 – 4.00pm on this day.

Thanks again for purchasing and supporting the school’s annual fundraising initiative. Cheers, Nicole

**Creative Melody**

Music, Arts & Creative Events

**NPS End of Year Music Concert**

Thursday 11th December 2014
2.30pm - 3.20pm in the hall

With performances showcasing the music students have been learning over the term.
Please join us for an afternoon of delightful music!
2015 Parent Payments
Each year your children enjoy an extensive program of educational activities and services at Northcote Primary School. The school’s capacity to continue to provide excellent programs relies on us all contributing financially.

At the School Council meeting in early November, the Parent Payment schedule for 2015 was approved. School Council develops the budget and plans to meet the budget goals. The school is financially supported by the state government through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, by providing direct grants and payment of staff. In anticipation we thank you for your support.

The table below provides an overview of the contributions requested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Materials &amp; Consumables</td>
<td>This covers all classroom stationary; shared requisites used in the classroom such as paper, photocopying, resource sets</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
<td>Consumable materials such as cartridge costs, paper and equipment</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursion Levy</td>
<td>Covers classroom excursions across the year but does not include camps &amp; swimming costs and some special events</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incursion Levy</td>
<td>Covers in-school cultural performances across the year</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Skills Gymnastics Levy</td>
<td>Prep to Year 4 children only</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interschool Sport</td>
<td>Year 6 students only</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interschool Sport</td>
<td>Year 5 students only</td>
<td>$34.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voluntary Levies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Levy - voluntary</td>
<td>Resources to support other curriculum areas such as Physical Education; Arts; Languages; Student Engagement and Wellbeing;</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT Levy – voluntary</td>
<td>Purchase, updating and maintenance of ICT equipment.</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Fund - voluntary</td>
<td>Purchase of library resources and equipment. Donations to this fund are tax deductible.</td>
<td>$50.00+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your invoices for payment will be mailed to you in Term 1, 2015.

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.

Nanny/Babysitter

I am a twenty two year old artist with a keen interest in the education and wellbeing of children. I have had plenty of experience babysitting and caring for young ones, alongside undertaking a volunteer position as a Classroom Buddy for kids with learning disadvantages. I am an enthusiastic, warm, and flexible person with a diverse range of domestic and educational skills. My working hours are flexible, especially throughout the upcoming summer and am available to talk on 0404 203 845. Ring Northcote Primary School for references. Hope to hear from you, Gabriella Foreman
**Bally on High** – Northcote’s own mini festival returning to Northcote Town Hall from 21st November to 7th December. Tickets on sale now at www.tixnofee.com or more info at www.thebally.com.au. In the second week, a parent of NPS ex-students will be performing from 2-7 December - Stephen Blackburn presents: Unbearably Hip.

**THIS Student Personal Accident Insurance** is a simple great value accident insurance package designed solely for school students that will help protect your family financially. For more information call us on 1300 844 792 or email us at studentpa@thisinsurance.com.au

**Make-A-Scene January School Holiday Program.** Bookings and enquiries to Rosa Campagnaro on 9495 1980 or email info@makeascene.com.au. www.makeascene.com.au

**Victoria University Science Spectacular – 2014 Family Night – Free!** Wednesdays 3rd December at 6.00 p.m. Held at Footscray Park Campus, Building L, Level 1, Room 14.

---

**Bright Sparks Creative Workshops**

**Holiday Program - January 2015**

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 January 20, 21 & 22
$160 / $140 for a 3 day course or $60 per session

Jika Jika Community Centre - Corner of Union and Plant Streets, Northcote

**Bookings essential by Friday, January 16.**

Contact Naomi on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au
Bubbledome Summer Holiday Program - Brochures available outside the school office. Book online at www.bubbledome.com. Email info@bubbledome.co.nz or phone 1800 115 562

Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre
January 2015

Learn to Swim Intensives
Preschool only
Monday 5th to Friday 9th
Monday 12th to Friday 16th
Monday 19th to Friday 23rd
Cost $40

Bookings essential on 9490 7111

Children’s activities
Prep to grade 6
Cost $12.50
(bookings essential)
Activities subject to change or cancellation with 24 hours notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 12th</th>
<th>Tuesday 13th</th>
<th>Wednesday 14th</th>
<th>Thursday 15th</th>
<th>Friday 16th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>9:15-11:15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Circus**
Experience fun in tumbling, acrobatics, juggling, fire breathing (pool), devil sticks, spinning plates, & More!

**Hip Hop**
Learn some funky moves and games in the ever growing style that is Hip Hop

**Wood Magic**
Trace, cut and sand wood pieces to make something you can take home

**Cooking**
Learn to cook and make some yummy food without any of the mess at home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 18th</th>
<th>Tuesday 20th</th>
<th>Wednesday 21st</th>
<th>Thursday 22nd</th>
<th>Friday 22nd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Circus**
Experience fun in tumbling, acrobatics, juggling, fire breathing (pool), devil sticks, spinning plates, & More!

**Karate**
Have fun, gain confidence, and be introduced to the fundamentals of Karate while learning simple, self defence behaviours

**Cooking**
Learn to cook and make some yummy food without any of the mess at home

**Art & Craft**
Paint, paste, draw, be creative without all the mess at home to clean up

Come along to find out how...

Information Night - Thurs 29th Jan 2015
To register your interest: PH: 8470 9999
www.anglicarevic.org.au