## Important School Diary Dates

**2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Icy Poles on Sale from 3.30-3.45 p.m. at Canteen area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Icy Poles on Sale from 3.30-3.45 p.m. at Canteen area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 1 – 9.00 to 11.00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Grade 1/2 Lego Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 El Kid Excursion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 2 – 9.00 to 11.00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Ready, Set, Go! Program No. 3 – 9.00 to 11.00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Art Walk and Picnic Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 4 <strong>School ends at 1.30 p.m.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>First Day of Term 1 for <strong>Students at 9.00 a.m.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>School Fete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday - <strong>NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 20-22</td>
<td>Mon-Wed</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 31</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 <strong>School ends at 2.30 p.m.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 17</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Easter Monday – <strong>NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>First day of Term 2 at 9.00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Anzac Day – <strong>NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 26-28</td>
<td>Wed-Fri</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Camp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2017 Term Dates**

- **Term 1** - Tuesday 31st January to Friday 31st March at 2.30 p.m.
- **Term 2** - Tuesday 18th April to Friday 30th June at 2.30 p.m.
- **Term 3** - Monday 17th July to Friday 22nd September at 2.30 p.m.
- **Term 4** - Monday 9th October to Friday 22nd December at 1.30 p.m.

*If you have information or ads for the newsletter, need to contact the school or want an email forwarded on to a teacher, please email it to northcote.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au*
Greetings ...  

Student Achievement  
Planks Away!  
Today the years 1 and 2’s participated in an incursion titled ‘Planks’. The incursion experience was linked to the 1/2 Inquiry topic on Design and Creativity. The children were given little blank planks shaped in rectangular prisms and after being shown a little of a variety of building patterns and shapes, were given the opportunity to ‘go for it’. Some automatically formed groups and began organising and building mini cities with towers stretching up past my height with other members of the group planning connecting roads and bridges.

The children explored and learnt through play experience all about what did and didn’t work in their designs, especially after some came crashing down and they’d start all over again, changing some of the design aspects. There were spherical shapes, rectangular and triangular shapes. The activity crossed over into the parts of the curriculum including Maths, Science, Technology and Personal and Social capabilities.

A very enriching experience for all students. Who knows, perhaps our future city planners some day? (see a few photos at the end of my column).

Our Triathletes - Congratulations  
Last Friday, 82 of our students from grades 4 to 6 participated in the local school Triathlon event at Northcote Swim Centre. They formed teams in age groups and each individual in the team performed a section of either, a run, swim or cycle. Congratulations to the students who participated in the event with quite a number of our teams coming first as well as second and third! The behaviour of our students was exemplary, well done, we are proud of you.

Steven Bruce, the year 5/6 Team Co-ordinator, also coordinated the entire event that had over 900 student participants, a huge increase from previous years. Feedback we received from other school communities after the event was that it was the best triathlon so far. Also thank you to teachers Nicole, Kate, Ash and Tarnya (pre-service teacher) for their support on the day. Our parent group support was also fantastic as they helped in transporting the bikes back and forth to the venue and stayed to be a very positive vocal support for our students.

Well done all for representing our school out there in the wider community.

Congratulations to one of our winning teams at the District Triathlon!  
U11 - Guy F, Harry T & Marcus C
Ready, Set, Go!
Our 2017 Prep orientation commences next Friday. I know you will join me in welcoming our new families to the school as they wander in looking for where to go. If they look a little lost, please welcome and direct them to the Hall entrance. We will have official ‘Guides’ from year 5 & 6 to assist during the program as well. We are looking forward to the excitement of our future preppies and their families.

2017 Class Structure
Thank you to the parents who sent in their feedback on 2017 class model in the newsletter a couple of weeks ago. I appreciate your thoughts and feedback. Each response was considered at our staff meetings and the positives and concerns discussed. Most models didn’t fit the criteria as there aren’t even numbers at each cohort level and this meant having a mixture of composite, straight, and some more difficult combinations in terms of forming teaching teams and that some numbers in classes were quite high, whilst some ended up being low. It’s not an easy task! 2017 Class model as below.

2017 class organisation – with 17 home groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Prep x 1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>Prep x 2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Prep x 3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Year 1/2 x 1</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 5</td>
<td>Year 1/2 x 2</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 6</td>
<td>Year 1/2 x 3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Year 1/2 x 4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 8</td>
<td>Year 1/2 x 5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 9</td>
<td>3/4 x 1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 10</td>
<td>3/4 x 2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 11</td>
<td>3/4 x 3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 12</td>
<td>3/4 x 4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 13</td>
<td>5/6 x 1</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 14</td>
<td>5/6 x 2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 15</td>
<td>5/6 x 3</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 16</td>
<td>5/6 x 4</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 17</td>
<td>5/6 x 5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td></td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of students may vary slightly again by the end of the year or by February 2017.

Farewell Michel Stanley
We bid a very fond farewell to Michel Stanley, our Out of Hours Care Administrator, who finishes up this week. Michel prepares the accounts and sends you your invoices if your children use the Northcote Out of Hours Care Program (NOOSHC). Michel commenced the position when her son, Jack, was in Prep. Jack is now in year 7! Michel and her family are off to live in New York for a couple of years. On behalf of the School Council and the school community, I would like to thank Michel for her work in the Out of School Hours program for the last 7 years and wish her and family all the best for life in New York.

New NOOSHC Administrator
Sue Davidson, mum of Camryn, Imogen and Jorja, has taken on the Administrative role. Thank you Sue.

Warm Regards,
Kerrie
NPS Instrumental Music Program Survey
If you are still willing to participate in the NPS instrumental music program survey, please click on the link below. If for some reason the link doesn’t work, please copy and paste it into your web browser. If you’re still experiencing problems, please contact Olivia at oliviachant@chantlink.com.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RZXBKPY

Ross Bennie
Assistant Principal
Northcote Primary School

Icypole Fundraiser
With the weather warming up, why not cool down with an icypole! On sale on Fridays for the next 2 weeks you can purchase an icypole from the canteen area from 3.30-3.45pm. Icypoles are $1 each. What a delicious way to raise funds for the school.
Parenting ideas Insights

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

How to encourage kids to be problem-solvers

When parents solve all children’s problems we not only increase their dependency on adults but we teach kids to be afraid of making mistakes and to blame themselves for not being good enough. That’s fertile ground for anxiety and depressive illness.

So, how can we raise kids to be courageous problem-solvers rather than self-critical scaredy cats?

Here are six practical ideas to get you started.

1. Turn requests into problems for kids to solve

Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve. If you keep solving them, they’ll keep bringing them. ‘Mum, my sister is annoying me!’ ‘Dad, can you ask my teacher to pick me for the team?’ ‘Hey, I can’t find my socks!’ It’s tempting if you are in a time-poor family to simply jump in and help kids out. Alternatively, you can take a problem-solving approach, cueing them to resolve their own problems and take responsibility for their concerns. ‘What can you do to make her stop annoying you?’ ‘What’s the best approach to take with your teacher?’ ‘Socks, smocks! Where might they be?’

2. Ask good questions to prompt problem-solving

A problem-solving approach relies on asking good questions, which can be challenging if you are used to solving your child’s problems. The first question when a child brings you a problem should be: ‘Can you handle this on your own?’ Next should be, ‘What do you want me to do to help you solve the problem?’ These questions are not meant to deter children from coming to you; rather, to encourage and teach them to start working through their own concerns themselves.

3. Coach them through problems and concerns

So, your child feels she was unfairly left out of a school sports team by a teacher and asks you get involved. The easiest solution may be to meet with the teacher and find out what’s going on. You may or not resolve the problem but in doing so you are teaching a child to become dependent on you. Alternatively, you could coach your child to speak to the teacher herself and find out why she was left out. Obviously, there are times when children need their parents to be advocates for them such as when they are being bullied, but we need to make the most of the opportunities for children to speak for themselves. Better to help your child find the right words to use and discuss the best way to approach another person when they have problems. These are great skills to take into adulthood.

4. Prepare kids for problems and contingencies

You may coach your child to be independent – walk to school, spend some time alone at home (when old enough), catch a train with friends – but does he know what to do in an emergency? What happens if he comes home after school and the house is locked? Who should he go to? Discuss different scenarios with children whenever they enter new or potentially risky situations so that they won’t fall apart when things don’t go their way. Remember the Boy Scouts motto – be prepared!

more on page 2

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

© 2016 Michael Grose
... How to encourage kids to be problem-solvers ...

3 Show a little faith
Sometimes you’ve got to show faith in children. We can easily trip them up with our negative expectations, such as by saying ‘Don’t spill it!’ to a child who is carrying a glass filled with water. Of course, your child doesn’t want to spill it but you’ve just conveyed your expectations with that statement. We need to be careful that we don’t sabotage children’s efforts to be independent problem-solvers with comments such as, ‘You’ll be okay … won’t you?’ “You’re not very good at looking after yourself!”

4 Applaud mistakes and stuff-ups
Would a child who accidentally breaks a plate in your family while emptying the dishwasher be met with a ‘That’s really annoying, you can be clumsy sometimes’ response or an ‘It doesn’t matter, thanks for your help’ type of response? Hopefully it won’t be the first response, because nothing shuts a child’s natural tendencies to extend themselves down quicker than an adult who can’t abide mistakes. If you have a low-risk-taking, perfectionist, consider throwing a little party rather than making a fuss when they make errors so they can learn that mistakes don’t reflect on them personally, and that the sun will still shine even if they break a plate, tell a joke that falls flat or don’t get a perfect examination score.
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Metro & Country Victorian Cricket Camps 2017 - Brochures available outside the school office or book online at www.cricketcoaching.com.au

Save the Children Australia

Did you know that Save the Children has an Op Shop in Northcote?

Well we do and we are looking for some great volunteers to join our team.

No experience is necessary as full training is given.

We are accredited with Centrelink and would happily host those looking to fulfil their 15 hours commitment each week.

For more information, please give Lee Barker a call on 0438 481 602
or call into the shop at
292 High Street, Northcote
9:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday

“Every dollar we raise through our Op Shops helps us to make a difference in a child’s life”
INTERCcULTURAL CELEBRATORY EVENING 2016

Friends of Interculturalism End of Year Celebration

It’s that time of year again, bring along a plate of food from your culture of origin, let others in and enjoy, diverse foods. Listen to music, shop panels and participating in some arts and crafts as we celebrate this year’s hard packing and begin to look forward to the year ahead.

For health and safety reasons, it is essential that you inform Centre staff what food you will be contributing.

BOOK NOW!

WHEN
Wednesday 6th December 2016
TIME
6.30pm to 9.30pm
COST
Free
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
WHERE
Darebin International Centre
BOOKINGS
Call us on 8470 8440 or email bookings@darebin.vic.gov.au with your full name and contact number.

CITY OF DAREBIN

276 Gower Street, Preston
03 8877 9200 | Local Line 1300 36 13 01
E mailto:darebin.vic.gov.au

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Against Gender-Based Violence

16 Days Campaign encourages action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

Come and watch 16 Frames on 3rd December from 7.30pm. This documentary tells the story of a young Pakistani activist, her battle for girls right to education & the violence she faced in her quest to access it.

The film will be followed by a discussion on the local context of violence against women and education, by Women’s Health in the North.

WHO
Thursday 1 December 2016
TIME
11.00am to 1.00pm
COST
FREE Bookings Essential. Lunch provided.
WHERE
Darebin International Centre
BOOKINGS
Call us on 8470 8440 or email bookings@darebin.vic.gov.au with your full name and contact number.

CITY OF DAREBIN

276 Gower Street, Preston
03 8877 9200 | Local Line 1300 36 13 01
E mailto:darebin.vic.gov.au

DAREBIN INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

31 Roseberry Avenue, Preston
03 8470 8440 | Local Line 1300 36 13 01
E mailto:interculture@darebin.vic.gov.au

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DAREBIN WOMEN’S SPORTS CLUB

COME & TRY

AFL & SOCCER DAY

Darebin Women’s Soccer Club: welcoming women and girls of all ages to play AFL and SOCCER in 2017.

AFL

Sunday November 27th, 2016
Girls Soccer: 10am – Girls Foofy 11am
A.H. Cripp Reserve, Havelock Cres, Preston

Darebin Women’s Sports Club

Summer Training: November 2016
Girls Soccer
– Senior, Teenage 1 team
– Under 16, 18, Senior, 4 team

AFL

Summer Training: November 2016
– Under 18 girls
– Under 16, 18 girls
– Under 16, 18 boys
– Under 16, 18 boys
Join us for afternoon tea to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Thornbury Women’s Neighbourhood House. Festivities include the launch of a book on the history of TWNH, the unveiling of a tile mural to commemorate the house, live entertainment and a display of memorabilia.

Invitation
We would like you to join us in the festivities to celebrate 30 years of TWNH and service to the community.

SAT 3RD DEC 2016
3:30PM TO 5:30PM
99 LEINSTER GROVE, THORN BURY
RSVP by 25th Nov 2016 Ph: 0406 0466
Email: admin@prestonhouse.org.au

Northcote Twilight Christmas Makers Market

Friday 2nd December 5-9pm
Northcote Uniting Church/Chalice,
251 High Street, Northcote

If you are interested in having a stall contact Kayti on murphys@finland@gmail.com or FB Northcote Twilight Makers Market

Over 30+ Stalls
Locally Made Clothes
Scandanavian Textiles
Candles and Soaps
Handmade Jewellery