If you have information or ads for the newsletter please send it to northcote.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

### Important School Diary Dates for 2015

#### March

- 11-13 Wed-Fri: Grade 3/4 Camp
- 12 Thurs: Twilight Working Bee
- 14 Sat: NPS FETE – 10am - 4pm
- 18-20 Wed-Fri: Grade 5/6 Camp
- 23 Mon: Athletics Carnival Day
- 27 Fri: End of Term 1 – 2.30pm finish

#### April

- 13 Mon: Start Term 2

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**PUPIL OF THE WEEK**

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**NO MORE SECOND HAND DONATIONS TO BE DROPPED OFF IN THE FOYER. See SEPARATE FETE NEWSLETTER FOR THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION**

**Playground Supervision**

A reminder that students should not be in the school grounds unsupervised. A number of children have been in the yard unsupervised at 8.30am with no adults present. The school gates are usually open at 8.30am, however, teachers do not commence yard supervision until 8.45am. Please make care arrangements at the Before Care Program if you need child care and supervision in the morning before 8.45am.
Student Achievement
Well done NPS Swimmers!
A group of 17 students competed in interschool swimming events at the Northcote Pool this week. We acknowledged them and wished them all the best at assembly on Monday.

They all put in a great effort and did really well. Xara, Thomas, Matteo, Imogen and Marcus made it through and will be representing NPS at Division swimming. Well done again our swimmers and best of luck to those going on to next level of competition.

From a parent... All who participated had a great day, all competing with great spirit and pride wearing their Northcote jerseys.

How reassuring seeing the kids genuinely delight in their team mates’ efforts and wonderful seeing them all scream the house down for their mate’s effort regardless of place. They were amazing. So proud to be part of the Northcote Primary Community.

School Council News
On Wednesday night this week, the final 2014-2015 School Council meeting was held. School Council President Ian Taylor, has included a report further on in the newsletter and an acknowledgement of the outgoing or retiring members.

I would also like to acknowledge Ian’s role as President of the School Council over the last year. Ian has overseen a very productive and effective Council that has achieved many things including the successful Review of the school’s performance over the last 4 years (School Review); the development of the School Strategic Plan 2015 – 2019, incorporating the recommendations from the review and many more (see Ian’s report further on in newsletter).

Thank you Ian, for your leadership of and commitment to our School Council.

Minutes of School Council will be displayed in the foyer area in the coming weeks.

School Council Election 2015-2016
We have received 2 parent nominations for the four parent-category vacancies which means we will not be required to hold a ballot for School Council Election.

Two more Parent-Category Vacancies to fill – Nomination Timeline Extended
We still have 2 parent vacancies to fill. Therefore I have extended the nomination timeline until Tuesday, 3rd March, 2015 by 4.00pm.
We have 254 families in our school and I know that there are a couple of parents out there who have thought about joining. Perhaps you are already attending the sub-committee meetings and would like to step up to School Council?

Our School Council meetings are very effective, well run, and focused on getting to the business of the day so that we can actually support the subcommittees to get the work done so that improvements are enacted upon. We are very clear on making our school the best it can be to support the work of teachers, to the benefit of our children.

Nomination forms are available at the office, so please drop by fill it in.

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the members of the 2015 – 2016 School Council... so far...

The successful nominees in the parent category are:
- Ian Nunn (father of Imogen, year 5 and Jorja, year 2) returning for another term, thanks Ian.
- Scott Meaklim (father of Grace in Prep)

They are looking a little lonely! Two more parents would be great!

‘What do you do on School Council?’
As one of our current School Councillors was getting ready to come to the meeting on Wednesday night, her year 2 daughter (who has given me permission to run the story on condition she remain anonymous) started a conversation with her as follows:

Year 2 - Where are you going Mum?
Mum - To a School Council Meeting.
Year 2 - What do you do at School Council?
Mum - We talk about things and make improvements to the school.
Year 2 – [Emphatically] You don’t have to make improvements mum, the school is already AWESOME!!!

Wow! I love that positivity and great rap from our own students! Thanks for the permission Year 2 student.

Kerrie

News from School Council
At school council last night, we approved the final plans for the school fete on the 14 March. It’s going to be a great day so stay tuned for how you can get involved and enjoy the day.

Working Bee
To help with the event the Environment and Community sub-committees are running an Twilight Working Bee on Thursday the 12 March starting straight after school. Let’s make the school look as good as possible for the big day. Please come along and help.

Senior Campus
You will notice a great deal of work on our new senior campus on the north side of Helen Street. It is not yet ready for occupation but I understand the senior students are very keen to get access and make it their own. It will certainly add a great deal to our school capacity given that most of our other teaching spaces are heavily utilised.

Last meeting of the Current School Council
Last night was the last meeting of the current school council. It has been a very productive and cooperative council, using the skills of its members to build on the capability of the structure put in place a couple of years ago. It is heavily supported by the members of the sub-committees (who do most of the real work) and plays
a vital part in supporting the staff and the educational outcomes we all want for our children. On behalf of the current members I encourage everyone in our school community to take an active role in school council business, either through volunteering on school activities, supporting sub-committees or by joining the school council. There is plenty of room for everyone and no shortage of great ideas for us to pursue as we make the school even stronger and better.

On the topic of great ideas, please keep in mind that soon the Community Sub-committee will be seeking proposals as part of the annual Community Grants Process. Ideas that need a little money to make improvements for the students are always welcome.

Ian Taylor
School Council President

SchoolKids Bonus
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is no longer available to eligible parents however the Schoolkids Bonus is still available until July 2016.

The Schoolkids Bonus aims to help eligible families and students with the education related costs of primary and secondary school studies, such as school fees, excursions and camps etc.

Each year, eligible families and students will receive up to:

- $422 for each child in primary school (two instalments)
- $842 for each child in secondary school (two instalments).

For further information and eligibility, please visit the Human Services website.

Schools Clean Up Australia Day - Friday 27 February
This year, Clean Up Australia Day is celebrating 25 years of volunteer action across Australia. Last year, thanks to an estimated 572,406 volunteers, 15,708 tonnes at 7,140 sites across Australia were cleaned up!

Northcote Primary School will be helping to clean up and conserve our local school environment by participating in Schools Clean Up Australia Day on Friday 27 February between 2:30pm – 3pm. The children and teaching staff will be joining in a whole school Emu Parade (pick up & sweep up session). We will be working together towards making our grounds rubbish free and tidy.

Twilight Working Bee
We will be having a Twilight Working Bee after school on Thursday 12 March from 3.15pm to 5.00pm to clean up before the fete. Meet on top turf outside Maintenance shed where there will be a list of jobs to do. Bring own wheel barrows, brooms and rakes.

Weetbix Triathlon – Sunday 8 March
The Weetbix Triathlon is for kids aged 7-15. If 15 or more students from Northcote Primary School register then our school goes in the running for some great prizes, including a major prize of $5000 cash towards a health initiative. For more information go to: http://try.weetbix.com.au/
Secondary School Information/Tours

Princes Hill Secondary College
Tours for Grade 6 students wanting to attend Princes Hill Secondary College in 2016 will be each Wednesday and Thursday of Term One, beginning Wednesday 25 Feb. To book in for the tour, could parents please phone Princes Hill Secondary College on 03 9389 0600. Tours will begin at 9:00am, so please arrive by 8:50am.

Northcote High School - Tours and Open Day 2015
School Tours commencing Mon 9 Feb
School day tours for prospective parents and students run several times per week in Term 1 and early Term 2. The tours depart from our foyer at 9.15 am and take about one hour. See our website for exact dates. Please ring to book a place as numbers are limited (9488 2300)

School Open Morning - Tuesday 28 April
Open Morning will be held on Tuesday 28 April between 9 am and 12 noon. All prospective parents and students are welcome, and there is no need to book in advance for this event.
Northcote High School, St, Georges Rd, Northcote, 3070, Australia. Phone 9488 2300

Advertisements
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BECOME A FOSTER CARER!
All sorts of people make great Foster Carers. They are tradesmen, nurses, sales reps, shop assistants, teachers etc. They are couples, singles, from different cultural backgrounds, with or without their own children. They are people who have the desire to give a child a safe and welcoming place to stay.

Our next information session is on Wednesday 15 April 2015 from 7pm-8.30pm in the Preston area
Come along to find out more & have your questions answered. To book or to receive an information package please contact

Lynette Tollit on 8470 9999 or lynette.tollit@anglicarevic.org.au

It is easy to become an Anglicare Foster Carer, call us NOW to talk about how

DO YOU NEED A BABYSITTER OR NANNY?
I’m Celeste Macleod. I live locally and have over 10 years experience working with babies and children. I have my driver’s license and am happy to do some housework. Please e-mail me at celeste.emira@gmail.com or call me on 0476 156 901. Look forward to hearing from you!

Help Clean Up Northcote Train Station
NoRa, the Friends of Northcote Train Station (the Northcote Stationeers Group) are planning a clean-up of the station as part of Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, March 1, from 10:00-1:00. Come join us to rid the station of cans, bottles and rubbish and make the station surrounds a place that neighbours and commuters can enjoy.
Meet at the station entrance on Herbert Street and volunteer your time (a little or a lot) to improve our local amenity. Contact me or the organiser (Sharon Landers sharonlanders1@bigpond.com) and check out the website cleanup australia.org.au for further information.

**TutorBright - One to One In-home Tutoring.**
TutorBright offers 1:1 in-home tutoring for grades Prep to 6. Along with better grades, we focus on making positive changes to students’ lives. TutorBright offer a free in-home diagnostic learning assessment to create an individualised program. We specialise in literacy and numeracy. Each student is matched to a TutorBright tutor mentor, who is professionally trained and qualified. Please call 1300 698 886 to book a free ‘no obligation’ assessment or visit our website at www.tutorbright.com.au for information.