NEWSLETTER
No. 21 – 28 July 2016

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

Important School Diary Dates

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<th>Jul</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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<th>Grades 5/6 Swimming Program</th>
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<td>Sat</td>
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<td>NPS Disco</td>
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<td>Last Day to Return Parent Opinion Surveys (see below)</td>
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| Aug  | Thurs | 4   | Curriculum Day – No Students required at school |
|      | Wed   | 10  | School Council – Staffroom – 7.00 p.m. |
|      | Tues  | 9   | District Basketball Round Robin |
|      | Thurs | 11  | Grades 5/6 Incursion – Wheeltalk |
|      | Thurs | 18  | MFB Fire Education Incursion - Preps |
|      | Fri   | 19  | District Athletics Carnival – Selected Children from Yrs 3-6 |
|      | Sat   | 20  | 2016 Annual NPS Trivia Night |
|      | Mon   | 22  | Book Week begins |
|      | Fri   | 26  | MFB Fire Education – Preps |
|      | Wed   | 31  | Curriculum Day – No Students required at school |

| Sep  | Mon   | 5   | Grades 3/4 Swimming begins |
|      | Sat   | 10  | State School Spectacular Performance |
|      | Fri   | 16  | Last Day of Term 3 – 2.30 p.m. finish |

| Oct  | Mon   | 3   | First Day of Term 4 – 9.00 a.m. start |
|      | Wed-Fri | 5-7 | Grades 1/2 Camp |
|      | Mon   | 17  | Curriculum Day – No Students required at school |

Parent Opinion Survey Return Reminder
Thank you to the parents who have already returned the parent opinion surveys to the school. A random computer-generated selection of parents were sent the surveys this week and so far, we have had only a few returned.

We would like to maximise our parent’s response rate so that the feedback provided by the surveys is large enough to be representative of our parent community thoughts. The responses are not seen by our school – they are sent to an independent company for processing, with only the final results returned to us.

The closing date for the return of your survey is **Friday 29th July** – tomorrow! We would really appreciate it if you can make the effort to return the surveys to the school office.
Greetings ...

Student Achievement - Our Year 1 Students Exploring the Italian Language

Elena, Prep to 2 Italian teacher reported to me that on Tuesday morning, Grace, Gr.1 (1/2NH) wanted to share with the class that one could download an app to your mobile phone that could translate words into Italian and she had been using it to further her knowledge of Italian language!

Jemimah also Gr.1 (1-2NH) with a huge grin on her face shared that her family had been to an Italian restaurant and she had spoken Italian to the waiter. When asked what she said, she said "I said grazie and prego and then I found out he had just come to Australia!!"

Great confidence builders for our Italian language learners and made Elena’s day.

Dangerous Parking Behaviour

I was dismayed this week, when a parent reported the following to me:

"I am a parent at the school and I was walking my children into the school yard this morning just after 9.00 a.m. There were three cars parked illegally at the school crossing behind the disabled car space, one was actually half on the crossing on a bit of an angle.

As we were trying to cross at the crossing the car parked on the crossing nearly backed over me and my children. Luckily I was able to pull my children back out of the way, I don’t think this person had any idea!

It was a really dangerous situation.”

I remind parents, please, adhere to parking signs and do not, under any circumstances park illegally across the school crossing in Helen Street. If this continues, I will have little choice but to report offending drivers to Darebin Council Traffic Officers. It is too dangerous and we do not want a situation where we have an injury to a member of our community.

Draft Policy – Raising Concerns and Complaints

The Education Sub-Committee, in consultation with the staff, have developed a comprehensive draft policy titled ‘Raising Concerns and Complaints’. The policy aims to make it clear for members of the community, the school’s approach to handling concerns and complaints raised and how
parents can go about this. Whilst this is quite a comprehensive draft, the Education Sub-Committee will also develop a summary help document about raising concerns and complaints.

If you have any feedback please email it to school by Thursday 4th August, 3.00 p.m. The Education Sub-Committee will consider all feedback when finalising the draft for recommendation to School Council for endorsement. Please click here to access the draft policy. Comments are only accepted from the Northcote Primary School community.

Are you coming to …
Our school disco? Our school Trivia Night?
I hope so! Both look like fun events for children (disco) and trivia night (parents). The Community Sub-Committee are working hard to ensure all attendees really enjoy themselves. Hope to see you, your family and friends there!

Reminder … throwing sticks and stones is unacceptable
A regular reminder to all our students, that throwing sticks and stones is unacceptable behaviour which can cause serious injury to people and property.

Warm Regards,
Kerrie

Thank-you from the Education Sub-Committee
Thank-you to all parents who filled in our parent survey on reports and student conferences and thank-you to the teachers for faithfully passing them out on the day!

We had an excellent response rate (195), allowing us to be confident in our recommendations for future reports and conferences. A similar online survey in 2015 led to some changes to reports and conferences in 2016, and this survey gathered feedback about these changes.

So what did you say?

ABOUT REPORTS:
You gave significantly more positive responses than in previous surveys. There continues to be some minor improvements that could be made to the reports in response to consistent themes in your comments. These will be passed on to the staff.
We thank our teaching staff for taking on board previous feedback, leading to this increase in satisfaction.

ABOUT STUDENT CONFERENCES:
Offering the choice of three-way conference (TWC) or parent-teacher interview (PTI) has been highly successful. Of those who filled in the survey, around 40% chose a PTI and 60% a TWC. Both formats were rated as extremely helpful, which is very encouraging. Overall, 74% thought they would choose the same format next year. From the data and parent comments it is clear that the opportunity for choice was greatly appreciated. We were delighted to see that many of you indicated your children had participated in making the decision regarding the format chosen.

Again, thank you to the staff for being flexible to the trial. The Education Sub-Committee will be recommending that both formats continue to be offered next year.

Kirsty Teague,
Education Sub-Committee
Last Thursday we had a Division Playoff in Girls Netball against Reservoir West.

We had a Fun and Fair Game... the scores were 34 to 4...We Won!

Congratulations to the team fielded at this game - Amirah, Ella, Georgia B, Holly, Iris, Mica, Sophie and Xara. You played beautifully and did all the netballers involved proud. A big thank you to Aimee, Audrey D, Alyssa MV, Bella F, Billie TM, Elly, Kate, Molly, Stephanie and Xalia for playing a BIG PART in the games that helped us get to the finals. It really was a collaborative effort all term.

**GOOD LUCK to both girls and mixed teams for the district match next Monday!**

We are proud of how Northcote Primary students conduct themselves when representing their school in the community, especially in the sporting areas. It’s so wonderful to hear that others notice this too, as in this email from the Reservoir Primary netball coach after this match.

_We would like congratulate your girls on a fantastic win. It was a big step up for our girls and they no doubt would have learnt a lot from your team’s play._

_Aside from their great play we applaud your girls for being such gracious winners and wish them the best of luck in the next round._

_Finally, a big thank you to you and everyone at your school who helped organise the game. A special thank you also, to the umpire._

_From Stuart_
_Reservoir Primary_

Aimee   Daniel N   Holly   Marcus C   Stephanie
Alyssa   Ella       Iris     Matteo     Xalia
Amirah   Elly       Jonathan  Mica      Xara
Audrey D  Euan     Junaid   Molly      
Bella    Finn O     Kai       Otteo     
Billie   Georgia    Kate       Sophie   


DISCO REMINDERS

- Prep, Grades 1 & 2 - 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
- Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6 - 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
- Please enter NOOSH via the laneway side gate (off Henry St, between school and NOOSH)
- Please bring along your tickets with you
- NPS students and parents / carers only, sorry siblings are unable to attend
- No external food or drinks permitted, students will be provided with water and light refreshments
- Please consider our neighbours and walk or catch public transport to the disco. If you do drive please consider parking in the car park behind Northcote Social Club

This is NOT a ‘drop and go’ event, parents / carers are responsible for the children they bring along. Please ensure your children display appropriate behaviour throughout the event so that it is enjoyable for all in attendance.

Action Teams

Year 6 students have been busy bees the past few weeks organising and finalising their Action Teams. Each Action Team is fronted by one or two students who attended the National Young Leaders Day in Term 1. Action Teams are an opportunity for students to design, plan and run something they are passionate about. These range from fundraising, teaching sport and leaving a legacy behind.

In next week’s newsletter we will provide an overview of what will be on offer. In the mean time I am doing a call out for any families or friends who can assist with, or provide information about, printing a Year Book for year 6 students at the end of the year. If you can assist in any way please contact Nicole.

Many thanks, Nicole (Year 5/6 Teacher).
parker.nicole.n@edumail.vic.gov.au
Discounted tickets for sale this Friday only – 29th July

Just enter “Dance” to receive a 10% discount

Saturday 10 September: Hisense Arena: Shows at 1pm and 6:30pm.
Buy 10 tickets and get one adult ticket free (for group bookings please call 1300 364 001)
Visit www.ticketek.com.au or phone Ticketek on 132 849

For more information go to the Spectacular Facebook and website page:

National Asthma Week 1-7 September
The theme for National Asthma Week 2016 is Become a Better Breather. National Asthma Week coincides with the beginning of spring and as pollens are a known trigger for asthma, this is an excellent time to ensure your child’s asthma is well controlled. Sections of the Asthma Australia website that can help with asthma management include:

- Take the Asthma Control Test to see if you could make improvements to help your child become a better breather.
- Manage allergies often linked with asthma, including allergic rhinitis (hayfever).
- Did you know? 90% of people with asthma use their medications incorrectly.
- Check your child’s technique to see if they are getting full benefit from their medication.

Regular review of your child’s asthma with your GP and pharmacist will help them to become a better breather. Need help with your child’s asthma? Contact our Asthma Assist line on 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462) and talk to one of our friendly Asthma Health Professionals.

Asthma Management in Winter and Spring:
Asthma is one of the most common chronic childhood conditions, affecting 1 in every 10 children in Australia. Emergency admissions and hospitalisations peak during the winter for children with asthma and flare-ups are often more prevalent during the winter and spring. Good management however can help children with asthma and their carers get through this tricky time of year with more confidence.

Here are a few tips for parents and carers:

- make an annual appointment for an asthma review by your child’s doctor
- update your child’s Asthma Plan at the start of each year and provide a copy to the school
- talk to the teacher and other key staff about your child’s asthma – their usual triggers, symptoms and medication
- provide an in-date blue reliever puffer and spacer for use at school (clearly labelled with child’s name and date of birth)
- help your child understand the importance of taking their preventer medication every day, as prescribed
- ask their doctor about having a flu vaccination
- encourage hand washing and covering one’s mouth when coughing to help prevent the spread of germs

**School Sports and Asthma:**
Physical activity acts as a major trigger in up to 90% of people with asthma. Exercise Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB), commonly known as exercise induced asthma, is the temporary narrowing of the lower airways, occurring after vigorous exercise. People with poorly controlled asthma are at a higher risk of EIB due to the sensitive nature of their airways. This may result in episodes of coughing, wheezing, a feeling of chest tightness/discomfort or shortness of breath, often worsening 5-10 minutes after exercise.

To ensure your child can safely participate in sports and exercise at school, the first step is to make sure their asthma is well controlled. If your child is requiring their reliever medication more than twice a week, it is a good idea to see their GP for a review as this may indicate poorly controlled asthma. Also provide the school with an Asthma Plan from the doctor, particularly before a sport carnival or excursion. The plan will include any instructions for EIB (e.g. use of their asthma reliever prior to physical activity). You can help them check that they are using their asthma devices correctly by watching our videos on the Asthma Australia website.

For support with your child’s asthma please contact your local Asthma Foundation on 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462) to speak with one of our Helpline staff.

**Asthma app:**
The new Asthma Australia asthma app brings together a raft of resources in one convenient place to help you ensure your child’s asthma is managed as well as possible. Sections include information on medications, device technique videos and Asthma First Aid in an emergency. The app is free at the iTunes store (Android coming soon).

For primary aged students:
**Asthma Kids**
Looking for a way to help your child understand more about their asthma or about a friend with asthma? Asthma Kids is an online, interactive tool to help primary school aged children understand what it’s like to have asthma and what they can do to help. Check it out at www.asthmakids.org.au
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Melbourne Youth Music (MYM) 2017 Summer School
Brochures available from the school foyer
BABY JAM

GROUP MUSIC CLASSES
FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS

WEDNESDAYS
10AM - 10:30AM

@ THE LITTLE GARDEN STUDIO
THORNBURY
$15 REGULAR, $20 CASUAL

Contact Kate:
katevigo@gmail.com
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THORNBURY

For the Superhero in your life

It's time to celebrate our personal heroes!

Show your dad, or your father figure, how much you think he's super by nominating him for the 2016 Community Father of the Year. Your dad could also be eligible for the 2016 Victorian Father of the Year award.

Winners will receive a FREE family pass to the 2016 YMCA Father's Day Fun Run.

Nominations are now open! All submissions due by 8 August 2016 at 5.00pm

victoria.ymca.org.au/fathers