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 for 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>School Banking Opening Day (see below) Premier’s Reading Challenge Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>School Council Meeting at 7.00 p.m. - Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>Tues-Thurs</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing for Grades 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-22</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Education Week Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Cultural Performance – Opera Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>School Council Meeting at 7.00 p.m. – Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 5</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>The School Fete (mark it in your diaries!)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PUPIL OF THE WEEK**

*(Assembly item by Grades 3/4)*

- OOLW - Sofia S
- OON - Hudson DB
- OOL - Deena V
- 12DN - Syna S
- 12J - Andreas M
- 12S - Alice F
- 12T - Claudy M
- 34A - Lucy C
- 34D - Christopher K
- 34K - Audrey DT
- 34KL - Ivan T
- 56C - Riley H
- 56M - Flynn M-V
- 56N - Harry T
- 56S - Lexi M
Greetings ...

Student Achievement
Well done 1/2T Assembly Presenters
We were treated to a very engaging presentation at our school assembly on Monday by a group of children in the 1/2T class. All the 1/2s are investigating sources of Light and Sound, in Science, through their Inquiry Units. They have been looking at how light and sound are produced and how light and sound travels. The students presented their understandings to the whole school and showed us some footage from a Science incursion they had earlier in April. Well done this group! They had us all tuned in and interested in your presentation by the way they spoke, their posters, and the film clips they showed us. Great work!

Our School Open Morning Tuesday May 19th
We will be holding our whole school open day on Tuesday May 19th. We are inviting our current parents/carers to come along and see the school programs running and student’s quality work on display. Many parents/carers, especially in the Junior and Middle sections of the school, come into their child’s classroom on a regular basis with the 'learning expos' but we are also aware that some parents are not able to. So, we are scheduling a special day and hope that parents might be able to shuffle their schedules around and come along.

Soon, you will receive information via class newsletters, inviting you to come along on open day to observe and acknowledge your child’s great work. It does mean a lot to your child, to have you come and see them ‘in action’ learning at school. Teachers will also include information in the class newsletter about the timetable, so you can see which times are available to come along to see a particular activity or learning experience. Please keep in mind that this is not parent teacher interview time, but an opportunity to see your child in their class during the day. We hope you can join us!

Prep Enrolments for 2016
Tours for prospective parents will continue each week, generally on Tuesdays, until the second last week of this term. Our tours have filled up very quickly and only have a few spaces left on tours for this term. We are receiving calls on a daily basis from parents interested in a tour. We have already received a number of enrolments for Prep 2016.

Have you enrolled your 2016 Prep yet?
If you have children currently attending NPS, have a preschooler AND you haven’t yet enrolled for next year, please call in to the office and pick up an enrolment form, or download one from the website as soon as possible. Prep 2016 enrolments are due in by the end of this term, so don’t miss out!

Farewell Anna
Anna, from year 5, is moving house and moving to another school very soon and we are sad to see her go. Anna came to NPS in year 4 and has made some very good friends in this time. We wish Anna all the best at her new school. Thanks Anna, for being part of Northcote Primary School.

Out of School Hours News – Extension to the House
School Council is pleased to announce the completion of the design, planning of the extension to the out of hours house. Distribution of tender documents has been completed and we expect commencement of building works in late May for a tow month building program. The Out of School Hours program will still be available and be relocated temporarily to the school hall area. Further details will be coming in newsletters. Thank you to the NOOSHC (Out of Hours Sub-Committee of school council) and School Council, who have put many hours into the preparation and planning of this improvement to our facilities.

Warm regards,
Kerrie
Parent Information: National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) http://www.naplan.edu.au

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be conducted on Tuesday 12th May, Wednesday 13th May and Thursday 14th May 2015. These tests will include:

* Language Conventions incorporates spelling, grammar and punctuation
* Writing either a persuasive or narrative text
* Reading comprehension

Timetable for National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2015 at Years 3 and 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Tuesday 12 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 13 May</th>
<th>Thursday 14 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Language Conventions* 40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Language Conventions* 40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
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Katinka Kastner – NAPLAN co-ordinator.

Italian Update Term 2!
Bentornati a scuola! (Welcome back to school!)

Term 2 has started with lots of enthusiasm from all! The Year 3 and 4 students have been busy revising the days of the week and making links to our ‘Sistema Solare’ (The Solar System) where we are integrating with the year level theme. Our ‘space’ song with ‘The Addams Family’ theme has been popular and students are making links between the Italian and the English languages!

The Year 5 and 6 students have been completing two writing assessment tasks and presenting these to their peers. I have been quite impressed with the quality of work that is being completed by most students in this year level. Students were required to respond to a letter from a student in Italy. Some students exceeded my expectations having written more than one paragraph using correct sentence structures and punctuation! Students too have seen their own growth and they are quite impressed themselves!

Year 1 and 2 and Prep updates will be coming shortly by Julia.

Italian Student Committee
All students in Year 3 to 6 have been briefed about the Italian Student Committee leadership role. Students have been applying for this position by writing a ‘creative’ letter stating why they would like to take on this role. I have been overwhelmed with sensational creative pieces of work. Our students are extremely talented! The level of applications has been terrific that it will be incredibly difficult to select only 10 students for this role. All teachers in the year 3/4 learning area have also been impressed with what has been handed in. I will put photos for you in next week’s newsletter!

Italian Day Date: To Be Confirmed Soon ...

State-Wide Italian Competitions
Si, Si, Si! The annual competitions are here! Our students have been waiting with anticipation on the announcement of this year’s Dante topics. Last year, our school received three state-wide winners (Prep- George 1st Placing, Year 5 – Sabrina 2nd Placing and Hannah 3rd Placing) and many Finalists and High Distinctions. Such a high level of achievement! We hope to do well again this year!

I am pleased to announce the topics and the criteria for this year. Students are asked to think about the topic and to start jotting down ideas. Please do not commence final copies as we will be working on this theme in class during the term. The senior school has commenced this process.

DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY MELBOURNE Inc.

Victorian Primary Schools Poster Competition 2015 for Years Prep – 6

Years Prep to Grade 2 are required to create a poster in the form of a drawing, painting or collage with the following topic in mind:

Students are to create a poster, and write five (5) interesting words in Italian, about their favourite PERSON from a fairy tale or fable. The story may be from ANY COUNTRY around the world. The heading on the poster must have the words “C'era una volta....” along with the character’s name and the title of the story he/she appears in. For example: “C'era una volta ____________, che appare nella favola ____________.” The next sentence could then contain the five adjectives. For example: “Questo personaggio è ___________; __________.....” The illustration may be in the form of a drawing; painting or collage no larger than A3 size, on one side of the sheet ONLY.

Grades 3 and 4 are required to create a poster in the form of a drawing, painting or collage with the following topic in mind:

Students are to create a poster, and describe in five (5) short but interesting sentences in Italian, any ANIMAL character that they like from any fairytale or fable. The first sentence should contain the title and the author of the story they have chosen. For example: “C'era una volta ____________, un animale della favola italiana, __________ di __________ di __________ (i.e. author).” The next four sentences would describe the animal character in some detail. The illustration may be in the form of a drawing; painting or collage no larger than A3 size, on one side of the sheet ONLY.

Years 5 and 6 students are required to create a poster in the form of a drawing, painting or collage with the following topic in mind:

Students are to create a poster, and describe in five (5) detailed sentences in Italian, a preferred SCENE from a myth, fairytale or fable, under the heading: “C'era una volta....” The name of the Italian story – and its author - should then be included in the following sentence. For example: “Ho illustrato una scena della favola italiana, __________ di __________ di __________ di __________ (i.e. author).” The next four sentences could mention the setting; the characters in that particular scene, or the plot of the story. The illustration may be in the form of a drawing; painting or collage no larger than A3 size, on one side of the sheet ONLY.

From everyone at the ‘DAS’ Melbourne: “BUON LAVORO!”

Each entry must be:
Clearly labelled with entrant’s name, year level, school and school address
No larger than one A3 sheet. (It is not possible to accept anything other than A3 posters - models or 3D presentations will NOT be accepted.)
Completed by the individual student and not more than one student
Completed in correct Italian
The above criteria is part of the Judges’ criteria for selection of the winning posters as well as:

Neat & colourful presentation (laminating is not part of the criteria)

Original & creative interpretation – encourage students to think about how their poster will stand out from the others.

The selected judges are not affiliated with any Primary School.
The Judges’ decision will be final and no communication will be entered into.

There will be a $5 entry fee for those students who decide to enter this competition.

Competition closes Tuesday 26th May and any winners will be required to attend the Presentation night in September at the University of Melbourne-date to be confirmed.

If you wish your child to enter this competition, please enclose $5 together with the slip below in an envelope and send this to office before Tuesday 26th May, 2015 - NO LATER.

Grazie for your continuing support and stay tuned next week for more news.

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

THE DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY JUNIOR POSTER COMPETITION 2015

Final day to enter is Tuesday, 26th May 2015 - earlier would be preferred! 😊

All completed posters received by this date will be sent on this day. Entry Fee = $5

Yes, I wish my child to enter The Dante Alighieri Poster Competition.

Student’s Name: ______________________________________________________________

Grade: ___________ Please find enclosed: $5.00

Thank you.

I give permission for __________________________________________ (child’s name) to have his/her photo, full name, grade and school name to be published in The Italian Newspaper ‘Il Globo’.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _______________________________________________
School Banking is shooting for the stars.

At the beginning of 2015, the School Banking program launched students on a mission to save by making regular deposits into their Youthsaver account. In just one term, over 958,000 School Banking deposits were made around Australia. It’s a fantastic result that’s seen thousands of Australian children begin their savings mission.

Rewarding good savings behaviour with two new items
To help keep students on track with their savings mission in Term 2, we’ve released two new awesome reward items from our Outer Space Savers range. Students just need to make 10 School Banking deposits to be able to redeem a reward item.

Invisible Ink Martian Pen
Intergalactic Rocket

You could win a 5 nights’ family trip to California’s Disneyland
Don’t forget, students who consistently display stellar savings behaviour by making 25 or more School Banking deposits in 2015 will automatically go into the draw at the end of the year to win a family trip to California’s Disneyland.

For more information visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking
Dear Parent/Guardian

It is with great pleasure that I invite your children to participate in the annual Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge.

This is the eleventh year of this Challenge and since 2005 it has helped inspire nearly two million students to read an incredible 34 million books. In addition the Challenge has encouraged families and parents to support children’s literacy development.

For children from birth to Prep the challenge is to read or ‘experience’ at least 40 books with their family, guardian or teacher. For students from Prep to Year 2 the challenge is to read or ‘experience’ 30 books, and for students in Years 3 to 10 the challenge is to read 15 books.

For those parents who are new to the Challenge, you will find that it is a great way to motivate your children to read more books and discover new and exciting titles.

Children who reach their reading goals will be rewarded with a certificate of achievement signed by me and former Premiers John Cain, Joan Kirner, Jeff Kennett, Steve Bracks, John Brumby, Ted Baillieu and Denis Napthine, who all support the program. They will also have the opportunity to see their name on an online honour roll, and view a special video to congratulate participants.

Our Challenge ambassadors, who include well-known authors, illustrators and children’s entertainers, will provide support and encouragement throughout the program. You can also keep up to date on the Challenge, share stories and recommend books on the Challenge Facebook page at www.Facebook.com.au/Vicprc.

The extensive Challenge booklist has something for everyone with much-loved classics as well as new releases. There are thousands of books to choose from, with fiction, non-fiction, plays, poetry, short stories and graphic novels all available. Reading books in other languages is also encouraged and counts towards the Challenge.

Along with the former Premiers, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Children and Families, I wish your children the best of luck with their reading adventures.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier
Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of the testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in stride, worrying about what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. Take your cues from your child: If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. Focus on doing their best and trying hard: Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. Listen to any concerns they have: If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. Give them some relaxation ideas: Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. Help them retain their perspective: One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.
Community News

Looking for Shared Office Space?
Soaring ceilings, natural light and generous spaces create a peaceful co-working environment in the heart of buzzing Northcote. Desk-space from $99 p/w. For more information, contact Matthew Duignan 0400 438 295 or md@meshdesignprojects.com.au.

Leaving on 6 May 2015, Joe Phegan – Father of Oliver (Grade 2) and Ruby (Prep) will spend ten days walking 300km across the geographical centre of the Simpson Desert to experience what life might be like for a young person living in aged care – not a “life”, but an existence comprised of isolation, uniformity, restrictions and little decision-making ability. He has set an ambitious fundraising target of $35,000 for the charity Youngcare. To support Joe and this wonderful charity please head to http://www.youngcare.com.au/events/simpson-desert-challenge/ and follow the link to his personal page if you can assist with a donation.

My Fundraising Progress

I’ve raised 61% of my goal!

Raised: $21,476
133 Sponsors
Goal: $35,000

Your support will help young Aussies live young lives.
Parent Well with the Mood Meter Program – Building Emotional Intelligence

Join Michael Grose for our 4-week online parenting course
Parent Well with the Mood Meter Program

Help your kids learn to manage their emotions, improve their mental health and be happier.

Parent Well with the Mood Meter Program is the first in a series of online courses to teach you how to develop emotional intelligence in your kids:

- Mood Meter is a practical tool developed by the research team at Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence
- Gives parents and kids a common language to talk about feelings
- Empower kids to recognise and then respond to how they feel
- Teach kids self-awareness and put them in control of their emotions
- The Mood Meter is great for kids that are visual learners, particularly boys
- Suitable for all age groups

The 4-week Parent Well with the Mood Meter Program starts on 3 May.
Join now for $57 to take advantage FREE access to Parentingideas Club before the course starts on 3 May.
Or why not join Parentingideas Club for $179 annual membership and get access to Parent Well with the Mood Meter Program plus the CLUB plus other courses planned during the next 12 months.
Or contact the Parentingideas team 03 59831798
office@parentingideas.com.au

Northcote High’s Inaugural Literary Talk-Fest

A panel of Australia’s finest writers discuss the topic ‘Writing Women’.
Come and join Hannah Kent, Omar Musa, Tony Birch and Simmone Howell as they discuss how women’s perspectives and experiences are captured in literature. Is there such a thing as a woman’s voice?

Chaired by Clare Wright, Northcote High parent and winner of the 2014 Stella Prize for The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka.

Special performance by Australian Slam Poetry Champion Omar Musa

7:30 - 8:30pm  Thursday 7th May 2015  Northcote High Hall
Tickets: $20/$12 Conc http://www.trybooking.com/HFZO
Books for purchase and signing by the authors on the night
$100 door prizes sponsored by Readings and book pack give-aways sponsored by The Stella Prize
Support contemporary Australian writers.
Funds raised support NHS Green Team and FemNRE Feminist Collective
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Just Believe Fit
Pilates & Yoga inspired fitness classes for Body, Mind and Soul
@BRUNSWICK SCHOOL OF DANCE
50 Gadd St Northcote 3070 (just off St Georges Rd)
Term 2 Mon 13 April – Sun 28 June 2015
For more information visit: justbelievefit.com.au
Enquiries 0402 916 128 or at justbelievefit@gmail.com
facebook.com/justbelievefit
Pre and Post Natal Pilates classes
(Small group classes by appointment. Please see website for more information)

Dee Wardrop Speech Pathology Services
“Communication Support for Children and Adults”
352 St Georges Rd, Thornbury VIC 3071
89 Charles St, Seddon VIC 3011
Ph (03) 8376 6399 Fax (03) 8669 4037

Cross Country 2015 - Come And Try
Winter is Cross Country season and Collingwood Little Athletics Centre invites 5-16 year olds to come and try a Cross Country event. Distances are from 500m (Under 6’s) to 3000m (Under 13s to U15s) and meets are held at a number of our beautiful parks around the area. Most events are held on Sunday morning and are over by 10:30am (or earlier depending upon the age group). New athletes are able to come and try Cross Country for a cost of $5.00 per time with no commitment (Maximum of 2 events). If they decide that they want to continue, Cross Country Only registration with our centre is $54.00 and with a $2.00 fee for most of the events. The full calendar and timetable are available on our website www.collingwoodlittleathletics.org.au.

Winter Cross Country Training
Collingwood offers a Cross Country Training programme on Tuesday and Thursdays, for registered and visiting athletes, over Terms 2 and 3.
Tuesday 5-6pm sessions will focus strength, endurance and speed, and are track based at George Knott reserve.
Thursday 4.30-5.30pm sessions are a Yarra Bend Park run for Under 11s and above.
Enquiries or questions to collingwood@lavic.com.au or call Rohan Jones on 0400 217 700.
Fees and Registration at http://www.trybooking.com/HHOU.

Become a Volunteer Host Family this July!
World Education Program (WEP) Australia is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2015. Our exchange students from Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, Chile, Italy and the USA are young people like Matteo and Amelle, who look forward to experiencing a different culture and
becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

**Matteo** (17) from Italy loves music! He is in a band called 'Washing Machine' and can play the guitar, piano and drums. He also enjoys rock climbing and basketball. Matteo tells us that he can't wait to touch down in Australia and experience the 'real' Aussie culture.

**Armelle** (17) from Belgium loves sports! She tells us that she dances twice a week, participates in a fitness class on Wednesdays and is beginning gymnastics classes. She also goes to scouts with her friends on Saturday mornings. Armelle is looking forward to discovering Australia, seeing the new landscapes and speaking English with her new host family!

Request a Full Information Pack Now!
Contact WEP Australia to request detailed program information and student profiles.
Sylvia Kelly
[www.wep.org.au](http://www.wep.org.au)  [info@wep.org.au](mailto:info@wep.org.au)  1300 884 733

A not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the Education Departments in QLD, NSW and VIC.