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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>May  6</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>3/4 Port Phillip Excursion</td>
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<td>May  8</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10-12</td>
<td>Tues-Thurs</td>
<td>NAPLAN for Grade 3’s and 5’s</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
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<td>Year 7 Transition Forms to be returned to school</td>
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<td>May 15-21</td>
<td>Mon-Fri</td>
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<td>May 16-20</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Open Day – NPS School Community Only</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Parent Info Evening Sexuality &amp; Relationships Education program - 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Sexual &amp; Reproduction Health Session No. 1</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
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<td>Walk Safely to School Day</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Wed</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Sexual &amp; Reproduction Health Session No. 2</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday – No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2 – 2.30 p.m. finish</td>
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Greetings ...

Student Learning - Year 1/2s and Sustainability
The current guided inquiry unit on Sustainability develops the year 1 and 2 children’s conceptual understanding and knowledge. Today, the year 1 and 2’s attended CERES to broaden their learning experiences.

This week, Sally, our teacher aide, brought 2 of her chickens (Lady Gaga and ‘one of the triplets’) along to 1/2NK class to discuss how chickens might help us be more sustainable. Here is a snapshot of one of the conversations between year 1 student and teacher:

Teacher: How might chickens help us with sustainability and why do you think they might be a good resource?
Enthusiastic Year 1 (hand shoots up immediately): Well, they’ve evolved like us. They were once birds you know, it’s a scientific fact! And then they evolved like us, and they became chickens! And then they evolved and ... and ... they became ... (thinking hard, finger on chin ... looking to the sky ... mmmmm) they became CHICKEN BREASTS!!! And that’s why they are useful to us humans, it’s a scientific fact! [Exclamations all round and looking very pleased with herself!]

At that point, I believe Lady GaGa and chicken B, scurried back into their cage as the children’s wide eyes collectively turned towards them.

Ahhh! A teaching and learning moment at our school.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
NAPLAN is an annual assessment for students in Years 3 and 5 at primary schools. On Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May, students will take the 2016 NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum.
NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

**Siblings commencing Prep in 2017 – enrol now!**

If you are a current family with children in the school and you have a child due to commence in 2017, I strongly advise you to fill in an enrolment form and lodge it at the office. Once tours commence, enrolments will fill up fast and we’d like to ensure a place for siblings of current families as soon as possible. Prep 2017 enrolments are due in by Thursday 23\textsuperscript{rd} June, so don’t miss out!

**Our School Open Day – Tuesday May 17\textsuperscript{th}**

We will be holding our whole school open day on May 17\textsuperscript{th} this year. We are inviting our current parents/carers to come along and see the school programs 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 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 a personal note from your child inviting you to come along to their class to observe and acknowledge their great work. It would mean a lot to your child if you were able to spare some time to demonstrate your support. Teachers will also send home the timetable for the day so you can pick a time you might like 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’s class during the day.

**Parent Payment Statements**

A reminder that any outstanding payment statements will be posted home within the next couple of weeks.

**Warm regards,**

**Kerrie**

**Working Bee**

Thank you to the families, children and staff who worked so hard at our working bee last Saturday. The working bee started at 1pm on a beautifully warm afternoon and finished a little after 4.00 p.m.

At the Senior Campus, garden beds were weeded with some replanting where a small number of plants had not survived the summer. A large amount of mulch was moved in wheel barrows to help retain moisture in the beds. The garden bed (jungle) between the two fences on the Northern boundary has been started with weeding and the removal of some unsuitable shrubs.
At the school campus; repairs to our fences and gates were completed, the shelter shed and fete sheds were cleaned and reorganised, 2m³ of sand for the sandpit was spread and the last of the rubbish beside the maintenance shed was removed, which now provides us with an outdoor storage area. A fantastic effort by all those who attended, given that we only had three hours and managed to complete so many tasks.

The Environment committee would like to thank the families, about 10, who attended. Thanks again to all those who participated, it was a very busy afternoon but extremely satisfying as we accomplished so much.

We look forward to the next working bee which will be at the end of week 10 of this term on Saturday 18th June from 1.00 – 4.00 pm. It is anticipated that this working bee will focus on the new playground area at the front of the school where a large climbing frame will be installed. (See below)

Ross Bennie
bennie.ross.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Member of the Environment Sub-Committee
Notes for the above incursion were sent home last week. The cost of these programs are:

Parent Information Evening (not applicable for students)
Many thanks to those parents who have emailed me re attending the Parent Information Evening. This parents only information session will be held on Tuesday 17th May from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. There is no cost for this session however I need to know numbers attending so as to organise a venue within the school, seating, etc. If you would like to attend a parent information session, please email me with the number of adults by Friday 13th May.
bennie.ross.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Course outline
Conducted by registered teachers who have taught sexuality education in Victorian classrooms for many years. As well as building the sexual health literacy of students, these sessions will help participating classroom teachers:

• enhance their sexual health knowledge base
• become comfortable with lesson content and language
• learn effective activities and teaching strategies.

Grades 3 & 4 - 3 x 1 hour sessions - An introduction to anatomy, conception and birth, puberty

Session 1: Anatomy
• Introduce the concept of reproduction and its place in the natural world
• Identify some of the differences between males and females and learn the names and functions of some of the organs contained in the reproductive systems (vagina, penis, testicles, uterus (womb), egg, sperm)

Session 2: Conception and Birth
• Develop an understanding of conception, pregnancy, foetal development and childbirth

Session 3: Puberty
• Introduce the physical and emotional changes occurring during puberty
• Develop knowledge about hygiene and the management of puberty, i.e. pimples, periods, body odour

Grade 5 & 6 - 3 x 90 minute sessions - A more detailed look at anatomy, conception, pregnancy, birth and puberty and strategies for dealing with hygiene, periods, wet dreams, mood swings and other puberty issues.

Session 1
• Body parts
• Intercourse, conception and pregnancy
• Pregnancy and birth

Session 2
• Review body parts
• Introduction to puberty: physical changes

Session 3
• Puberty continued: social and emotional changes
• Menstruation – key points
• Puberty – strategies for dealing with puberty

Ross Bennie,
Assistant Principal
The Dante Alighieri Society Poster Competition closes Tuesday 31st May 2016 and any winners will be required to attend the Presentation afternoon in September at the University of Melbourne - date to be confirmed. (See last week’s newsletter for more information).

There is a $5 entry fee for those students who decide to enter this competition. If you wish your child to enter this competition, please enclose $5 together with the slip below in an envelope and send to the office before Tuesday 31st May 2016 - NO LATER.

Grazie for your continuing support.
Saluti (cheers),
Signorina Rosa - Italian Teacher and Co-ordinator (Mon/Tues)

THE DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY JUNIOR POSTER COMPETITION 2016

Final day to enter is Tuesday, 31st May 2016 with a COMPLETED POSTER - 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: _______________________________________________
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Women making a difference: stand for local government!

Want to make a difference in your local community? Wonder how can you have an influence on the issues you care about? Why not stand for Council?

New local government elections are coming up! The GoWomenLG2016 northern metro region information session is an opportunity for all women in northern metro Melbourne to hear from women candidates, councillors and mayors as they share information on what it means to be a candidate, what it means to be a councillor and tips for women candidates.

Join us for this informative, inspiring event and discover how you can be a voice for your community; what’s involved in running a campaign; how to be an effective councillor and how to make a difference!

When: Thursday 26 May 2016, 7:00pm - 9:00pm (Light supper provided)
Where: Darebin City Council, Council Chambers, 1st Floor 350 High Street Preston
RSVP: www.govomen-lg2016forum.eventbrite.com.au

For information about the program, contact Linda Bennett, Women’s Policy Officer at the Victorian Local Governance Association on 03 9349 7904 or check the GoWomenLG website www.govomen-lg.org.au, facebook More women for local government or twitter @GoWomenLG

This event is proudly supported by Darebin City Council.