**NEWSLETTER**
No. 02 – 11th February 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

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**Important School Diary Dates 2016**

| Feb    | 15 Mon | Education Sub-Committee Meeting – 7.00 p.m. - Staffroom |
|        | 17-19 Wed-Fri | Grades 3&4 Camp |
|        | 22 Mon | Prep Q&A Session – 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. |
|        | 23 Tues | Grades 5/6 Q&A Session – 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Senior Campus |
|        | 24 Wed | Grades 1/2 Q&A Session – 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. |
|        | 25 Thurs | Grades 3/4 Q&D Session – 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. |

| Mar    | 5 Sat | NPS Fete 10.00 am- 4.00 pm |
|        | 9 Wed | Classroom Helpers Training (see page 6) |
|        | 14 Mon | Labour Day Public Holiday – No School |
|        | 22 Tues | Whole School Athletics Day |
|        | 24 Thurs | End Term 1 – 2.30 pm finish |
|        | 25-28 | Easter |

| Apr    | 11 Mon | Start Term 2 |
|        | 13-15 Wed-Fri | Gr 5/6 Camp |
|        | 19 Tues | Photo Day (changed date from 15th March) |
|        | 25 Mon | Anzac Day Public Holiday |

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**PUPIL OF THE WEEK**
(Assembly item by Grade 5/6)

- 00L - Zac Y
- 00W - Kavan
- 00J - Camryn
- 12DN - Elsie McL
- 12B - Surprise!
- 12K - It’s, it’s ...
- 12S - Ta da!
- 12N - Who will it be?
- 34H - It might be ..
- 34J - Eliza B
- 34K - Alex M
- 34L - Zac H
- 56E - Have a guess
- 56T - Ummm maybe it’s?
- 56N - Amirah
- 56S - It’s a secret
Greetings …

A lovely summer evening enjoyed at our Welcome Picnic
The ‘top turf’ filled quickly with colourful rugs and delicious picnic food and the children were off after a little nourishment. The weather was perfect and the chatter rose as people greeted one another or were introduced to new families and friends. There were many laughs and good natured competition to be had whilst the novelty events were run by the teachers. I think I laughed harder this year at the earnest attempts by parents to put their best foot forward in the novelty races and games. Well done parents and of course the children, who had a ball!

Thank you to all families and staff who came along to officially welcome our new families and catch up with our ‘older’ families.

Ross [Assistant Principal] and I were very pleased with how clean the yard was after the event as it was very evident that both kids and adults were picking up after themselves. Thanks everyone, it was a fun evening and you all made it a great night.

Onwards and upwards …..

Our School Fete is coming!!
With only a few weeks to go, activity around the school is noticeably picking up. Our school fete is our community’s major fundraiser for the year and a big day where we ask our entire community to contribute in some way.

Do you have your name down yet?
Many parents have already been working on getting stalls ready for the day but we are at the stage where we need those gaps filled on the volunteer roster. If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to check the fete Facebook page or contact our enthusiastic fete co-ordinators, Brooke or Susan on npsfete@gmail.com if you can assist. You can also sign up for the roster on our website.

Put yourself down for an hour or two or whatever you are able to do, it will be much appreciated and of course funds raised go to a very good cause – improving our school for the children. Get involved, many hands make light work and your children will see evidence of how much you value their school.

‘Question & Answer’/Information sessions for Parents/Carers for all year levels commencing February 22nd
Teaching Teams from each year/home group levels will present an overview about curriculum content and how it will be presented in your child’s learning area. In order for parents/carers to attend all siblings information afternoons, we will run the sessions throughout the week. Sessions will be held in each of the learning areas and will be for an adult audience, so parents will need to organise childcare for their children.

The sessions will be held from 5.30 – 6.30 p.m. sharp. Refer to important dates section of the newsletter for your child’s session.

Email information has gone out to parents via each teaching team and will ask you if you are able to attend and let us know if any questions that you may have already so that we can customise the information to your collective needs where possible. Please note, the Q&A forums are not suitable for children to attend.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the sessions.

School Council Elections
School Council elections are now scheduled to be held early in Term 1. The important key dates for nominations and elections are listed below.

Information regarding school council roles and responsibilities are available from the school. Our Sub-committees will be meeting in the next couple of weeks. Families are welcome to be part of these committees. See key dates for times, etc.
School Council Elections (Information for parents is available on the website)
The process of the elections remains unchanged from previous years and like most government school we will work to the following timeline.

School Council Memberships due to end
There are 4 parent and 2 DET positions that will be available for nominations this coming election.

School Council Members elected in 2015, with another year to go in their term of office are:

Parents –
• Karen McLean
• Richard Unsworth
• Scott Meaklim
• Ian Nunn

DET members -
• Ross Bennie
• Natasha Thomson

Members with terms due to finish in 2016 are:

Parents -
• Ian Taylor
• Fi Lang
• Miles Callaghan
• Karen McWilliam (was filling a casual vacancy)

DET members
• Jennifer Haas
• Margaret Barrett

Any of the retiring members are also eligible to stand for re-election if they so wish.

Monday 15th February: Notice of Election and Call for nominations (forms available from the office)
Monday 22nd February: Nominations close 4 pm
Wednesday 24th February: Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside School Office
Monday 29th February: Distribution of ballot papers to each family (by mail if necessary)
Monday 7th March: Close of ballot at 4:00 pm.
Wednesday 9th March: Counting of votes and declaration of the poll

Wednesday 16th March: Annual General Meeting at 6.30, New School Council 7.00pm (members attend both).

If you are curious and interested in being a member of School Council, please read further information in this newsletter.

School Council Elections 2016
Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

• A mandated elected Parent category – more than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
• A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
• An optional Community member category – members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.
The term of office for all members is two years. Half the member’s term expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

**Great opportunity for parents!**
School Council is a fantastic opportunity for parents to be directly involved and have input into policy development and directions of the school. School Council members are an enthusiastic group of parents and staff, who bring their skills & experiences to contribute to the smooth running of the school.

We deal with such an interesting range of issues that School Council members will tell you that they enjoy their participation and find it very satisfying to follow issues and projects through. Meetings are twice each school term for Council, with prior sub-committee meetings.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact our current School Council President, Ian Taylor, or myself, or any other School Council member. Contact can be made by leaving a message (email is fine) at the office and this will be passed on to the School Council member.

**Why is Parent membership so important?**
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**How can you become involved?**
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?**

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?**
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

**Remember**

- Nomination Forms are available at the office; you can self-nominate or another parent may nominate you (with your consent of course!).
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections if they are held.
Contact me for further information as required.

**Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations**

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Northcote Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged **by 4.00 pm on Monday 22nd February**.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Monday 7 March, 2016.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

*I look forward to receiving your nominations for School Council.*

**Warm regards,**

Kerrie

**Thank You!!**

We would like to thank the following families who watered our plants over the very hot summer holidays – the plants greatly appreciated it too!!!

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Joanna Cary; Samantha Corrie; Melanie Ryan; Jennifer Haas; Rosie Bacher; Jason Mason; Sophie Petrou; Cate Taylor & Violeta Traicevski

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Ross Bennie  
Assistant Principal
**Education Sub-Committee**
The Education sub-committee will meet on Monday 15th February at 7.00 p.m. in the school staffroom. All parents are welcome. Please contact Scott Meaklim at Scott.Meaklim@gmail.com if you plan to join us.
Kind regards,
Scott Meaklim

**Fete News**
Below is the link for parents, family and friends that will take you to the roster for Fete Helpers. Please feel free to sign up as soon as you can!!
The link is http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0845a9a929a4ff2-Northcote

**Classroom Cuisine**
New yummy menus are available at www.classroomcuisine.com.au

**Classroom Helpers Training**
Wednesday 9th March – 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m. in the Staffroom
If you would like to help in the classroom, we invite you to come along to our training session. The session will cover confidentiality, strategies to use when working with students in groups and one to one, and will introduce you to some of the teaching aids used in class.
Classroom helpers undertake a variety of tasks including hearing children read, assisting students to select their take home book for reading, supporting small group tasks, and laminating and labelling resources. As helpers are working with students it is essential that school protocols around safety and confidentiality are clearly understood. It is also important for helpers to understand some of the language of learning that teachers use so that they can support students positively and with confidence.
One of the actions that we need all visitors and classroom helpers to do is to sign the ‘Visitors Book’ at the office and collect a badge on arrival at school. When you are leaving the school, please sign out and return your badge. This is to ensure that we know who is in the school at all times – for safety and emergency purposes.
To register, email bennie.ross.a@edumail.vic.gov.au or call 9481 0009.

Ross Bennie
Assistant Principal

**Community News**
"Are you going away at Easter time and would like a house sitter? **Wanted: House at Easter in Northcote**
from Easter Friday until the following Friday 1 April, or some of the time in between. We have family visiting from Ireland and are looking for close accommodation – happy to pay! Please call Catherine (Jai’s mum) on 0414 445 081 if you are interested.

**Northcote High School - Tours And Open Day 2016**
School Tours commencing Tuesday 9 Feb. The tours depart from our foyer at 9.10 am and take about one hour.
See our website for exact Term 1 dates. Please ring to book a place as numbers are limited (9488 2300)
**School Open Morning** - Wednesday April 27, 2016 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.
There is an information session at 6.00pm that night, for parents who were not able to come during the Open Morning
ACE Program Testing - Saturday May 7(TBC). Further information on the ACE program is on our website
Applications close Friday 22 April.
Northcote High School, St, Georges Rd, Northcote, 3070, Australia. Phone 9488 2300

**EBM Insurance Brokers** – Student accident protection is available for $29.00 per year. Brochures available outside the school office.
Advertisements

The Dept. of Education (DEECD) does not endorse the products & services of any private advertiser or notice contained in this newsletter. No responsibility is accepted by the Dept. of Education (DEECD) or this school for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

Tennis coaching at St. Joseph’s. Enrolment forms for tennis lessons at Westbourrne Grove, Northcote are available outside the office or contact Matthew Todd on 0414 628 633.

Want to play basketball?
Basketball is a great introduction to team sports for kids from 7 years up. If you would like to join the Ivanhoe Knights Basketball Club and play next season you need to register on Saturday 20 February 2016. Winter Season runs over terms 2 and 3 of the school year. Competition games are held on Saturdays. To register for the 2016 Winter Season you need to attend our Registration Day.

- **When:** Saturday, 20 February 2016
- **Time:** 10 am to 4 pm
- **Where:** SPACE Centre, Ivanhoe East Primary School, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe East.

If you are already playing with the Ivanhoe Knights you can register online. For further information go to: www.ivanhoeknights.org

JOIN CUB SCOUTS
for games, craft, challenges, adventures, leadership and more!

**TUESDAYS 7:00-8:30pm**
5th Northcote Scout Hall - 6 Ethel St Thornbury

Sue McCracken 0431-889-699
Chris Ballard 0400-001-228
NorthcoteCubs@yahoo.com.au

Attention all girls
Aged 4-15

Come & Try AFL & Soccer Day

Sunday February 14th, 2016
A.H. Capps Reserve, Haileybury Cres, Preston

9am-10am Girls Soccer
10am-11am Girls A/Soccer

Darebin Falcons are looking for girls aged 4-15 for soccer and A/Soccer for the 2016 season. We are proud to be a non for profit female sporting club encouraging women and girls to participate in sport regardless of age and ability. Come along and give soccer and football a try!
Season 2016- Registrations NOW OPEN
Alphington FC, based at the beautiful Alphington Park Oval, warmly invites expressions of interest / registrations from new and returning players for our Miniroos Development Squad and teams for the 2016 season.

Registrations now open for boys and girls (prep-age 9 Miniroos Dev. Squad), boys and girls age 9 to 18 for our small sided field(SSF) and full pitch (U12 and up) teams.

Girls Soccer @ Alphington FC in 2016
Alphington FC’s priority and aim this year is to actively promote, support and strengthen the participation of girls only teams, to join a thriving and rapidly growing competition - we need your support in doing this, so spread the word!

For general enquiries, information and registrations please visit us online: www.alphingtonfc.com

Alphington Football Club is proudly sponsored by:

The Young Artists Community

The Young Artists Community is a unique program that gives children the opportunity to play and create as they learn about themselves, their connection to one another and the natural environment.

Children are supported to relax, be themselves and to experience a sense of creative freedom through a variety of individual and group projects. Each child is encouraged to collaborate and share their ideas freely, allowing them to develop a deeper appreciation for themselves and the valuable contribution that they bring to the group.

Designed for children from Prep to Grade 6.

Dates: 3.15pm - 5.15pm on February 27, March 12 & 19
Venue: The Victory Room, Warrandyte Community Centre
Cost: $150 / $135 for 3 sessions or $55 / $50 casual
Bookings essential.
Phone: Naomi 0421 914 220 or Emily 0423 703 473
Email: info@theyoungartistscommunity.com
Website: theyoungartistscommunity.com

Naomi Williams (M. A. Arts Therapy) is a Creative Arts Therapist who developed the Bright Sparks Creative Arts Program. She has been facilitating individual Art Therapy sessions and Creative Workshops for children over the past 11 years.

Emily Fyson specialises in finding innovative ways to address behavioural issues and has 8 years experience as an Integration Aide, Behavioural Consultant, Tutor and as an Outside School Hours Care Assistant and Coordinator.