Last week, 12 students from Merri Creek Primary School attended Italian Camp. Other students that participated were from Fitzroy North P.S., Spensley St P.S., Clifton Hill P.S., Brunswick South West P.S. and Princes Hill P.S. There were almost 100 students in total that attended camp.

Italian Camp is a unique opportunity for students in Year 5/6 to further develop their language skills and cultural knowledge in Italian. Students gained a very good understanding of the connection between Italian migration and Australian society through the experience of a country Victorian town (Daylesford).

Many students reported that the highlight of their three days was making new friends from other schools, eating gelato and making crostoli.

Thank you to all students for their exceptional behaviour during camp. They are all a credit to the schools they attend. A HUGE thank you to all the teachers who helped organise this fantastic camp. The Italian Camp is the only one of its kind for Primary School students.

Please take time to look at the display of photos and chalk drawings in the corridor.

Erminia Ciano.

NATIONAL BILBY DAY
Frank Manthey, Co-Founder of Save the Bilby Fund, has thanked the staff and students of Merri Creek Primary School for supporting Save the Bilby Fund with their involvement in the competition and the fundraising.

FAMILY LIFE (SEX ED.) PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
All parents of the Grade 5/6 students are invited to attend an information evening on Wednesday, 10th October at 7.30pm. This evening is conducted by Family Life – Victoria Inc. and will provide parents with information about our sex ed. program which runs for three sessions commencing Friday, 19th October.

BIG WORKING BEE THANK YOU!
Thanks to all those parents, staff and kids who attended the Working Bee last Sunday. They made a great start building a bigger and better vegetable garden, and completed some much needed tidying and sweeping and fertilizing and mulching.

CLASS PLACEMENT
Parents who may have serious concerns in relation to the placement of their child for 2008 may make an appointment to discuss these concerns with the Principal, not the class teacher, before the end of this term (21st September).
ACTIVE TRAVEL IN SEPTEMBER
On Tuesday last week, as part of the Hands Up! Active travel challenge, 71% of our students managed to get to school without the car. 89 students rode, skateboarded or scootered to school (37%), 75 students walked (31%), and 8 students (3%) managed with public transport.

Congratulations to Rory in Grade 3 and Evie in Grade 1 who won the lucky draw prizes of a bike computer and bike light! Stay tuned for our next Hands Up! Count of students using active transport on Tuesday 9th October.

LOST PROPERTY NEWS
Parents and students are reminded to check the Lost Property tub regularly. Un-named items left at the end of term will be sent on to Diabetes Australia. Thank you to the families who have supported our fundraiser by ordering labels from that’s mine. Items that are clearly named can be returned to the owner promptly.

COFFEE DRIVE
Coming home before the holidays is an order form for Jasper Coffee, which is being run as a fundraiser for the school. The coffee is Fair-trade Organic Coffee and is being offered at a great price. This is a great way to support your children’s school as well as supporting ethical trade for the people of Okapa in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Enjoy the beautiful, fresh, organic-certified coffee knowing you are supporting fair-trade. Order forms will need to be returned with payment, to the office by Friday, 12th October. Please check your child’s bag next week for the order form. We are hoping the holidays will provide you with time to get lots of orders from neighbours, work colleagues.

CLASS PARENT CONTACT LIST
Parent Association School Councillor Emma Salzano has compiled the class parent contact lists. If you wish to add your name please contact Emma at emmasalzano@optusnet.com.au or phone 9481 8976. The list is being sent home with every child today.

EMA cheques are available for collection from the office.

PARENT ASSOCIATION FILM NIGHT
HAIRSPRAY
Come along and enjoy a night of music and dancing with the movie Hairspray (PG) on Friday 21st September. The session starts at 6.45pm (please note time change) at Westgarth Theatre, 89 High St, Northcote.

Tickets for kids will be $10 and for adults $13.50. There will be a treat for the kids on the night. Please complete and return the slip below to order your tickets.

We look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

RETURN SLIP FOR FILM NIGHT – HAIRSPRAY – PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE BY TUESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER
Child’s Name: ____________________________
Grade: ___________

We would like to purchase:
_____ x adult tickets @ $13.50 each $_________
_____ x kids tickets @ $10 each $_________
$_________ enclosed cash/cheque (cheques payable to Merri Creek Primary School)
SUN SMART - From September, 5 things to remember!
SunSmart has advised us that UV Index levels are on the rise again so from September, please make sure you are ready to Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide to keep well protected from the sun. Whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above they are strong enough to damage eyes and skin and lead to skin cancer. To keep you and your family well protected use a combination of the SunSmart Outside 5:
1. Slip on some sun-protective clothing - that covers as much skin as possible.
2. Slop on SPF30+ sunscreen - make sure it is broad spectrum and water resistant. Put it on 20 minutes before you go outdoors and every two hours afterwards.
3. Slap on a hat - that protects your face, head, neck and ears.
4. Seek shade.
5. Slide on some sunglasses - make sure they meet Australian Standards.
To check the UV Index levels each day and the times sun protection is needed, go to the SunSmart UV Alert in the weather section of your daily newspaper or visit http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/uv/
For more information on staying safe in the sun visit www.sunsmart.com.au

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SCHOOL will be conducting training sessions during the September school holidays, 24th to 26th September. Training sessions consist of a three class workshop conducted by senior members of The Australian Ballet School and provide interested students aged 9 to 17 years with an exclusive opportunity to enjoy and experience their training program. No experience or qualifications are necessary and early application is advised. For further information or to obtain an application pack please telephone 9669 2807 or email ask@australianballetschool.com.au

HOUSE available for house sitting in Northcote, December 2007 to January 2008, 3 bedrooms and 2 living areas. Phone Colleen or Paul, 9481 3981.

INTERESTED IN PLAYING CRICKET?
2007/08 Season starts in October
Edinburgh Cricket Club is looking for more junior players to join our club. We have teams from development level (for beginners 8 – 11 years) up to Under 16. (VicCric is available Saturday mornings for younger boys and girls.)

Training starts September plus two special clinics in the School Holidays – Wednesday 26th September and Wednesday 3rd October. Competition matches commence in mid-October. Edinburgh CC is based at Brunswick St Oval in North Fitzroy. Equipment supplied.
If you are interested in playing contact Junior Co-ordinator Stan White on 9486 1063 or stan.white@bigpond.com
Come down to a practice session and register at the Brunswick St Oval nets (off Freeman St, Nth Fitzroy) on Saturday 15th September between 9.00am and 11.30am.

MILO HAVE-A-GO cricket is also being offered by the Edinburgh Cricket Club in 2007. This program caters for children between the ages of 5-10yo, and is a fun way to develop cricket skills, physical fitness, social skills, sportsmanship and understanding of the game of cricket. The program caters for both junior girls & boys.

Registration days are Thursday 11th October and Tuesday 16th October from 3.30pm at the Brunswick Street Oval Nets (Freeman Street, Nth Fitzroy). 14 X 1.5 hour sessions to follow; starting Wednesday 17/10/07 at 4.30 pm. Cost is only $50. Sessions will be undertaken on the Alfred Crescent Oval, with full access to club facilities.
Each participant receives a giveaway pack exclusive to the program which includes a MILO Have-A-Go cricket bat, cricket ball, carry bag, T-shirt, bucket hat and more!

Contact Brad (9635 4596)/ email: Bradley.Shadbolt@coles.com.au or Stan (0425 885 068)/email: stan.white@bigpond.com or just show up on the registration day.
Edinburgh Cricket Club Inc. Website: www.edinburghcc.asn.au