HOLIDAY PAINTING

Many parents will have noticed the freshly painted double storey brick building which was painted during the school holidays. Thank you to all our school community members who have contributed in some way to fundraising over the years which in time enables the school to accumulate sufficient funds to undertake large projects like this. The lack of paint on the windows was becoming a safety issue and was not due to the school’s lack of concern or knowledge, just funds. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development gives the school $4,500 for maintenance annually and we needed $20,000 more. As with any work done on and around the school I am responsible for ensuring that the contractors meet Occupational Health and Safety standards and requirements, which when working on the second storey necessitates the use of scissor lifts or cherry pickers. No-one, including staff and parents, is allowed on the roof via ladder without accredited ladder training. These safety requirements add to the costs of maintenance. I am very pleased to be able to provide an attractive environment for our students and families, with your assistance.

Dionne Wright, Principal

ARTIST IN SCHOOLS PROJECT

Lisa, our Visual Arts teacher, has submitted an application for funding for stonemason parent, Dave Williams to carve three Merri Creek animals for the Mapping the Merri ceramics project on Miller Street. If successful, students would be involved in learning about the craft of carving and stonemasonry throughout 2008 and create their own designs and artefacts.
ACTIVE TRAVEL IN “WALKTOBER”

Tuesday this week 67% of students at MCPS managed to get to school without a car. 88 students rode, skated, or scootered to school (34%), 82 students walked (32%), and 5 students managed with public transport (2%). Congratulations to Prep/1 Kerrie, who were the most active class. 85% left the car at home! Congratulations to the girls in our school who at 69% just beat the boys as Active Travellers. Come on boys - 66% of you managed to ride, scoot, skate, or walk to school - a few more and you might just outdo the girls!

Ride to Work Day is next week on Wednesday 17th October.

Our next Active Travel Count Day will be on Wednesday 24th October for Walk to School Day. On this day students can walk, ride, scoot, skate, or use public transport to be counted. Lucky draw prizes will be awarded!

Ride2School Team: Sandra Walker, Josh H. and Eleanor D. Grade 6.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

1. Last term the Green Team at Merri Creek Primary School entered the EPA Victoria 2007 Ecological Footprint Banner Competition. Unfortunately our banner was not selected to be a finalist.
2. Also the Green Team would like to thank everyone for their support and for purchasing Bilby merchandise. We sold $612.25 worth of stuff.
   Also a big thank you to Sandra Walker, Flora and Misja Carbo for their persistence.
   Thanks from the Green Team and Josie Marsicano.

BILL AND BEE

By Lucy Moore, Year 1

Two bilbies called Bill and Bee are trying to escape from the hungriest skulk of foxes. One night Bill and Bee went out for food. Then Bill saw something. It was a pair of hang-gliders. Bill yelled out to Bee, “Hey Bee, come and look!” Bee came and saw the hang-gliders. By then out came the foxes. Bill and Bee dived into their den. Bee said, “We must go tomorrow morning so the foxes don’t get us.” But Bill said, “Cats, eagles and goannas will catch us!”

Bee said, “So we will go quickly.” So that morning they quickly crept up Bouncy Mountain and got the hang-gliders. Bill said, “Where will we go?”

Bee said, “Let’s go to Melbourne Zoo.” So they flew to the Melbourne Zoo and the zoo keepers gave them food and rest. And Bill and Bee lived happily ever after.

Lucy’s bilbies

➢ to Meaghan Gaunt who received a commendation for her poem The Golden Stone in the Dorothy McKellar Poetry Competition.
➢ to Kyah English and Zak Gregory. Both competed in the Tae Kwon-do National Championships in Adelaide and both won gold medals in their age, belt and weight category.
➢ to Eliza Bell-White and Omar Sheik who are finalists in the EPA Victoria’s ‘Clean Air’ calendar competition. There were 5089 entries and now 180 finalists! An exhibition of finalists’ artwork will be on display at Scienceworks from 13th November to 9th December, 2007.
PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS
Thank you to families for their interest in the film night ‘Hairspray’ – over 100 people were interested. There will be another film night this term and it will include a treat for parents!

MISSING
JD Bugg blue and silver scooter has gone missing yesterday from outside the GP room. If found please hand to office.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM
Parents of prep students should have received this week from their child an envelope containing a health questionnaire. Please complete this questionnaire as soon as possible and return to the office by Tuesday, 30th October, for school nurse Kalinda Johns to assess students on the 31st.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Brunswick Kinder Fete
(61 Glenlyon Rd, Brunswick)
Saturday, 23rd October
10am – 4pm

DAREBINBUG (bicycle user group)
Family Rides for Mums, Partners and Kids.
Would you like to ride with your kids for exercise, fun, socialising? Join our free family rides to popular child-friendly destinations. Remaining calendar: Wednesday 17th October - ride to CERES Sunday 4th November - ride to Bundoora Park via Darebin Creek Trail Wednesday 21st November - ride to CERES Sunday 2nd December - train to city, ride along Bay Trail to Brighton Beach station, returning by train Wednesday 19th December - ride to CERES
All rides meet at 10am at Jika Jika Community Centre, cnr Plant and Union Sts, Northcote. Come along with bikes, helmets and energy! For information: Kathy 0410 667 634; kbrunning@bigpond.com

FREE PARENTING PROGRAM
The Parenting Research Centre (formerly Victorian Parenting Centre) is offering a free 6-week program for all parents of adolescents aged 10 to 14 years. The ABCD program presents ideas and strategies shown to be helpful to families during the early teen years. It aims to help parents build strong relationships with their adolescent and teaches strategies designed to prevent adolescent risk taking in the future. The program will be conducted in the Carlton community for six consecutive weeks commencing early November. Please see http://www.parentingrc.org.au or call the Parenting Research Centre on 8660 3500 for more information about the ABCD Parenting Program.

MAYA FESTIVAL 2007 AT CERES
The Maya Festival is a Music, Art, Culture, Performance and Dance festival held annually in the lush surrounds of Ceres in Brunswick. There is some great entertainment for the kids on the day which includes: Story Telling, Puppet Making, Juggling Workshops, Balloon Twisting, Mini Magic Shows and Face Painting!
Maya Festival is a family friendly event which values the contribution that children make to our festival. There is also a ‘global village’ with free workshops (for adults), massage, market and food stalls + 3 stages of music.
Event starts at 11am on Saturday, 20th October. All children under 16 FREE. Adult presale passes cost $20 and are available at www.greentix.com.au or $25 on the day. Email mayafestival@gmail.com for more info!

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT FOSTERING?
On any one night in Victoria 2700 children and teenagers are safe and sound in the care of foster carers. Kids in need of foster care far out-number the foster carers available. Can you give a child or young person a place to call home for a while? Your local foster care program can provide you with training, support and a non-taxable allowance. For more information on fostering and how to get involved ring The Publicity and Recruitment Unit for Foster Care. Phone: 9431 1799
Children & Adolescent Foster Care
Foster Care shares the care of children when their families are in a situation of crisis and they do not have family or friends who can help out. Anyone can apply to become a Foster Carer. You may be working full or part time, unemployed, retired, living alone or as a couple with or without children of your own. Foster Care can provide the support and encouragement children need until they are able to return home. Members from the Koori community can help provide quality culturally appropriate care for Koori children through the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency.
Phone: Kaye Bratetich - 9431 1799 for further information.