Remind

Fri 26th Oct - Prep Orientation, 9.00-10.30am
Mon 29th Oct - The "Bilby Man" visit, 11am, parents welcome
Tues 30th Oct - Last day for return of School Nursing Program forms – preps only
Wed 31st Oct - Parent/Teacher/Student Led Conferences, 3.45 to 5.15pm
- Halloween dress-up day
Mon 5th Nov - Pupil Free day
Tues 6th Nov - Melbourne Cup Day holiday
Thurs 8th Nov - Prep Orientation, 1.30-3.00pm
Mon 12th Nov - School Council meeting, 7.30pm
Tues 13th Nov - Hands Up! Active Travel count.
Try to leave the car at home
Mon 19th Nov - Swim Program for 1/2, 2 and 2/3 for the next ten days
Fri 23rd Nov - Swim Program for 5/6 for the next six days
Fri 23rd Nov - Prep Orientation, 9.00-11.00am
Sat 24th Nov - Cake, cards and worm juice stall
Mon 26th Nov - Music program end-of-year concert, GP room, 6.10pm
Tues 27th Nov - Music program end-of-year concert, GP room, 6.10pm
Mon 3rd Dec - Swim Program for P/1 for the next ten days
Tues 4th Dec - Grade 6 Transition
Fri 7th Dec - Pay 2008 Voluntary Contribution by this date to be eligible for iPod draw
Tues 11th Dec - iPod draw at assembly
Tues 18th Dec - Grade 6 Graduation
Thurs 20th Dec - Last day of Term 4 for students - 2.30pm finish
Fri 21st Dec - Curriculum Day

October Sewing Circle
We are meeting again tomorrow, Friday 26th October. Come and sew stuff for the Fete. Call Jenny Collogetti 9489 9488 or jenny@collodetti.com Toddlers and babies all welcome.

Strange Danger
The school was notified by the Regional Office this week, that a male in his mid 20’s, driving an old white Ford, has been reported approaching secondary school students in this area on two separate occasions. Please have a conversation with your children about ‘Strange Danger’, reminding them of actions that they should take in the case of a stranger approaching them. Also discuss proactive ways of avoiding these situations. The teachers and aftercare staff will ensure there is an increased vigilance in supervision of students outside and we will continue to provide the highest duty of care.

Fantastic Bilby News
Frank Manthey, one of the famous “Bilby Brothers”, is coming to Merri Creek Primary School.
He is coming all the way from Queensland and will bring a real live bilby with him!
This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see a bilby in the flesh!
Frank will tell you about the work that the Bilby Brothers and many others are doing to provide this iconic Australian endangered marsupial with a safe place to live.
The Merri Creek Primary School community has taken the bilby cause to heart and raised more than $600 for the “Save The Bilby Fund”. Frank’s visit is a fantastic way to show the whole school community what bilby conservation work is all about.
Place: Merri Creek Primary School, GP room
Time: 11am
Date: Monday, 29th October
To accommodate this visit recess will be at 10.30am on Monday.
OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS MUSIC PROGRAM END OF YEAR CONCERTS
The out of school hours music program end of year concerts will be held on November 26th and 27th (Monday and Tuesday) in the GP room from 6.10pm. Fliers will be distributed to students by their music tutors in early November.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS MUSIC PROGRAM FOR 2008
Re-enrolment and new enrolment forms for 2008 will be available after Cup Day to existing students via their music tutor, and to new students via the general office. Return dates for these forms are in early December. Allocation of times etc for 2008 will not be available until the start of school in 2008. Lessons are likely to commence in the second full week of Term 1. Completed forms are to be handed in to the general office. Enrolment forms received after the due date will be allocated places in the music program as available. Enquiries to Angela Hill 9486 1612 or Annette Knopf 9486 6779.

AUTISM STATE PLAN
The Victorian Government is working in partnership with Autism Victoria to develop an Autism State Plan, with the draft anticipated to be ready for government consideration around September 2008. Consultation forums are being held to enable those interested in these issues to attend and contribute their ideas. There are three types of forums:
Forum for families: Wednesday 31st October from 10am to 1pm at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 1-5 Spencer Street, Melbourne
Forum for government employees: Wednesday 31st October, 2pm to 5pm at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 1-5 Spencer Street, Melbourne
Open forum: Wednesday 14th November from 10am to 1pm at the Clocktower Centre, 750 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds.
If you are interested in attending please register via the website http://autismstateplan.dhs.vic.gov.au/consultation/forums.htm.

Dionne Wright

HALLOWEEN AT HOGWARTS
DRESS UP DAY
WEDNESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER
To celebrate Halloween Day we have organised a whole school Dress Up Day. Come dressed up in a Halloween costume or like a character from the Harry Potter stories.
Judging - the best boy and girl costume from each grade.
Please bring along a gold coin donation.
Money raised will go to the Children’s Cancer Foundation.

CAKE, CARDS AND WORM JUICE STALL
On Saturday 24th November (Federal Govt. election) the school will be holding cakes, cards and worm juice/casting stalls. It is a great opportunity for the School to raise funds from outside the immediate school community.
The cake stall will operate along similar lines to the Fete’s cake stall. We are asking that families donate baked items (cakes, muffins, slices, biscuits, breads, etc). The cake stall will be set up in the corridor and due to limited space we cannot accept items that require refrigeration. More information about the cake stall will be sent home closer to the event.
The Friends of Merri Creek PS card makers are busy making cards, including a range of Christmas cards. These cards are not only really great value, they are gorgeous!
The School’s worm farms will provide the worm juice and castings and school children will be designing the unique artwork labels on the worm juice bottles. Worm juice and worm castings are great for the garden.
Anyone who is interested in helping on the day can find a roster on the School Council notice board (opposite the staffroom door).
**FUNDRAISING NEWS**
Earlier this year we had a Bulbs Drive and raised $417 and our thanks to Sophie Gebhardt for organising this drive. This month we had a Coffee Drive and raised $728 and our thanks to Jacqui Ng for organising this drive. Thank you to our families for supporting these two fundraisers.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**NORTHCOTE SCOUTS AND DAREBIN LIBRARIES BOOK SALE**
This Saturday 27th October, 10am to 3pm
There will be fabulous bargains and lots of hidden treasures. Children's books, teenage fiction, adult fiction and non-fiction, reference.
Nothing over $1!
Where: Northcote Scout Hall
5 Ethel Street, Thornbury
(right next to Thornbury Railway Station) Melways Map 30 F4

**WALK AGAINST WARMING!**
Australia’s biggest day of action against climate change is on Sunday 11th November at 1.00pm at the State Library.
We thought we had 50 years to address global warming but recent scientific data on this year’s summer melting of the artic ice cap shows that we need to act urgently. Climate change is already close to crucial tipping points past which carbon will start being released from soil and sea.
Show all the political parties that you want urgent action for the sake of future generations.
For more on the Walk
[www.walkagainstwarming.org](http://www.walkagainstwarming.org)
or contact Tim O’Leary on toleary@fastmail.fm
or 9481 2961. Further research from
[www.carbonequity.info](http://www.carbonequity.info)
Further action ideas from
[www.thebigswitch.org.au](http://www.thebigswitch.org.au)

**FREE FAMILY FUN DAY**
Sunday, 28th October, 11am to 4pm
Waterfront City and New Quay Promenade, Docklands
Activities and interactive displays from the MFB, Victoria Police, CFA, Metropolitan Ambulance Service, SES, Australian Customs, Life Saving Victoria and many more.
The day is a family event providing safety information at home and in the community. Roving musicians, clowns and show bands will provide entertainment on the day. For further information please call Angie: 9665 4394 and 0400 919 778.

**FIRST AID COURSE**
Holden St Neighbourhood House will be hosting a course in Basic First Aid (Workplace Level 1) by the Australian Red Cross. It will be held on Monday 12th November from 8.30am to 5.00pm at a cost of $60 to $90 (depending on the numbers). Please register your interest asap to ensure the course can go ahead by calling Jacinta, 9489 9929.

**BRING HOME A BROTHER OR A SISTER**
In February 2008, students aged 15 to 18 years, from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 5 or 10 months.
Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis.
Host families help provide our students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today. To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331 or visit our website: [www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au)