REMINDER

Mon 12th Nov - 2008 Fete meeting, 9.05am
- School Council meeting, 7.30pm
Tues 13th Nov - Hands Up! Active Travel count.
Try to leave the car at home
Fri 16th Nov - Grade 5/6 Inventors Exhibition
MCPS Family Picnic, 5.30 to 8.30pm, Edinburgh Gardens
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 - Cakes, cards and worm juice stalls – Federal election
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
Wed 12th Dec - Volunteers Breakfast
Fri 14th Dec - Christmas Raffle draw
Tues 18th Dec - Grade 6 Graduation - Last day of Term 4 for students
Thurs 20th Dec - 2.30pm finish
Fri 21st Dec - Curriculum Day
Wed 30th Jan - Grades 1 to 6 commence the 2008 school year
Thurs 31st Jan - Grade Prep commences the 2008 school year

VOLUNTEERS BREAKFAST
This event is scheduled for Wednesday 12th December starting at 8.00am in the General Purpose room.
The annual breakfast is the school’s way of acknowledging and thanking parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends of students at Merri Creek Primary for their assistance throughout the year. In the interests of our

environment and so that we don’t overlook anyone, we don’t send home personal invitations.
If you have given of your time, energy and skills in any way this year, such as listening to home reading, helping in the Maths Task program, assisting students at swimming, on excursions, inter school sport, district sport events, helping to run the water watch program, covering library books, attending working bees, serving on School Council or its committees, creating the vegie garden, choreographing dances, making costumes and props for the school musical, running the 5/6 girls choir, working on the school fete and parents association and donating to our trust funds and energy audit, then you are invited to celebrate your contribution to the school’s achievements in 2007.
The teachers and staff look forward to seeing you all at this breakfast.

Dionne Wright

REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT
It was great to see students showing their families their portfolios of work collected throughout this year, discussing what they had achieved and showing their development over the past three terms on Wednesday 31st October in our student led conferences in each classroom.
This event is an important one in our schedule of assessment and reporting occasions throughout the year, starting with the classroom information evening in term one, followed by written student reports and parent teacher interviews in term two, meetings with families to discuss students’ Individual Learning Plans throughout the year, conversations about student progress initiated by teachers or parents throughout the year, AIM reports in term four and written reports at the end of term four. At this time of the year all teachers are spending a significant amount of time reflecting upon their students’ learning and writing comprehensive student reports.
In our Parent Opinion Survey completed by thirty five parents (an 85% response rate), this
year, as for the past few years, reporting scores below the state average. The reporting questions (listed below) do have a very limited focus on the written report as the only reporting instrument:

My child’s school report is very helpful. 
My child’s report gives me a good understanding of how my child is progressing at school. 
My child’s reports cover all the areas of their progress that I need to know about.

I am interested in feedback from parents about our reporting procedures and the written report form specifically that might assist us to improve the usefulness of the written report for our planning purposes for 2008. You may write or talk to me. I look forward to receiving your productive feedback before the end of the year.

Dionne Wright

2008 FETE
Please come to the first meeting to organise the Fete for 2008 on Monday 12th November at 9:05am in the staff room. The 2008 Fete will be held on Saturday 15th March. If you are interested but can't attend the meeting please register your interest with Gayle at the office and we’ll get back to you. We will have a second meeting before the end of the school year on Friday 30th November. Also as you are probably aware we have co-ordinated the Fete for the past three years so if anyone is interested in taking on the role please let us know. We are both more than willing to share our paperwork, provide support and advice and take on roles in other areas.

Kind regards,
Melinda Moore and Rosemary Deakin

Inventors Exhibition
Friday 16th November
9.30am
GP ROOM
The grade 5/6 students are exhibiting their inventions next week on Friday morning in the GP Room. All parents are welcome to attend the exhibition and observe the students’ wonderful designs.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS MUSIC PROGRAM FOR 2008
Enrolment forms for new students to the 2008 music program will be available from tomorrow at the office and should be returned to the office by Monday 3rd December.

Christmas raffle
To end the year on a high note we have organised a Christmas raffle as our term four fundraiser. We are asking for donations to spruce up the prizes this year. Our first prize is a Sony PSP (Playstation Portable) and Children’s pack worth over $500. We would like donations of items for an adult Christmas Hamper such as wine, chocolates, Christmas cake or pudding, preserves, bon bons etc. There will be a number of smaller prizes as well. Please bring any donations to the office as soon as possible.

Tickets will be sent home soon in books of ten. Each ticket costs $1. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 14th December at assembly. All tickets and money need to be returned by Thursday 13th December to ensure you don’t miss the draw.

Thank you for your support of the fundraising this year.

School Council

CAKES, CARDS & WORM JUICE STALLS
Just a reminder that on Saturday 24th November (Election Day) the school will be holding cakes, cards and worm juice stalls. In the week prior to the Election Day each family will receive a plate, label and bag. We are asking that families donate baked items (cakes, muffins, slices, biscuits, etc). The cake stall will be set up in the corridor and due to limited space we cannot accept items that require refrigeration. Similarly, all food items that we sell have to be bagged.

Families can bring their baked items to school either on Friday 23rd November or between 8am and 10am on Saturday 24th November.

A note explaining the labelling requirements and further information on where to bring the
baked items will be sent out to each family closer to the event.
The Merri Creek cards are great value. The handmade cards will range in price from 50c to $2.50 per card.
Josie and the school’s Green Team have been busy bottling the worm juice. Josie is seeking more empty plastic bottles. Please rinse the bottles before bringing them to school.
Anyone who is interested in helping on the day can find a roster on the noticeboard beside the library. Thanks to those mothers who have put their names down already. Fathers can also work on the stalls!
If anyone has any queries they can contact Elizabeth Fitzpatrick on 9489 5629.

BILBY VISIT

Last week Merri Creek Primary students, staff and parents were treated to a very special visit from Frank Manthey and Matthew the Bilby. Frank travelled down from South West Queensland to visit a school in Richmond. He fitted in a visit to us because of our fantastic fundraising efforts for Save the Bilby Fund (Well done Josie and helpers!). We learnt about this amazing threatened species, and of the efforts a passionate few are making to save the bilbies left in Australia. We now know to support the fund by buying chocolate bilbies from Darrell Lea because they send 50c from each one sold to the fund. Frank was very impressed by the enthusiasm shown by our students, and the insightful questions they posed for him.
www.savethebilbyfund.com

Dear Frank, Thank you for coming to show us your beautiful Bilby. I learnt something when you came. It was that we need to take good care of our wildlife. If we don’t they will be extinct. It is amazing that they don’t need to drink. It was a pleasure to meet you.
From Jack Taylor

Dear Frank and Peter, Thank you for teaching us all about bilbies. I found out that bilbies are part of the bandicoot family. I was touched when you said that Dawn died. I nearly cried.
From Claudia Skubel

PS You rock.

Dear Frank, Thank you for coming. I learnt so much. I learnt that the blood pressure goes down to keep them cool.
From Michael Russo

Dear Frank, I have always been an animal lover and I wanted to thank you for giving me the knowledge that I didn’t have before and for sneaking in a visit with our school. I never knew that the bilby was so endangered! You taught me something and I’m grateful for it.
From Mia Gourlay

Dear Frank, I loved the bilby. Thanks for bringing it. I want to see Matthew again. He was cute. We have learnt a lot about bilbies like bilby burrows are two metres long and bilbies are nocturnal and they can eat almost anything.
From Kai Junqueira Ng
ACTIVE TRAVEL IN "WALKTOBER"
On Ride to Work Day, 17th October, many students made an effort to get to our school by active means. This time the count was done of the 28 teachers, student teachers and support staff at MCPS. 79% of our staff managed to arrive at school without their cars! Staff from three areas in the school managed 100% active travel, and were awarded prizes: The Grade 5/6 area; the Grade 3/4 area; and the Specialist teachers. Given that many staff travel from as far as Mitcham this is a great effort.

Walk to School Day was on 24th October. 72% of our students managed without a car. We had 70 bikes and scooters at school. The girls once again narrowly beat the boys as active travellers – 75% to 70%! Mandy’s Grade 1/2 students had the extraordinary result of 100% active travellers – well done! Special mention for classes whose results in the travel count were the most improved from a normal school day: Gaye’s Gr 3/4, 23% increase; Julie’s 2/3, 22% increase; Sophie’s P/1, 19% increase; and Sarah’s 5/6 who improved their active travel count by 15%.

A big thank you to the City of Yarra for providing money for us to spend on organic apples for fruit snack for the whole school on Walk to School Day. Thank you also to Haydn from Rhubarb, Rhubarb Organics at Preston Market who sourced and delivered the apples for us.

Our next Active Travel Count Day will be on Tuesday 13th November, next week. Try to leave the car at home and walk, ride, scoot, skate, or use public transport to get to school.

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

HALLOWEEN AT HOGWARTS
On the 31st October a group of Grade 6 girls organised a Halloween at Hogwarts dress up day. Lots of people throughout the school dressed up and brought a gold coin donation. One girl and one boy from each class got a certificate because they were the best dressed. At lunchtime people paid to get their hair sprayed. Heaps of people went to get their hair sprayed and we ran out of hair spray at the end. We raised $346.05 and all the money we raised went to The Cancer Council. Everyone had heaps of fun.

By Juliette Lalli, 5/6T

Footnote: Thank you to all the people who participated in our dress-up day and kindly donated money.

DEBATING
On Thursday 18th October, Janice Ampt and Simon Govic went to Northcote High School to debate against five other schools: two students from each school. The feeling was inspiring going up on a stage and saying information about my changing world. It was also interesting listening to the other schools about their changing world. A few talked about technology and skyscrapers, and Janice talked about things that were really personal like her tooth coming out and her favourite shows like Smallville. I talked about technology and green house gases and terrorism. Unfortunately Janice and I didn't come in a position, however we tried our best. In the end we had Domino’s Pizzas and drinks.

By Simon Govic, 5/6T.

ZONE CRICKET
On Tuesday 30th October, Finn Nielsen, Isaac Wattis, Otto Ishak, Robbie Finch, Orien Pledger, Nick Harding, Josh Holt, Hayden Gavin, Martin Deasey, Fiacre Ryan, Tom Salzano and 12th man Patrick Wuong helping to score, went to Edinburgh Gardens for the cricket region quarter final. We left school at
12:40pm and got back at about 4:40pm. The team we played were Saint John Bosco’s Primary School. To start the game we flipped the coin and lost, and they chose to bat. Isaac got 2 wickets but Finn did the best with the ball and got 3 wickets. A few other people got one wicket. We dropped a few catches but redeemed ourselves with our run outs.

To open the batting were Nick and Orien. Orien did very well and retired at 26. But Nick only made 2. Next in was Finn, who got run out for 5. The next few wickets fell pretty easily. But then Hayden and Martin came in and smashed a few fours. And at the end Orien came back in but got out for a duck. At the end the score was Merri Creek 83 to Saint John Bosco’s 116. But at the end everyone had a great time.

By Finn Nielsen and Isaac Wattis, 5/6T

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**2008 Term Dates**

Many parents ask for these dates for planning purposes so you may like to write them in your diary for future reference.

- Term 1 – 30th January to 20th March
- Term 2 – 7th April to 27th June
- Term 3 – 14th July to 19th September
- Term 4 – 6th October to 19th December

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**WANTED**

Rental accommodation for family of four from November/December 2007. Preferably within walking/riding distance of Merri Creek Primary School.

Contact: Chris or Negeen, tel. 9481 2219 or e-mail: <millipede@iinet.net.au>

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**STRIDE FOUNDATION** invites mothers and their daughters to their free MPower Girls Mothers and Daughters Program. This program will help empower and assist your daughter as she faces issues such as bullying, poor self-esteem and relationships with other girls whilst developing a greater understanding between you and your daughter. Stride is running MPower Girls Mothers and Daughters on Wednesday 28th November at 6.00pm at our Training Centre, 230 Rae Street, North Fitzroy. For more information or to RSVP please contact Kelly Vennus on 9489 1611 or email to kvennus@stride.org.au

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**CAN YOU HELP?**

The City of Yarra is conducting a family and children’s services survey. The results of this survey will be used in the development of a new Municipal Early Years plan as well as assisting to gauge which services the community would like to see introduced or altered. If you would like to participate, copies of the survey are available at the school office.

**ART PLAY – 2007 – CITY SING ALONG**

The Song Room runs a number of workshops in music and the performing arts at schools throughout Melbourne and invites children who are highly motivated and enthusiastic about singing in a choir to participate in City Sing Along! This is a free program which has been funded by the City of Melbourne. There will be three workshops, one rehearsal and one performance to which members of the public will be invited. Workshops: 17th, 18th and 24th November, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Rehearsal 25th November 10.30am to 12.30pm and Performance 25th November 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Art Play is next to Federation Square, in Birrarung Marr, by the river. For further information or bookings please phone 9495 6422.

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**JOINING THE CHORUS DANCE CHOIR AND STAGE BAND AUDITIONS**

JOINING the CHORUS announces auditions are now open for their
- Melbourne Dance Ensembles
- Melbourne Choir Ensembles (junior, senior and male)
- Stage Band (junior and senior)
- Geelong Dance Ensembles
- Vocal Performance Ensemble
- Warragul Dance Ensembles
- The Junior Ensembles comprise students from Years 4 to 8
- The Senior Ensembles comprise students from Years 9 to 12

To register for an audition or for more information telephone 9637 3906 or www.jtc.vic.edu.au