2008 FETE
At such a busy time of the year it seems amazing to be thinking about next year’s fete but not only are we thinking about it but have already been planning for it. At the last school council meeting, school councillors discussed the importance of this fabulous event in profiling our school and community to the broader community and also in fundraising terms.

The fete is our major fundraiser for the year. School Council has accepted the Program Budgets for 2008 which require an income of $282,981 to offer the curriculum programs, equipment and facilities your children are not only used to, but require, for an excellent education. The fete must raise $25,000 to enable the school to provide this. The money is not an extra, it is factored in as essential income and the school would be unable to provide programs and equipment if the fete was not successful in making this profit.

Of course the Fete is only as good as its contributors and in 2008 Rosemary Deakin and Melinda Moore, our Fete co-ordinators will be retiring after four years of exceptional service. School Council is asking, urging, begging, two other parents to consider working with Rosemary and Melinda in a shadowing role in 2008 so that they may take over the co-ordination of the Fete in 2009. Rosemary and Melinda are happy to discuss the role with any interested parents and have a range of planning strategies and information in place for the running of the major stalls and the overall co-ordination and planning of the Fete.

So if you are vaguely interested you can contact Jo or Dionne if you don’t know Rosemary and Melinda.

PARENT HELP
Thanks to the parents who have helped with interschool sport this term - Donna for transporting heavy newcomers poles and nets and Elizabeth and Catherine for assisting with supervising students which is always required as teachers umpire games. Thank you too for the assistance provided to teachers and students in the swimming programs -
the 1/2/3 program has started this week at Collingwood Leisure Centre and the 5/6 program starts tomorrow at Northcote Aquatic Centre. Parents are of great assistance in helping students dress quickly, collect all their belongings and get on and off and travel safely on the bus.

2008 TEACHERS
Here is a list of the teachers and their classes for next year. The class lists will be displayed on the last day for students this term, Thursday 20th December when the students will visit their new classroom with their teacher.

Prep/one – Kerrie Watson, Lynda Joyce, Natalie Jensen, Anthony Atkinson, Erminia Ciano (Kerrie (4 days) and Erminia (1 day) will share a class)
2 – Mandy Parke
2/3 – Julie Murphy
3/4 - Josie Marsicano, Gaye Wilde, Jonathan Shearer
5/6 – Jenni Webster, Sarah Flowers, Trevor Allen
Literacy and Numeracy Support – Mellane Somers, Jo Wheeler
Visual Art – Lisa Grant (2 days), Erminia Ciano (1 day)
Music – Paul Moulatlet (3 days)
Library – Carmel Hyland (3 days)
Italian – Erminia Ciano (3 days)
Integration Aide – Maree Dousset (2.5 days)
Maths Task Centre Aide – Maree Dousset (1 day).

FAREWELL TO STAFF
Chris Seabridge, who has been the Maths Task Centre Aide here for 17 years is retiring at the end of this year. The students and staff are very grateful to Chris who has not only maintained our resource but built it into the rare and exceptional maths problem solving centre that it is today, one of only a handful in the state of Victoria. We wish Chris all the very best in her enjoyment of other aspects of life in the future.

Sandra Walker is returning to Carlton Gardens Primary next year after a year with us in support replacing Mellane Somers. Sandra’s enthusiasm for active travel to school, stamp collecting and bilbies will be remembered and the pursuit of active travel continued next year. We wish Sandra all the best for 2008.

Sophie Dall’Ava is taking a year’s leave without pay next year to travel. She will not be overseas all the time and we may see her back here doing some Casual Relief teaching throughout the year. We wish Sophie a wonderful time next year.

GRADE 6 PARENTS
Just a reminder that Northcote High School’s parent information evening is on Tuesday 27th November, not on the Thursday.

SCHOOL WORKING BEE & BBQ, FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER, 3.45pm to 7.00pm
Working Bees play an important role in maintaining and improving the school and playground so that they continue to be pleasant spaces for your children. We hold four a year, one per term, and if each family attended just one a year we should be getting about 50 people to each Bee. Term 3’s Working Bee was very poorly attended, meaning that there was a lot of work done by a small number of parents, and that the Bee was less fun for those who did attend, as we struggled to complete everything in the time we had.

Working Bees are a great way to get to know other parents and kids; to have a chat while you pull weeds or sweep, and feel that sense of achievement of a job well done. We’d like to encourage parents to attend at least one Working Bee per year and also want to stress that, although they run for 3-4 hours, you are not expected to turn up for the entire time. We understand that weekends are precious, so even offering an hour can make all the difference to getting the various jobs completed.

This term we’ve decided to hold the final working bee for the year on a Friday afternoon, 30th November followed by a BBQ and drinks. We’ll be starting at about 3.45pm and there are a number of jobs that need doing to prepare the school grounds for the long hot summer. We’ll be mulching the garden beds; sweeping and rubbish collection; oiling the wooden playground equipment, wooden tables and chairs; pruning and watering, turning compost, etc.

So when you pick up your kids from school or aftercare, stick around for an hour or so, and then join us for sausages, salads and drinks as the sun sets on another school year!

We look forward to seeing you there,
The Environment Committee of School Council

STAMP COLLECTING CLUB
This is the last week for the lunchtime stamp collecting club. Thank you to our school community for saving used postage stamps for us. We have had a lot of fun soaking, sorting and learning about stamps. If you want to continue saving stamps they could be passed on to stamp club members, or sent to an organisation where volunteers sort them and sell them to raise money for various charities. One that I have heard of is: Sammy Stamp, 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000.

Sandra Walker
ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE
On Tuesday 13th November, many students and staff made an effort to get to our school by active means. 69% of our students managed without a car. We had 83 bikes and scooters at school, and that includes bikes ridden by teachers. We are looking forward to the bike shed extension – currently under construction.

The boys won the Active travel challenge this time - 71% to 67% girls!
Most active class was Kerrie’s P/1 with 91%, and the most active teaching area in the school was Grade 3/4 staff who managed 100%!
Special mentions go to Julie’s 2/3 class with 89%, and Jenni’s 5/6 had 77% of students leaving the car at home.

Our next Active Travel Count Day will be on Wednesday 6th December. 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.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Next Wednesday 28th November there will be an Education Committee meeting looking at some curriculum policies which need to be ratified. All members of the school community are invited to attend. We meet in the staffroom at 7pm for about 2 hours. We are very happy to discuss other educational issues at these meetings so please come along.

Musicians and Performers - Merry Merri Fete - Saturday 15th March
Anyone wishing to perform at the school fete should contact Sandra Walker, at school, as times on the main stage are already being allocated!

MCPS CHOIR AT THE CITY OF YARRA COMMUNITY CAROLS OF CANDLELIGHT
On Thursday evening, 6th December, MCPS combined choirs will perform in this concert with other local school choirs, community choirs and the headline act, the Choir of Hard Knocks (as seen on TV). Admission is FREE. No booking required. The venue is the Collingwood Children’s Farm, End of St Heilers St (off Clarke St), Abbotsford, and the concert runs from 6pm to 9pm (choir members assemble by 5.55pm please).

The event is held in a paddock, so bring a picnic blanket to sit on. You are welcome to bring a picnic to eat (or take advantage of the stalls selling food). Songbooks and candles will also be available for purchase.

Voluntary Contributions
This year the Voluntary Contributions have been set by School Council at $150, with a maximum amount of $350 for families with three or more children at this school. A letter has been sent home outlining how the contributions are spent.

To go into the draw to win an iPod Shuffle, please return your Voluntary Contribution for 2008 by Friday, 7th December. If you are yet to pay your 2007 contribution, we are still happy to accept it.

We would like to thank Justin and Rebecca Lewis from Beyond the Box, 1 Puckle St, Moonee Ponds for the donation of the iPods.

SUMMARY OF SECONDARY COLLEGE PLACEMENT

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COMMUNITY NEWS

THE ST GEORGES ROAD/MERRI PARADE INTERSECTION PROPOSAL
VicRoads has initiated a proposal to improve the St Georges Road/Merri Parade intersection. Two different design options to improve the operation, congestion and safety of the intersection are being offered and the third option of doing nothing. You can have your say about this proposal by attending an information session at the Northcote Town Hall on Wednesday 28th or Thursday 29th November between 6pm and 8pm or completing a submission form (copies available at the school office).

ATTENTION PAST BRUNSWICK KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES
Karen Pinder is leaving Brunswick Kindergarten and to give her a fond farewell a family BBQ/Picnic has been organised. This will be held on Friday 7th December from 6pm to 8pm at Temple Park (Melways Ref 29, E9). For further information please contact Kathleen Murphy 9387 1720 or Terri Drum 0412 015 926 (not the kindergarten).

BELL PRIMARY SCHOOL’S FUN DAY
Election Day Fete
Saturday 24th November
10am to 3pm
Cnr Oakover Road & Scotia St, Preston

THORNBURY HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS NIGHT OUT – an opportunity to hear first hand from a panel of current Year 7 and Senior Girls, about their experiences of Thornbury High.
Tuesday, 27th November
7.00pm to 8.30pm
The Library, Thornbury High School,
238 Collins St, Thornbury
Phone: 9480 4066

RETURN OF THE SACRED KINGFISHER FESTIVAL
This year’s Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival extends over a week, with the festival day on Saturday 24th November, election day. The Festival day, 3pm to 10pm, includes kids and adults activities, music, theatre, song, fire and finishing with a magical Wings of Diaspora community performance. And election coverage! We hope you can come and celebrate with the community the return of the Sacred Kingfisher and the positive and hopeful solutions for the environmental and social issues of our day.

NORTHCOTE CRICKET CLUB
An exciting Primary Edge 20/20 twilight cricket match is being held on Tuesday, 27th November at Bill Lawry oval from 5.15pm to 8pm. The match will be fought out between Northcote and Prahran and will feature star players like David Hussey, Brian McGain, Travis Gloury and new English player David Brown. A BBQ dinner and refreshments will be available and entry is free.

SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
Speakers, workshops, stalls, music, kids space, eco art, performance, food
Saturday 8th December
1pm to 5pm
Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill
www.foe.org.au/events

VICSWIM
VICSWIM is an intensive aquatic education program. Each program is one week long, running over three weeks in the January holidays. Each child will receive a 40 minute lesson each day for the duration of their chosen program. Lessons cater for a broad range of abilities, from those who have had little exposure to the water, to those who are able to swim competently but require further skill reinforcement. Full program information, including venue locations, can be viewed at www.vicswim.com

MELBOURNE YOUTH MUSIC - 2008 SATURDAY MUSIC PROGRAM
Melbourne Youth Music is part of the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Strategic Partnerships Program. Melbourne Youth Music provides an environment that nurtures young talent and enthusiasm. We inspire more than 500 young musicians in our different orchestral, symphonic wind, jazz, string and vocal ensembles. Musicians and singers aged 7 to 23 years are able to seek membership by audition. Auditions will be held January 30th to February 5th, 2008. For further information please contact the MYM office on 9690 8624 or 0417 124 486 or visit the website www.mym.org.au

LANGUAGE CLASSES
- Arabic classes at Princes Hill Secondary College on Saturday mornings between 9am and 12.30pm.
- Vietnamese classes at Collingwood College on Saturday mornings between 9am and 12.30pm.
Both classes are organised by The Victorian School of Languages and for further information please contact Mrs Venetia Kefalianos on 9416 0641.