REMINDER

Wed 20th Feb - Open classrooms and information session from 6.00 to 6.45pm followed by a School Picnic to 8.30pm
27th to 28th and 28th to 29th Feb – Grade 3/4 Camps
Thurs 28th Feb - Gr 5/6 inter-school swimming gala
Fri 29th Feb - EMA applications close
Mon 10th March - Labour Day holiday
Sat 15th March - Merry Merri Fete
Tues 18th March - School Council meeting and Annual Report
Thurs 20th March - Last day of Term 1, 2.30pm finish

Sorry!
On Wednesday 13th February as the Australian Government said ‘Sorry’ to our indigenous population, past and present, we celebrated by beginning our assembly acknowledging and paying respect to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations who are the traditional owners of the land on which our school stands. We displayed both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and discussed their symbolism. The Aboriginal flag has three colours. The black represents the Aboriginal people past, present and future. The yellow circle in the centre represents yellow ochre and the Sun, the giver of life. The red which is on the bottom represents the red earth, Aboriginal spiritual relationship to the land and red ochre used in the ceremonies. On the Torres Strait Islander flag the horizontal green at the top and bottom represents the land; the blue in the middle represents the sea. The black lines between the blue and green represent the people. The white five pointed star in the centre represents the five island groups and the white dharrri represents the original head dress of the islanders. The colour white also represents peace.
Some classes listened to the Prime Minister’s speech on the radio, some watched on TV/computer. All classes participated in discussion about the significance of the day and participated in different activities about indigenous culture.

SORRY DAY – 13TH FEBRUARY
Sorry day is to say sorry to the indigenous Australians for how we took their land and their children. We can not undo what we did but we can say sorry. I hope in the future everybody will be all equal with rights that are the same.

By Meaghan Gaunt, 3/4G

Thank You
Out of school hours instrumental music classes have begun this week. Many thanks to our co-ordinators, Angela Hill and Annette Knoph, for their tremendous effort which enables this program to run so smoothly.

Volunteers
Parent and grandparent volunteers provide a wonderful range of assistance to our students and the school community. Volunteers are essential in making the home reading program efficient and effective in class programs and in the Maths Task Centre. Parents who assist in classrooms are helping all students, not just their own child. This is a rewarding and interesting activity for parents who often learn a great deal about what is happening in the classroom.
It is important for all volunteers to remember to respect the privacy of the students they work with and hold all personal and learning information acquired as a volunteer in the strictest confidence. Privacy legislation requires volunteers to not discuss students’ academic, social, physical, creative and behavioural skills and progress with anyone in the school community. Teachers may only discuss a student’s progress with that student’s parents and not with volunteers or other parents in the class. Class teachers will be actively seeking volunteer assistance in the coming weeks and always appreciate assistance for their students.
**2008 CURRICULUM & PUPIL FREE DAYS**

Please keep a record of these dates on your calendar for 2008. They are the days when the students are not required at school. Curriculum Day Care programs usually operate if there is a minimum of 20 students booked in. Bookings can be made closer to the time.

**Curriculum Days:** Monday 28th April, Tuesday 10th June, Friday 19th December

**Pupil Free Day:** Monday 3rd November

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**NEW BOOK DONATIONS FOR FETE**

If any parents have contacts in the publishing field, we are keen to get as many donations of new books as possible for the Fete book stall. Please contact Sally 0425 885 069 or the office.

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**CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!**

In the lead-up to the fete, Jonathan’s 3/4 class need as many white film canisters as we can lay our hands on. Beg your local camera store (they only throw them out), take rolls of pics of the kids and keep those canisters rolling in! Canisters can be given directly to Jonathan, or they will also be collected from classroom teachers.

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**CHESS CLUB**

Come along and join Chess Club - Wednesday lunchtimes at 12.45pm in the library. All welcome, from beginners to experts, prep to grade 6.

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**LUNCH ORDERS PRICE LIST**

On the last page of this week’s newsletter is a new price list for lunch orders. Please be sure to use this new list as there are some items added, some deleted and a couple of price changes.

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**RCH GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL**

Sent home with today’s newsletter is an envelope for the Good Friday Appeal. If you would like to make a donation please return the envelope to your child’s classroom teacher or the office by Friday 14th March.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

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**A Bouncing Baby Girl**

The school would like to congratulate Anthony and Lani on the safe arrival of their bouncing baby girl, Alice Elizabeth, who arrived on 31st January.

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**Class Information Evening/School Picnic**

A reminder that our annual school community event, the School Picnic will be held on Wednesday 20th February, after our class information sessions which start at 6.00pm.

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**EMA**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible to receive the first instalment of the EMA parents/guardians must have a Health Care Card or Pension Card which is valid on the first day of Term 1 (29th January 2008).

Application forms are available from the school office.
The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 29th February 2008 for the first instalment.

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**BRUNSWICK SECONDARY COLLEGE**

Dawson Street, Brunswick

School tours every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.45am to 10.30am.

Please ring the school on 9387 6133 to make a booking.
NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY
Wednesday 16th April
2.00 to 6.45pm: Tours, Displays
5.00 to 7.00pm: Information sessions
Established in 1926, Northcote High School is continuing an 82 year tradition of educational excellence in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

Open Day
Meet the teachers! See the facilities! Talk to students!
Ask questions! We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Day for prospective primary school students and parents, on Wednesday 16th April. Come and see what a great co-educational school can do for you!

School day tours are also available by arrangement, from February 2008, at 9.30am, on Mondays and Thursdays.
Northcote High School, St. Georges Rd, Northcote
Phone: 9488 2300 - www.nhs.vic.edu.au

Thornbury High Information Evening
Thursday 13th March at 7pm
All parents and students will have an opportunity to meet with the Principal and staff as well as experience activities in science, multimedia and music.
Many of the school’s innovative programs will be showcased including our girls only class.

SUNDAY 2ND MARCH: CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY The Sumner Estate Sustainability Street Group is organising a clean up of Merri Park and surrounds on Clean up Australia Day, Sunday 2nd March.
The Clean Up will start from 10am and finish at 12pm.
Register from 9.30am at the wooden playground rotunda on the day.
For more information: email Misja Carbo at carbowalker@netspace.net.au

GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA OPEN DAY
Sunday 2nd March, 10am to 4pm
Join Dr Harry Cooper, Wags the Dog and loads of our adorable puppies for Guide Dogs Victoria’s annual Open Day. With Guide Dog demonstrations, live entertainment, giveaways, show bags, competitions and loads of fun activities for the kids, Open Day is a fantastic family day out. Entry via gold coin donation.
Chandler Hwy, Kew (Melway 45 B1)
Visit www.guidedogs.victoria.com.au for full details and parking information or phone 9854 4444.
No pets allowed.

LIVE @ CERES - 5 FRIDAYS IN FEBRUARY
Enjoy the extended summer of music Live at CERES. An all ages event - bring a picnic and enjoy the brilliant line up of artists. Cafe & Bar - No BYO
> 15/2/08 - Kerri Simpson & The Prodigal Sons, support Gift Horse
> 22/2/08 - Rebecca Barnard, support Wendy Rule
> 29/2/08 - Lisa Miller, support Sam Burke.
Tickets $18/$14 presales and members $16/$12

SAVER PLUS PROGRAM
Would you like to receive up to $1000 in matched savings?
If you can answer “YES” to the following three questions then you may be eligible to join Saver Plus.
Do you have a child attending school in 2008 or 2009, or are you attending or returning to vocational education yourself? AND
Do you also have a current Centrelink Health Care Card or Pension Card? AND
Do you or your spouse/partner have regular income from paid employment?
Saver Plus is designed to teach people money skills and help them learn how to save. The program matches participants’ savings $1 for $1 (up to $1000), to help them pay for educational expenses such as uniforms, books, camps and computer equipment.
For further information please contact Aysun Acar at the Brotherhood of St Laurence on 9483 2431.

FITZROY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
2008 REGISTRATION
10am – 2pm, Sunday 17th February
Community Rooms, Brunswick Street Oval
All new and current players wishing to play in 2008 should register before or on Registration Day as places cannot be guaranteed after this. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au and either mailed to the Club or handed in on Registration Day.
New members must supply a photocopy of their birth certificate/extract or passport that can be kept on file. Teams begin at Under 10s (for players born in 1998 and 1999) and run to U17s.
Enquiries: Sophie Arnold 0421 214 334 or enquiries@fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au

CLIFTON HILL FOOTBALL CLUB
SOCCER JUNIORS REGISTRATION DAY
Sunday 17th February, 10am – 1pm
Yambla Reserve, Cnr Yambla & Ramsden St, Clifton Hill (Melway 2DB2)
CHILDREN (6 – 15 YEARS)
Boys & Girls
ALL ABILITIES
Everybody Welcome
FUNDRAISING BBQ LUNCH
Contact: FCCH junior committee - FCCHjunior@gmail.com

BRUNSWICK HOCKEY CLUB
Sign on day for junior teams for winter season 2008
Saturday 16th February, 10am – 2pm
Wylie Reserve, Brunswick, Melway 29 C8
We cater to the needs of hockey players, great or small, young or old, and of varying abilities. Free bbq.
For further information phone Chris Anderson 0403 056 494 or chrisabruns@optusnet.com.au