School Entrant Health Questionnaire
This form and envelope has been sent home to all Prep students’ families. It is due back to school by Tuesday 24th February, next week so that the Department of Education and Early Childhood school nurse, Kalinda Johns, can check the Prep students’ hearing and eyesight. This is a quick and free service and I encourage all families to return these forms as quickly as possible. Kalinda plans to carry out the assessments next Wednesday 25th February.

Dionne Wright

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

On Monday evening, School Councillors expressed their appreciation of the time and effort the retiring school councillors devoted to School Council business over the past two years. Thanks go to 2008 School Council President, Kate Jones, Vice President Sally Moore, Parent Association representative and school councillor Emma Salzano, Environment Committee representative and school councillor Sophie Gebhardt and Education Committee representative, secretary and school councillor Jo Wheeler.

There are three elected parent member vacancies, one Department of Education and Early Childhood Development employee member vacancy and one community member vacancy.

Nomination forms for the three parent member vacancies and the one DEECD member vacancy are available from the office and nominations will be accepted until 4.00pm Tuesday 24th February. An information sheet about School Council was sent home with the youngest child in the family at the school earlier in the week.

ARE YOU MISSING A SCOOTER?
Two scooters have been found in the school bike shed, they were locked away over the Christmas break and nobody has yet come to claim them!!
If anyone is missing a navy blue RAZOR or Black CITY RUNNER, you can collect them from the office.

BUSHFIRE APPEAL COLLECTION

Students at Merri Creek Primary did a wonderful job raising money for the many thousands of Victorians severely affected by the horrific bushfires of Saturday 7th February. Students were very generous, compassionate and unselfish. Some gave large amounts of their slowly accumulated pocket money which had been carefully saved for other very specific things. A total of $634.90 has been raised so far, so thank you very much to all and congratulations to those extra generous students.

NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

The City of Yarra has recently installed a pedestrian crossing at the Miller Street end of Ida Street. The school is very grateful for this safety measure and we urge all families and students to use this crossing when crossing Ida Street at the beginning and particularly the end of the school day. Traffic turning into Ida Street from Miller Street and of course traffic on Ida Street is legally obliged to stop for people using this crossing. This will be a much safer option for our students than crossing Ida Street at any number of other points, which after school are very dangerous. So please get into the habit of using this crossing.

STUDENT SAFETY

The recent horrific bushfires have raised community awareness about student safety on school camps. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has a number of policies and practices to ensure student safety. These cover general duty of care; playground equipment and softfall; safety on excursions; at swimming venues; on specific items of equipment (not in playgrounds); on camps; water activities such as canoeing and in specific areas and conditions. The Department has a state-wide emergency management centre which is notified of the details of each school camp at least three weeks before the camp is to take place. All teachers at Merri Creek Primary complete a Risk Management document about the excursion or camp they will be taking students on, prior to the event so that the teachers attending are aware of the risks and know how they should behave to minimise those risks. This documentation is retained for seven years after the relevant camp or

Newsletter No: 02/09

Reminder!

25th to 26th Feb - 3/4 Camp for Sophie’s grade 3/4 and Jenn’s grade 3’s.
26th to 27th Feb - 3/4 Camp for Trevor’s Grade 3/4 and Jenn’s Grade 4’s.
26th Feb - Grade 5/6 Swimming Carnival
27th Feb - Last day for EMA application forms to be handed to school office

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excursion, or 21 years if there was an incident, along with each student’s permission form. Merri Creek Primary only uses accredited camps, each of which has its own emergency management plan which is always explained to teachers and students at the beginning of the camp. The decision to continue with the camps booked for 2009 rests with the Principal of the school (unless the department imposes a blanket ban on all camps or camps in specific areas) and is based on advice from a variety of sources, including the Department of Education and Early Childhood. Currently there is no departmental request to abandon all camps this year and each planned camp will be assessed individually for student and teacher safety. We plan to continue to hold the 3/4 and 5/6 camps this term.

Lunch Orders
Our Lunch Order suppliers have extended our menu. Please find attached on the back of this newsletter the most current menu with more hot food options!

Former student hits the big time!

Congratulations go to Olivia O’Brien, a former student, for a great musical achievement. Members of our school community will remember Olivia’s musical attributes through her membership of many school choirs, her solo singing part in our musical The Journey Home and her work with Merri Creek rock bands Black Jem and Expired. Olivia, who is now a 13 year-old high school girl, was featured at the opening concert of the new multi-million dollar Melbourne Recital Centre. This centre is a world-leading complex, specially built for music and theatre concerts, and boasts one of the best acoustic spaces in the world. Peter Sculthorpe, who is one of Australia’s most eminent composers, wrote a piece titled Song of the Yarra. The work was performed at a special concert to mark the opening of the centre and received wide acclaim. The performers included some of Australia’s finest musicians and vocalists and included a special part for solo voice which was performed by Olivia. Her performance received a special mention in the arts review section of The Age. Well done Olivia!!

Award Winning Photograph
Throughout 2008, grade 5/6 students were given the opportunity to participate in a digital photography course with Jo Wheeler during their Golden Time. Most groups spent time photographing the Merri Creek and the surrounding parklands. An opportunity arose to participate in a national photography competition called Upstream, Downstream which celebrates World Wetlands Day on February 2nd. One of our students was rewarded with a merit award and received a cheque for $25 and a certificate. Congratulations Eadie Pocock for this wonderful award winning photo of the Merri Creek.

MOSAICS CD still available!! Buy one now!!!

MOSAICS, Merri Creek Primary’s first student music CD, is still available from the front office for only $15. The CD features almost 100 students, performing a total of 22 tracks, and comes with a full colour 8-page booklet. Over half the total run has now been sold and we expect that the remainder will go in a flash at the school fete. Doubtless, these CDs will become collector’s items in the future, so make sure you get your copy now!

Parent support group - meeting

We are a small informal group of parents from Merri Creek P.S. who all have a child or children with learning or social issues of some kind (eg. auditory processing disorder, dyslexia, ADHD, Aspergers Syndrome, learning delays, or struggles in the school environment that may not attract a specific label but are still significant).

We would like to meet once a month in 2009 with the aim of supporting each other and sharing information. We all know how important discretion and trust are and members of the group would agree on confidentiality before each meeting starts.

Our first meeting for 2009 will be at 9.10am, Thursday 5 March. An available venue at the school is yet to be confirmed, but we will meet initially under the elm tree closest to the slide and playing equipment.

If you think such a group could be of benefit to you, please feel welcome to come along or contact us on the number below. We will also be planning some evening meetings to better suit those who are not available during the day.
Contact: Karen 9388 2414 baska4@yahoo.com.au or Heather 9486 8084.
**Sustainable Living Festival**

The Sustainable Living Festival showcases a huge range of exhibitors, talks, workshops, art, films and performances celebrating and inspiring sustainable communities.

Come and explore the Festival's three-day program in the heart of the city of Melbourne and be a part of the celebrations. (Federation Square Melbourne, Fri 20th – Sat 21st 10am to 6pm and Sun 22nd 10am to 5pm Feb 2009)

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**Kids Book Club**

For Grades 3-5, North Fitzroy library, Fortnightly 4-5pm starting Thursday 26 Feb 2009

- Choose a name for the club
- Pick books for your library to buy
- Good books, activities, friends
- Chats with authors & artists
- Sign up at the library - 12 places only

240 St Georges Rd, North Fitzroy

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**Fitzroy Juniors Footy 2009 Registration**

All new and current players wishing to play in 2009 must register before or on Registration Day as registrations after this date cannot be guaranteed a place in a team.

Registration forms can be downloaded from [www.fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au](http://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.

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**NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL.**

**2009 OPEN DAY**

Wednesday April 29th 2009.

2.00 – 6.30 pm

Tours, displays, meet our staff and students.

Information Sessions 4.30 and 6.30 pm


School day tours are available by arrangement from February 2009, at 9.30 am on most Tuesday and Friday mornings.

*Note: 2010 ACE Program Testing – Saturday 2nd May 2009. See our website for program details and an application form.*
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 2009 or 2010, 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 9445 2420.

Yarra Valley Hockey Club Junior Hockey Program - Term 1 2009

Both Introductory and Advanced Hockey skills programs for Term 1 commenced Saturday February 14 for young boys & girls ages 5 – 7 (Minkie Hockey), and ages 8 – 15 in skill level groups. Team game and coordination skills will be learnt and a lot of fun will be had! There will be skill level groups suitable for beginners, more advanced to high level players.

When: Saturday mornings from 14 February to March 28;
Where: Yarra Valley Hockey Club ground, Cyril Cummins Reserve, North Ivanhoe, Melway 31C/D4;
Timings: 0900 – 1030am 5 – 7 year olds
1015 – 1130am 8 – 15 year olds

Cost: $25 for 6 weeks, or $45 if a “new starter” hockey pack is needed. First tryout session is free (trial sticks available). No charge if registered for 2009 Winter season. ***Mouthguard essential***

Check us out at www.yarravalleyhockey.com.au
Please email your registration to: Craig at asteinfo@bigpond.net.au
Enquiries: Craig – 9499 4352

NETBALL

Heights Netball Club invites girls and boys who want to learn netball to come and join the family friendly club. Netball is a fabulous team sport for children to learn, it is a sport that can be played at all ages and skill levels.

Training will commence every Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30pm at Preston Girls Secondary College. Matches are played on Saturday mornings at the State Netball and Hockey Centre in Parkville.

If you require further information please don’t hesitate to call Gayle Anderson: 9486 2043

Community Homework Support Program seeking a Co-ordinator.

The Parent Committee of the Community Homework Support Program is seeking to employ a suitable individual for the above position. The Homework Program runs throughout 2009 from the Holden Street Neighbourhood House in North Fitzroy, two sessions per week, one for Prep to Grade 5, and the other Grades 6 and 7.

Qualifications are not essential, however experience working with primary school aged children and the ability to co-ordinate volunteers involved in the program, is essential.

A position description is available from Holden Street Neighbourhood House, 128 Holden Street, North Fitzroy, phone 9489 9929.

2009 BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE!

All stock is up to 90% off
Novels
Chapter Books
Picture Books
Activity Sets

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to purchase top quality books to start the New Year.
Thur 26th and Fri 27th Feb 9:00am – 6:00pm
and Sat 28th Feb 9:00am – 1:00pm
Scholastic Book Fairs Warehouse
9-11 Northern Road, West Heidelberg.