KATHY WALKER - 9th April – DEVELOPMENTAL CURRICULUM
Prep/one parents are invited to an information session about the developmental curriculum being implemented in the Prep/one area. Kathy Walker, education consultant in early childhood development and author of What’s the Hurry? Reclaiming Childhood in an Overscheduled World and Play Matters will talk to Prep/one parents at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th April, the first week of next term in Kerrie’s Prep/one room.

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES
There are a number of students in our school community who have life threatening allergies to nuts in particular. The school has chosen to not ban peanut butter, nutella, and the many varieties of health food bars from children’s lunches and play lunches. It is important that all our students eat only what their parents provide for them. Parents of students in classes with students with food allergies have been notified by the class teacher so that parents can make alternative arrangements when providing birthday cakes or other celebratory food.

LISA GRANT RETIRES
Lisa, our Librarian and Art teacher of seven years and one term is retiring from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development next week, her last two days of teaching being Monday and Tuesday. Lisa started her teaching career in 1978 at Drysdale Primary School. She taught at Tullamarine, Altona, Ascot Vale West and Dinjerra Primary Schools in all year levels before gaining a part time position as the Librarian here at Merri Creek Primary in 2001. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank Lisa for all her contributions to education in the State of Victoria and to many thousands of students over her thirty year career. Particularly I would like to acknowledge Lisa’s willingness to learn new skills in becoming the Visual Arts teacher for Prep-6 students, her wonderful art program, her management of the Mapping the Merri artist in schools project, her input into general curriculum development, her collegial planning with her specialist team, her organisation of highly successful Art shows, and her contributions to many extra curricula activities such as the school musicals, fetes, art displays and school camps.
I’m sure you will all join me in wishing Lisa the most enjoyable and exciting future, a new adventure, after years of dedicated service to children and their learning. School Council will present Lisa with a retirement gift at next Tuesday’s assembly.

Dionne Wright - Principal

SIBLINGS STARTING PREP IN 2009
This must sound like an extraordinary request so early in the year but we would really like to know how many siblings we will have starting in Prep next year. Please complete the return slip attached to the bottom of this newsletter and hand in to Gayle or Teresa in the office. We would like to know this information as soon as possible, within the next week, so as to plan appropriately and better inform prospective Prep parents who are already touring the school.

HELP - We need 20 x 2 litre ice cream containers with lids for the Fete - please leave at Office.
SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL
On Thursday 28th February 23 people went to the School Swimming Carnival. There were excellent results from everyone.
We want to congratulate everyone but especially Lachlan who came first in breaststroke and third in freestyle, Sian who came first in butterfly and second in freestyle, Michael who came second in breaststroke, Mikaela who came first in breaststroke and second in backstroke and to Tori for coming first in freestyle and breaststroke.
Congratulations to the 12 year old girl’s relay and medley team for coming second and third. We would like to give a big thank you to Trevor, Sophie and all the parents that came along.
Everybody was positive, encouraging and had an extraordinary time.
Good luck to Tori and Sian who made it into zone!

By Tori Rusciano 5/6T and Mikaela O’Connor 5/6S
On Wednesday 12th March Tori Rusciano (5/6T) and Sian Gilmour (5/6F) competed in the Tullamarine Zone Swimming Gala. Tori became 12 year old girls Zone Champion in Freestyle and finished second in breaststroke in personal best times. Sian became 10 year old girls Zone Champion in Butterfly too!
Both girls then competed in the final of the Whitten (schools in the whole of metropolitan West and North West Melbourne) region race. Tori was the fifth best in the region in freestyle and despite having to swim the breaststroke straight away afterwards and a cold, was the seventh best breaststroke swimmer in the region. Sian also did Merri Creek proud by finishing fifth in the butterfly.
Merri Creek currently has two zone swimming champions and has runners up teams in zone for both cricket and netball. They are all also champions of the Carlton District. Our students have also used the skills partly learnt over the years in P.E. lessons to recently be major elements of reigning champion club teams outside of school in the sports of AFL, soccer, netball, baseball, lacrosse, gymnastics, hurling, hockey and basketball. Although PE lessons and play times hopefully had little influence, we also even have two Australian champions in Karate! This is an exceptional sports achievement for a small school of our size. Well done everyone!

A BIG THANK YOU
Thank you to all the families who assisted with the working bee on Saturday 1st March. Volunteers helped in the playground, the garden, sorting second-hand goods, organising some of the stalls and in food preparation.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE BOOKING DAYS
Due to the overwhelming demand for After Care we have re-assessed our bookings procedure. In order to book your child/ren into care for Term 2 you will need to attend one of the following booking days:
Tuesday 18th March, 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Wednesday 19th March, 3.30pm – 6.00pm.
At the bookings session you will be required to pay your fees in full for Term 1, 2008. If payment is not received you will be unable to make a booking. You will also be required to update your enrolment form.

MERRI AT MOOMBA
Anyone who braved the heat on Monday morning and attended the Moomba Parade would have been delighted at the talent of our students. Wearing red tops and hats and gold and red flags high into the sky, they beat their way down Swanston Street drumming up a storm. They represented our school well and showcased their wonderful musical talents. The crowd loved the beat and Melbourne saw what happy, talented and community spirited children attend Merri Creek Primary. Thanks to Erminia for giving up two days of her long weekend to supervise them and thanks to the students and their families who gave up their time to showcase our school in the public arena.

ANNUAL REPORTING MEETING
The School Council will report to the school community about the school’s 2007 business and achievements at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 18th March after the first meeting of the new council. All school community members are welcome to this meeting. Supper will be served about 8.30pm. Please ask at the office if you would like to receive a copy of the 2007 Annual Report.

DOGS AT SCHOOL
Please collect your dog’s faeces if he/she happens to go in the school grounds or building. If you are caught unprepared there is toilet paper in the student toilets and it can then be flushed down the toilet.
Please do not tether your dog. It needs to be under adult supervision at all times. We have had a child bitten on the face by a dog a while ago, which was not supervised by an adult owner. Please adhere to these so we can continue to be a dog friendly school.
SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION SESSIONS - 2009 YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Macleod College will be holding an Information Evening on Monday 21st April from 6pm to 8pm with a sausage sizzle. Displays open 6pm to 7.45pm. Short address by Principal Margaret Lacey in the Impact Centre from 6.30pm to 6.45pm. School tours with Mr Mario Panaccio (Asst Principal) from 9.30am to 10.45am on 19th March, 14th April, 6th May, 12th May and 16th May. Bookings are essential for tours. Please phone the school on 9459 0222.

Brunswick Secondary College will be holding an Information Evening and school tour for families on Tuesday 29th April from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. The closing date for the Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program is Friday 9th May. Applications on request at the school. Contact Marilyn Hardy, 9387 6133.

Melbourne Girls’ College will be holding an Information Session for families of Year 6 girls on Wednesday 30th April. Times:
- Daughter’s surname A-K - arrive 7pm at the Lyceum
- Daughter’s surname L-Z - arrive 7.45pm at the Lyceum.

Melbourne Girls’ College Open Day will be on Wednesday 7th May. There will be tours of the College between 9.30am to 2.30pm and an opportunity to meet with the Principal Team at either 10.30am, 12noon or 1.30pm.

FC Melbourne City CA
www.gialloblu.com.au
A new Juniors ONLY football Club is looking for Year 5s or 8s to join an Under 8s, Under 11s or Under 14s Football team. We are seeking boys born between 1993 and 2001. Training is at McPherson Field (Poplar Rd, Parkville - Melways 29D11) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7pm to 8pm. A FREE introductory football program for boys will be offered over 8 sessions. Limited places are available. For further details please call the Junior Co-ordinator: George Georgiadis on 0433 102 847, or Email: gialloblu@bigpond.com

FITZROY CITY JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB BBQ
KIDS, PARENTS AND FRIENDS WELCOME
Monday 17th March
Players aged between 12 – 16 welcome and wanted for Junior Teams. We will provide a FREE BBQ and introduction to the club including a coaching session by one of our head coaches. The club is enthusiastic about developing its junior set-up and is providing excellent facilities, equipment and coaching of all its junior players. Professional coaches will mentor all coaching sessions and all equipment will be provided. Registration is $150 for the season. Kids with parents who are concession cardholders register for FREE. If you are interested in playing or would like further information call Lance Plunkett on 0407 237 714.

CAN YOU HELP?
AFL Victoria is urgently seeking an Auskick Co-ordinator for the Fitzroy/Carlton centre for 2008. If interested please contact Mark Smart on 9563 0588 or 0418 387 818.

COMMUNITY OUTING
Darebin City Council is offering an outing to Puffing Billy Railway at Belgrave on Thursday 3rd April. Cost $18 adults, $12 children ($15/$10 concession). Telephone 8470 8305 for further details.

BRING HOME A BROTHER OR A SISTER
In July 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.studenexchange.org.au

RETURN SLIP FOR PREP ENROLMENT 2009 - PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

My child __________________ will be a Prep enrolment for 2009.

Parent’s Name: __________________________