REMINDER

Fri 25th April - ANZAC Day – no school
Tues 29th April - Bully Busters information session, 7.30pm
Tues 6th May - Monies and unsold chocolates to be returned
Wed 7th May - School Council meeting, 7.30pm
Mon 19th May - School Photo Day
Mon 9th June - Queen’s Birthday – no school
Tues 10th June - Curriculum Day – no classes but Curriculum Day Care will be available (bookings required – call Aasta 9481 6091)
Wed 18th June - Parent teacher interviews from 1.00pm. School finishes at 12.30pm – OSH Care available (bookings required – call Aasta 9481 6091)
Fri 27th June - End of Term 2, 2.30pm finish

IMPORTANT – STOP PRESS
The Curriculum Day scheduled for Monday 28th April has been cancelled so this day will now be a regular school day.

5/6 CAMP
What a wonderful time we all had at Catherine’s Creek Camp last week. The year 5/6 students ate very well at every meal, being able to have second and third helpings, even of pancakes, maple syrup and ice-cream for breakfast on the last morning. Everyone kept their rooms tidy; managed a very long, interesting and challenging night walk (cattle looming through the dark and single file up and down the seat belt track); loved the activities - raft making, canoeing, archery, flying fox, making damper, ropes course and boulder wall/trike races and children turned blue as they shivered in the cold waiting for their sixth turn on the water slide.
Thank you to all the students for a great time and to all the staff - Trevor, Sophie, Josie, Jonathan, Erminia, Dionne, Carmel and Maree who ran the activities and were on duty 24 hours and to Jenni Webster for her wonderful organisation in Term one that enabled a very successful camp.

YEAR 7 TRANSITION
As part of our transition to Year 7 program John Goodman, one of the Assistant Principals at Princes Hill Secondary College will visit our 5/6 students today and next Tuesday our Grade 5 students will visit Northcote High and participate in some activities which show them the secondary school environment.

SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION PROCESS
The teachers are working in staff meetings analysing staff opinion survey and student learning data as part of the school’s self evaluation process leading to an external review at the beginning of term three this year. I will discuss this analysis and our ideas for school improvement (to be outlined in a new four year strategic plan) at the next Education Committee meeting on Monday 19th May at 7.00pm at school. All school community members are welcome to attend.
PARENTS DRIVING PRACTICES
Late last term as I left the school at 3.30pm for a meeting I witnessed an unbelievably dangerous driving act – a car left unattended in the middle of the road with the hazard lights flashing, presumably while the driver collected their child from school. This led to many cars lined up behind this car, unable to overtake because traffic was travelling towards Miller Street on the other side of the road, with of course tempers fraying. Add to this the 287 students leaving the school and their families and siblings and we have a disaster waiting to happen. Children have been killed at other schools and I do not want this to happen here. ALL parents who drive to school to collect children in the afternoon must allow sufficient time to find a car park in Miller or May Streets and walk calmly to and from school. Being in a hurry only adds to traffic danger for children. Everyone must think of everyone else’s children at this time of day. I recommend that parents and children cross Ida Street in one of two places only – either at the corner of Miller Street or at the end of Ida Street on the north (or creek side) of May Street. This is much safer than weaving your way through or darting between cars travelling in two directions on Ida Street as well as trying to avoid cars reversing out of car parks on Ida Street. Please assist your fellow families in this matter.

Dionne Wright, Principal

BUILDING PROJECTS
Our school has been very lucky in the past month to be successful in gaining funding from the Victorian State Government for two major building projects, $130,000 for a toilet upgrade and $500,000 under the Better Schools Today program to reconfigure some classrooms to improve teaching and learning for students. All our classrooms are smaller than those being built today and we hope to increase the size of some within the existing building structure. Both projects need to be underway before the end of this financial year to ensure we get the funding. The toilet project has begun and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has provided project managers to oversee timelines and the consultants appointed to both projects. I’m sure you will be as excited about these projects as I am and understand that these works will mean some disruption and change to our teaching and learning spaces and programs some time in the future. I will keep you informed along the way and plan to hold a public meeting for interested school community members to discuss the Better Schools Project. It is very important for the school community to understand that these grant monies do not impact upon our 2008 program budget established by School Council in December last year. The receipt of these monies does not mean we can reduce the requirement for payment of voluntary contributions or the money gained from fundraising each term. This year’s budget, which will pay for curriculum materials and support the curriculum programs including student wellbeing, sport and physical education and all the general maintenance issues, requires the school community to raise $80,500 as part of the $283,000 proposed income necessary to fund all the program budgets. This $80,500 is made up of a fundraiser each term, including the fete, trivia quiz, chocolate drive and Christmas raffle and voluntary contributions. The program budget is separate from the teacher salaries and does include funding from the Education Department.

Dionne Wright, Principal

Education Maintenance Allowance
EMA Cheques are available for collection at the office now for those families who lodged applications.

WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING CLASS
A reminder to parents who have enrolled their child in the 6 week African Drumming course that classes start on Friday 2nd May. The classes will run in the Art Room from 3.35pm until 4.40pm, and cost $60. This fee is payable at the first lesson to "DrummerGirl". There will be no refunds for missed lessons. Further enquiries to Angela Hill 9486 1612 (ah).

SOME GREAT OFFERS
Some items left from the Fete are available for purchase from the office:
> Lonely Planet current editions for sale:
  $15  Amsterdam
  $15  Antarctica
  $15  Bahamas, Turks & Caicos
  $15  Belize
  $15  Dubai
  $20  Dublin
  $20  Honolulu, Waikiki & O’ahu
  $20  Jordan
  $20  Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands

  $20  Argentina
  $20  Central Europe
  $20  Florida
  $20  India
  $20  New Zealand

> Cans of soft drink, 50c each
> Bottled water, 600ml, 50c each
> Primas, $2.50 for pack of 6
> Jars of Tomato and Apple Chutney, $1 ea
THE GREAT ANZAC RUN
One of our parents, Marc Bradley, is taking part in the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade Charity Run from Gallipoli to London. Funds raised during the run will be distributed to local and national charities, including the Catherine Freeman Foundation and the Alfred Hospital Burns Unit. The run can be followed by visiting www.thegreatANZACrun.com.

NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
If families would like a tour of Northcote High School during regular working days, they are most welcome and will be taken around the school by one of the Assistant Principals. This is a good opportunity to see the school at work and get the feel of the school. Tours can be organised by ringing Ms Lillian Gelevski on 9488 2332 or Mr Nick Murphy on 9488 2342.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY JUNIORS HOCKEY CLUB
Melbourne University Juniors Hockey Club is currently looking for players between the ages of six to seventeen to join in this fun, exciting, team oriented game for both boys and girls. Like soccer, hockey is a non-contact sport played the world over, but unlike the Socceroos and the Matildas, the Australian men’s and women’s hockey teams, known as the Kookaburras and the Hockeyroos, have already won many Olympic gold medals and world championships. Melbourne Uni is one of the oldest and most successful hockey clubs in Australia, celebrating its centenary last year. Both the Melbourne Uni men’s and women’s teams consistently play in the top division in the state, and many of these players are coaches to the juniors club. This provides not only an excellent learning basis for the younger kids, but also a great opportunity for the older kids to become familiar with the uni environment.

Melbourne Uni Juniors train once a week for an hour on Wednesday nights, with a game on weekends – Friday nights for under 13s to under 17s, or Saturday mornings for under 9s and under 11s. Kids are encouraged to attend training sessions but they are by no means compulsory, and game day arrangements are also flexible. All training sessions and most matches are at Melbourne University hockey pitch between Swanston Street and Royal Parade, Parkville. The winter season is just getting underway, and this would be a great introduction to the game of hockey for new players. Interested families and kids of all skill levels are invited to come down and get a taste of what hockey with Melbourne Uni Juniors is all about – fun, friends, and hockey of course! There are no fees to pay if you just want to come down and have a casual hit at a couple of our training sessions, and we can arrange equipment for those that just want to try it out. As an indication, our fees for the winter season are $175 including GST which covers all coaching, playing and ground fees, as well as insurance costs.

For more information, please contact Taj Darvall on 0402 882 718, or via email to tajdarvall@yahoo.com.au.

FUTSAL INDOOR SOCCER - FOR KIDS
(Learn the Brazilian Way)
JUNIOR FUTSAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAM & TOURNAMENTS IN COBURG AND CARLTON NORTH
*Junior development training sessions take place:
Mondays/Thursdays at Coburg Senior High School Stadium, Alva Grove, Coburg. (Melway Map 17 K12)

Tuesdays/Wednesdays at Princes Hill Sports Stadium, Corner Paterson & Arnold Streets, Carlton North. (Melway Map 27 H11)

Training Times: 4.30pm to 6.00pm (school terms only)
* Catering for children/students aged 7-15 years old.
Interested? Call us and come on down and give it a go! It is a lot of fun! It’s indoors! It will keep you fit!
Futsal Regional School Tournament/Competition starting soon.
Enquiries: Website: www.vicforce.org.au,
Email: info@vicforce.org.au,
Phone: 0406 472 471 or 0433 000 444

RETURN SLIP FOR FILM NIGHT – INDIANA JONES – PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE BY MONDAY 19th MAY

Child’s Name: ____________________________
Grade: ____________
We would like to purchase:
_____ x adult tickets @ $14 each $______
_____ x children’s tickets @ $10 each $______
$_______ enclosed cash/cheque (cheques payable to Merri Creek Primary School)