**Dates to Remember**

**Today - May**
- Sun Smart Month – all students wear a broad brimmed hat to play outside

**March**
- 2 – 6 Mar: Grade 6 Camps – Canberra
- Fri 6 Mar: First Split Assembly
- Foundation -Grade 2
- Mon 9 Mar: Labour Day Public Holiday – no school
- Fri 13 Mar: Assembly 2.0 Grade 3 - 6
- Mon 12 Mar: Grade 1 & 2 Parents Literacy Information Session
- Mon 16 Mar: 1st School Tour 9-10am – book through the office
- Fri 20 Mar: Trivia Night – bookings opens
- 24 – 25 Mar: Parent/Teacher Meetings – Years 1-6
- Fri 27 Mar: Last Day Term 1 - 1.30pm dismissal
- 28 Mar – 13 Apr: Term 1 holidays incl. Easter

**April**
- Mon 13 Apr: Pupil Free Day
- Tue 14 Apr: First day Term 2
- Mon 20 Apr: School Tour 9-10am – book through the office

2015 NMPS calendar of events can be downloaded:
**A3 Planner Upload**

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**Message from Sally**

**Space: the new ‘Flexible’ Building**

Yesterday we welcomed Anthony from GROVE for some final assessments of the ‘culvert’ that runs under our school site. The investigative work will enable the builders to position the screw piles/footings around the culvert; so the ‘Mothership-Flexible’ can be positioned in our recommended site on the south side of the school. They anticipate that the footings work will be carried out between the 16th and 23rd March – and then onwards and forwards with the imminent build of our two story re-locatable.

The ‘Flexible’ will look very much like the above image. In case you haven’t noticed the changes on the south-side, the container known as ‘Rob’s Shed’ is now on the east side of the Flex, the bike racks are also being set up there and the chickens have moved slightly eastward behind the Flex.

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**Can you help?**

Stephanie Alexander’s Kitchen Garden Program needs an assistant for garden classes on Tuesdays. For more info contact joanna@northmelbourneps.vic.edu.au

Trivia Night: The Good the Bad & the Ugly organisers are looking for donations for door & fancy dress prizes. What can your business offer? Call Meg Moorhouse on 0411 755 421 by the 10th March.
School Assemblies – Alternating times
If you haven’t been fortunate enough to see an assembly this year – make sure you make the effort as it is an all-changed, highly prepared, ‘very slick’ event!

The 2015 Junior School Council teacher leaders, Matt and Lucy have been brainstorming all January and have re-styled and designed our assembly practice.

As Matt describes...NMPS continues to grow and grow, we’re fast discovering that our coming together as a whole school for Assembly once a week is proving tricky. To make assembly more comfortable for everyone, we have decided to split Assembly in two - one week will be for Foundation-Grade 2, while the other will be Grades 3-6. This will not only allow for some much-needed legroom, but also opportunities for more information to be shared with the relevant people, as well as some entertaining presentations, items and performances. Assembly 2.0 commences this Friday, at 3pm, and will be for the Preps, Grade 1s and Grade 2s. We look forward to seeing you throughout the Term!

Open Classrooms
In a flurry of activity students and staff ensured all was at the ready for the Annual Open Classrooms event last Tuesday evening. Teachers enjoyed the opportunity to see their students explaining the daily happenings in their rooms and introducing their teachers to their parents. The activity was very well received and we have had much feedback about the positive nature of this ‘semi-informal’ event.

I would like to thank the Staff for their ongoing commitment to these extra curricula activities that ensure our superb school continues to offer such extraordinary learning opportunities.

School Bell – clarified
8:55 Music plays – students hang up bags & line up
9:00 Bells sounds for entry in to classrooms
13:30 Bell sounds for dismissal from classrooms
15:45 Northern side of school including oval is for Biz-E-Kidz only.
South side of school is for supervised children.

Assembly 2.0 Routine from this Friday 6th March will be:
Even term weeks – Junior Assembly (Foundation – Year 2)
Odd term weeks – Senior Assembly (Year 3-6)

Accident Insurance, Property insurance & Ambulance Cover
Parents/guardians and staff are reminded that the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.

Parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers.
Our New Whole School Communication App: tiqbiz

Yesterday a flier was sent home introducing you to tiqbiz and showing you how to download the app onto your device of choice. Grade 5 parents have been trialing this function for the last two weeks. To date we have 75 users – well done early adopters!

The school will be using the app to send out the school newsletter, general updates, reminders, events and much, much more! The app is called tiqbiz and is available on iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android Phone, Android Tablet and Windows phone devices. If you don’t have a mobile device, there is also an app available for computer, both Mac and PC.

When you have opted into this application, you’ll receive all the information with a push notification – much like a text message directly to your device. Any last minute changes or reminders, we’ll be able to keep you informed and up-to-date.

tizbiz appears on your phone, tablet or computer. A red dot alerts the user of incoming messages.

The app has some great features that will allow us to get information through easily and quickly, you’ll be reminded about important calendar dates 24 hours before, and everything we post can be translated into one of 81 languages!

You will also be able to submit student absence via the app now, authorised by your signature, electronically signed straight onto the screen with your finger!

If you missed the flier – here are the instructions to download and register:

You’ll be notified of our news, messages, events and other communications.

Simply download the tiqbiz app to your phone or tablet.

Search in your app store: tiqbiz

Don’t have a smartphone or tablet? Download tiqbiz on your PC or Mac at www.tiqbiz.com

Three helpful hints:
1. When finding ‘our name’ type in North Melbourne Primary School in the ‘find’ section.
2. When ticking, all families need to Tick Whole School as well as the categories unique to you eg. Grade 3 and/or Biz-E-Kidz
3. tiqbiz staff are very helpful phone 98001489 if you need assistance.
Library News

Kathy Mitten, Librarian

New books which were purchased with funds from the Spring Fling are now catalogued and appearing on the shelves ready for borrowing. Some of the titles are on display in the window. We have also purchased new copies of some old favourites who have been so well read they are falling apart, so look out for the new editions of *Harry Potter*, *A Series Of Unfortunate Events* and many more.

Many thanks to the Parents & Friends Committee for this generous gift.

The Premiers’ Reading Challenge

The Premiers’ Reading Challenge is under way for 2015. Your child will have received a yellow card with the website and their login details. In general their Username will be their surname and their password will be the school number 1402 followed by their initials and then the year they enrolled at North Melbourne Primary. If parents in the Foundation to Year Two could enter their child’s books it would be of enormous assistance.

Students in Foundation to Year 2 are required to read or experience 30 books between now and the end of August. Students in Years 3 – 6 are required to read 15.

Take a look at the website listed below for all the information: 
www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

ANZAC Centenary

The Department of Veteran’s Affairs has made a very kind donation of books to the School Library. The books *A Day To Remember* and *The Beach They Called Gallipoli* by Jackie French will be available for borrowing. Keep an eye out for a display commemorating the Centenary of ANZAC in the Library in the coming weeks. If you have a photograph of family members who participated in World War 1 please bring them along and we will make a copy and display them.

Library News

The Dromkeen Homestead, Riddells Creek has launched a new exhibition, The John Barrow Collection. This is a delightful exhibition of original illustrations of children’s books. The collection includes original art works from Terry Denton, Alison Lester, Julie Vivas and many more. Take a look at the Dromkeen Facebook Page for further details or the website www.dromkeen.com.au
An information session for Grade 1 & 2 parents: Supporting your child with literacy

Amanda, Literacy / Languages

This session will assist families in reading the take home book and provide ideas for creating positive literacy habits and experiences in the home.

When: Thursday 12th March at 9.15am and repeated at 3.45pm
Where: Staff room

Science Club
Julia, Teacher 4C

Science Club happens every Thursday in Biz E KIDS during the second lunch. Our focus will be Chemical Science.

All students from Years 4-6 are invited to take part.

Time: Every Thursday second lunch 1:10-1:40
What to bring: iPad

We will be:
Experimenting - causing reactions and observing changes,
Making models and objects,
Using iPads to capture and explain our thinking and learning,
Drawing and Writing to express our thinking and learning.

Grade 6 & the CATS study: The Childhood to Adolescence Transition Study

On Friday 13 March the CATS study is returning to North Melbourne Primary School!

If your child is in grade 6 and participated in the CATS study last year, we will be back with our iPads and measuring stations this year to conduct the next annual session.
If you have any questions about the study please contact the study team on (03) 9345 6732 or email cats@mcri.edu.au.

Thank you for participating in CATS!
George Patton (Project Director), Lisa Mundy (Project Manager) and the CATS team.

Engineering, Science and Technology workshop - Robogals, University of Melbourne.

An exciting opportunity is available to Year 2-6 NMPS students to participate in a robotics workshop hosted by Robogals. This workshop will enable our students to meet some specialists in the field of engineering. This rare occasion will enable our students to walk in the shoes of engineers, gaining hands-on experience and knowledge of this profession. We encourage any student from Year 2-6 to take part in this very special workshop - details are as follows:

Date: Saturday March 14
Venue: University of Melbourne (meet at North Melbourne Primary School and walk to U of M)
Time: 9:30am depart from school. 1:30pm pick up from school. (Workshop: 10am-1pm)

Complete an Attendance Form and submit it to Julia (in Year 4 Upper Flex) by Monday 8 March.

For more information:
Contact Julia (Year 4 teacher - Upper Flex)
Visit Robogals website: http://melbourne.robogals.org.au
Interschool Swimming
Tyson, 4B Teacher

Congratulations to the following swimmers who participated in the ADVSSA Swimming competition:

Additional congratulations to the following students who qualified for District swimming:
Milly Barr (freestyle, backstroke and freestyle medley 9/10yo girl),
Michelle Ha (Breaststroke 11yo girls),
Olive Johnson (freestyle medley 9/10yo girl),
Emma Lang (freestyle medley 9/10yo girl),
Lily Tran (freestyle medley 9/10yo girl).

NMPS Swimming Day
Zoe, Grade 4
On Wednesday the 25 of February, 28 students from year 4-6 competed in the inter school swimming carnival (ADVSSA Swim competition) at the queens park swimming pool. It was a big day of swimming and cheering for others. Some kids broke personal records, swum their hearts out and others made it to the district swimming carnival where they will have a chance to represent our school at a higher level.

We were split up into age, gender and style (i.e. 11 year old girls doing backstroke.) We competed in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. We also competed in the freestyle and medley relay.

Everyone was well behaved and cheered loudly for their friends, supporting them no matter what place they came. At the end of a day full of fun, sun, swimming and cheering, our school came third out of 8 other schools.

A huge thanks to Paul and Tyson for taking all the kids down for the day, it was a huge success.

School Tours
New to 2015 are School Tours conducted by rotating Year 6 students. Sessions are 9-10am and occur twice per term. Current and interested families may attend by making a reservation with Sandra in our office on 9329 6902. Dates are 16 March, 20 April, 19 May (Open Morning for Education week 9-11am), 15 June, 27 July, 17 August, 1 October 2015.
Cross Country Run
Leo, Grade 5B
On Friday 20th grade 3-6 did a cross country and five people made the team and the top three got medals. They were Harley, Daryi and me. This was the order: 1st place was me (Leo), 2nd place was Harley, and 3rd place was Daryi. It was a hard but fun race. Red house ended up winning the race and yellow house got the best and fairest. The 2 km run was also a good race to watch.

Keep looking for our reading books!
A stock take of our take home reader collection has revealed that 1,500 books are missing! Do you have some of our books in your home?

Open Classrooms & International Picnic
Hannah, Grade 3D
On Tuesday the twenty-fourth of February N.M.P.S held an open classroom and international picnic. At six o'clock the classrooms were open for our parents to come and see what we are doing and how we are coming along in school and to meet the teachers. My dad met my teacher (Matt) for the first time. And my parents had lots of fun guessing the 'Who am I?'.
At six-thirty the international picnic started. You could bring something to eat with another person or you could bring something to share with everybody in the picnic. And if you forgot to bring something to eat then there were sausages for only $2, and all the money went to the Caring Kitty. My Mum made pasties and they were delicious! It was fun to play on the oval with my dad and a lot of kids had a good time playing with their friends! We nearly got a soccer ball in our picnic!

Check out International Picnic on NMPS website for more photos!
International Picnic & Open Classrooms 24 February
For the second year running the Open Classrooms event has welcomed families into the school learning areas, then transitions into a gathering on the school oval for dinner. International Picnic enjoyed wonderful weather and a tremendous turn out. There was much sharing of conversations, games and food.

Special thank you to the staff who welcomed us into the school and stayed on to share the evening.

The Caring Kitty
At the International Picnic the Parents & Friends Committee ran a sausage sizzle to add funds to the Caring Kitty raising $450.

NMPS Trivia Night – Now Booking!
Hosted by Trist, John & Tali
Friday 20th March 2015
7 pm – 10 pm, School Hall
$40 per head includes meal delivered by “the Dude Food Van Man”
Tickets & table registrations available from 3 March at the office.
Please book in tables of 10 if possible or pop your name into a table that has a vacancy.
Hurry – limited tickets.
All cowboys, cowgirls, law enforcers, Mexicans, flamenco dancers, squaws and Native American will be welcome.
Prizes for creatively dressed participants, best themed tables, overall winning team & individual victors of various mini challenges.
Be warned, the Sherriff will be watching! Bring gold coins for spot competitions during the evening.
Dinner served from 7pm sharp.
BYO nibbles & drinks Sangria available on night by donation.

Parents & Friends Association meet 7 pm, Staff Room.
Next meeting: Monday 16th March
Monday 18th May
Monday 15th June
Monday 17th August
Monday 19th October
Monday 16th November

If you have any queries, comments, suggestions or are interested in knowing more about getting involved the school community, please don’t hesitate to email: north.melbourne.ps.committee@gmail.com, or phone Meg Moorhouse on 0411 755 421.
Holiday Program and pupil free day Bookings have opened!
To make a booking get a program plan from Biz – E – Kidz or the school website, fill it in and return to Sharon, Eva or Leah at Biz – E – Kidz

Some Important dates are:

**Autumn Holiday Program**: March 30th – April 10th (excluding public holidays Friday 3rd and Monday 6th April)
**Pupil free day**: Monday 13th April
Monday 2nd March: Holiday Program and pupil free day bookings open. To make a booking, fill in a booking form and return it to Sharon, Leah or Eva at Biz -E – Kidz.
Friday 6th March: Holiday Program and pupil free day Bookings close. Bookings will be accepted after this date, but will not be eligible to be considered in the first round of priority of access.
Monday 9th March (week beginning) Holiday program and pupil free day places will be allocated and notified via mail
Friday 20th March: Holiday program and pupil free day deposit due. After you receive your confirmation, a deposit of $10 per child per day is due to the school office. Any changes made after this date will incur a $30 cancellation fee.

**Aftercare is booked out.**
At this point, the aftercare program has booked out Monday – Thursday, please speak to Sharon ASAP if you require or need to change any bookings. She can be found over at Biz – E – Kidz Monday - Wednesday. I am processing changes to bookings and wait lists on a daily basis and will contact families as soon as places become available.

**Cancelling and non – attendance.**
Please ensure you contact Biz – E – Kidz if your child will not be attending care or you need to change your booking. Biz – E – Kidz follows up each ‘No – Show’ to aftercare, which can be a demanding and time consuming process at our busiest time of the day. The easiest way to contact about your child not attending is by phoning 9329 5529 and leaving a message.

If you have any queries about Biz – E – Kidz, the above or anything else child care related, please contact us on the details below.

Sharon Goodwin
Coordinator, Biz - E – Kidz
p. 9329 5529
m. 0400 838 448
ohsc@netspace.net.au
Biz – E – Kidz presents:

**DINOSAUR DAY**

Pupil Free Day Monday April 13th 2015: 7:30am – 6:00pm

Travel back in time to when dinosaurs ruled the earth! Learn about dinosaurs, fossils, gemstones and more when the experts from 'Dinosaur Diggers' visit us at Biz – E – Kidz (incursion time 10am). Plus: craft, sports and games, and much more!

*Please note: due to children with severe allergies, Biz – E – Kidz requests that children DO NOT bring Nuts and nut products to Biz – E – Kidz, and that while at Biz – E – Kidz they do not share food*

Includes morning and afternoon snack. Please ensure children bring a packed lunch.

**HOW TO BOOK**

Please fill out the following form and return it to the Coordinator Sharon or Assistant Coordinators Eva or Leah. Your booking will not be accepted if this form is left at the school office or with other staff.

**FEES AND CHILDCARE BENEFITS**

The Pupil free day Program fee is $60 per child. PLEASE NOTE: After receiving written confirmation, a booking deposit of $10 per day per child is due by the Friday 20th March. A $30 cancellation fee will be charged for any cancellations made after this date. Childcare Benefits (CCB) apply to daily fees. Please ensure your child/ren are registered for childcare benefits by providing Biz – E – Kidz with both parent and child’s Customer Reference Numbers (CRN provided by the Family Assistance Office) and dates of birth.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Bookings open on Monday 2nd March** Bookings can be made by submitting a completed booking form to Sharon, Eva or Leah at Biz – E – Kidz. Please ensure you submit your bookings early, programs can book out very quickly.
- **Bookings close Friday 7th March**.
- **Deposit Due: Friday 20th March** A deposit of $10 per child per day is due by this date, as well as any outstanding before and aftercare fees. The deposit will be deducted from the total fee charged after the holiday program. PLEASE NOTE: Any cancellations made after Friday 20th March will incur a $30 cancellation fee.

**Have you filled out a 2015 registration form?**

(Please tick)  Yes □ or No* □

*If you have ticked “no” a registration form will need to be collected from either the school office or the Biz-E-kids building filled out and returned before the commencement of the program.

**PG MOVIES:** I authorise my child/ren to watch PG movies at Biz-E-Kidz.

(Please sign)
**Biz – E – Kidz Autumn 2015 Holiday Program**

*Bookings open Monday 2nd March and close Friday 6th March 2015*

*A non-refundable deposit is to be paid by Friday 20th March 2015. Any changes to bookings made after this date will incur a $30 cancellation fee.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 30th March</th>
<th>Tuesday 31st March</th>
<th>Wednesday 1st April</th>
<th>Thursday 2nd April</th>
<th>Friday 3rd April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incursion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Incursion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Incursion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Public Holiday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EcoArts festival</strong></td>
<td>Collingwood children's farm (To be confirmed)</td>
<td>Science Magic</td>
<td>Dizzy's castle</td>
<td>Service Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unleash your environmental artist with a day of papermaking, painting, sculpting and jewelry with recycled materials, plays and cooking!</td>
<td>Today we head to the farm for a guided tour to meet all our favorite farm animals!</td>
<td>Learn all about the magic of science and the science of magic! Learn Tricks, do experiments and much more!</td>
<td>A morning of FUN awaits on our excursion to the medieval theme play centre with glow in the dark mini golf, giant slides, trampolines and mazes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performances and exhibition at 3:30pm, families welcome</td>
<td>Excursion time to be confirmed</td>
<td>Magic show at 3:30pm, families welcome</td>
<td>Excursion time 9:00am – 1pm</td>
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<td><strong>Excursion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Holiday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Service Closed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Incursion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jumping castle carnival</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th April</td>
<td>Tuesday 7th April</td>
<td>Wednesday 8th April</td>
<td>Thursday 9th April</td>
<td>Friday 10th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electo Gamez</td>
<td>Grades prep, 1 and 2</td>
<td>Wacky wheels! Bring your skateboard, bike, scooter, roller blades or skates for a 'wheely' fun day</td>
<td>AMF Bowling Highpoint Excursion time 1:30-3:30pm</td>
<td>Jumping castle 10am – 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play card and board games, make your own and bring in your favorite electronic and board games from home. Plus: Biz – E – Kidz gets a Wii for the day! Games must be labeled with child's name</td>
<td>Curious Legends 'Flight Path' Drama workshop Incursion time 2pm</td>
<td>Children must also bring helmets and protective gear</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Underlined dates are excursion/incursion days charged at $60 each, all other days are $50. The program is subject to change due to staffing, poor weather, insufficient bookings. The Collingwood*

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

Monday 2nd March: Holiday program bookings open, bookings can be made by returning the booking form to Sharon, Eva or Leah at Biz–E-Kidz.

Friday 6th March: Holiday Program bookings close. Bookings can still be made after this date, but will be subject to availability and will not be eligible to be considered in the first round of priority of access.

Monday 9th March: Places in the holiday program or on the wait list will be mailed to families this week.

Friday 20th March: All holiday program deposits and before and aftercare fees are due to secure your holiday program booking. Any changes to bookings made after this date will incur a $30 cancellation fee.
Opportunities

Free Seminar Series at Murdoch Children’s Research Institute

Healthy Kids seminar series
FREE public seminars for parents, grandparents and those interested in the topic

How the new genetics is transforming diagnosis of rare genetic diseases

Most genetic diseases are rare, but there are about 8000 different rare diseases, most of which begin in childhood. Collectively, rare diseases affect 6 to 10% of the population, cause 30% of deaths in children in the first year of life, and account for up to a fifth of paediatric hospital admissions worldwide. Many patients and their families are faced with a long journey through the diagnostic process in order that their child can be treated.

Our leading researcher, Professor David Thorburn, has been at the international forefront of introducing new genetic technologies into diagnosing rare diseases and has identified over 20 novel disease genes in the last decade. Professor Thorburn will describe how the current advances in genomic medicine are assisting faster and more accurate diagnosis and treatment.

Date: Wednesday, 11 March 2015
Time: 10:30am - 12.00pm
Venue: Ella Latham Theatre, The Royal Children’s Hospital

Register now
Book early seats are limited

For more information visit: https://www.murdoch.edu.au/rci

Maribyrnong College Application Dates

Maribyrnong College
2016 Year 7 ACE High Achievers Program
Applications Open Now

- Applications close on Friday 16 April
- Testing scheduled on 4 May 2015
- See the school’s website at http://www.marb.vic.edu.au/enrolment, or contact 9091 8100 for further details and applications