**Footscray North Primary School**

**Newsletter**

In this week's newsletter, you will find information about our upcoming School Council election process. The process will commence today, February 16th, with the call for nominations in the parent, DET and community categories. Nominations will close on Monday 23rd February. As this is a very important part of our school, I have listed some common questions and answers relating to our School Council.

**What is a school council and what does it do?**

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

**Who is on the school council?**

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category** – more than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education & Training employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DET employee category** – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. Generally, the term of office for all members is about two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

**Why is Parent membership so important?**

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**How can you become involved?**

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?**

No. What you need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

**Remember**

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do

- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

School Council currently meets on the third Monday of each month at 6.00 pm. It is very important that if you nominate for Council, that you are able to attend these meetings.

Please contact either myself or Davide Lombardi if you would like to know more.
Parent Information

Last week, you received information about our Parent Information night that is happening this Wednesday (18th). During the evening you will have the opportunity to attend an Information session where your child's teacher will share with you important aspects of the 2015 school year including homework expectations, curriculum and camps/excursions. There will also be a presentation from the specialist team which includes Art, P.E., Spanish and Performing Arts. The classroom presentations will be repeated so that if you have more than one child at our school, you will be able to attend the relevant sessions.

The timetable for the evening is:

5.00pm-5.30pm - Free sausage sizzle – come along and meet everyone at Footscray North and enjoy a free sausage. This will be next to the library.

5.30-6.00 - Information Session 1

6.00 pm -6.30 pm - Free sausage sizzle

6.30pm - 7.00 pm - Information Session 2 (repeat of session 1)

The venues for the Information Sessions will be:

Preps – Room 11 (Ms Hickman’s room)
Year 1/2 – Room 4 (Ms Parboo’s room)
Year 3/4 – Room 9 (Ms Nguyen’s room)
Year 5/6 – Room 15 (Ms Grimston’s room)
Specialist – Gymnasium/Hall

Come and join us at the BBQ from 5.00 pm and again at 6.00 pm and meet the teachers, other parents and children.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.

Staff carpark

It has been brought to my attention several times since the start of Term 1 that many parents are using the staff carpark to drop off their students. Once again, there have been several near misses where children have run in front of cars. After speaking to staff I would like to inform our community that the staff carpark will be closed from 8.15 am until 9.15 am and from 2.45 pm until 3.45 pm each day. This will inconvenience staff who either start or finish at times when the carpark will be locked, however they understand that it is for the safety of our children.

All members of our school community are asked to support us with this by ensuring that you do not park in the carpark that is clearly marked for staff.

New Labels Around the School

As part of the Department of Education Health and Safety Plan, new labelling has been installed at our school.

The labels remind people to contact the front office prior to undertaking any works at our school. As with the majority of schools in Victoria, there are some small areas of asbestos that were installed prior to 2003. These small areas are under the eaves and well away from our children. Your child’s safety is our priority and this precaution will assist us to maintain a very safe environment. If you have any questions please contact either Davide Lombardi or myself.

Swimming Sports

Last Friday our students proudly represented our school in the Footscray District Swimming Sports. All of our students did their personal best with many of our students receiving ribbons for 1st, 2nd or 3rd. I have not been informed as yet as to whether any of our students will be progressing to the next level of competition. I would like to thank Carlos France and Davide Lombardi who organised our students and to Leanne Treherne who assisted our students at the pool.

Curriculum Day

Just to remind parents that our Term 1 Curriculum Day will be on Wednesday 25th March. On this day, staff will be involved in professional development which centres around Effective Learning Environments and participating in our School Review. The last Curriculum Day for 2015 will be on Wednesday 17th June.

Please note that students will not be at school on these two days. Our Before and After School Care provider, Camp Australia will be offering a whole day program on both of these days for students who are enrolled with them.
Connecting to Our Community

At Footscray North PS, we know that it is very important to keep our parents informed about what is happening at school. We know that you want to be part of your child’s learning at school and to assist with this, we have several ways for you to be kept up to date with school activities. You can be kept informed by:

* The school newsletter which is sent home on a Monday once a fortnight.
* Regularly checking our school website. The website can be found at http://www.footsn.my.vic.edu.au.
* Subscribe to our newsletter so that it is sent electronically to you. You can subscribe through our website.
* Subscribe to our Facebook page.

Sunsmart Hats Term 1

Just a reminder of the ‘No Hat No Play’ policy during Term 1. This means that every student must have a broad-brimmed hat, bucket hat or legionnaire’s hat so that they can play outside. This applies during recess and lunch times as well as sport times. Hats are available at school and should be clearly labelled with your child’s name on it. Please ensure that your child comes to school every day with a hat or leaves their hat in the classroom each day. Baseball hats are not appropriate for school wear as they do not protect your child’s neck from the sun.

Uniform

Please remember that children must be in school uniform every day. Our uniform policy states that students must be in uniform and that the uniform consists of the colours Navy Blue and White.

Students who wear scarves or head wear due to either religious or cultural requirements, need to also comply with our uniform. This means that all headwear must also be either blue or white. If your child needs to come to school out of uniform please direct them to the office where they can obtain an ‘Out of Uniform’ pass.

Please note: Students must wear black shoes with closed toes at all times.

Mrs. Sharon Walker
Principal.

Performing Arts – Term One

This term we are studying dance. Prep students will be introduced to movement and simple dance steps. The Year 1/2 students will build upon the skills developed last year and begin to choreograph their own dance steps. The Year 3/4 students will be extending their dance skills and learning new dances. They will also be working together to choreograph more complex dances. The Year 5/6 students will continue to learn more dances and to choreograph dances. Students will also explore the place of dance in different cultures. If any parents would like to share their cultural dances please see Di Travers.

Yoni says: I can dance. You can dance. Therefore they can dance!!

Calvin says: Dance is movement filled with joy!

WE DANCE LIKE NO-ONES WATCHING!

Year 3/4 Recorders

Students in Year 3 will shortly be given recorders. The recorders are able to be taken home so that the students are able to practice. It is expected that Year 4 students, apart from those who are new to our school, will have their recorders from last year. The following are the days that your child has Performing Arts:

* Monday 3/4 Vella
* Tuesday 3/4 Hortop, 3/4 Nguyen
* Wednesday 3/4 Smith

Please ensure that the recorders are brought to school on these days.

EAL Support

Students who require assistance with developing their English with be given support in small withdrawal groups. They will be given opportunities through various activities to develop their oral English skills and be assisted with developing vocabulary associated with their mainstream studies.

Dianne Travers
Coordinator.
LANGUAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM  SEMESTER 1 -2015

The Language Support Program assists students with their language development focusing on various aspects of speaking and listening including skills to cooperate with others. Students are withdrawn from the classroom in small groups for a one-hour session per week. This Term the program will focus on the following areas:

- Attentive listening behaviors
- Giving and following instructions
- Speaking in complex and simple sentences
- Using conversation skills.
- Understanding the language associated with the use of a calendar.
- Using appropriate behaviors to cooperate with others.
- Appropriate ways to express feelings using emotional toolbox strategies.
- Developing confidence.
- Speaking clearly with appropriate volume and speed.

Some students have a folder containing stories to help them at school and home. Students can read these stories with their parents at home.

Students will continue working with various iPad applications to motivate and develop their use of language.

If you require further information regarding the Language Support Program your child is accessing please contact: Christine Powell – Language Support Program Coordinator.

READING EGGS/EGGSPRESS

In 2014 we launched Reading Eggs/Eggspress at Footscray North Primary School. This web based program supports students in developing their reading skills. Teachers are able to monitor the activities students are doing and vary these as required. We have just completed our roll over for the 2015 school year. All students should have a log on to Reading Eggs/Eggspress, and should you have internet access at home, be able to access their account at home. Prep students will be provided their log in details soon.

Kay Willmott
Coordinator

2015 ESSENTIAL CLASSROOM MATERIALS CHARGE - $180.00 PER STUDENT

The Book List Charge was distributed to the eldest child in the family with the last newsletter. Many families have already paid this charge either through cash to the office or by BPAY. Some families are also opting to pay in instalments. We really appreciate these prompt payments. As this is not a voluntary charge, any families having difficulty paying this $180.00 charge per child should see the office as soon as possible.

As said in the last newsletter this $180.00 charge may be paid in full, or term by term or semester by semester. When paying by progress amounts, these amounts are due on the first day of each term. Payment in full is required by Thursday 26th February 2015.

On the invoice you will note the BPAY options. Please ensure that the reference code is entered correctly when paying by BPAY. The School offers payment by cash or cheque. There is no EFT facilities available at the school. Also it is most helpful for the correct money to be sent as all monies are banked daily by the school.

Kindly note that a reminder statement will be forwarded home early in March to all families.
Pancake Day - Tomorrow
Tuesday 17th February 2015

Tuesday 17th February is Pancake Day. At Footscray North we have a pancake breakfast. There is no charge for this Pancake Breakfast, as it is funded by the 2014 JSC fundraising efforts. Family members are welcome. If you wish to have a pancake you must bring a plate and a cup for a small juice.

We will begin distributing pancakes at 8am and finish at 8.30am.

We hope to see you on Tuesday morning.

FROM THE STUDENT WELFARE OFFICE

The KidsMatter Parent and Carer Committee needs you!

In 2015, we are asking parents and carers to join the KidsMatter Parent and Carer Committee. The committee will be active in planning and organising school community based events. Last year - the Welcome to School Picnic; the Mothers Day Stall, Fathers Day Stall, Lapathon, Community Market were all due to the hard work of the committee and parent supporters that helped out at these events.

Please come along to our first meeting of the year, Friday, 20th February to hear what KidsMatter is all about and to share your ideas about what events you would like to see at FNPS this year. The meeting will be held in the Before and After School Care program room in the Year 5/6 Building at 9:00am.

We hope to see you all there! More information about KidsMatter can be found at www.kidsmatter.edu.au. Please also don't hesitate in contacting Kylie Paine in the Wellbeing Team with any questions.

Kylie Paine
9317-9047
paine.kylie.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of

Footscray North Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on

16.../.02.../.15 (insert date and year).

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on

23.../.02.../.15 (insert date and year)

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Mrs. Sharon Walker

Principal