DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 19th February</td>
<td>3:40-8:00pm Gr 1-6 “Meet the Teacher”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20th February</td>
<td>Gr 1/2 Rickett’s Point excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th February</td>
<td>Prep assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6th March</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Gala Sports Day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13th March</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Gala Sports Day 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9th March</td>
<td>LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 12th &amp; Fri 13th March</td>
<td>Headlice inspection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23rd March</td>
<td>7:30pm School Council AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th March</td>
<td>OPEN DAY Tours at 10:00am and 12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th March</td>
<td>Term 1 ends: 2:30pm dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 13th April</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 16th April</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9th June</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 26th June</td>
<td>Term 2 ends: 2:30pm dismissal</td>
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**Term Dates 2015**

Term 1: 28 January (school teachers start)  
29 January (Grades 1-6 commence)  
30 January (Preps begin) to 27 March *  
Term 2: 13 April to 26 June  
PUPIL FREE DAY TUES 5TH JUNE  
Term 3: 13 July to 18 September  
PUPIL FREE DAY FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST  
Term 4: 5 October to 18 December  
PUPIL FREE DAY MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER  

*The first day of Term 1 is a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students. Each year government schools are provided with four student-free days.

**As part of our Sun Smart Policy the wearing of hats is compulsory from September 1st until April 30th each year.**

**Tuesday is School Banking day**

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you each week? If so please send a copy of your current email address to the office or phone and provide your details over the phone!

Dear Parents,

**School Banking**

A huge thank you to Rebecca Prout, who has given her time for the past 2 years, setting up and processing the school’s student banking. Unfortunately Rebecca will be unable to continue in this role beyond next Tuesday, and we are therefore seeking someone to process student banking and be our key contact person. Processing is carried out on Tuesdays, our school banking day, and takes around 40 minutes to complete. Should you be interested in taking on this position we ask that you contact the office as soon as possible. Training would be provided.

**Meet the Teacher**

Meet the Teacher sessions are being held for students in grades 1-6 today. These sessions provide an early opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teacher and for teachers to learn more about the children in their grade. Thank you to the staff for their organisation and to parents for attending these worthwhile evenings. Prep parents have already attended information sessions and been involved in interviews during each child’s individual assessment and therefore do not attend the Meet the Teacher evening.

**Student Leadership 2015 & Beyond**

Thank you to all parents who read and replied to the notice sent home regarding a change to our Student
Leadership roles and expectations. The results of your feedback were overwhelmingly in favour of adopting the proposal. School Council discussed all of the responses and have now endorsed the proposed changes.

The staff is now keen to move forward in the selection process and the first step is to identify our School Captains (one Year 6 girl and one Year 6 boy).

The selection process for School Captains would be as follows:

- Interested students from Grade 6 would collect a self-nomination form, endorsed by their parents.
- Candidates would then meet with the Principal to discuss the process and to receive some advice prior to preparing their speeches.
- Deliver this speech (approximately 2-3 minutes) to all students in grades 3-6.
- From these speeches, all students in grades 3-6 would vote using secret ballot.
- The list of candidates is then shortlisted and presented to staff. The school Staff then has their own vote to help ensure the process does not become a ‘popularity contest’.
- The final approval rests with the Principal.
- The School Captains are then presented to the school at an appropriate assembly.

Once we have identified our School Captains we will then move quite quickly towards identifying our Student Leadership group. This group will be led by Leanne Scully who will convene meetings and work with the students to design an appropriate and meaningful structure.

The selection process for the Student Leadership Group would be as follows:

- Interested students from each classroom from grades 3-6 would prepare a short speech outlining why they would be a good representative of their grade, and the school, in the Student Leadership Group.
- Candidates would then deliver this speech to their own grade.
- Voting by secret ballot would then occur.
- In the event of a tie, the class would be directed to vote again focussing solely on the candidates involved in the tie.
- In the unlikely event of another tie, the classroom teacher would cast the deciding vote.

In due course, the development of appropriate policy documents covering Student Leadership and Student Leadership Group would be developed. They would then need approval through School Council in the same process as all school policies.

**Visual & Performing Arts**

After several lengthy discussions with staff and School Council, it has been decided that due to rising costs, curriculum constraints and numerous other factors, that the Grade 5/6 Wakakirri entry will now occur every second year. This year the focus will be on the school’s Art Show. We will rejoin the competition in 2016. By participating every two years we can ensure that all students in grades 5 and 6 will have at least one opportunity to perform. The Prep-2 Christmas Concert and Grade 3/4 ‘Junior-kirri’ productions will continue to be enjoyed every year.

**Staff Car Park**

In worksites around Australia, where adults are working, there is increasingly physical separation of vehicles and people, and where they are mixed together, the adults wear bright safety vests.

Our school car park occasionally has primary school children running around or crossing through, shorter than adults, no bright safety vests, most times with very little road sense. Sometimes we have pre-school siblings, particularly as children are being picked up/dropped off at the same time as other children are being picked up/dropped off also walking through the staff car park.

This is unsafe for all children. Please do not allow any person to walk through the parking area. Use the pathways intended for walking.

Teachers will be monitoring this, but it will be most effective if parents model safe behaviour and support us by telling children not to enter the staff parking area.

**School Council**

On Monday evening our School Council meeting for the month of February was held. As usual a range of correspondence, reports, budgets and issues were discussed which included:

- current enrolment of 280 children
- Meet the Teacher evening and parent information sessions
- School Council vacancies for 2015
- Approval of Pupil Free Days for 2015 on Tuesday 9th June (the day after the Queen’s Birthday weekend), Friday 14th August and Monday 2nd November (Cup Day weekend)
- Approval of the 3/4 and 5/6 camps
- The iPad program, past successes and suggestions for the future
- Student Leadership roles and community response
- Fullarton Road revegetation

The next meeting of School Council will be held on Monday 23rd March at 7:30pm, commencing with the Annual General Meeting. The newly formed School Council will then meet.

**Accident Insurance/Ambulance Cover**

Parents are reminded that the Education 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.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

**Changes to EMA**

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools
instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents. Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015. The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015. This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

School Council

The Niddrie Primary School Council is made up of 13 members (8 parents, 4 DET employees and the Principal) with a capacity for it to co-opt 2 additional members who can be invited to join at any time because of their special skills or expertise. To become an elected member on School Council you must be nominated in either the Parent or DET employee category.

Those members of the Parent category who are up for re-election are:
Mike Lloyd
Jess Weston
Dawn Ziros
Peter Noakes

Members of the DET employee category up for re-election are:
Sharon Peluso
Leanne Scully

School Council Elections 2015

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. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed. 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.

Monday 16 February:
Call for nominations

Monday 23 February:
Nominations close

Wednesday 25 February:
Display list of candidates, nominator and seconder

Monday 2 March:
Distribute ballot papers by this date

Tuesday 10 March:
Close of ballot

Wednesday 11 March:
Count votes and declare the poll

Monday 23 March:
New council is able to meet

School Fees 2015

School Council has approved the following fee structure for the 2015 school year.

2015 Fee Structure:
1 child- $150.00 Book Fee
2 children- $300.00
3 children- $400.00
(each child after the second child is $100)

We are also providing parents with the opportunity to pay a $40.00 VOLUNTARY Contribution Fee per family. Please complete the form below when returning your fees. Fees should be paid in full by the end of February 2015.

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Niddrie P.S. Fees 2015

Family Members

Name:__________________ Current grade: ____
Name:__________________ Current grade: ____
Name:__________________ Current grade: ____

I have enclosed $__________ for book fees.

I do/do not elect to pay a $40.00 voluntary contribution fee for my family.

Total amount enclosed $__________

Parent /Guardian

Signature____________________

Date ____________

Kind Regards,
Greg

TELSTRA KIDS FUND

Good news! A Telstra employee will nominate Niddrie Primary for a Telstra Kids Fund $1,200 grant (thanks Nowaks!) We could increase our chances, up to $6,000, if there are other permanent Telstra employees willing to do the same. The employee doesn't need to be a parent of our school. It can be a relative, neighbour or friend. All they do is create an online application nominating our school. The grant writing will be completed by a school parent. Please contact the office if you know someone willing to help. More info www.telstrakidsfund.com News of a successful grant will be included in this weekly newsletter in the coming months.
PUPIL OF THE WEEK
Week Ending 13th February
GRADE PREP D
Ella S.: for her excellent efforts during Read Write Inc! Keep it up.
Max A.: for settling into prep so well and giving everything a go with enthusiasm.
GRADE PREP N
Audrey C.: for being a fantastic member of our class and working really hard.
Lucia T.: for settling into Prep so well and working really hard to write her name. Well done!
GRADE 1/2B
Cooper A.: for being a fantastic class helper and working so hard in all areas of the curriculum.
GRADE 1/2T
Millie N.: for being an amazing mathematician. Keep up the amazing work! Well done!
GRADE 1/2S
Simon C.: for always listening to instructions and always doing the right thing.
GRADE 3/4K
Willow P.: for her academic and organisational skills and her caring, inclusive nature.
GRADE 3/4Kate
Erica Z.: for being a great class member and a superstar “heart” maker.
GRADE 3/4C
Jack M.: for being such a helpful, friendly and hardworking member of our class. Well done.
GRADE 5/6S
Lucas P.: for being an amazing buddy and being a great role model.
GRADE 5/6EK
GRADE 5/6C
Zane B.: for being such a super helper in the classroom and making the classroom a happy and safe place for all students.
THE ARTS
Bella S.: for her beautiful version of Van Gogh’s “Starry Night”.
SCIENCE
Ella D.: for participating very well in class discussion.
PHYS ED
Owen S & Madison S.: for their amazing balancing efforts!
Georgia S. for excellent enthusiasm and a brilliant home run! Well done!

PRINCIPAL
Julia D.: for being such a responsible and sensible student.

TEACHER
Kathy Shortis.: for showing remarkable resilience!