Dear Parents, 

**Staffing**

It is with some sadness that I can now announce the retirement of Sharon Peluso. Sharon has spent 23 years at our wonderful school in many different roles from classroom teacher to Acting Principal. Sharon has worked in all areas of our school over that period and has even experienced what it was like to be part of the parent community as her children Brooke and Matthew progressed through our school from Prep to Grade 6. Sharon has worked closely with me as the Assistant Principal for the past 10 years (she probably deserves a medal for that alone!). In that time we have formed a very strong bond that will continue well into the future. I’m sure I speak for everyone when I say that we have all enjoyed and appreciated her wicked sense of humour, her strength, her calm and caring manner with everyone and her dedication to the entire community here at Niddrie. It will be difficult and quite strange for the staff to come to work here without Sharon being a part of our everyday lives. Personally, I will miss her support terribly but wish her nothing but good health, success and happiness in her future pursuits. Thanks Sharon!

**The canteen is closed every Thursday!**

Monday is a Pupil Free Day and Tuesday is Melbourne Cup Day. There will be no school for students on these days.

-T he wearing of hats is compulsory from September 1st until 30th April. Children must wear a hat outside at recess and lunchtimes.

Dear Parents,

**Term Dates**

- **2015**
  - Term 4: 5 October to 18 December
  - **PUPIL FREE DAY MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2016**
  - Term 1: 27 January (school teachers start) to 24 March *
  - Term 2: 11 April to 24 June
  - Term 3: 11 July to 16 September
  - Term 4: 3 October to 20 December

* 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 for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes. The remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school, so contact your school for details.

**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. YOU CAN FIND US AT facebook.com under Niddrie Primary School**

*You can access the school newsletter from our website: [www.niddrieps.vic.edu.au](http://www.niddrieps.vic.edu.au)*

**REMINDERS:**

- **TUESDAY IS BANK DAY!**
  - The canteen is closed every Thursday!
**Pupil Free Day/Melbourne Cup Day**

A reminder that students do not attend school on Monday and Tuesday. Monday is a Pupil Free Day. The focus of the day for teachers will be assessment and reporting. Students do not attend school on this day. Tuesday is Melbourne Cup Day. There will be no school for students on this day as it is a public holiday.

**Ball Games**

Our school yard is very busy before and after school as parents drop off or collect students. Many parents enter or exit the school with toddlers. We have had recent incidents where toddlers, parents and a teacher have been hit with a ball at the front of the school in the area of the basketball court.

We have therefore asked students not to play any ball games before or after school. This allows the opportunity for everyone to walk safely to and from the school grounds. We hope parents can appreciate the need for this rule and reinforce the reason behind it with your child/ren.

**Day for Daniel**

Tomorrow is Day for Daniel. The Day for Daniel is a National Day of Action to raise awareness of child safety, protection and harm prevention. It is about educating children and adults about keeping kids safe through child safety and protection initiatives. It aims to help empower our children to ‘Recognise, React and Report’ if they feel something is not right.

Wear Red and Educate is the theme of for Day for Daniel. We are hoping children will wear something red tomorrow in recognition of this day. It could be as simple as a red ribbon, bracelet or badge.

**Niddrie P.S. 1:1 iPad Program for 2016**

Thank you to the parents who attended Monday night’s iPad briefing. A special thanks to Stef for her work in leading the program and organising the session for parents. We have had the benefit of running this program this year and have all enjoyed seeing the educational possibilities it enables for teachers and students.

Our recent iPad survey completed by grade 5/6 parents returned positive feedback along with suggestions from this year’s parents. We look forward to again implementing the program in 2016 for students in the 5/6 area. Notes are being sent home in relation to minimum requirements, app selection, iPad model variations and payment and insurance plans. Further information sessions are planned where policies on acceptable use, cyber safety and expectations for students are all outlined. Please make certain you read all of the information as it is sent home to you.

**Christmas Raffle**

Donations are now being sought for the end of year Christmas raffle. Any food, tins, biscuits, bon-bons etc would be appreciated. (Please make sure that items will still be able to be used until January 2016).

Donations can be sent to school with your children, or dropped off at the office.

Kind Regards,
Greg

**PUPIL OF THE WEEK**

**Week Ending 23rd October**

**GRADE PREP D** James M.: for trying really hard with all of his work this week. Well done!

**GRADE PREP N** Audrey C.: for her constant enthusiasm in all areas of her learning.

**GRADE 1/2B** Zac D.: for being a great friend and helper to not only new students but everyone in 1/2B.

**GRADE 1/2T** Tom K.: for working hard in reading groups. Well done.

**GRADE 1/2S** Baxter H.: for working hard on remembering his 3D shapes.

**GRADE 3/4K** Georgia C.: for working so hard in English and for making a much greater effort to completer her maths.

**GRADE 3/4W** Zach S.: for an excellent information report about rainforests.

**GRADE 3/4C** Chelsea W & Nathan M.: for such a fantastic effort with our yearbook page. Thank you!

**GRADE 5/6S** Calvin L.: for being constantly engaged and contributing to our class activities.

**GRADE 5/6E** Conner M.: for being a
standout worker this week, especially in maths. Keep it up!

GRADE 5/6C Sophia L & Alira P: for a great effort in our decimal fraction and percentage maths unit this week. Great job!

THE ARTS Remy C: for dancing as good as Fred Astaire.

SCIENCE William S: for great discussion about vibrations.

PHYS ED Zac D: for always trying his best and persisting to try and improve his skills. Well done.
Abby B: for her optimistic attitude to all things new and always having a smile on her face!

PRINCIPAL Allison L: for being such a lovely student in our school.

TEACHER Emily Wong: for always having a smile on her face and a positive attitude.

Athletics Championships
Congratulations to Wilson and Keona who represented Niddrie at the School Sports Victoria Athletics Championships held at Lakeside stadium, Albert Park on Monday. They had quite slippery weather conditions to contend with but that didn’t stop them both progressing to the final in their respective events. Wilson finished 6th overall in the 110m Hurdles event, that is the 6th best hurdler in the whole state of Victoria! Keona had to show a lot of resilience as she was quite unwell but dug deep in the final to come a very impressive 3rd in the 200m sprint. She received her bronze medal up on the podium, very proudly wearing her Niddrie uniform. We congratulate both Wilson and Keona on these fantastic achievements!

NIDDRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Grade Organisation 2016
29/10/2015
Dear Parents/Caregivers,
At this time each year we give you the opportunity to draw to our attention information you wish to have taken into account regarding the placement of your child into classes for 2016.

This process is not one in which you choose your child’s teacher or classmates for next year.
At this stage no decisions have been made about staff placements or the school structure for next year. These decisions are not made until our confirmed enrolment and staffing situation is known, which is typically late December. The number of staff and programs that we are able to employ is dependent on the annual budget provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Should you wish to share information with us, please use the proforma, (available from the office) to record your thoughts which are then taken into account as part of our consultative process.

In organising classes we strive to balance numbers, gender, social and academic issues. All teachers contribute to the formation of grades with the Principal giving the final approval. We base our decisions on what is in the best educational interests of all the children. Once the classes are determined and announced to the community during the last week of the school year, it is highly unlikely that they will be changed.

We do understand that transition from one class to another can be an anxious time for some parents and students. We therefore try our very best to consider all student’s needs for the next step in their education, within the constraints of our school structure.

We, in turn ask for your understanding of the complexity of the task before us, where many considerations, needs and personalities need to be taken into account.

This is one of many changes and circumstances that our students will experience as they progress through a ‘not always perfect life’. Our task as parents and teachers is not only to provide as supportive environment as possible but to work together to assist them in developing the necessary resilience and skills to deal with the challenges of life.
You may contact us now using the proforma, so that your comments can be considered. Please ensure that the proformas are returned by the date indicated.

We regret that we may be unable to consider information which is not on the proforma or received after the due date which is Friday 13th November, 2015.

Privacy Statement
The information you provide will be made available to all teachers to assist with the 2016 Grade Organisation process. Information which is strictly confidential needs to be forwarded directly to me.

Yours sincerely
Greg Peters
(Principal)
Did you know you can have your say as a resident of Moonee Valley City Council? MVCC has posted the following link to allow the community to express what they would like to see fixed/changed/improved/etc. within our council. As a school, we’ve had our challenges with parking, security on Fullarton road, garden/grounds on Fullarton road, etc. so this is a good opportunity to have your say.
https://www.collaborativemap.com/KeepMVMoving

WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH
October is Walk to School month which encourages Victorian primary school children to walk, ride or scoot to and from school. Children and their parents are encouraged to start walking to and from school on the first day of Term 4, and keep it up each school day throughout October.
Walking to school helps children get the physical activity they need each day to be healthy. National guidelines recommend that children aged 5-12 engage in 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day (Australian Government Department of Health, 2014).

Closet Cleanout Clothing Recycling Fundraiser
It’s spring and for many of us that means a bit of spring cleaning! So, if you are doing some clearing out but are not sure what to do with everything, we have the perfect solution. This term we are holding a Closet Cleanout Clothing Recycling Fundraiser. How does it work? Shortly, you will receive a bag and are asked to fill it with clean, wearable clothes, paired shoes, hats, handbags, belts, towels, sheets, pillowcases and soft toys. You can fill extra bags if you like. Bags are to be returned to the parent group room by November 11th. The school will receive 20c per kilo and items are shipped to developing countries to be sold in small communities by local self-employed people. This program is the Australian version of the Bag2School program from the UK.