Pupil Free Day Monday 16th May
Monday, 16th May is our Pupil Free Day. Teachers and SSO’s will work together on whole school improvement. Our work comes from the directions we have been given from our External Review. This report will be on our web site soon.

Our first task will be to build on the data analyses which already exists at Northfield. We will develop a data wall which will support our work in tracking and monitoring every student. We will have the opportunity to critique the data we have and ensure it is informing our planning and programming.

One aspect of our day will be to look at the links between engagement and achievement. How can we continually improve pedagogy (the way we teach) to ensure that every student achieves? We will use research about learners to inform our practice.

Learning that we are already doing together at Northfield, is around task design and the Australian Curriculum and Developing Powerful Learners. What do our students need to know and be able to do to be successful in the world today?

We look forward to sharing our learning with you.

NAPLAN
This week has been a very busy time for our year 3, 5 and 7 students who sat the NAPLAN. Teachers and SSO’s have worked together to support our students through the demands of the test. Classrooms have been set up with test conditions in mind. Some strategies to support students have been: outside running activities before the test to use some of the nervous energy, placing snacks on desks for students to eat if they need a brain break and ensuring students have learnt skills needed in test conditions. Students in other year levels have been very supportive, ensuring they remain quiet during test times. Thank you.

NAPLAN is one way of collecting data on student’s achievement. We use a lot of other data sets such as observations, projects, guided reading, group work to collect evidence of how well students are achieving. It is an opportunity for students to learn about the genre of tests. I would like to thank all of our wonderful staff for their work in supporting our students this week. I would also like to thank students in other year levels who were very supportive by ensuring they remain quiet during test times. Finally I would like to congratulate our year 3, 5 and 7 students for their hard work and determination in what can be a very anxious time.
Labs ’N Life

We have started the Labs ’N Life program this term. Labs is a program facilitated by a teacher, Sue Dansie. She brings along 8 labradors every Wednesday afternoon for students to learn about how to train them. These dogs go onto be support dogs for children with different kinds of disability. The dogs learn how to listen to children and follow commands that will support all sorts of disabilities. Our students learn how to be confident young people. Some of the most important emotions in life are the hardest to teach and learn: empathy, resilience and determination. Labs ’N Life support in developing these skills so students can go onto be successful in all other areas of their learning.

Students are working with Cassie to keep a journal of their lessons. They will develop oral language skills, expand their vocabulary and have a purpose for writing about how their dogs are progressing. Mathematical skills come in when they do a study of how much it costs to train a dog. When pups are born they even get to measure their growth. What I feel is most important is that they develop executive functions that allow them to believe in themselves and know they can learn. Feedback so far has been very positive. Cassie, teachers and parents have already noticed student's motivation improve. We look forward to a showcase where the students will put the dogs through their paces for our community to watch.

National Sorry Day & Reconciliation Week

National Sorry Day on Thursday, May 26th and Reconciliation Week, from Friday, 27th May to Friday 3rd of June, are important events on our calendar and we are recognising, commemorating and celebrating in a number of ways in 2016.

Some of our Non-Aboriginal children have been working with our Aboriginal student to choreograph a dance with Josie and Mrs Lim. These children will represent us at a combined Torrens Partnership event on Wednesday the 1st of June at Hampstead Primary School. This will include a variety of activities to promote Reconciliation in our community and all family and community members are invited. Those students involved have received a separate consent form earlier in the week.

All students will be working on activities in their classrooms to discuss, learn and understand the importance of Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week for all Australians. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you wish to be part of those activities. Our final activity will be an assembly on Friday 3rd of June at 2.30, where the students from all classes will present their learning and the dance group will share their dance with the school community. Again all families are invited to share in our learning.

If you need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact Josie or Trish at the school.

Lest we forget

It is essential that the students understand the history of this wonderful country and Anzac Day is a vital part of this history. Students from Room 18 not only remembered those who landed on the beaches at Gallipoli at dawn on April 25th 1915, but also reflected on the importance of Peace around the world and how our Peace Code relates to it.

Peace is about talking to people if you have a problem.
Peace is about having friends coming over to play.
Peace is about playing without being scared.
Peace is about helping my friends.
Library News

Term two has begun and is busy already. Thank you to the students who have remembered to bring their Library books back to school. We have had a great return rate so far.

New books have been added to our collection in the Library. The Rangers Apprentice by John Flanagan (a series for the upper primary students). I have also added 40 new picture books for junior primary students to access.

Premier’s Reading Challenge is running smoothly, I have had some completed forms back from students who have finished. The Challenge does not finish until early September so there’s no hurry. Some new books will be added to the Premier’s Reading Challenge List, mid-year, so more variety will be available.

Week 4 on Wednesday May 25th. will be National Simultaneous Story Time.

The book every one will focus on this year is ‘I Got This Hat’ by Jol Temple.

The story will be read in schools nationally at 11am. on that day.

Thank you

Bye for now!

Jan Hegarty

Canteen Special

Friday 20th May

Fish + Chips

or

Chicken Nuggets + Chips

or

Veg Nuggets + Chips

For $4.50

Orders at canteen or classroom by 11am

Recreational Cheerleading Classes

Fun. Affordable. Fitness

COME & TRY

When: Thursday Nights
7pm to 8pm - Ages 7 to 15
8pm to 9pm - 16 & Up

Where: Payneham Youth Centre

No Experience Necessary

First session is free

Birdwood Primary School proudly presents the 42nd annual

Birdwood Farm Day

ENTRY

Adults $8

Children FREE

Max $15 per car

SUNDAY 15TH MAY 2016

10am – 4pm

Chalks campground, Mount Crawford Forest
(on the Birdwood to Williamstown road)

Join us for a day of country fun in the forest!

For more info phone

Birdwood Primary School 85685329 or visit

www.birdwoodfarmday.com

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• Silent Auction 500 items at
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Mad Hatter’s tea party starts at 3:00pm
Movie starts at 4:00pm
Dress up to win prizes!

Regal Cinema - 28th of May
275 Kensington Rd, Kensington Park
8334 7060
Terracotta Warriors

In term 1 room 12 explored representations of real and imagined experiences for Art, History and Geography. They researched, wrote narratives, designed, created, planned and shaped Terracotta Warriors from clay. They experimented with ideas within the sculptural arts form to develop their knowledge of concepts; practiced and collected evidence through research and engaged in a range of techniques. Students developed a sense of time and place based on knowledge gained of the histories and traditions associated with Terracotta Warriors.