Dear Parents & School Community

On behalf of the staff at Footscray North Primary School, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our returning students and their families. I would also like to welcome our many new students and their families – particularly to our Prep students who started last week and have settled very well into our school. You will also notice that we have two new teachers at our school this year. We warmly welcome Elizabeth Haldane who will be teaching Year 3/4 and Lisa Killingworth who will be teaching Preps. It was great to see how excited our students were to return to school. We are very proud of our school and our students and I am sure that our new students and families will quickly become part of our school community.

Our staff for 2014 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Sharon Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Davide Lombardi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy Coach</td>
<td>Kay Willmott (Leading Teacher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numeracy Coach</td>
<td>Mary Dowling (Leading Teacher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 10</td>
<td>Prep G Vivien Gannon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 11</td>
<td>Prep L Katy Lawley (Prep Team Leader)</td>
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<td>Room 12</td>
<td>Prep K Lisa Killingworth</td>
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<td>Room 6</td>
<td>1/2D Sonia De Simone</td>
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<td>Room 7</td>
<td>1/2J Maria James</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 8</td>
<td>1/2P Lee-Anne Parboo (1/2 Team Leader)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 9</td>
<td>1/2TG Monica Taylor/Kylie Gilcrist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 1</td>
<td>3/4H Phoebe Hickman</td>
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<td>Room 2</td>
<td>3/4N Linh Nguyen (3/4 Team Leader)</td>
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<td>Room 3</td>
<td>3/4E Elizabeth Haldane</td>
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<td>Room 5</td>
<td>3/4MT Karen Meyers/Tracy Walker</td>
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<td>Room 14</td>
<td>5/6H Tom Hortop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 15</td>
<td>5/6G Valda Grimston (5/6 Team Leader)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 16</td>
<td>5/6DC Anna Dalaveris/Thuy Chipriano</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESL /Performing Arts</td>
<td>Di Travers</td>
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<td>Art</td>
<td>Thuy Chiprian</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-6 ICT/ PE</td>
<td>Sharon Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Support</td>
<td>Chris Powell (Specialist Team Leader)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-2 Library</td>
<td>Tracy Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration Aides</td>
<td>Leanne Treherne, Donna Cowie, Peggy Lawrance, Angela Martino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Aide</td>
<td>Belinda Ellul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welfare Officer</td>
<td>Kylie Paine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi -Cultural Aide</td>
<td>Suhlan Tang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Manager</td>
<td>Ann Davidson</td>
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Diary Dates

**Tuesday 4th Feb**
1.30–2.00pm. Free Tennis lesson for students in years 1 & 2

**Wednesday 5th Feb**
No School for Prep Students
1.30–2.00pm. Free Tennis lesson for students in years 3 & 4

**Thursday 6th Feb**
1.30–2.00pm. Free Tennis lessons for students in years 5 & 6

**Friday 7th February**
Swimming Trials at MAC for participating students in years 3–6.
2.55pm Whole School Assembly in the School Hall.

**Wednesday 12th Feb**
No School for Prep Students

**Friday 14th Feb**
District Swimming Sports at MAC 9.00am—12 noon.

**Wednesday 19th February**
No School for Prep Students.
Whole School Family Picnic & Information Night from 5.30pm—7.30pm
What’s New at Footscray North P.S. in 2014

School Uniform
I am sure that you will agree that our new uniform guidelines have ensured that all of our students look terrific and part of our school. As yet, we do not have all of our winter uniform in stock but these will be available shortly. Just a reminder that all students must wear black school shoes to school and that all children need to have a hat during terms 1 and 2.

Building Works
During the holidays, the Prep and Year 1/2 rooms were carpeted and the Year 1/2 rooms were also painted. This has made a huge difference to these rooms and I know that both the staff and the students are enjoying their improved surroundings. We know that it is very important that students come to an environment that is inviting. All teachers have spent considerable time during the past two weeks ensuring that your child is in a classroom that is welcoming and well-prepared.

Prep- 2 Library
All children in Prep-2 this year will be participating in a Library program taken by Tracy Walker. The leadership team decided that at these year levels, there is a focus on children developing a love of reading and that the children are immersed in rich literature. Our students in these year levels will continue with their work in ICT and their weekly visits to the ICT however these lessons will be taken by their class teacher.

Curriculum Days
All of our staff were involved in two curriculum days last week (Tuesday and Wednesday). The focus for these days were Numeracy and Highly Effective Teaching Practices. Our teachers are part of a Numeracy project with several other schools who are working with the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute. We will be continuing this focus throughout this year and look forward to making strong connections with the Institute.

We are also continuing our involvement with Melbourne University and the project that we began last year looking at using assessment in the most effective way for our students.

A reminder that the other two curriculum days this year are:
Wednesday 19th March
Wednesday 7th May
These days are our pupil free days, however please note that Camp Australia will be offering child care on these days.

Coffee Mornings
We will be opening up our PD centre every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8.45am. We would love to see parents come along and have a cup of coffee or tea and meet other parents. At times staff will be there to have a chat but most of the time it will be parents meeting and chatting.

Reminders

Canteen
Our canteen is open at the start of lunch on Monday to Thursday. It is open for snacks only and a list of these snacks and their costs is in this newsletter.
Late last year, we introduced Friday lunches. These lunches are made by a catering company, Bocca Foods. Bocca Foods also supplies lunches to Maribyrnong College and several other secondary schools. Attached to this newsletter is the price list for the Friday lunches. Please note the following:
• Lunch orders must be written on a paper bag with exact money enclosed
• Lunch orders must be handed in on Thursday by 9.00am the day before. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept orders on Friday.
If you have any questions please contact the office.
Connecting to Our Community
At Footscray North Primary School, 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 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.footsnth.vic.edu.au](http://www.footsnth.vic.edu.au).
- Subscribe to our newsletter so that it is sent electronically to you. You can subscribe through our website.
- Subscribe to our ICT Blog. Once again, you can subscribe via our website.

Classes will be creating their own class blogs during the year. Your child’s classroom teacher will keep you informed about this.

Student Safety
Just a reminder that we totally fence off our school during school hours. This is designed to ensure the safety of our students by checking that adults who are on the school grounds are authorised to be here. The school gates will be closed from 9.15 am until 2.45 pm each day. Access to the school during these hours will only be via the front office. Just a reminder that the staff carpark (entrance from Mephan Street) is for staff only.

Sunsmart Hats term 1
As you are aware, we have a ‘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.

Working With Children Check
At FNPS, we encourage a strong link between school and home. To facilitate this, many parents generously assist us both inside classrooms and around the school. Recently, the Working with Children Check was introduced across Australia. The WWC Check helps to keep children safe by preventing those who pose a risk to the safety of children from working with them, in either paid or volunteer work. The law states that, ‘if you work or volunteer with children you need to apply for a WWC Check’. To ensure that our school complies with this law, we require all adults who are working within our school (not in their child’s classroom), or working with children on excursions to have a Working with Children’s Check. These forms are available at the office. Once the form is completed it should be taken to a post office for processing. The WWC check is a free service and usually takes approximately 4 weeks to finalize.

Please note that parents or other members of our community will not be permitted to assist in the classrooms, around the school or on excursions without the WWC check. I am sure that you will understand that this is for the safety of all of our children. If you need any further information, the website is [http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren).

Once again, welcome everyone to 2014. All of the staff at Footscray North Primary School are looking forward to working with you and your child throughout this year.

Sharon Walker—Principal.

School Fees
Today attached to this newsletter is this years school fee of $180.00 per student. This charge covers all the items your child will need to support their education throughout this year. These items include general stationery, such as books, pens, pencils, paper, colour pencils etc as well as access to Mathletics, Reading Eggs (both on line programs) This charge also covers Information Technology equipment, supplies, sport equipment, purchase of class set equipment, classroom libraries etc.

Please note parents that hold a Health Benefits Card or Pensioner Benefit card may offset their EMA claim against the $180.00 book list charge and only need to pay the difference of $30.00 per student.

This $180.00 charge may be paid in full, or term by term or semester by semester. 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.
School Zone Speed
A reminder that the School Zone speeds have commenced for this year. Between the hours of 8.00 am and 9.30 am and 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm the speed limit outside the school is 40 kmh.

Cars and young children in the summer months
Over the past few weeks, Melbourne has experienced some very high temperatures and it looks like this will continue for a few weeks. The school has been requested by the Victorian Government to remind parents of the following:

- Never to leave children alone in a car – particularly on warm to hot days.
- Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature.
- Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death.
- Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.
- If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car – not even for a moment.

F.N.P.S would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Prep students and parents of 2014.
The Preps are not required at school for the first 4 Wednesdays. These days are dedicated to assessment. Your child is only required to attend one Wednesday for 1 hour. If you haven’t already, can you please make a time with your child’s teacher. Full weeks commence Monday 3rd March.

Term One is very much a settling in period for Preps. It’s important to remember that they are learning how to learn. They are given a take-home book everyday that you can read with them. Homework is given on a monthly basis. This is an opportunity for you to connect with what your child is learning in the classroom.

We have Art, Sport, ICT, Performing Arts and Library. Your child’s teacher will let you know what days these are. Library bags were given out during Prep transition. If you didn’t receive one please see your child’s teacher.

We look forward to a busy and rewarding first term. If you have any questions or queries, please don’t hesitate to come and speak to one of us.

Prep Team
Katy Lawley, Vivien Gannon and Lisa Killingworth.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE: 2014
Parent who hold a Centre Link Pensioner Concession and/or Health Care Card which will be valid as at Tuesday 28th January 2014 that includes a child’s name attending this school in 2014 will be eligible to claim the Education Maintenance Allowance for 2014. The forms are available at the office and must be completed and returned to the office by no later than 28th February 2014. A copy of your eligible card must be attached.

The Education Maintenance Allowance for 2014 is:
Students in Years 1 – 6— $150.00 per student for the year paid in two instalments $105.00 in March $45.00 paid in August/September.

Prep Students Only— $200.00 for the full year (including New start bonus) which is paid in two instalments. Theses instalments are $140.00 in March and $60.00 in August/September.

Payment options for this money is direct payment to the parent by Electronic Funds Transfer; Direct Deposit to the School—for payment of educational expenses (Essential book list) or cheque.

The school Essential Book List charge for 2014 is $180.00 per student.

Please see the office for the application forms.  
Applications close on Friday 28th February 2014
WELCOME PICNIC & INFORMATION NIGHT

To celebrate the start of the 2014 school new year, we welcome you to join us for whole school evening picnic and information night on Wednesday, 19th February. Come down to the school to meet your children's teachers, hear important information about the new school year and then enjoy a picnic together. We will also have some drumming performances and fun games for the parents and kids on the school oval.

Between 5.30pm - 6.00pm you will have the opportunity to find out what your child will be doing in school this year. From 6.00pm—7.30pm we will be having a school picnic. Please bring comes picnic food to enjoy together. Cans of drink and bottles of walk will be available for purchase.

MARTIAL ARTS AND ACROBATICS LUNCHTIME PROGRAMS AT FNPS IN TERM 1

Due to the popularity of the lunchtime martial arts and acrobatics program, we will be offering the same program in Term 1 during Tuesday lunchtimes in the sports hall with instructors Paul and Stefan from the Fighting Lyons Taekwondo Centre. This program will cost students $35 each to participate for 7 weeks ($5.00 per session).

As the program needs 20 students for class to go ahead, we are asking that interested families complete this form attached and return it to the office with their $35.00 no later than Thursday, 13th February.

Please contact Kylie Paine, Primary Welfare Officer, with any questions.

Footscray North Primary School
Fighting Lyons Taekwondo and Acrobatics Lunchtime Programs - Starting Tuesday, 18th February
Expressions of Interest and payment

Yes my child ________________________________ class code___________________________ is interested in attending (please circle)

The Year 3 - 6 Martial Arts Program

The Prep - Year 2 Acrobatics Program

Please find my payment of $35.00

Parent Name: _____________________________________________________________________

Signed:____________________________ Date: ________________________________
We need you! KidsMatter Parent Committee at Footscray North Primary

FNPS started its work with implementing KidsMatter in 2012. For those unfamiliar, with the program, KidsMatter, primary is a whole-school framework for supporting students’ mental health and wellbeing. KidsMatter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools, parents and carers, health services and the wider community nurture happy, balanced kids, who can then in turn, learn effectively. KidsMatter aims to

- improve student mental health and wellbeing
- reduce mental health difficulties amongst students and
- increase support for students experiencing mental health difficulties.

Last year, as part of KidsMatter our parent committee held a “Ladies Night In”, ran a sausage sizzle and helped to organise a presentation about anxiety in children. In 2014, we are once again inviting parents to participate in the committee and to help plan some more events and to collect more ideas from you about what we are doing well in promoting mental health and wellbeing in our school community and what we can continue to improve on.

Our first KidsMatter committee meeting for the year will be held at 9:00am on Tuesday, 11th February in the PD Centre. Feel free to come along - just to hear about what KidsMatter is all about! Please contact Kylie Paine, Primary Welfare Officer with any questions.

Calling all Green Thumbs

In 2014, FNPS invites any family member with an interest in gardening to help with the maintenance of the school’s veggie and herb gardens. Please complete the attached form and return it to the school if you are available to pop down to the school once a week/fortnight to assist for 1-2 hours to assist with the garden’s upkeep.

Yes! I am interested in supporting the school maintaining the veggie garden.
Name: 
Child’s Name and Class:
Phone Number:

Afterschool Family Learning and Support Program (homework club): Starting Wednesday, 19th February and Thursday, 20th February

We would like to invite students and their families to participate in the Afterschool Family Learning and Support Program (previously named homework club). This program operates on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 3:15pm - 4:15pm in the library. The program aims to extend academic support for students who are needing extra help and also aims to provide parents with tools to support their children with learning home.

The program is supported by trained volunteer tutors and full parental participation is required. It is of no cost to families and snacks are provided for participating students.

If you are interested in being involved, please complete the expression of interest form below

Yes! I am interested in being involved in the Afterschool Family Learning and Support Program, starting on Wednesday, 19th February and Thursday, 20th February

On a Wednesday/Thursday afternoon (please circle)

Please include names and classes of children:

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

For any questions about this program, please contact Kylie Paine, Primary Welfare Officer
Tuning Into Kids Course - Starting Tuesday, 25th February

Tuning in to Kids™ is a 6-session group parenting program that helps children learn to understand and regulate their emotions. It teaches parents:
• awareness and regulation of their own emotions
• awareness of their children's emotions
• to use children's emotional experiences as an opportunity for closeness and teaching
• skills in assisting children to verbally label and manage their emotions
• skills in assisting children in problem solving
• to guide children’s behaviour with appropriate limits

The course comes highly recommended by parents and teachers.

MacKillop Family Services located at Commercial Road, Footscray will be running the 6 week course starting on Tuesday, 25th February and will run from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. To register, please contact MacKillop directly on 9680 8444.

Kylie Paine
Primary Welfare Officer
Footscray North Primary School
PO Box 4253
West Footscray VIC 3012
P: 03 9317 9047 F: 03 9318 4553 E: paine.kylie.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Tennis Futures Australia

Is your child the next Azarenka, Stosur, Warwinka or Djokovic?

Lunchtime tennis at Footscray North P.S.
First session is FREE (This week only  Years 1 & 2  Tuesday;  Years 3 & 4 Wednesday & Years 5 & 6 Thursday)
$5 per session
All equipment supplied
Coaching & Matchplay
Trophy presentation at the end of each term

For more information call
9363 3228 0423 195 106
tennisfutures@gmail.com