PARENT OPINION SURVEY

The school received the results of the Parent Opinion survey last week and we were somewhat surprised by the results. Over the past years our feedback from parents via this survey has become increasingly positive, however this year results took a downward dip across the board. Initially we were perplexed but upon further study and discussion of the results we saw a pattern in the responses. Many responses to the questions were very positive and as you would expect some were less positive. What jumps out is that a large number of respondents sat on the fence. These parents choose the response: "Neither agree nor disagree." We believe this is telling us that these parents do not know the information required to respond to the questions consequently they choose this response. At our next school council meeting on Tuesday 18th November at 6:30 in the staffroom we will be discussing the results in detail and would welcome the input of any parents who are able to attend, especially those who responded to the survey. The staff dedicated a meeting this week discussing the results and feel they are telling us that communication is still an issue that needs to be addressed. We believe we have a fabulous school with a strongly supportive community and need to keeps channels of communication accessible and open.
FOUNDATION ORIENTATION PROGRAM
The first session of our Foundation (new term for Prep) orientation program was held today. The new students enjoyed a session of investigative play with their new teachers and friends whilst the parents were given information about different aspects of school life. There are four sessions planned to enable our new families and their children to become familiar with the Coburg North Primary community. So if you see some new faces in the yard on Friday afternoons please have a chat with them and make them welcome.

WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY

World Teachers' Day was inaugurated on 5 October 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to commemorate the 1966 joint signing of the UNESCO/ International Labour Organisation (ILO) recommendation concerning the status of teachers. Internationally World Teachers' Day is celebrated on the first Friday in October. However, as this is usually during Australian school holidays, Australia celebrates the day on the last Friday in October of each year.

Celebrated in over 100 countries, World Teachers' Day acknowledges the efforts of teachers in an increasingly complex, multicultural and technological society. It is a day on which students, parents and community members can demonstrate their appreciation for the contributions that teachers have made to their community.

Coburg North had a belated celebration morning tea on Thursday to mark this occasion. Thank you to parents Di and Erica for the delicious muffins and slice they provided for this occasion.

Cybersmart Virtual Classroom – Cyberbullying

On Thursday the 13th of November, students in years 4, 5 and 6 will participate in a virtual conference on cyberbullying hosted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The presentation will:
- Help students identify ways to manage and prevent cyberbullying behaviour
- Encourage students to seek support if they are experiencing cyberbullying
- Encourage students to be ‘good’ bystanders if they witness cyberbullying
- Help students recognise bullying online
- Provide strategies to deal with cyberbullying behaviour

Post presentation activities will involve the numerous resources available through [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au) which are aligned to the cyberbullying theme.
CONGRATULATIONS SOPHIE

We would like to congratulate Sophie in grade 6 for her success in the write 4fun poetry and short story competition. Sophie was the first prize winner in this competition that was entered by 12,500 budding writers across Australia. In March 2015 a book titled ‘The Text Generation’ will be published and Sophie’s work will appear in the winners section of this book. Sophie’s story was mounted on a timber board and she received a prize winner’s cheque and the school also received a cheque. We have included Sophie’s story for you to read. She writes extremely well for her years and should be proud of her achievement.

**Kindred Spirits**

**FIRST PLACE WINNER**
Sophie Ryan-Seigneur
Grade 6, Coburg North Primary School

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**The Text Generation**

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**Kindred Spirits**

Guns fired. Bombs hit. Lives were taken.

Demons as I knew it was disappearing. Each day my family woke and stared hopelessly out of shattered windows. Gossamer curtains dangling in shreds. They stood there for an eternity, watching as our devastated village crumbled before their eyes; their hearts breaking. The horror and unforgotten were just beginning to set as memories in the recesses of their minds, destined to haunt them forever.

Somehow, I felt oblivious to the war. Everything felt surreal; I was seemingly okay. I was strangely relaxed and knew deep down, that it was all going to be ok. My mother always said that I was an optimist and able to “chute the perceptions of reality.” She said that I took after my grandfather,Abdel Gawad, who died a few months earlier after desperately dragging himself from his bombed home. I was with my beloved grandpa at the time. We were playing “I spy with my little eye.” Both his legs had been blown off and he died to death.

Mama talks to me no longer.

I tug at her weighty, dirt overstained skirts, desperate for her attention, but all she does is pace the floor; back and forth, back and forth. She hunches relentlessly like a winter wind. Her head hangs heavily in her hands and as her blue eyes “Daughter, daughter, daughter...” endlessly, but she ignores me, like I’m not even there. As I sit in the corner on the floor of the cold, hard, concrete room, my legs are crossed and I feel worse. I am the picture of health: plump rosy cheeks, my eyes clear, wide and alert and my body relaxed and assured. I am wearing my favorite dress and the shiniest black patent leather shoes I had ever worn. I feel no need to cover my ears, huddle in the corner or rock to and fro as machine gun fire constantly peppers the walls of our world. Then I hear that by now familiar whistling sound. It’s getting closer and closer. There is bedlam, chaos and unmitigated terror as my family runs for their lives. Direct hit... BOOM!

Ancient terracotta tiles fly off the roof of my ancestral home, as if they are feathers. Window frames are ripped out and doors are blown off their hinges. Our home in the end is blown to smithereens. I see that everyone has escaped physically unscathed. I smile serenely as I continue to sit, as I will always and forever sit, in that same corner of that same room, where my home once was.

I whisper so softly to my mother that I knew all would be ok and I hear her voice, “Daughter: you are like your grandfather; two spirits together eluding the perceptions of reality.”
CADBURY FUNDRAISER

The Cadbury fundraiser has now ended. Could you please return any unsold chocolates and money to the office by Monday 10th November. Thank You

DIARY DATES 2014

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Italiano a CNPS

Ciao a tutti,

La mia stagione preferita è la primavera.

This semester Grade 1 and Grade 2 have been looking at le stagioni - the seasons.

la primavera – Spring  
l’estate – Summer  
L’autunno – Autumn  
L’inverno – Winter

Students drew and labelled some wonderful pictures of the seasons.

We also looked at i colori delle stagioni (colours of the seasons), and i mesi (the months) the seasons fall on and how this varies in Australia and Italia.

Quando è il tuo compleanno?  
(When is your birthday?).

Il mio compleanno è a luglio.

This semester students in all grades have been learning the months of the year and we have been singing this song to help us:

http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=NuYEA6gVrQ8

A presto!  
signora Jackie
PEPPERTREE PLACE

GARDEN FIESTA!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8
10am - 4pm 512 SYDNEY RD, COBURG

KICK OFF NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK WITH KILDONAN’S ANNUAL GARDEN FIESTA. COME ALONG AND CELEBRATE ALL THINGS GREEN AND GROWING AND LEARN ABOUT ORGANICS RECYCLING AND UPCYLING BASICS.

Festivities include:

- Live music for the whole family featuring: My Little Vertigo, All Day Fritz, the Simon Hudson Band and Ewan Burke
- Recycling and upcycling workshops including 'Chook Chat', 'Make your own Fertiliser', 'Propagating Edibles' and DIY Bamboo
- Locally grown, organic, tasty food and handmade treats
- Veggie and Meat BBQ
- Community info displays and market stalls
- Fun, free activities for kids all day: upcycled art, make a scarecrow, nature craft and lots more
- Plant nursery brimming with spring seedlings and local plants
- Preloved Book Sale
- Pedal Cyclery mechanics on site all day for minor bike adjustments and chats

CONTACT: INFO@KILDONAN.ORG.AU
OR PHONE 0431 494 773
www.kildonan.org.au

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- COFFEE
- FOOD
- STREET PARADE
- CRAFT
- KIDS’ ACTIVITIES

Sunday November 16th 11-4:30
Bain Reserve, Merlyn Street, Coburg North
Parade begins 10:30 at Progress Hall Novian St.

This is a family-friendly non-alcohol event www.Merlynston.wordpress.com