FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

With the excitement of our new playground area, it has prompted me to reflect on some training that I was involved in a number of years ago. The training was presented by Marc Armitage, a play expert. He has a number of research papers regarding play especially related to early childhood play. His research paper titled, “The ins and outs of school playground play: children’s use of ‘play places’” was part of his presentation. He shared the importance of play and the role of adults in play and went on to speak about school playgrounds and the features that you are likely to find. A hole (yes, a hole!) is sure to be found somewhere in a school: this is a place where children dig and play over time. It’s guaranteed you will find lots here at Ross Park! Children are much more spontaneous regarding play than adults. Parents and teachers tend to formulate structure for play and in certain circumstances expect children to conform to these ideas—it is much more attuned to a child’s nature to play without structure.

Marc’s theories regarding play areas such as paths and structures that break up the areas: over, under, in and out are all important.

The creation of our incredible play area reminds me of how important play spaces and learning environments can be for the development of our children.

Our outdoor areas are extensions of classroom learning experiences. Teachers may be teaching how to measure perimeters, lengths and widths of objects using a ruler. These skills can then be extended into the playground using different tools to measure larger areas and objects. Seeing children engage with our new area and speaking with parents about the experience has been very positive, and fun! It has a range of instruments too, so ‘music’ lessons can be conducted when the weather is fine. If you haven’t had a chance to see our new equipment and play area, come down and have a look - you won’t be disappointed.

Our new junior playground is finished and has been so popular we have had to implement a roster, so everyone gets a turn! What fun!

Transition evening

Our first transition evening this week was very well attended. Our senior teacher, Tom Middleton and his team presented a range of topics to prepare parents for their first year at Ross Park Primary. The feedback has been excellent. If you were unable to attend the first session the next session is Wednesday 7th November.

School Social

The school Social is on this evening! Students from year 4 to 6 will be showing off their dance skills and having a great time together. Please come and collect your children from the hall at 7.00pm. I am looking forward to seeing all the ‘Under the Sea’ costumes!

Swimming Carnival

Mr Sheriff and Mrs Gilbert have been busy organising our inaugural swimming carnival tomorrow. House captains are preparing chants and getting into the team spirit. It will be so exciting!

Dates to Remember

- Social for Yr 4-6 students TONIGHT Thursday 1st November 5.30-7.00pm
- Junior assembly tomorrow Friday 2nd November @ 8.40am on the Softfall (Hosts: Transition Dawson)
- Swimming Carnival for Yr 3-6 students tomorrow Friday 2nd November @ A/S Aquatic Centre
- Science Fair hosted by 4/5 SWS Tuesday 6th November 11.15am in the Hall
- Information evening for parents of Transition 2019 students Wednesday 7th November @ 6.00pm
- Alice BEAT Festival Thursday 8th November

**BOOK CLUB**

Orders close tomorrow Friday 2nd November!!
WORLD TEACHERS DAY
A very big THANK YOU to our school community for providing a wonderful morning tea (plates can be collected from the school office) and supervising students in the playground last Friday.
Minister Dale Wakefield provided a huge chocolate banana cream cake—thank you Dale!

BIRDS!
Winston (2 Thomson) and his helper Brooke have been helping to attract bird life to our school: they have put bird feeders in quiet places and spread seeds under the trees.
10 species of birds visit regularly, including kites, tawny frogmouths and corellas.

SUSTAINABILITY
The Eco Rangers have been brainstorming ideas to reduce waste, especially during Christmas and think that instead of spending so much money, maybe we could spend time with your family and friends to create delicious, thoughtful and sustainable treats. In the coming newsletters, we will be giving you some ideas for decorating, presents and gift-wrapping that will save money and the environment! First, as the festivities begin, you can start by re-using old decorations instead of buying new ones. Otherwise you can get creative and give new life to old materials, such as scrap paper, fabric and foil to create colourful and unique decorations for your home and tree!
HEIDI MERRIT, Co-ordinator.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Lily H (2H) has been announced as a finalist for the National Photographic Competition. The photo is of her brother Eddie (T/H) and is titled Peekaboo, I See You. In addition to some great prizes, a vote will decide the winner of the People’s Choice Award (link below). Good Luck Lily!

SWIMMING COMPETITION
Some of our students competed in the competition in Katherine last weekend. Luckily they were swimming, as the weather was very hot! Well done boys!

HIGH TEA...
...in 1 Thompson this week was a great hit and our students had wonderful manners!

ONE SONG. YOUR SCHOOL. MORE MUSIC.
Our students joined half a million other students singing the same song on the same day in the Music Count Us in celebration this week. Well done to Mr Hempel for co-ordinating the big event!

Rosco’s
Special next week:
Fish Burger—only $5.00!

NEW BABY! Cleo (2T) is now a big sister to baby Thomas! Have fun Cleo!

RGPS VISITORS
Big school is a bit scary for our little preschoolers who are undertaking orientation visits to Transition, in readiness for next year.

Community Notices
Mov3 Program for children includes swimming, running and bike skills. Go to www.facebook.com/Mov3.AliceSprings/ for more information.
Centralian Middle School Principal’s Tours 7th November @ 7.00pm and 8th November @ 8.30am. Call 89552333 for details.
MTANT Maths Enrichment sessions for students and parents @ Centralian College 1st & 2nd November from 3.45pm; 3rd & 4th November (@ Alice Springs Town Council Andy McNeill Room) from 9.30am. For more information and to register go to tiny.cc/rsvp-maths-enrichment or email matt.skoss@gmail.com.
Christmas Food Drive: donations will be accepted at our school until 7th December—to go to different organisations for distribution to those less fortunate. Thanks in anticipation!
Teach Peace Yoga for Kids 9.00am Saturdays. Book @ teachpeaceyoga@outlook.com.
Twilight Art Festival @ Centralian Senior College 15th November from 6 pm. Call 89585000 for details.
Indoor Football season is about to begin: register at competitionsth@footballnt.com.au.
Hook into Hockey competition starts 7th November. Contact Yash on 0433549546 with enquiries.
If your child interested in learning a musical instrument enrolments are now open in the NT Music School’s 2019 program. Enrol online at www.ntms.net.au or phone 89635550.