From our Principal

I hope you all have had a wonderful long weekend with friends and family, making the most of our glorious days in central Australia. Next week will be our last week of an eleven week term, remembering that Thursday 12th April is the last day for students. And what a term we have had!

Although we have had a few families leave town and/or the country our enrolments remain high at 506 students, including our preschool, with an average attendance of 91%. Well done on your commitment to your child’s children’s education by supporting their regular attendance each week. As you are aware there are circumstances beyond our control that hinder daily attendance at school, which may include illness, injury, special family holidays and personal family tragedies or situations. This past few weeks many of our teachers have been affected by health issues or personal family circumstances that have prevented them from attending work. We try to minimize the effect of teacher absences on our students in the following ways:

- Teachers placed in classrooms are already known to the students (where ever possible)
- The class teachers leave their planned lessons and timetables for the relief teachers to follow, so the students feel comfortable within a familiar routine
- We have a support staff member who works within the classroom. He/she is able to provide advice and support to the relief teachers regarding class incentive programs, effective, preferred behaviour management strategies and location of resources
- Senior leadership members regularly visit classrooms to offer additional support, if required

As a last resort (and this very rarely happens), if a teacher is not available to cover the class, students may be distributed into other classes of their year level, with friendship/family groups considered.

The Australian Curriculum has seven general capabilities. The seven capabilities are divided into two groups. One group focuses on capabilities that support students to be successful learners: Literacy, Numeracy, Information and Communication Technologies and Critical and Creative Thinking, while the other group focuses on capabilities that develop ways of being, behaving and learning to live with others; Personal and Social Capability, Ethical Behaviour and Intercultural Understanding. These capabilities are reflective of 21st Century skills, knowledge and understanding which are embedded across all the curriculum areas of English, Mathematics, History, Humanities and Social Sciences, Technologies, The Arts, Health and Physical Education and Languages.

As you may be aware, at Ross Park Year 5 and 6 students participate in a school camp. These experiences and learning opportunities are designed to link with the year level standards and general capabilities. Sometimes our students demonstrate a range of skills and behaviours on camps and excursions that may not be seen in the classroom environment. Teachers and school staff volunteer their time and energies in planning, preparing and participating in these exhausting events. They do so because of the value they place on the shared experiences that their students have and the positive relationships that can be strengthened during these times. Departmental requirements are 1:10 adult to student ratios, but we do not have the staff capacity to fulfill this requirement and we need your assistance to ensure these special events can occur. If you are available to participate in your child’s camp please contact the class teacher as soon as possible.

Wasn’t the opening ceremony of the 21st Commonwealth Games spectacular? Many classes are using this authentic occasion to explore and learn about other countries and sports. I hope they are sharing their learning with you and your families too.

Suzi Burgess, Principal

Dates to Remember
- Whole school assembly TOMORROW Friday 6th April @ 8.40am on the Softfall
- Whole school assembly THURSDAY 12th April (includes Terrific Kid Awards)
- Student Free Day Friday 13th April
- Back to School vouchers expire Friday 13th April
- End of Term 1: Friday 13th April; start of Term 2: Monday 23rd April
- NAPLAN 15-17 May

Year 3M students working on their Commonwealth Games project.
HAVE YOUR SAY!
The Department of Education has commissioned the Centre for International Research on Education Systems (CIRES) at Victoria University to undertake a Review of Policy and Practice for Students with Additional Needs. The review team wants to understand the views of NT families and carers of students with additional needs enrolled in NT Government schools and collect views on the current policies and practices relevant to these students. To view the discussion paper and provide your feedback please visit haveyoursay.nt.gov.au.

WANTED!
Donations of new or used pizza boxes are needed for a class project. Any size is welcome. Please drop them at the STEAM room on the Junior side. Thanks.
Anna Hind, STEAM Teacher

TOUCH RESULTS
Ross Park Touch team has had success, defeating Bradshaw1 9-2, Gillen 11-0 and Bradshaw2 by forfeit. Well done team and well done to their coach, Ms Gilbert!

SCIENCE
In Year 2 we have been looking at water use and discovering some of the properties of water so that we can understand the best ways to conserve, reuse and recycle, thinking about using water sustainably. We have been growing Epsom salt crystals to discover that water can evaporate into a gas and leave behind the crystals. We have been playing with breaking lumps of ice and melting them into water, looking at steam and freezing water. Last week we looked at what makes things float and also participated in dyeing the eggs red and then cracking them (symbolising the resurrection/new life). Meo was the student with the strongest egg! It was a celebratory time and the students enjoyed sharing in the tradition with our Greek families and students. Aithos Anesti (“Ἀληθὸς Ἀνέστη!” - “Christ is Risen!)”

RISING SEAS!
Elliot and Oscar (4/5 SWS) observe the effects of melting ice as they conduct a rising sea levels demonstration. This is helping them understand the impacts of climate change as part of a STEAM unit on Renewable Energy.

I Don’t Want to go to SCHOOL!
What if my child won’t go to school?
- Ask your child what’s wrong; share your concerns with your child’s teacher
- If required, talk to our Principal Suzi or Assistant Principals Shontell or Salima, or Aunty Bev, about what’s wrong—they will listen and help fix any problems
- Help your child feel good about going to school every day and staying all day.

EASTER HUNT!
“On Easter I had lots of fun with my family. I went to the Finke track and camped,” said Ava (1M).

EASTER HUNTER!
“Truly He is Risen!” or “He Has Risen Indeed!”

GREEK EASTER!
Christos Anesti (”Χριστός Ανέστη!” - “Christ is Risen!”) On Wednesday 4th April 1Naqito students learnt about the Greek Orthodox Easter tradition of dyeing and cracking eggs to symbolise that Christ is risen and the true message of Easter is ‘New Life’. We followed our procedure that we wrote on Tuesday and drew some patterns onto hard boiled eggs. We went outside where we participated in dyeing the eggs red and then cracking them (symbolising the resurrection/new life). Meo was the student with the strongest egg! It was a celebratory time and the students enjoyed sharing in the tradition with our Greek families and students. Aithos Anesti (“Ἀληθὸς Ἀνέστη!” - “Christ is Risen!” or “He Has Risen Indeed!”).

Community Notices
The Nepalese Community is organizing a cultural night on 14th April at Witchetty from 5.00pm—includes yoga, costume parade and dinner. Call 0430382024 to book.
Live Alice Mparntwe free events in April include craft for kids. Go to livealice.nt.gov.au for information.