Self-esteem is the key to happiness. The greatest gift we can give our children is healthy self-esteem. Children who feel valued and who trust themselves have positive self-esteem. You can help your children feel valued by spending quality time with them, playing games, reading books or just listening. Helping your child gain the self-trust needed to deal with failure, loss, difficulty and defeat is as important, if not more so, than succeeding or being the best. When children trust themselves to handle painful feelings like fear, anger and sadness, they gain an inner security that allows them to embrace the world in which they live. When children better understand their feelings, they gain greater autonomy over their lives. Talking about feelings teaches children that it is normal to feel sad, or angry, or scared at times. With greater tolerance of the painful feelings, children become free to enjoy their world, to feel secure in their abilities and to be happy. (Hallam and Olsson)

On Monday this week a group of Walpiri educators from Lajamanu and Yuendumu came to observe quality instructional practices at Ross Park in order to further develop their own teaching practice. The group was visiting schools in Alice Springs as part of the Warlpiri Triangle workshop with the aim of exploring effective pedagogy beyond their own school contexts. Two of our wonderful teachers, Alastair Sherriff and Clare Ryan, opened their classrooms and invited the Walpiri educators to come in and observe writing lessons.

Ms Ryan modelled how to explicitly teach descriptive writing to early childhood students using shared experience and oral language discussions to tune students in before writing. The class found that the Warlpiri educators use many of the same strategies that 1 Thipe use such as word walls, clapping out sounds, visual and tactile activities and students demonstrated how they use their finger gym and other areas of their class for learning.

Mr. Sherriff’s 4/5 Panthers were undertaking cooking demonstrations where students worked in groups to research a recipe, work within a budget and plan, organise and carry out the demonstration. Students practised speaking in front of an audience and then used their knowledge to write procedural texts. The next step for the Panthers will be when they go on excursion to El Kira Restaurant where they will take on the role of patrons in order to see what else they need to do at their class restaurant.

This was a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and the Walpiri educators said that they will take many ideas back with them into their classrooms.

From Wednesday to Friday this week the 5/6 Pythons are attending Hamilton Downs Youth Camp. They will be participating in team and relationship building activities through a range of outdoor education events including problem solving, fortress building, games in the river bed, bush walks, a photography competition and the camp concert and talent show.

Bush Preschool started this week for our youngest students with the Bilbies attending the Telegraph Station on Tuesday and the Geckos today. Known benefits of Bush Preschool include: better concentration for formal learning; development of more fantasy play; development of an appreciation for caring for the environment; development of ‘safe risk taking’. Parent teacher interviews also begin at preschool this week and will continue over the next three weeks.

The Eisteddfod showcase was held today where there were a selection of acts from each section of the Eisteddfod. This was a great opportunity for the rest of the school to share in the hard work and success of participants.

The Ross Park school day finishes at 2:50 pm. Students need to promptly leave the school grounds for their various after school arrangements as staff are unable to provide supervision after school. Any students left at the soccer fields carpark will be escorted to the front office at 3.10pm.

Stay safe and enjoy the warmer weather forecast for this long weekend whether you are attending the Finke Desert Race or relaxing at home.

Salima Spring
Assistant Principal

HAPPY CAMPERS!
Year 5/6 Mapstone Stedler left yesterday for Hamilton Downs Youth Camp. Warm beanies will be essential for their 3-day stay!
INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS
36 students from Ross Park competed in the Interschool Athletics Championships last Friday. They competed against other primary schools in track and field events. No results are available yet but all Ross Park competitors did well and had lots of fun, despite the cold wind!

BUSH PRESCHOOL
Alice Springs Telegraph Station has many interesting activities! Our preschoolers love the wide open spaces!

Rosco’s Canteen
HOT burgers available on Fridays!

SICK CHILDREN
Unfortunately, the flu and other illnesses have meant that students are coming to school unwell. As much as we want our students at school, please ensure they are well enough to attend. The expectation is that, once at school, they will stay for the entire day, although, of course, parents will be contacted if illness strikes suddenly.

BLUEARTH FUN!
Students from Ms Morris Year 2 class visited Sadadeen School this week to use their excellent fitness facilities, with Bluearth Co-ordinator Katie Thompson.

HOTSHOTS!
All the Transition students today received a free tennis racquet through our partnership with Tennis Hotshots. Tennis Australia has been partnered with our school for many years now. Lucky children!

ON THE WEEKEND...
Ms Harper’s Transition students have interesting weekends:
“I played with my brother,” said Chloe.
“I went to Ivy’s birthday,” said Greta.
“I went to my nana’s house,” said Leila.
“I went to Target,” said Leo.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Will from Ms Morris’ Year 2 class is the winner of the Finke Desert Race colouring competition. Many of our students won a branded cap for their colourful entries.

FIRST FLEET
Ella and Chris from Mr Hempel’s Year 3/4 class painted these fabulous ships as part of their learning about early Australian history.

Community Notices
Alice Springs Turf Club supports “Dolly’s Dream”. Everyone is invited to be part of this anti-bullying initiative at Pioneer Park July 28th from 12.00 noon. Call 89524977 to order a picnic basket.

Alice Springs Show: children (and parents) can enter lots of sections! Enter online: www.alice-springs.com.au.