FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Wandering into classes each day I am very pleased to be met with broad smiles and polite greetings from many students, including new students who are already using my name. This simple behavior helps to create an environment of familiarity and safety, a caring community which feels connected with each other sharing a common place. Staff members try very hard to learn students’ names and I personally strive to know EVERY student by name by the end of the first term-learning the names of 60 Transition students is a challenge. At Ross Park we seek challenges!

I encourage parents to come and introduce yourselves to me and to each other. Our children see these interactions and learn from them. This is how they can learn to make new friends: starting conversations, finding something in common, spending time together and making a personal connection. Some students are more confident and outgoing than others. Social skills are part of the curriculum and in every class teachers deliver lessons and provide opportunities for students to develop appropriate skills and strategies to manage various social situations. This term the main focus will be on: what makes a good friend and how to make friends.

Safety is Everyone’s Business

Last week I gave some reminders about the use of the school crossing, parking, drop off and collection routines to minimize the risk of accidents and injury. Whilst older students are beginning to use the crossing more frequently when making their way home, many adults are still choosing to cross Winnecke Avenue at all different points with younger students. We are all busy people but a few extra minutes could help students develop good road safety habits. Here are some further points to consider if your child or children are making their own way to and from school:

- Discuss a range of safe routes that could be taken so they develop a sense of their area
- Encourage them to walk or ride home with their siblings or a friend who live close by
- Leave the school grounds straight after the school bell so they are walking or riding home when there are lots of people about
- Set clear timeframes, so they know when they should be expected home
- Discuss strategies in managing situations of people approaching them or when they feel unsafe.

Teachers have also been talking with students about safety in the school and will be continuing to raise awareness of how they can keep safe in the community.

For more information visit: http://www.nhwnt.org.au/

School Programs and Activities

Languages Other Than English (LOTE) programs commenced on Tuesday. This program is to expose students to a different language, learning simple greetings, phrases and vocabulary and learning about a different culture. This year we have Japanese, Spanish, Chinese and Arrernte languages and culture programs being delivered.

There will be a number of programs starting in the next two weeks. These include:

- Instrumental lessons for Year 5-6 students with teachers from the NT Music School (go to nt.musicschool@ntschools.net for more information)
- Interschool Sports Competitions for Year 5 and 6 students
- Junior Choir for Year 2 and 3
- Senior Choir for Year 4-6.

Teachers have been working closely with the school leadership team to carefully plan the timetables maximizing the great spaces we now have in the school. The transportable classroom, located by the oval and the bike shed, will be a welcome addition to our school when functional! Please keep talking with your child about their learning: areas of interest, things that help them to learn and what they hope to learn in the various curriculum areas.

Dates to Remember

- Whole school assembly tomorrow Friday 8th February @ 8.40am in the Hall
- Meet the Teacher evening Tuesday 12th February 4.00-5.30pm
- School Council Meeting Monday 18th February @ 7.00pm in the Staffroom
- School Council Annual General Meeting Monday 4th March @ 7.00pm

Tuesday 12th February is Meet The Teacher evening. This will be an opportunity for you to visit the classroom, have the students explain their classroom layout and routines and hear about what the learning focus will be for the term. Many of you have been parents of Ross Park Students for many years and I would encourage you to also accept the invitation to attend. Each teacher is unique, as are each class and each child, so the year ahead brings great opportunities and may have a few differences from the previous year/s.

SUZI BURGESS
Principal

After School Pick up

Parents/carers who collect children after school at the Ross Park oval/soccer car-park, please be aware that if you haven’t picked up your children by 3.05pm they will be escorted to the front office for pick up.
Our first School Council meeting for the year is scheduled for Monday 18th February at 7.00pm in the Staffroom and everyone is welcome. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th March and parents are encouraged to consider nominating, as a rewarding component of the family-school partnership. For more information, chat with our Principal, Suzi, Council Chair Bev Russ or Pauli in the school office.

Call into the school office to redeem your NT Government $150.00 credit (valid until 12th April). School uniform is mandatory but smaller sizes are already sold out—more have been ordered and should arrive within 4-5 weeks. Students must be dressed in the school colours of navy/red, with comfortable, sturdy shoes. Keep a spare set of clothing in younger students’ bags in case of accidents.

DRESS CODE

Uniform options are for all students, including our shorts and long trousers. Uniforms are compulsory and include:

- A school polo shirt
- A hat.

The following items may be worn:

- Shorts, long pants, skirts, leggings/tights.

For safety reasons, shoes should be enclosed.

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Ross Park Primary School Council reminds families that the amount for the contribution is $100.00 per student per year or $25.00 per term. All families should make this contribution as soon as possible.

Scholastic Book Club- Issue 1

Look for the Book Club catalogue that has come home in your child’s schoolbag. Book Club provides a fun and convenient way of bringing the best in children’s literature into your home. It’s packed full of exciting books from best-selling authors, popular titles and series that kids love. Ordering from Book Club is easy - simply go online and place your order and then Scholastic’s ‘book elves’ take care of the rest. Before you know it, your child will have a lovely surprise to take home once their order gets delivered to their classroom. When ordering from Book Club, you are not only helping your children, but you are also helping our school in valuable Scholastic Rewards, which are used to buy classroom resources. To celebrate the start of the New Year, any family ordering from issue 1 will also receive a free All About Me Activity Journal. Orders close 15th February.

TECHNOLOGY

This term Mr Middleton will be teaching the Digital Technology program for Year 3-6. Students will be working collaboratively to create a digital solution as well as learn about internet safety. ICT skills such as touch typing and file management will also be taught.

School Sport NT 2019 Team Official positions—regional teams can only be nominated to participate in championships/development camps if the required number of team officials has been identified. Several positions are vacant—please contact tahlia.rutherford@nt.gov.au for more information.

Totem Theatre provides after school theatre arts programs for children from 6 years old. Go to totemytc@gmail.com.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

MEET THE TEACHER

Tuesday 12th February

4.00-5.30pm

ME!

Students from 2 Morris are learning about themselves. Joshua drew a colourful picture of his smiley face!

Homemade muffins only $2.00!