From Our Principal

There is a definite hype amongst our students as we wait with anticipation for the announcement of the 2019 Team Leaders and School Representative Council members. Badges will be presented at assembly tomorrow morning. We are excited to embark on a year’s journey of collecting students’ voice to help select playground equipment to make improvements to the playground nearest the oval, organise school initiatives and events aligned to our school vision and values. All candidates should be commended for their efforts in preparing interesting and inspiring speeches which were well presented to their peers. This is a highly valued skill that requires a child to overcome his/her personal fears and speak on a topic to persuade, inform and influence their peers to vote for them as the ‘best equipped’ person to work with school and community leaders as representatives of Ross Park students.

Home Reading Programs

It is a school expectation that all students will engage in regular reading activities at home from Transition through to Year 6. The research is unquestionable about the benefits of regular and frequent practice with guidance from a proficient reader. All students are encouraged to regularly borrow books of interest from the library to read at school and home or for them to be read to by an adult or family member. At times, specific reading and comprehension tasks may be given as homework for older students.

The Home Reading Program requires the time and efforts of parents and families as well as the individual student. When learning to read with accuracy and fluency, children need to read aloud, talk about what has been read, be guided to re-read when mistakes are made and be prompted to use different strategies to read an unknown word. ‘Sounding out’ is an early reading strategy and students need to develop a much larger bank of strategies to use such as: using the sentence structure to predict the type of word needed (noun, verb, adjective), knowledge of base words, chunking and so on.

Whilst all students from at least Year 1 know their reading levels and have reading goals, the reading books that are sent home may not necessarily reflect these levels. The reasons are:

To further develop an enjoyment of reading. When a child can read with fluency they can focus on the story line and make connections with the text. It is encouraged that the listener asks questions about the characters, setting, events and connections between them.

To increase confidence of the reader. Children can explore techniques to make reading more enjoyable, using intonations and expression.

Before reading children can use the picture cues to predict the story and share their ideas. After reading they should reflect on their accuracy and give reasons for the similarities or differences.

For more information visit http://www.petaa.edu.au/imis_prod/w/Teaching_Resources/Parents_guide.aspx/

NAPLAN Online

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN provides governments, education leaders, schools, parents and students with information on how Australian students are performing in the essential areas of literacy and numeracy. Ross Park Primary School Year 5 students achieved above the national mean average for Writing and Year 3 students achieved within 20 points of the national mean average, which is a great result for our school. We hope the results from this year will give us feedback about the impact of our efforts in further developing effective teaching and assessing skills within Writing as it continues to be a school focus. Some key points:

Welcome

Ms Bec Hewitt has commenced her position as Senior Teacher at our school, leaping in with enthusiasm and positivity. She has been working in Ms Ryan’s Year 1 class, getting to know the students and families. As the term progresses she will be in a number of roles supporting the delivery of programs, working with teachers and students from Preschool to Year 2. Please introduce yourself and make her feel welcome.

SUZI BURGESS Principal
SWIMMING

Our swimming program for Year 2 students commences on Monday 11th March and finishes on Friday 15th March. Each child is required to pay $50 to help cover the costs of transport, swimming instructors and pool entry. Some families put aside part of their Back to School subsidy—if you are unsure, please check with the school office. Children are to bring bathers and a towel and have sunscreen applied at home. Please contact the school office if more information is required.

SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM

The Annual General Meeting of your School Council occurred earlier this week and your new Council comprises: Beverley Russ, Laura Heaslip, Christopher Hatzimihail, Meegan Sullivan, Alyson Kennedy, Tristan Waddell, Sarah Robertson, Tanya Trull, Bec Duncum, Anna Swift, Stephen Yates, Sue Dugdale and Michael Klerck. Our Chair for last year, Beverley, spoke about the challenge of traffic management and reflected on big infrastructure changes; our Principal, Suzi, reflected on parents' feedback that 'we are doing a good job' and noted that our attendance averages more than 90%, outstanding amongst Territory schools! All parents are welcome to attend meetings, routinely on the third Monday of each month.

BLANKETS!

Parent Steph Molloy has been helping students from 5/6ABG to make fleecy blankets, to be donated to Tangentyere Council. 12 blankets will be ready before winter sets in.

FROG POND

Our Eco-Rangers will investigate the possibility of establishing a frog pond at our school! Surprisingly, these fascinating little creatures thrive in our desert environment and watching their lifecycle is so interesting!

INTRODUCING THE NCCD PORTAL

A new Portal has been launched to help school communities participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD Portal is a comprehensive online resource to support principals, teachers and school support staff understand and complete the NCCD, with free and practical resources such as e-learning modules, videos, case studies and templates. The Portal also includes information for parents, guardians and carers. For more information on the NCCD, visit www.nccd.edu.au.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The office of the eSafety Commissioner is aware of media reports about a series of online challenges for young people called ‘Momo’. Momo is a scary looking character encouraging children to do increasingly risky things, including self harm. Parents should go to eafety.gov.au for more information.

Arunga Park Speedway Memorial Night March 9th—family friendly event includes racing for juniors. Call Katie on 0410722523 for more information.

Dale Wakefield MLA Member for Braithling invites local families to: a free chat/sausage sizzle/jumping castle event on 23rd March from 9.30am in Frances Smith Park; a free event on 4th April from 9.00am at Alice Plaza to welcome new babies and introduce mums and expectant mums to local support groups and service providers. Email electorate.braitling@nt.gov.au for details.

Alice Springs Desert Park new program includes ‘Life in the Desert’ and ‘Dingo Discovery.’ For enquiries, email alicesprings.desertpark@nt.gov.au.

VISITORS

‘On 4th March 2019, six firemen came to 3 France to teach us about the danger of fire. First they taught us when there’s a fire, get down low and crawl to the nearest exit and while crawling, scream, ‘Fire! Fire! Fire!’ A bit later, a fireman got dressed in a fire uniform and they talked about it and answered some questions.’

By Ruby

‘On Monday we had a visit from six firemen. It was very good. They told us what to do when there’s a fire in the house. We go on our knees and go, go. We also yell, ‘Fire!’”

By Bear

NEW BABY!

Mataiyo from Mrs Lawson’s Year 2 class is a big brother again! He now has two younger brothers to play with—congratulations Mataiyo and family!

ROSCO’S

Frozen Yoghurt ($2.00) is delicious on these hot days!