FROM OUR SENIOR TEACHER

Well, what a strangely wet week we’ve had! The storm last week has caused some damage to trees and shades around the school and the students are doing a pretty good job of keeping clear of these areas. The debris and some larger trees will be removed on the weekend. Yesterday we had to spend our recess and lunch times indoors as there was such a chill and the ground was so soggy. Thankfully today we have been able to enjoy the finer day.

Inaugural swimming carnival a success!
Thank you to Mr Sheriff and everyone involved in organising our upper primary Swimming Carnival last Friday. It was well organised and the fantastic parent support was much appreciated. One of the most pleasing aspects was the high level of student participation - it was great to see all the smiling faces as students enthusiastically displayed their ribbons upon their return to school.

Hot weather will be soon upon us
As we progress into summer and the mercury rises, it is important we remember to look after ourselves and each other. Students are encouraged to take regular water breaks in order to stay hydrated and when necessary, to play in the shade. Please ensure your child has a water bottle at school, which can be kept cool in the classroom fridges and a brimmed hat. CAPS are not permitted at Ross Park.

Using the weather app to monitor forecasts for next week and beyond will help to guide us when we put an exciting new initiative in place. We will be setting up a ‘Pop-up Playroom’ at lunch times when there is a high temperature prediction. Students will have the option to spend their lunch time in the cool hall engaged in quiet games and activities offered as an alternative to outdoor play. The Pop-up Playroom will be supervised by a teacher and team leaders.

Approaching the End of the Academic Year
We are proud of the daily attendance rate for students at Ross Park and recognise and thank you for the effort to ensure that your child/children get to school on time each day. Teaching and learning will continue all the way up until the Christmas break as we endeavour to cover the year’s curriculum content.

With the end of year in sight, it is also timely to acknowledge the high expectations we have for our students regarding respectful and appropriate behaviour, as well as the levels of engagement in all class and playground activities. We appreciate the support you give to us by reaffirming this message to your children at home – it really does make a huge difference!

Tom Middleton
Senior Teacher

OUR SPECIAL MAINTENANCE OFFICER!
Michael Smith is a keen BMX competitor. Michael took part in the National Championships in South Australia recently and is now the Number 2 rider in Australia!

Dates to Remember
- Alice BEAT - TONIGHT
  Thursday 8th November @ Araluen Theatre @ 7.00pm
- Whole school assembly tomorrow Friday 9th November @ 8.40am in the Hall
- Working Bee Saturday 10th November from 8.00am on the junior playground; free bbq lunch—all helpers welcome!
- Graduation Evening Tuesday 11th December
- Professional Development Day Tuesday 29th January 2019
- School finishes Thursday 13th December; resumes on Wednesday 30th January (school office will be open 24th and 25th January for uniform sales and voluntary contribution payments)

SMOKING CEREMONY
A Smoking Ceremony takes place when somebody passes. This is an Aboriginal Australian custom during which native plants are burnt to produce smoke to acknowledge ancestors and to ward off any bad spirits, helping the deceased move on. Tomorrow, Ms Teresa Alice will be coming to our school to conduct the ceremony. Teresa will also give a short talk at assembly. After the assembly students will walk through the smoke. This is believed to have healing and cleansing properties. The smoking drums will then be carried into classrooms.
**WORKING BEE**

On Saturday 10th November, helpers are needed to dismantle and remove some play equipment on the junior side, as well as paint some other pieces. Free barbecue lunch! Please let Pauli in the school office know if you can assist.

**BIRD QUILT**

Students from Year 2 Thomson created a magnificent quilt, featuring hand-painted birds, which was displayed at the Alice Springs Desert Park during ‘Bird Week’. The students were justifiably proud of their efforts.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

“We all love giving gifts at Christmas time, but remember to make an eco-friendly choice. Our tips for gifts begin this week with the idea of making something yummy! We have baked a delicious recipe for cookies and put them in a jar with a ribbon and bow and given them to teachers who were pretty pleased with them. This got us thinking that instead of a packet of chocolates with a bunch of non-recyclable wrappers, re-use a jar and make something thoughtful instead!”

Macy and Nova, Eco Rangers.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

Our Regional Manager has approved a professional development day for all staff on Tuesday 29th January 2019. NO STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL ON THIS DAY—students begin on Wednesday 30th January.

**SCIENCE IS AMAZING!**

Mattie and Kristian (5/6C) couldn’t believe their eyes when they visited Centralian College’s Science lab recently—the experiments were such fun!

**Protecting the Coolibah Swamp**

We know it as ‘the saltbush’ but the area between our school and Sadadeen is actually an ancient swamp, home to 600 year old Coolibah trees and traditional Arrente stories. Year 3/4 Mapstone-Stedler walked through the area with Jude Prichard from Landcare. Students discovered that the area used to be home to ducks and has now been over-run with saltbush. They are developing a plan to help look after the swamp.

**CONFIDENCE!**

Rona Glynn Preschoolers have visited our Transition classes frequently this term and are feeling very comfortable. Their move to ‘Big School’ next year will be effortless!

**Rosco’s Canteen**

Rosco’s Canteen will be CLOSED for Week 9 of this term—10-13th December.

Special next week:

Lasagne $5.00