“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.” - Sydney J Harris

Reflecting on one’s learning and creating opportunities to develop self is a critical point of education. My passion is to enable students to take a hold of their learning in a deeply personal way. I was thinking back to my school experience, my first years at school. I struggled in my first year of school, not able to develop foundation reading skills, in fact entering my second year of school I wasn’t able to recite the entire alphabet, phonetically or otherwise. After moving schools, the Principal of the school would tutor me each morning and afternoon, providing me with an intensive learning experience, needless to say it had a major impact on my education since that point. We often reflect on where we have come from to become what we are, there are many people who influence and support us along the way. Teachers often are at the centre of our first experiences at school. The foundation skills that teachers provide are more than just a set of curriculum outcomes that students must learn but rather provide strategic, relational and dedication to the lives of our children. With this in mind, as you are thinking about the excellent work that educators do, the “Teaching in the Territory” excellence awards nominations have opened for 2018. If you have an example of teachers, leaders or school support staff providing passionate committed educational experiences to children or influencing school culture positively, take some time to put in a nomination and acknowledge the great work these people do.

Next week is NAPLAN week. We hear a lot about NAPLAN, some positive, some negative, overall what does it mean for Ross Park Primary School? NAPLAN is the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy. At Ross Park, this will effect students in years 3 and 5 and provides information regarding student achievements based on the essential skills required in literacy and numeracy across Australia. This is important information for our teachers to track student achievement and support growth in the areas of numeracy and literacy. Teachers use other forms of assessment in conjunction with NAPLAN results to determine the best possible ways of supporting student learning.

In preparing your child for the tests, please reassure them this is only one part of their school program. If you would like to know more information you can navigate to the following web address - http://www.nap.edu.au.

Term 2 is a busy term, we have Musica Viva, Toonschool, Eisteddfod, CMS orientation visit for years 5 and 6, our second 5/6 camp in week 6, sports day and a range of excursions and activities that are designed to enhance our students experience at RPPS. As a parent you may have skills that can enhance our students learning also, if you have a passion for a particular area of interest or skill (visual arts, dance, etc), have a chat to your child’s teacher or come and see someone in the leadership team. There may be a program or a group of activities that you can support us in delivering.

If there is any way we can support you or your child at Ross Park Primary School please come and see us. Our focus is in assisting all students to access the best possible outcomes and we believe this is a partnership.

Have an excellent week!

Shontell Dougherty
Assistant Principal

Dates to Remember
- Junior school assembly Friday 11th May
- NAPLAN 15-17 May
- Walk to school Safely Day Friday 18th May
- Musica Viva Tuesday 22nd May
- RPPS Sports Day Friday 8th June
- Interschool Athletics Friday 22nd June

Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards are an opportunity for outstanding and exceptional educators to be acknowledged and recognised. Nominations can be submitted by school staff, students, parents and guardians and members of the community. Some categories appropriate for our school are:
- Northern Territory School Leader of the Year
- Northern Territory Primary Teacher of the Year
- Northern Territory Aboriginal Educator of the Year
- Northern Territory Special Educator of the Year
- Northern Territory Education Support Person of the Year

This week Yr 5/6 Adami & 5/6 Gilbert/Barnes will start the Rock and Water program with Sue Wharton.

Students will learn how to develop self-confidence, self-control, self-esteem and social communication skills.

They will learn to find balance between self-identity and being part of a social/family group or community. The main goals of the Rock and Water program are:

- Increase body awareness
- Become aware of attitudes, emotions and reaction patterns of self and others
- Experience body strength
- Increase self-confidence and learn to rely on your own inner strength
- Use mental strength related to inner strength
- Feel, set and defend boundaries
- Deal with unfamiliar and new situations without losing your inner strength.

This program will complement and build upon elements of the N.T. Social and Emotional curriculum implemented across our school, to help our students become confident and responsible individuals.

**Battle of the Lunchboxes**

The Battle of the Lunchboxes commenced on Tuesday, with members from our SRC weighing the waste produced from all class’ lunchboxes. The trophy for the winning classroom over a two week period will be presented at our whole school assembly.

Here is another “nude food” lunch box for inspiration.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Friday June 8th is our Sports Day and we are looking for volunteers to help us out, if you think you are able to, Mr. Sherriff would be very happy to hear from you. You can get in touch with him by email alastair.sheriff@ntschools.net

**AFL Auskick**

Monday 14th May Ross Park Oval 5 to 6 pm

Wednesday 16th May Albrecht Oval 3.10 to 4.10pm.

Cost $100 NT Sports vouchers accepted

**Community Notices**

National Families Week 15 - 21 May

You are invited to help us make this year’s National Families Week great by celebrating the important role families play in our community! We are having a big community event down in Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre from 1-5pm on the 19th May. We are seeking organizations to volunteer their time to run a stall/activity on the day. If you are interested to be involved please contact Kim Ellis no later than 4th May via email or phone kellis@anglicare-nt.org.au 8951 8000

Alice Springs Telegraph Station Open Day and Markets 20th May from 9.30am. Activities, food and historic information—go to asts.openday2018@nt.gov.au.

1Morris has been creating some special mothers day items.