SCHOOL READINESS TEST

Our school is commencing preparations to move NAPLAN testing from paper to online. These activities are part of a national program to transition all NAPLAN testing from paper to online testing by 2020. Around 40 schools from the NT, including our school, are preparing to transition to NAPLAN Online in 2019, with other schools to follow in 2020.

To ensure we will be ready in 2019, our school will participate in school readiness testing from 17–25 September. School readiness testing is a ‘practice run’ designed to help schools gain insight into the NAPLAN Online test platform, experience testing and identify any technical issues. The school readiness testing is not a test of the students, but will assist our school to prepare for online testing in 2019.

Some students in Year levels 2, 4 and 6 will participate in the school reading testing this month. Your child does not need to do anything to prepare. Students that participate will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with online format and the styles of questions. Visit www.nap.edu.au for more information.

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Today is RUOK? Day. R U OK? Day is our national day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that any day is the day to ask, “Are you ok?” and support those struggling with life. Taking part can be as simple as learning R U OK?’s four steps so you can have a conversation that could change a life.

1. Ask
2. Listen
3. Encourage action
4. Check in

The skills students need to be socially and emotionally aware and resilient are addressed in a range of areas within our school days. These include the delivery of the NT Social and Emotional Curriculum, ongoing explicit teaching and review of our TRIBES Agreements, the Rock and Water program, the Health curriculum and daily incidental discussions based on students’ experiences at school or home, through picture books and themes of class novels. Every child’s wellbeing is our concern and we can only be effective in partnerships with families and having a connected approach with health services, as a need arises.

As you may be aware our school community has been touched by family bereavements over the last few weeks, which also ripples into the wider community. I am proud to be a member of the Alice Springs community as in times like these so many people show their kindness and generosity to those affected by the circumstance. I would like to thank all the staff at Ross Park who continue to show care and concern for our students, families and each other and to our parents who offer help in so many different and meaningful ways.

Swimming

Tomorrow will be the last day of the T-2 Ross Park Swimming program. Special thanks to Tim, Petina and Eleanor for their expertise in the pool with our young developing swimmers. As stated in our newsletter two weeks ago there are many health benefits of swimming and there is absolutely a need for students to develop a particular level of competency to keep safe around water. The program we offered required thorough planning, availability of adequate personnel for supervision and transportation and not to mention significant financial commitment from parents and the school budget. Congratulations to all participating students who showed persistence and challenged themselves in the pool.

The Royal Life Saving Association offers a range of swimming lessons and programs that will move students beyond early swimming development stages through to being confident capable swimmers. Please see our school notice board or visit our front office for additional information.

SUZI BURGESS Principal

Dates to Remember

- Whole school assembly tomorrow Friday 14th September @ 8.40am on the softfall
- School Council meeting Monday 17th September @ 7.00pm in the staffroom
- Sustainability Showcase Evening Thursday 20th September from 5.00pm (see below)
- Last day of Term 3: THURSDAY 27th September
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY for staff Friday 28th September (students do NOT attend school)
- First day of Term 4: Monday 15th October

SUSTAINABILITY SHOWCASE

ROSS PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday 20th September

From 5.00pm to 6.30pm

All classrooms open!

Barbecue dinner (as priced)
Drinks, ice creams and muffins available from Rossco’s Canteen
ONLINE NEWSLETTER

In the interests of sustainability, we aim to reduce/eliminate paper copies of our weekly newsletter by the start of next year. Wherever possible, we prefer families to subscribe to our newsletter on the school website and it will then be automatically emailed to you every Thursday. The latest newsletters can be accessed on the website at any time.

STUDENT SAFETY

As the result of feedback from families, the oval is now monitored by a staff member daily from 2.50-3.10pm. Parking in the soccer fields carpark and walking to meet your children is the safest ‘pick-up’ system!

Physical Education

“5/6 Adami/Barnes Gilbert have participated in a physical education program. Every Tuesday we push ourselves to finish all rotations our teachers give us, for instance, skipping. For some it feels natural to do exercise like this but they push through to the end. At the start of Term 3, the students set some fitness goals that we are trying to achieve by the end of Term 4.”

By Sean, Ariane and D’Arcy.

FLAG MATHS!

Students from 4 Stedler did a maths exercise this week, with Auntie Bev’s help. They measured our flagpole, using informal units (spears) and then checked their calculations using formal units (rulers). Our flagpoles are exactly 6 metres high!

SUSTAINABILITY

“Hi, Eco Rangers here. We have been counting how many poppers we get from our blue bins every week. This time all of our bins together have contained 497! That equals $49.70 to spend on resources for our school! Next Thursday, September 20th we are going to be having a Sustainability Open Night from 5:00 to 6:30pm and we are going to be talking about what we have been doing and what we are planning to do to make our school great!”

Hayden (5/6M)

ROSCO’S

Next week’s special — Sweet Chili Tender Wrap with Lettuce & Mayo

$4.00

NETBALL

Taylyn (5/6A) was the winner of 13&U division 2 Players’ Player Award in the Saturday netball competition. Taylyn’s team, Rovers Darts, plays in the grand final this Saturday, along with Rovers Streaks, who play in the 13&U Division 1 final. Ross Park Sapphires were eliminated from the 11&U division in the preliminary final. Great effort girls!

DESERT SONG FESTIVAL

On Tuesday, Ross Park Senior Choir members walked to Todd Mall to perform 4 songs as part of the Desert Song Festival. It was an amazing experience as the choir performed in front of parents, members of the public and visitors from out of town. The Desert Song Festival runs from the 7th-16th September, so make sure you head a long to some of the wonderful music events that are happening around town.

Team Leader News

The Team Leaders have organized a themed dress up day for Wednesday 26th September. The theme is, ‘come dressed in your favourite footy team colours’. Students can dress in any football code strip, eg. AFL, NRL, soccer, etc for a gold coin donation. The money raised will go to the Farmers Affected by Drought Appeal.

Kerri Gilbert, Coordinator

West Cricket Club school holiday program for boys and girls aged 8-11 years starts 1st October at 9.00am at Traeger Park. Reserve a spot by emailing westiesdiv2@gmail.com.

Alice Springs Town Council’s pop-up Winners Gallery—50 years of award winning artworks for the NT Art Award collection—70 Todd Street from 14th September 5.00pm. Phone 89500567 for details.

Community Notices

Kerri Gilbert, Coordinator