FROM OUR SENIOR TEACHER

Ross Park certainly is a bustling and busy hive of activity as we head towards the halfway mark of Term 2.

As I made my way around the school earlier this week, the many examples of lively, focused learning became apparent—students participating in a Bluearth activity on the oval, Year 3 and 5 students involved in NAPLAN testing, other classes practising their Eisteddfod item, while other students enthusiastically engaged in their morning literacy block, highlighting the wide variety of learning opportunities our students experience daily.

Robotics

As technology coordinator, I have recently commenced one of my favourite parts of the job—teaching robotics! Through robotics, students develop coding skills in a fun and creative way, where they can demonstrate their technical skills. In these modern times, coding is considered an essential skill that students need to develop— it could be regarded as 'the language of technology'.

Year 3/4 students will be developing their skills using Lego WeDo kits while our 5/6 students will work with the more complex Lego EV3 robots. After mastering some necessary coding skills, students will engage in challenging tasks which will vary depending on their level of ability. All lessons will take place in the new Digital Technology room which is located in the demountable classroom near the bike shed.

Student Voice and Leadership

We take student voice seriously at Ross Park and feel that it is essential for students to be involved in the decision making process and events at our school. Our leadership programs (SRC, Team Leaders and ECO Rangers) are excellent avenues for ALL our students to voice ideas, concerns or comments. From time to time, representatives from all of these groups survey our students to help them with ideas for important decisions or projects.

All three of our leadership programs have been very busy early this term as they plan and carry out their activities and projects. Highlights so far include the SRC representing the school at the ANZAC Day March, the Eco-Rangers coordinating our hugely successful Mothers Day gift-making workshops and our Sports Leaders enthusiastically leading the students in their houses to practise war cries in preparation for our upcoming Sports Day, taking place next Friday.

Sports Day

Preparations are in full swing for our upcoming athletics carnival, thanks to our coordinator, Mr Sheriff. Our Team Leaders will be practising tabloid events with the junior school students – so they are primed for an excellent performance. All classes, including our preschool students, have been preparing for their various athletic events and will be confident and raring to go! You are all welcome to attend the carnival to support your child in their events.

- Sports Day commences with tabloids at 8.45am
- Junior school running races will take place between 9:45am – 10:30am
- Sports Day concludes at 2.45pm.

NAPLAN Update

We are well and truly entrenched in our NAPLAN testing period, with all students and staff involved displaying a fantastic attitude in applying themselves to their tasks. As Ms Burgess mentioned in last week’s newsletter, students are attempting NAPLAN online for the first time this year. From my observations, students appear to be confidently undertaking their tests in this new format. Well done to all the teachers and students involved in the preparation process and a special mention to Ms Spring for coordinating such a smooth transition!

Tom Middleton Senior Teacher

...is a community event seeking to promote road safety, public transport, health and the environment, encouraging students to walk and commute safely to school. Until they’re ten, children must always hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road. Go to walk.com.au for more information.

Dates to Remember

- Walk Safely to School Day Friday 17th May
- School Council meeting Monday 20th May @ 7.00pm in the Staffroom
- Musica Viva Performance Thursday 23rd May
- Sports Day 24th May
- Interschool Athletics Friday 31st May

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Lego EV3 – Years 3/4 students Lego WeDo

We are incredibly fortunate at Ross Park to have an excellent bank of age-appropriate robotic resources for all our year levels. This term, our
SPORTS DAY
Friday 24th May

Our students are ready for the annual sports challenge! Remember to wear House colours (hair ribbons, t-shirt etc).

Our canteen will offer a special Meal Deal (roast pork and gravy roll, with drink and icypole, for $7.00) and coffee/hot chocolate for adults will also be available.

Rosco’s Canteen
Roast pork and gravy roll $5.00
Available on Wednesday and Thursday next week (special available on Friday)

WORKING TOGETHER!
In rotations 2 Morris students are learning how to work collaboratively with peers to design, make and appraise a variety of items. This week we made rollercoasters using straws!

EARN AND LEARN
Until 25th June, our school will be participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. Please collect the stickers from the local supermarket and either pop them in the box there or bring them to school. Thanks for your support! We will be purchasing much needed Science resources with our earnings.

TEACHING IN THE TERRITORY EXCELLENCE AWARDS are an opportunity for exceptional educators and support staff to be acknowledged and recognised. Nominations can be submitted by any member of our school community. For more information, please go to education.nt.gov.au and search Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards. Awards will be presented on World Teachers’ Day on Friday, 25th October.

CENTRALIAN EISTEDDFOD
Families and friends are welcome to attend the Centralian Eisteddfod at Araluen Arts Centre. Next week, Ross Park students will be travelling from school to Araluen to perform in sessions that commence at the following times (a loose guide only):

- Monday 20/05 9am
  2 Lawson Percussion Group
  Junior Choir
  Senior Choir

- Tuesday 21/05 9am
  Flute ensemble

- Tuesday 21/05 1pm
  Vocal solos, duets, trios and ensembles

- Thursday 23/05 9am
  Nursery Rhyme Groups and solos
  8, 9 and 10 Years-and-under:
  - Prepared Reading
  - Character Recital
  - Impromptu Reading

- Thursday 23/05 1pm
  11 and 12 Years-and-under:
  - News Reading
  - Prepared Reading
  - Character Recital
  - Impromptu Reading
  - Impromptu Speech.

In recent weeks, as the energy levels rise with the cooler weather, the teachers and students have joined me in practising our agility by running through a zig zag circuit with sharp changes of direction. Circuits are easy to make, burn energy and can be as creative as you like! Simple ideas like:

- flipping a car tyre over and over
- hopscotch in hoops
- jumping jacks
- skipping with a rope
- using a stretchy trailer cover as a cargo net to crawl under
- jumping over pool noodles.

What can you create in your own backyard?

KATIE THOMPSON Co-ordinator

Community Notices
Iyengar Yoga for students commences @ 2 Crispe Street on 27th May. Email Sally on dsea.rose@bigpond.com for more information.

REMINDER
It is not safe practice to use the staff carpark by the canteen as a pick up and drop off area—our recommendation is to use the oval carpark.

JUNIOR ASSEMBLY
T/D and T/H were the hosts for last week’s junior assembly. Here they are waiting patiently for their time to perform—and shine!

NEWS FROM OUR ECO RANGERS
‘Wow! The students have done a great job and raised nearly $400 from the Mothers Day workshops last week. Thank you to everyone who came. We hope your mums had a great day and liked their gifts. The Eco Rangers are now looking at our blue bins. We found there is a lot of rubbish being put into the bins so we have decided to UPGRADE them. We are putting a lid on them that has holes that will fit ONLY poppers, yakult bottles, cans and bottles. Please use the bins for recycling once they are placed around the school.’

By Violet S

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