FROM OUR PRINCIPAL
Well here we are, Term 4 and only 8 more weeks left of the 2018 school year! Special welcome to several new families who have joined our school community this term. We also welcome Ms Gina Clifford to our staff membership for the next 5 weeks to cover teacher absences and provide additional support for teachers to conduct a range of assessments, ensuring end of year reports are an accurate reflection of students’ achievement.

The Territory school term calendar now includes two weeks school holidays between terms 3 and 4. Visiting classes each day I have observed orderly and organized classrooms with calm and confident students engaging well with each other and a general sense of happiness to be back at school.

Teachers shared:
“It was a great break and I had time to plan for this term.”
“I started missing the children, the conversations and the hugs because my partner was away the whole time and I was getting a bit lonely at home on my own.”
“I feel rejuvenated and positive about the term. Term 4 is my favorite term: great weather and seeing the progress from the start of the year are just a few reasons.”

“Having worked at a childcare centre during the holidays I love coming back to this environment- more organized and you can see the learning.”

Students said:
“I had time to do what I wanted but I missed my friends.”
“I missed my friends and funnily I missed doing Maths. Numbers are my thing!”

“It was great to see my friends after not seeing them for a while. It is also exciting to realise that I am now taller than my teacher!”

“I missed my friends and I missed doing interesting things at school. Every day is a little different, not like at home.”

New Playground
As you are aware work has commenced on the northern playground with the expected completion date being 29th October, all going to plan. This project was started almost two years ago through a thorough consultative process involving students, parents, teachers, school and department leaders and contractors. It has been exciting to watch the progress and will be even more exciting when students can play on the new equipment and engage with the musical instruments, explore the buried dinosaur bones and dry creek which flows with the use of the water pump!

2018 Ross Park Primary School’s Swimming Carnival
The Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020 reflects the goal of reducing national rate of fatal drownings by 50% by the year 2020. 2004-2015 statistics showed average deaths by drowning of children 0-4 was 326 and 5-14 years being 146. A key strategy to reduce this number is to advocate for and promote swimming and water safety programs for all school aged students in Australia. Due to the challenges of our small community context we have been able offer a swimming program for only students from Transition to Year 2, which gives them opportunities to develop water safety awareness and basic swimming skills. The Royal Life Saving Association also offers programs at the Alice Springs Aquatic Centre to further develop these life skills for children and adults of all ages outside of school hours.

This year Ross Park will be hosting an inaugural Swimming Carnival on Friday 2nd November at the Aquatic Centre for Year 3-6 students. This new initiative stemmed from School Council and teacher led discussions about how we can further promote positive physical experiences to include water activities and encourage students to become involved with swimming as a sport, if they have an interest in the area. The outcomes of the swimming events will be used to identify students who have the capabilities to participate in the interschool event the following week. There will also be a range of novelty events and assisted swimming events to allow all students to participate in some way to earn points for their team/house.

We hope parents and families will come and support the Carnival and that, if successful, it may be a regular occurrence in our school’s sporting calendar.

Looking toward 2019
As you are well aware, our school is required to apply the Priority Area Enrolment Policy, as we are over 95% operational school capacity. No eligible child will be denied enrolment at our school, providing they reside within our priority enrolment area; therefore we cannot accommodate enrolment requests outside our designated area, unless under special circumstances.

Please let us know if your child/children will not be returning to Ross Park in 2019, to help with planning our school structure to optimise learning spaces and teacher expertise.

SUZI BURGESS, Principal

Dates to Remember

- School Council meeting
  - Monday 22nd October @ 7.00pm in the Staffroom
- World Teachers Day Friday
  - 26th October (whole school assembly @ 8.40am)
- Alice BEAT Festival—
  - Araluen Theatre Thursday
  - 8th November @ 7.00pm

WINNER!
Our 5/6 teacher Tash Colson won Gold in both the 5km & 10km walks in the Masters Games.
WORLD TEACHERS DAY
Friday 26th October

As is traditional, our School Councillors will treat our teachers by providing morning tea at recess time and helping with supervision in the playground. Families are encouraged to send along a small plate of food to share and/or assist with playground supervision. Please let Pauli in the school office know how you can contribute.

Alice BEAT
The Beat is a performance showcasing arts education in schools from Central Australia. This year’s performance is on November 8th, at the Arafura Arts Centre from 7pm – 8:30pm. The show recognises and celebrates the efforts of students and teachers, from those participating in the experience for the first time to those achieving excellence in their art form. Please come and share this great occasion with us! Tickets on sale now.

DATE CLAIMER: Working bee Saturday 10th November from 8.00am (bbq lunch included). We will need lots of parent helpers, particularly those with painting expertise, to prepare and paint pieces of play equipment on the junior side of our school. Please let Pauli in the office know if you can come!

STUDENT PLACEMENT 2019
If parents have particular concerns that they wish to share before the 2019 class placement process begins, please make an appointment with our Principal, Suzi. This does NOT include selecting your child’s teacher.

SPEEDING
Speeding cars in Winnecke Avenue are a real concern for the safety of students and staff. Therefore, police will be undertaking regular patrols at peak times. Please be mindful of your speed through school zones!

Ross Park students danced at Alice Can Dance last term– their performance was fabulous!