FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Ross Park Primary is an excellent place to come to school! Very few jobs exist where it is a pleasure to come to work to impart passion for learning every moment of the day.

Observing teachers and the commitment and fervor they have for students and the support that they provide to each other is impressive. Our 4/5 Panthers class have had a warm start to the year with the air conditioning in their classroom breaking down. This has meant that they have needed to relocate to the hall. Our hall is a heavily used space so this comes with a certain amount of impact on other teachers and classes. Teachers really shine in circumstances such as these. In the midst of obstacles they are flexible and supportive. I commend Mr Sheriff and Ms Winwood-Smith in their ability to adapt to a large space and, in fact, all teachers in their continued resourcefulness.

This year I have been teaching dance. I wouldn’t say I am a natural dance teacher but I am trained as a visual arts teacher and I value The Arts. This has provided an opportunity for me to observe the way that young people perceive movement and the way that sound can influence the way we act and react. Associate Professor Deidre Russell-Bowie’s research surrounding the benefits of arts programs in schools points out that excellent arts programs have a major impact on a range of aspects of a child’s development. These are: academic achievement, respect for self and others, training and life skills and self-expression. If you would like to explore the article here is the link: https://educationunlimitedwsu.com/2011/01/23/why-quality-arts-programs-are-essential-in-our-schools/.

Promoting active and creative lifestyles will only positively benefit our children and seeing young minds problem-solve and challenge themselves is inspiring.

Feel free to connect with me anytime. I love to hear from you and your feedback is important to us. Hearing a good news story about your child’s learning or something you have found encouraging about our school is great!

SHONTELL DOUGHERTY
Assistant Principal

WELCOME!

These five fabulous Student Education Support Assistants have joined us this year and we are so lucky to have them! Becky (former RPPS student), Dillon, Liam (former RPPS student), Georgia and Lainey are helpful, innovative and very popular with our students!
POWER WRITING!
Ms Merritt’s Year 4 students are given creative writing opportunities to practise their skills.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS
Your School Council met this week, for the first time this year. Some issues discussed were:

- Traffic management—Council recognizes the ongoing problems and is considering several options including the ‘Let’s Ride’ program
- Uniform dresses are still popular at our school, even though the fabric is now unavailable. If you have any second-hand dresses, they can be re-cycled at the school office
- Our traditional Mothers Day raffle—of course, prizes are required to make a successful raffle—all donations gratefully accepted at the school office.

Council meetings are informal and informative—there is currently one vacancy on our School Council: talk with Chair, Beverley Russ, Principal Suzi Burgess or Pauli in the office if you would like to join us.

UNIFORMS
New stocks of smaller sizes of unisex shorts have arrived! Also, all second-hand uniforms are now free! Call in to the school office.

BOMBING OF DARWIN
Students from 4/5 SWS are reading the book by Alan Tucker, “The Bombing of Darwin.” This week marked the 77th anniversary of this event. Students created alternate cover designs in the role of the illustrator. Here is Jasmine’s colourful work.

RCSCO’S
Delicious fruit salad cups are only $3.00!

TWISTIN’ THE DAY AWAY!
Students from 4/5SWS were learning ‘loco-motor’ dance moves in Performing Arts this week—meaning they jumped around a lot!

ASSEMBLY TOMORROW..
...will introduce Sparky to our new students. Who is Sparky? Here are some clues:
Who will teach students to be effective learners? What are the effective learner qualities at our school? Good learners question, persist, challenge, share, reflect—and have a growth mindset. Don’t miss assembly tomorrow Friday 22nd February @ 8.40am to find out more!

CRICKET
Mr Stedler’s cricket team participated in the Alice Springs Schools’ Cricket Cup two weeks ago, which involved students from Year 5, 6, 7 & 8. Some exciting cricket was played and the team experienced a couple of wins, playing with great enthusiasm despite the heat. Ms Barnes will accompany students to participate in Interschool Basketball tomorrow—our students really enjoy these weekly sports!

SOCcer
Several of our senior students travelled all the way to Tasmania last weekend, to take part in soccer championships. They were undefeated in their age group! They were very tired when they arrived home, but very happy with their success. Also, Tyler (5/6BG) participated in the SA Athletics Championships recently: he won several places, even though he was the youngest runner by three years in some events!

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ARUNGA PARK SPEEDWAY: CENTRALIAN TITLES SATURDAY 23/02.
Great family night—call Katie on 0410722523 for information.

Using the famous Shrek analogy, I liken Bluearth to an onion or a painting—there are many layers! There is so much woven into every session, but as one of our long time accredited teachers recently explained: Bluearth is more than just sessions or activities—its an approach. A belief system that can be incorporated into classrooms and our homes and communities. The end game for each session is to leave kids and staff happier, healthier and more skilled.

KATIE BROMLEY, Coordinator