From our Assistant Principal

As we head toward the end of Term 1, teachers, staff and students are focusing on a number of exciting activities.

We are celebrating Harmony Day tomorrow, beginning with an assembly showcasing the diversity of our school. Students are encouraged to wear traditional attire that represents the various cultural backgrounds at Ross Park Primary School. I am always proud to see the effort that our parents and students put into sharing their culture and respecting each other.

Harmony day represents so much for Australians. The acknowledgement of where we have come from and the unification of all parts of the world in one place is really special. As for so many Australians, my history is filled with diversity. Over 50 years ago my grandfather brought his family from New York State to Australia. He was involved in the construction of the Snowy Mountain Scheme. Since then our family has become unified with the Australian way of life: acceptance and harmony. It’s not an easy transition to come from what is natural to another country and learn new ways but this is what Australian represents at its core. I hope that you can join us for the various activities here at school and whether it’s sharing some food with classes or having a picnic with your child’s class, we welcome you to our school in unity and harmony.

We have Rocksalt Arts coming to our school in Week 10. They will be presenting their performance “Kangaroo Traps” to our Year 3-6 classes. This performance explores Indigenous sustainable practices and provides a platform for students to investigate our supermarket culture and how we can better care for the land that we live on. I am really excited for students to delve into these themes!

You are always welcome at Ross Park Primary School. We look forward to hearing from you and are always interested to speak with you. If you have some great things to share, please don’t hesitate to make contact with classroom teachers; alternatively if we can help with any concerns, we are equally available to you. Have an excellent week!

SHONTELL DOUGHERTY
Assistant Principal

HARMONY DAY

“Harmony Day is actually today! We will be celebrating it tomorrow, Friday 22nd March 2019. You can wear orange or cultural dress. It is a gold coin donation and all the money raised will go to the animal shelter.”

Ryder, Thomas and Elli, on behalf of SRC representatives.

REMINDER:
BOOK CLUB orders are due tomorrow Friday 22nd March.

Dates to Remember
- Whole school assembly tomorrow Friday 22nd March @ 8.40am in the hall
- Harmony Day Friday 22nd March (uniform free day)
- End of Term 1: Friday 12th April; start of Term 2: Tuesday 23rd April

BEING CONSIDERATE...
Almost always, being considerate is being well-mannered. It is simply thinking about how the other person may feel or be swayed to accommodate requests etc. Basically, good manners are about common sense and respecting the rights and feelings of others.

- If you want to move past someone, say ‘excuse me’.
- When asking for something, say ‘please’.
- When receiving something, say ‘thank you.’
- Do not interrupt grown-ups when they are speaking—they will respond when they have finished or will pause the conversation to address you.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.

These fundamentals are reinforced at our school as we want our children to be caring, kind and considerate members of our community.
SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Your 2019 School Council met for the first time this week and were joined by some of our new Student Representative Councillors. Following introductions and some supper, topics discussed were:

- the successful completion of swimming tuition for Year 1 and 2 students. Transition students will undertake one lesson per week for five weeks, later in the year
- senior playground renovations—the go ahead has been given following a recent inspection and our SRC will have input into design, equipment and landscaping
- Mothers Day—our students love to spoil their mums with something special so, in keeping with our sustainability theme, students will make some lovely gifts in class. A raffle is planned (more information to come) with huge thanks to donors Trusty Glass, Bond Springs Outback Retreat, Bronwyn Crowe, Brumbys and Emu Run
- Bicycle safety will be a focus at our school this year, in an effort to reduce traffic. Watch for details later.

Everyone is welcome to attend School Council meetings—come along on the third Monday of the month.

NEEDED PLEASE
Mrs France needs lots of terracotta dip pots for her students to make something special for Mothers Day—drop them into the office anytime!

WEARABLE ARTS
Last weekend, Ross Park School submitted 11 different entries into the Alice Springs Wearable Arts Awards. We were successful in two categories: Best use of Recycled Material (Bahzi and Esther); Most Inspirational Award (Kye and Ryder). The students would like to thank our Wearable Arts coordinator Ms Charmaine Kik, Ms Sarah Hill and Mrs Sue Wharton for their work getting everything ready and being there on the night. Special thanks must also go to Mrs Winwood Smith and Mr Sheriff for their dedication and extra hours over the last eight months on this project for students.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability
All Australian schools are required to participate annually in the NCCD. Teachers and staff use their professional, informed judgement, based on evidence, to determine the level of adjustment students with disability receive, in both the classroom and whole of school context. Data is used by the Australian Government to calculate the loading in recurrent funding for schools so the quality and reliability of information is critical. Our school data will be collected before August, to meet mandatory obligations. We will liaise with parents as the year progresses.

SICKNESS
Many of our students have suffered sickness lately, with the turn of the seasons. Please remember to text, phone or email, to let us know of absences, as these are electronically recorded daily, which is a Departmental requirement. Also, head lice are again prevalent at our school. Head lice are small wingless biting insects which live and breed in human hair and feed by sucking blood from the scalp. Outbreaks of head lice are common in children in schools and infest people of all socio-economic positions and age groups, being spread by head-to-head contact. Please go to the NT Department of Health website for treatment suggestions.

ROSCO’S

Blueberry muffin—only $2.00

Community Notices

Arunga Park Speedway presents ‘Dolly’s Dream’ meeting 23rd March—great family night supporting anti-bullying. Call Katie on 0410722523 for information.

Lil’Antz Easter Vacation Care program is out now. Email childcare@lilantz.com.au for details.