From our Assistant Principal

"There are not more than five musical notes, yet the combinations of these five give rise to more melodies than can ever be heard. There are not more than five primary colours, yet in combination they produce more hues than can ever be seen. There are not more than five cardinal tastes, yet combinations of them yield more flavours than can ever be tasted."
— Sun Tzu, The Art of War

This week we have been celebrating Harmony Day with a range of activities to mark the occasion yesterday. Students wore cultural attire either from their ethnic background or that they have an interest in. Our school is a place filled with diversity-we have so many cultural representations and often in our family history we have a range of racial influences. Sometimes these differences are noticeable: with my family background I am married to a Filipina, who has links to Spanish, Chinese and Japanese ancestry, not to mention the small provincial representations that are found in the Philippines. On my family side, I have American (USA), American Indian, French, Irish and English ancestry. We all have similar hereditary circumstances! I am really proud of my history and the culture that has enhanced my life and the lives of my family. Equally I am always interested in learning about other nationalities and the ways that they celebrate their culture through the arts, food and beliefs. How blessed we are to have the ability to learn from each other and enhance our lives by seeing the world through each other’s experience. Like Sun Tzu says in the quote, there are subtle similarities but through the blending of those differences we are able to create such a diverse and interesting way to express ourselves, learning from one another and walking together. Students stood up the front for our assembly yesterday and the extent of the diversity was clear: French, Sudanese, Papua New Guinea, English, Aboriginal Australian, Philippines, Japanese, Vietnamese, American, Indian, Sri Lankan, Australian and many others!

The 3/4 Stedler-Stevenson class went to Sadadeen Primary school to join with their Harmony Day activities. They started with an assembly then our students worked together with Sadadeen students and had some great times making friends and learning about the importance of Harmony Day. Thank your Auntie Bev for organising and supporting this important connection between schools.

It is always a pleasure to connect with families and I look forward to hearing from you. Never hesitate to speak with us! We especially love to hear about the success stories, letting teachers and staff know something that you have appreciated is always great and encouraging. Have an excellent week!

SHONTELL DOUGHERTY
Assistant Principal

Dates to Remember

- Whole school assembly tomorrow Friday 23rd March 2018 @ 8.40am on the softfall
- Whole school assembly THURSDAY 12th April (includes Terrific Kid Awards)
- Student Free Day Friday 13th April
- End of Term 1: Friday 13th April; start of Term 2: Monday 23rd April
- NAPLAN 15-17 May

BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS must be redeemed by Friday 13th April.

OUR NEW CANTEEN IS FINALLY OPEN!
Roomy, clean and brand new—Jemma and her helpers are enjoying their surroundings!

(Demolition of our hall commenced this week, affecting some programs—the renovated hall is expected to be complete for the start of Term 3.)
HEALTHY EATING
Ross Park School is aware that nutrition is vital to a child’s physical and mental development. Eating habits are learnt in childhood. Research shows that when children eat nutritious food, they perform better at school. As these habits are strongly influenced at school, as well as at home, Ross Park School provides an environment that promotes healthy food choices. Please assist by ensuring your children bring healthy food and drinks daily: soft drink, fast food or lollies are not permitted. For more information, go to www.education.nt.gov.au and search ‘school nutrition’.

BLUEARTH
The Bluearth approach centres around the idea of how experiences feel. We value learning from the experience and then talking about how it felt and why (reflection). In Bluearth we love to explore what our students can do with different equipment - hoops, beanbags, balls, sashes. Our weekly challenge: give your child a piece of equipment, for example a ball, and ask them to show you what they can do with it, and then show them what you can do! Explore together and talk about your experience.
Katie Bromley, Co-ordinator.

Easter Family Night @ Bunnings includes workshops, egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny! 22nd March from 6.00pm. Workshops, egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Family Night @ Bunnings includes Katie Bromley, Coordinator.

UNIFORM NEWS
Parent feedback has indicated that warmer jackets would be a welcome addition to our uniform range. Fleecy, zip front, navy jackets have now arrived—for sale at the school office—$25.00!

SALE! We have so many second-hand uniforms, we can’t fit them into our cupboard! Pop into the school office for a look—all items $1.00!

MISSING SCHOOL
LET THE SCHOOL KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE AWAY BY:
- Calling or texting the school
- Calling into the school office
- Writing a letter or note to the school outlining the reason and dates that your child will be away.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Gina (5/6A), Rania and Lacy (5/6BG), and Lexie and Jade (4/5WS) who will be representing Alice Springs in netball in Darwin soon!

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS
Your 2018 School Council met this week and considered an email from a parent regarding revision of car parking and drop off zones. In conjunction with the Traffic Management and School Master Plans, the new Traffic Management Committee will now approach the Alice Springs Town Council to discuss some positive changes. Also, the tender process for the junior playground renovation is complete—the area will shortly be inaccessible but our exciting new playground will emerge soon!

STAFF PROFILE—
Tom Middleton
Tom was originally from Canberra and has been living in central Australia for almost nine years. Prior to coming to the Territory, he was teaching overseas in Malaysia. Tom enjoys travelling, gardening and all kinds of sports but most of all, spending time with his family and two dogs.

ALICE SPRINGS LANGUAGE CENTRE
Www.alicespringslanguagecentre.com
Adult Language Classes
What language should we learn?
In our multilingual world the current thinking is that the more languages one learns, the more doors are opened up around the world. Intercultural language learning is a mindset to be embraced, to extend young minds. What languages are taught at Ross Park? Arrernte: the local language which helps learners to listen to voices from this land and to read the local signs. Also two of the commonly spoken languages in the world which are Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish: Spain and South America are currently popular tourist destinations. Australia’s top two trading destinations: China and Japan; hence it’s essential to have an understanding of these languages and cultures. Indonesia has an emerging economy and it makes sense to learn the language and culture of our Asian neighbour. So what language should students learn? The answer is as many as possible. The Alice Springs Language Centre teachers are connecting more with class teachers so that respect for learning languages and cultures becomes part of the culture of the classroom.

UPDATES
It is very distressing for a child who is sick when the school is unable to contact parents. PLEASE make sure your contact phone numbers and work details are up to date.