FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

We now have just over three weeks left of the school year and it is an exciting time with many students looking forward to the school holidays and anticipating celebrating Christmas with friends and families in their own special ways. Although there is a lot happening around the school and much to look forward to, we are encouraging all students to stay focused on their learning. Even though teachers are in the process of writing reports, learning will continue right up to the last day of school. During this busy time, teachers and staff are reminding students of the Ross Park School values of persisting and learning from mistakes, sharing knowledge and working with others, challenging ourselves and taking risks, reflecting on learning and asking questions.

The thought of finishing a year with a familiar teacher and beginning a new year in an unfamiliar class can cause anxiety for some of our students. We will make every effort to ensure this transition is as worry-free as possible. We are currently in the process of carefully placing students into their new class groupings and we take into consideration friendships, learning styles and class compositions to reflect cross cultural diversity and achievement levels creating the best possible fit for our students. Students and families will be informed in the last week of school and students will be able to spend time getting to know their new teachers and class mates during that week.

Many classes are planning class parties for the last Wednesday of school and teachers will be sending notes home shortly. Class parties are a celebration of all the hard work and learning and a time to enjoy being together before the break.

The six week Christmas break is a long time for students between school years. Whatever your plans may be, the benefits of regularly reading with your children are undeniable. Reading aloud or listening to your children read will help them learn letter sounds, blends and words and build the vocabulary that underpins language and develops early literacy skills. Reading also sparks your child’s imagination, stimulates curiosity and develops a love for reading. There are also many fun maths activities involving your children like looking through Christmas catalogues to calculate the cost of items, to counting the number of biscuits in a packet, developing early number awareness. Presenting your children with board games over Christmas can develop important social skills such as turn taking and displaying appropriate emotions when winning or losing.

Tomorrow, students from across the school will be representing Ross Park at the Inter-schools Gymnastics competition. Students have been training hard to develop their strength, coordination and practise their routines. Good luck to all involved.

This week, we had our last School Council meeting for the year. Thank you to all those involved. The Council will meet early in the New Year to elect a Chair person. Please see Pauli in the front office if you are interested in being part of the Ross Park School Council.

Please take care over the Christmas break and remember to stay safe on the roads. I wish you all a wonderful New Year.

Salima Spring
Assistant Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Whole school assembly tomorrow Friday 23rd November @ 8.40 am in the hall
- Year 6 Graduation Evening Tuesday 11th December
- Professional Development Day Tuesday 29th January 2019 (NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL)
- School finishes Thursday 13th December; resumes on Wednesday 30th January (school office will be open 24th, 25th and 29th January for uniform sales and voluntary contribution payments)

PARTY TIME!

Mrs Marshall’s Mini-Lit reading group achieved lots of goals this year and celebrated with a party! They made Christmas lanterns and then helped to make pizzas, enjoying a hot slice for recess!

PLEASE NOTE:
After school gymnastics and cricket FINISH NEXT WEEK.
Year 2 Hempel students have been busy:
Our students loved learning with students at Sadadeen School last week, both in the library and on the rock wall!

Kidneys clean our blood! Bush medicine has been used by Aboriginal people for thousands of years! students learnt SO much at the Purple House Dialysis Unit. “We loved grinding Irmangka Irmangka and rubbing Bush Balm into our muscles.”

TALKABOUT PARTY
Students from our Talkabout groups enjoyed a cinema experience last week. The school hall was transformed into a picture theatre, complete with lots of popcorn and icecream and ‘Santas’ were the waiters!

Next year, our weekly newsletter will NOT be distributed to families in paper form. To tie in with our sustainability focus, families are encouraged to register through our website www.rossparkprimary.nt.edu.au and the newsletter will be emailed on Thursday afternoons. Only a few printed copies will be available at the school office, for those families who don’t have access to computers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Our Regional Manager has approved a professional development day for all staff on Tuesday 29th January 2019. NO STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL ON THIS DAY—students begin on Wednesday 30th January.

Austswim Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety accreditation courses 24th & 25th November at Alice Springs Aquatic Centre. Phone 89815036 for information.

Central Craft Bush Christmas exhibition @ Araluen from 17th November. Call 89511122 for details.

Studio B’s ‘Journey to the Past’ concert: 7th & 8th December @ Araluen Theatre. Call the box office to book—89511122.

Rosco’s Canteen will be CLOSED for Week 9 of this term—10-13th December.
Special next week:
Chicken Curry (with almonds) $5.00

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS
At its final meeting for the year this week, your School Council discussed:

- the ongoing concerns with traffic management at our school. Some of our Councillors have great ideas for next year, including bicycle education and carpooling—watch this space!
- our inaugural Swimming Carnival, which was a great success, thanks to the hard work of our staff. Our students displayed great water skills and achieved a win at the Interschool Swimming Carnival a week later!
- in consultation with our team leaders, some money set aside to complement our new junior playground will be expended on bench seating and some new larger play equipment items.

Our next meeting of School Council is scheduled for 18th February and our AGM will be 4th March. Parents are encouraged to nominate for School Council—meetings are informal and your input will be valued!

The message that resounds most with me is the importance of play. We need to change the perception that play is just a social time, a distraction or frivolous. Play develops children physically, socially and emotionally. Children move between being excited, jubilant, enthusiastic, joyful, silly (hyperarousal) and calm, caring, loving (hypoarousal) and are supported by their caregivers with a sense of safety. Children need to feel safe to fall in love with life!
Katie Bromley, Coordinator