FROM OUR SENIOR TEACHER

Term 2 is my favourite time of the year with several classes preparing for the Centralian Eisteddfod. As the dance teacher for Early Childhood I have been privileged to see many of the classes practising their acts. Students are gaining more confidence every time they perform to an audience and are working with other classes to give and receive feedback. Please check in with your child or child’s teacher if they are part of the Centralian Eisteddfod so you are aware when they are performing and if they require a costume. Next Tuesday 28th May, most of the junior classes will be leaving for Araluen at 8.30am so please consider arriving at school a little earlier than normal that day. Many teachers have given up their lunch times to prepare students for the Centralian Eisteddfod and it was lovely to hear a parent acknowledge this yesterday. “Jess Letts was amazing at the Centralian Eisteddfod yesterday; she went above and beyond when things didn’t go quite right. Her passion for the kids and the Performing Arts is incredible”.

Yesterday most of the junior classes participated in the National Simultaneous Story time. They listened to Mrs. Wallace read the book Alpacas with Maracas by Matt Cosgrove. The message in this story was about persistence. The alpacas didn’t give up and when they found something that worked for them they didn’t compare themselves to others. They were proud to be doing something that they loved!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank families for their patience and empathy during a challenging time of teacher absences. When teachers are away from school we use relief teachers to cover classes as much as possible but relief staff are limited in Alice Springs. The process at Ross Park is to provide students with consistency with familiar teachers in their classrooms—often these are teachers students know from Dance, Library or Science or it might be a member of the leadership team. The last resort is to split classes and on the rare occasion this happens it is never for a full day. If you have any concerns regarding school operations, please contact Suzi Burgess, Principal.

Tomorrow is Sports Day! I look forward to the buzz and excitement in the air with everyone participating in the events and the friendly competition between House teams. Don’t forget to send children with a hat, water bottle and wearing their team colours.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Your School Council met this week and discussed, among other topics:
1. The new Framework for Inclusion, which plans for a wide range of students with disabilities and additional needs to engage with learning
2. A Colour Smash for Term 3! Our SRC will co-ordinate this event, which is sure to be great fun for our students!
3. Our 60th birthday in 2021—well worth celebrating! Ideas included a whole school concert, a reunion of former students and an archival display—watch for more information!

Everyone is welcome to come along to Council meetings, scheduled for the third Monday of each month.

BECK HEWITT Senior Teacher

JUNIOR CHOIR

Under Mr Hempel’s direction, the Junior Choir performed at assembly last week, practising their song for the Centralian Eisteddfod (they won a Highly Commended Award!). Our Senior Choir, under the direction of Mrs Letts, also won a Highly Commended and Mrs Lawson’s Year 2 percussion group won First Prize! Lots of individual students have also performed at the Centralian Eisteddfod, showing poise and confidence. Well done to all!
SPORTS DAY
Tomorrow Friday 24th May

Our canteen will offer a special Meal Deal (roast pork OR chicken and gravy roll, with drink and icypole for $7.00) and coffee/hot chocolate for adults will also be available.

(Our students have made scones for parents to enjoy for morning tea—don’t miss out on a fresh scone with jam and cream, available near the school office—all donations accepted!)

Rosco’s Canteen
Rosco’s full menu will be available tomorrow, Sports Day.

TEACHING IN THE TERRITORY EXCELLENCE AWARDS are an opportunity for exceptional educators and support staff to be acknowledged and recognised and the deadline is tomorrow, Friday 24th May! Go to this link: https://education.nt.gov.au/education/education-events-and-awards/teaching-in-the-territory-excellence-awards to nominate.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mason in Mr Hempel’s 3/4 class—he is now a big brother to baby Caleb!

SANDPLAY THERAPY
Holyoake visits our school to conduct therapy sessions with students, offering a safe place to explore their feelings and learn to share them, in a playful non-judgemental setting. Children cannot easily express or even understand their own feelings and these sessions help them find self-worth, giving them security and empowerment. Chat with our Assistant Principal, Salima, if you would like to know more.

MUSICA VIVA
Doctor Stovepipe visited our school this week, as part of the Musica Viva program. The group turns simple sounds and stories into swing, jazz and vocal harmonies which had our students tapping along!

STOP PRESS! Wear your P’J’s to school next Friday 31st May, to celebrate the start of winter!

NAPLAN
As families may be aware, a number of schools across Australia experienced connectivity issues on Tuesday 14th May while students were undertaking NAPLAN assessments online which may have impacted some students’ performance in the assessment. Our school did not experience any disruptions that have impacted on our students having a fair opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do. You may hear of some schools in the Northern Territory offering students the opportunity to re-sit; this will not impact our school or students. Further information about NAPLAN can be viewed here: ACARA website.

IMPRESSIVE!
Our students enjoyed the visit by illustrator Craig Smith last week. He is super-quick and super-clever at drawing! Students from 2 Walton practised their drawing skills under his instruction—pop into the office for a look!

REMINDER—Sports Vouchers expire at the end of June. Sporting clubs around town will accept the vouchers until then.

FUNNY FACES!
Can you cross your eyes? Can you turn your mouth down? Try looking in a mirror to see what funny faces you can make, just like these boys!

NERVOUS WAIT!
Students from 2 Lawson felt very anxious while waiting for their turn on stage at the Centralian Eisteddfod—but they rose to the occasion and won First Prize!