Welcome back to the beginning of another term. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. During the holidays 20 Ross Park students participated in the Barrett Drive Mile. The Barrett Drive Mile is an all ages, all abilities event, aiming to promote healthy living within the Alice Springs community and encourages everyone from amateur to professional runners, walkers and cyclists to participate. Results included:

Under 7 girls: Indigo, Alex C
Under 7 boys: Ethan M, Adam D
Under 10 girls: Daisy
Under 10 boys: Matthew H, Archer G
Under 13 girls: Mya
Under 13 boys: Tyler

Congratulations to all who participated. More Ross Park students competed again in the Desert Sports 1km race on Sunday. Well done Tyler, Mya and Matthew.

We have a huge term ahead of us, packed full of learning and events within the school and in the wider community. On Tuesday this week, we commemorated ANZAC Day with a full school assembly to honour all Australians who have served our country in times of war, conflicts and peacekeeping operations around the world. Classes joined together with their buddy classes to share a message of peace and to create wreaths to commemorate our fallen soldiers. These wreaths were shared at assembly. Another wreath, donated by Minister Dale Wakefield, was laid at the ceremony by Ross Park SRC students at the top of ANZAC Hill after the parade.

We have two school camps this term with all our Year 5/6 classes. These camps will be in Weeks 2 and 6 where students will be going to Hamilton Downs. Some activities planned for these camps are bush walking, talent shows and team building. This is a fantastic opportunity for students, parents and teachers to connect outside of school, building a classroom community and lasting friendships. Teachers, support staff and parent volunteers devote a great deal of their time and energy ensuring camps are successful and enjoyable.

There are many other classes going on excursions around Alice Springs and connecting with the wonderful opportunities that are on offer. The junior school classes are going to the Araluen Arts Centre to see Yo diddle Diddle or Josephine Wants to Dance. Other classes are making the most of the cool weather and spending time in the community garden. Year 2 Hempel are singing at Sadadeen Primary School assembly this week. We also have tennis clinics and gala day for Year 4-6 students, our Ross Park sports day and interschool athletics and Eisteddfod in Week 6 and 7.

The beginning of term is a good time to talk about school safety procedures. We have a duty of care to all staff and students in the school. It is for this reason that all visitors to the school must sign in at the front office. The sign-in book is our record of who is in the school and in the event of an emergency, this book allows us to account for everyone. Our staff will ask any visitor to the school who they are, who they are here to see and to sign in at the front office. This is in the best interests of our students and keeping our school a safe place for all. If a student has an appointment, during school hours, a written note or verbal notification must be provided by the parent or carer to the class teacher or to the office preferably before the appointment. Students who arrive late must sign in and get a late slip. Being late is sometimes unavoidable but when it is a regular occurrence, it can add up. If a student is late by ten minutes each day, that adds up to fifty minutes per week and over eight hours per term. The morning is optimal learning time for students. It is when they are fresh and the most engaged. For this reason, teachers often plan for explicit teaching and complex learning tasks in the morning sessions when they know their students will be the most receptive.

A friendly reminder about our kiss-and-go drive way: this is one lane only so overtaking inside the kiss-and-go is not permitted. This is a safety concern as children get out of cars on both sides. This is also a quick drop off only area. Please do not park here and walk away from your vehicle. There is no entry in the afternoons for cars. The kiss-and-go is only for buses in the afternoons. These guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of our students.

I hope you all have a wonderful term.
SECOND HAND UNIFORMS
Half price sale continues—all second hand uniforms are now only $1.00. Pop into the office to have a look!

CONGRATULATIONS to Eden from 5/6 Colson who has a new baby brother, Harrison!

HYGIENE
As the seasons change, students should be reminded to maintain good personal hygiene, washing hands regularly. Our Family Handbook contains links to helpful websites, for families’ information.

ANZAC DAY
"On ANZAC Day we attended the mid morning march and ceremony. It was very hot and sweaty but it felt proud to represent the school as we marched on this special day. When we arrived on top of Anzac Hill we took part in the ceremony and Georgia and Ashton laid down a wreath from Ross Park Primary School."
Lydia 5/6M
PS: Call into our school library to see the fabulous display of wreaths made by our students!

WELL DONE!
Jack (5/6A) attended the Junior Tour Down Under in Adelaide last weekend and obtained some amazing results. He won 3rd place in a 16km road race, 3rd place in an 8km time trial and 3rd place overall for his age group - male under 13’s.
Great achievements Jack!

BOOK CLUB—don’t forget that orders are due on Friday 4th May!

STAFF MOVEMENTS
Mrs Pauli Letts is taking long service leave, commencing next week. She will return in Term 3, following the marriage of her son to our Ms Jess Mooney! That’s right—there will be TWO ‘Mrs Letts’ in Term 3! Mrs Suzi Smith will take on the role of School Secretary. Many thanks to Laura Heaslip and Cherry Chavez, who will be undertaking the role of School Council Secretary, in Pauli’s absence.

SCIENCE
Students from 5/6 Colson dissected animal hearts, as part of a Health lesson. Students investigated how physical activity affected the circulatory system and saw how the heart works. Harper said, “It was amazing! Cutting the heart strings made us think of ‘pulling on heart strings.’

DATE CLAIMER: Wednesday 1st August is school Photo Day. More information will be distributed later this term.

SCHOOL CAMP
The first school camp for this year was held at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, when students from 4/5 Sheriff/Winwood Smith participated in the Alice on the Line program. The weather was superb, the scenery was stunning and all the children (and adults!) had a wonderful time!