From our Senior Teacher

In a new and exciting opportunity for myself this year, I am pleased to have joined the upper primary learning team. Aside from my new leadership role, I have committed to teaching each of the year 3-6 classes a Digital Technology lesson each week. This has provided me with an excellent opportunity to get to know all the students from this cohort in a learning context. Through this role, I have also been able to observe how effectively the students, supported by their teachers, have settled into their new classroom environment and learning routines.

Online Readiness

With a variety of our school assessments – including NAPLAN - online, it is important that our students are equipped with the necessary technological skills to be able to confidently access them. At Ross Park, we have an ongoing school commitment to further build upon our bank of devices and other resources in order to develop teacher and student ICT knowledge and skills.

Aside from developing coding and design abilities, part of my role as Digital Technology teacher includes building Information Technology skills such as touch typing, file-management and computer navigation. When it is time for online assessments, students should not be tested or challenged on their 'computing skills', rather for the learning area being assessed.

Transportable Classroom

Many of you may have noticed the new demountable classroom located near the bike shed on the oval side of our school. As our student population has grown over recent years, this new space will provide a valuable area for our priority programs. For the remainder of this term, the two main programs to take place in this space will be:

TalkAbout Program

The TalkAbout program helps students to develop social skills which are taught through games, role-play, video modelling and social activities. TalkAbout groups are facilitated by a number of our skilled educators in small group settings.

Dance Program with Ms Marshall

Ms Marshall has relished the opportunity to teach the Dance program for our lucky Junior School students. Dance is an important part of the Arts learning area and is all about expressive movement with purpose and form – but most importantly, is a whole lot of fun!

Playground outside of school hours

We are fortunate to have a number of beautiful playground areas at Ross Park and welcome families and students to utilise it outside of school hours when supervised by responsible adults. We would also like to request your support by encouraging you to report any inappropriate or suspicious behaviours you may notice during these times, to minimise risk of damage or vandalism.

TOM MIDDLETON Senior Teacher

REMINDER: It is the law to send your child to school all day, every day! Missing school matters!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 4th March @ 7.00pm in the Staffroom— all welcome!

There is one vacancy on our School Council—please chat with Principal Suzi, Chair Beverley Russ or Pauli in the school office if you would like more information.
DONATIONS NEEDED!
If anyone has any dollhouse furniture, we would love to have it for our junior classes. Please drop it in to the school office.

SWIMMING
Our swimming program for Year 1 students commences on Monday 4th March and finishes on Friday 8th March. Each child is required to pay $50 to help cover the costs of transport, swimming instructors and pool entry. Some families put aside part of their Back to School subsidy—if you are unsure, please check with the school office. Children are to bring bathers and a towel and have sunscreen applied at home. Please contact the school office if more information is required.

CRAFTY!
Students from 4/5 Panthers have been learning to design, draft and sew in Art classes with Ms Hill and have created these fabulous cuddly toys!

ROSCEO'S
Please remember to place orders using the brown paper lunch bags available cheaply from supermarkets!

Homemade Spinach & Ricotta Rolls only $2.00

ELECTION OF LEADERS
The election process has commenced this week. Both Student Representative Councillors and Team Leaders will be presented with their badges at our whole school assembly next Friday, 8th March—don’t miss it!

ECO RANGERS
Sunday 3rd March is Clean Up Australia Day. Alice Springs Town Council invites everyone to meet at the carpark opposite the library from 8.00am for a clean-up of the Todd River. Go to cleanupaustraliaday.org.au to join the crew.

HEIDI MERRITT Co-ordinator

GROWING!
Students from Mrs Lawson’s Year 2 class made imprints of their hands. At the end of the year, they will do the same task and marvel at their growth!

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Alice Springs Tennis Club junior tennis comp begins next week, for children aged 4-12 years. All equipment supplied, sport vouchers accepted. Phone Matt on 0402236560 for details.
St Philip’s College presents book launch, ‘The Right Amount of Crazy’ by John and Alison Lamont—a history of the College and Alice Springs—15th March @ 7.00pm, includes food and entertainment. Call 89504511 for details.
NT Scouts wants members! Start your adventure today—children from 5-12 years. Go to nt.scouts.com.au for information.

ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE
Teacher Jane Marshall supports students who have English as a Second Language. We have students at our school from all over the world! Jane is a very experienced, knowledgeable advisor, who also co-ordinates the Minilit literacy program, for students who require extra support in the early years. She also mentors neophyte teachers and pops into classes for support and specialist sessions, including Dance (see front page). Our Jane is very busy!

CUTE!
Charlotte from 2 Morris wrote: “One day Cuddles lived in the snow and his mum and dad left him alone to get some food. Cuddles was very sad and he tried to look for them but he got lost. His mum and dad found him and they all had a big hug.”

FIRE SAFETY!
Thanks to guest speaker Chris Smith for sharing his knowledge of fire safety with students from 5/6 Adami Barnes Gilbert, as part of their Geography studies. Chris is a local Aviation Firefighter working at the Alice Springs Airport. He completed his training in Melbourne last year and the students had many questions for him!