From our Assistant Principal

The Ross Park School Survey closes tomorrow. The survey is our way of seeking feedback on how you perceive we are performing as a school and how our students are supported to grow and learn. We use this feedback to improve as a school. If you haven’t already done so, you are invited to follow the link on the back of the newsletter to have your say in the school survey. So what is feedback?

Feedback is information about a person’s performance of a task that is used as a basis for improvement. Feedback is used by professional athletes, sporting teams and governments to make constant adjustments for improvement. Teachers constantly use feedback to help students and students give feedback to teachers on how they best learn.

According to Professor John Hattie and Helen Timperley, there are four levels of feedback. The first level of feedback is about the task that students are working on. This is the most common form of feedback and focuses on tasks being correct or incorrect. Although feedback about the task is essential for learning, it is surface level feedback. The second type of feedback is around the process students used to create a product or complete a task and is aimed at improving strategies. Feedback at this level can be used to enhance deeper learning. The third level of feedback is focused at the self-regulation or the student’s monitoring of their own learning processes. Feedback at this level involves developing self-evaluation strategies, providing students with greater confidence to engage with the task and assist the student to seek and use feedback. The forth level of feedback is around the self and is seen in phrases like, ‘you are so clever,’ ‘well done.’ ‘you are a great student.’ This form of feedback (or praise) can comfort, support and build confidence in a student but rarely enhances achievement or learning and can detract from the other three levels of feedback. When giving feedback at home on homework and reading, it can be helpful to use all four levels of feedback.

At Ross Park, students and teachers have been exploring the idea of developing a growth mindset. This is based on the work of psychologist Carol Dweck. According to Dweck, everyone is on a continuum between having a fixed mindset and having a growth mindset and we can move along this continuum depending on what we are doing. In a fixed mindset we believe our basic abilities, intelligence and talents are fixed traits that we are born with and cannot be changed. In a growth mindset we understand that our talents and abilities can be developed through effort, good teaching and persistence. People who have a growth mindset believe everyone can get smarter if they work at it. So, as teachers and parents, what can we say and how can we help our students to develop a growth mindset? Below are some examples of the kinds of things we can say to help develop a growth mindset.

What’s happening at Ross Park?

We are now over the half way mark this term and what a busy term we are having! Today the Year 5 and Year 6 classes are walking to St Phillip’s College for the performance of the Musical Matinee, ‘The Wiz’. Next week Transition Kaye/Ryan will be walking to the Community Garden. This excursion is part of their current inquiry about caring for themselves with healthy eating and caring for their world by using food without packaging and looking after their environment. At the community garden they will harvest their veggies and then walk back to school to cook up a healthy feast!

Salima Spring, Assistant Principal

Dates to Remember

- Whole school assembly tomorrow Friday 31st August at 8.40am on the softfall (includes the drawing of the Fathers Day raffle and a performance from our Senior Choir)
- Swimming for Year 1 students starts Monday 3rd September
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY for staff Friday 28th September (students should NOT attend that day)

SWIMMING

...is going ‘swimmingly’! Transition students have enjoyed lessons this week. Next week, Year 1 students will have their turn.
FATHERS DAY RAFFLE
Please return tickets by first thing tomorrow—the raffle will be drawn at assembly at 8.40am!
Thanks to the prize donors: Wayoutback Australian Safaris, Sporties Restaurant and Larapinta IGA. Please support those local businesses that support us!

WELCOME baby Eve! After two younger brothers, Harry from 1 Thompson was glad to meet his new sister!

BOOK FAIR
Thanks to everyone who supported our Book Fair last week. We raised over $6,300.00 which means lots of new resources for our library!

SURVEY LINK: https://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/sRPPSparents2018 Code aEZTq7L

DRESS AS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK CHARACTER DAY
Three pirates, as well as many other colourful characters, invaded our school last week!

EXCURSIONS
Many classes have been on excursions to explore special places around Alice Springs. It was the turn of Transition Dawson and Harper last week, when they visited the new Megafauna Museum.

POETRY
"The World Is Crying" - a poem by Lydia 5/6M
The world it is crying,
A waterfall of tears.
It is bruised and battered,
After all these years.
How could this happen,
When we know it's wrong?
We must make a change,
Why have we waited so long?
The world it is sobbing
Tears of acid rain
We must stop polluting
Or things will stay the same
So hop on those bikes
And stop using your cars
We must turn the tables
Or leave the world with scars
The world it is choking
On piles of plastic bags
Think of all the turtles
Tangled up in snags
covered with coffee cups
In piles touching the sky
If this is what it comes to
We must at least try
The world it is crying
A waterfall of tears
We must make this better
Or else the end is near.

SUSTAINABILITY
Flora (5/6BG) created a Sustainability Mascot dog, made from cans, recycled paper and paint. She hasn’t thought of a name for him yet—perhaps ‘Recycled Ross’ Flora?

ECO-RANGERS
“The eco-rangers have been busy over the past couple of weeks kicking off two of our big projects. On Monday we put out the blue popper recycling bins for the first time. On Thursday, we were busy in the school garden giving it a good clean up with a group of enthusiastic students.”
Banjo and Max.

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ALICE CAN DANCE
Ticket sales for Alice Can Dance will open on 10th September. There are two shows on Friday 28th September: 5pm and 7pm. We recommend you purchase tickets promptly, as they sell very quickly!

“Loose parts” are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. Loose parts encourage creativity and imagination, developing more skill and competence than most modern plastic toys. Children choose loose parts over fancy toys. Try cardboard boxes, wood offcuts, foam noodles, etc.

KATIE BROMLEY, Co-Ordinator.

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TRANSITION ENROLMENTS
If you have a child at a preschool other than Rona Glynn, you must let us know if you plan to enroll them here next year. Planning is already underway for 2019!

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OPEN! A kids’ puppet show 2nd September at 10.30am & 12.00 noon at Red Hot Arts. Go to desfest.com for information.

Desert Festival begins 31st August and includes music, dancing and theatre. Go to redhotarts.com.au for details.

St Philips College ‘Jazz High Tea”, a Girls’ Boarding House initiative in aid of drought relief: 16th September, 3-5pm. Email robbyscar@hotmail.com for details.

Alice Springs Basketball Association is looking for new players from 5 years of age. Email asbasketball@bigpond.com for information.

ROSCO’S
Next week’s special — Fettuccine Carbonara
$5.00

COMMUNITY NOTICES
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