FROM OUR PRINCIPAL
What a fabolous start to the 2019 school year! Leadership, teachers and support staff were all very engaged and active learners during our Words Their Way Professional Learning Day and Age Appropriate Pedagogies Modules. Both events were of an excellent standard delivered by experienced educators and consultants from Brisbane and Darwin within their fields: English learning and Early Childhood Education. Teachers will be implementing the comprehensive word study program in Years 1-6 class to explicitly teach spelling strategies and generalisations, extend student vocabulary and deepen their understanding of the conventions of writing addressing the range of current abilities. Transition teachers will be providing regular and frequent opportunities for students to develop their phonological and phonemic awareness to be confident risk takers as they learn to write. It is our goal that students will demonstrate an improved standard of writing across year levels using a range of assessment tools by the end of the year.

We thank the Ross Park Parent Council and all our families in supporting these great learning days, ensuring that we provide high quality education for all students at Ross Park.

Yesterday the students arrived after six weeks holiday, full of anticipation and excitement or was that the parents? It was lovely to greet returning students and families and welcome new students and families to our school community. Teachers have worked hard to create bright and well organized classrooms with visual prompts and charts. The focus for the next week will be the establishment of clear expectations and routines guided by the Ross Park Effective Learner Qualities and Tribes Agreements.

Our School and Classes
We are fully staffed with all teaching positions filled. We warmly welcome Ms. Michelle Lawson who will be teaching a Year 2 class. Ms. Lawson comes with a wealth of experience from Toowoomba, with particular interests in the areas of English and literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). She is very excited to be here with her husband and believes that Ross Park’s Vision and Values are closely aligned with her own.

This year we have 19 classes with an average of 21 students in T-Year 2 classes and 26 students in Years 3-6 classes, the cap being 27 students. We are only able to accept new enrolments of students who live within our zoned area. The Transportable Classroom will hopefully be functional in about 4 weeks enabling us to have an additional learning space for specialised/additional programs such as the NT Music School Instrumental, Talkabout, Rock and Water and the Junior Arts programs.

Ms. Winwood-Smith will be returning to school on Monday 4th February after celebrating a milestone birthday with friends and family in Adelaide then attended the Australian Tennis Open and special festivities in Melbourne this week. Thank you Mrs. Marshall for working so well with Mr. Sheriff to ensure the Panthers have a smooth and happy transition into the classroom environment. Ms. Tanya Bekker has resigned her position with the NT Department of Education as she has accepted a teaching position at OLSH Sadadeen. We wish her all the best for the year ahead. Ms. Bec Hewitt is currently in Antarctica and will start her position as Senior Teacher Early Years on Monday 4th March. We hope to have her photos to share very soon.

Health and Safety
Thank goodness for the slight change in degrees, 37 is much better than 44! We will closely monitor the temperature and provide several options for students to manage themselves in this heat. The hall will be open with a range of small group activities, the library will offer an opportunity for students to read and enjoy books or drawing together and teachers will provide resources and materials on the verandahs which are shaded. Please support our efforts in reminding students to wear appropriate hats, have a drink bottle with only water in it and to regularly drink from it. These are great to help gauge how much students are drinking throughout the day.

When dropping or picking up your children from school please use safe and preferred practices:

- Do not park on the side of the road with yellow markings or on the verge.
- Safety is everyone’s responsibility.
- Do not take your child’s hand, under the age of 8, when crossing the road.
- Do not get out of the car at the ‘kiss and go’ in the mornings and do not overtake in this area.

Playgrounds before and after school times
Students should not be at school before 8.10am in possible and must not be on any playground equipment before school starts UNLESS supervised by his/her parent. This is for safety reasons and we encourage all parents to support this routine. For the next few weeks Mr. Middleton, Mr. Dougherty, Ms. Spring and I will be on the junior side of the school to help students remember this rule. Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy the grounds and continue to get to know other parents and families but we discourage students from ‘staying and playing’ without parental supervision. Your support in setting clear expectations with your child about when they should be home will be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to a great year!

SUZI BURGESS
Principal

DAY 1, 2019

D1ates to Remember
- ‘Welcome’ assembly tomorrow Friday 1st February @ 8.40am in the Hall
- Meet the Teacher evening in Week 3, day to be confirmed
- School Council Meeting Monday 18th February @ 7.00pm in the Staffroom

Use the school crossing on Winnecke Avenue, rather than walking between parked cars or from the preschool carpark.

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PARENT HANDBOOKS
Our 2019 Handbook is available from the school office and website or you can ring or text to request one.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our first School Council meeting for the year is scheduled for Monday 18th February at 7.00pm in the Staffroom and everyone is welcome. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th March and parents are encouraged to consider nominating, as a rewarding component of the family-school partnership. For more information, chat with our Principal, Suzi, Council Chair Bev Russ or Pauli in the school office.

STUDENT MEDIA AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
At our school, we celebrate the efforts of our students by mentioning their participation and achievement in this newsletter, on our website and Facebook page. Photographs of students are included. Video or audio recording is also permitted at our school under a copyright licence paid by the Department. We also invite local press to school events. When a story is about an individual, we will also seek parent consent. Students in group photographs are identified by first name and year only. If you have any concerns about how information regarding your child may be used, please ask.

Happy faces to start the new school year!

The Polly Farmer Centre is now accepting applications for the 2019 program, which includes coding, cooking and animating. Aboriginal students in Grade 4-6 are invited to apply—phone Georgie on 0421964475 for more information.

Call into the school office to redeem your NT Government $150.00 credit (valid until 12th April). School uniform is mandatory but ...smaller sizes are already sold out—more have been ordered and should arrive within 4-5 weeks. Students must be dressed in the school colours of navy/red, with comfortable, sturdy shoes. Keep a spare set of clothing in younger students’ bags in case of accidents.

Rosco’s Canteen is open Wednesday-Friday each week. The menu is available from our website or pick up a paper copy from the school office.

The Sport Voucher scheme is an initiative of the NT Government, providing children with the opportunity to participate in sport, recreation and cultural activities. Vouchers are no longer issues through schools so families will need to apply online each semester at www.sportvoucher.nt.gov.au. Email sport.voucher@nt.gov.au for more information.

SAFETY HOUSE PROGRAM
Neighbourhood Watch NT would like to remind families that the Safety House program is no longer operational in the NT. Make sure your children know their address and have your contact details with them; plan the safest route to school and stick with it; identify, with your children, safe places they could go to and remember to tell your children who will be picking them each day and what to do if that person doesn’t arrive. Go to www.nhwnt.org.au for more information.

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS
Ross Park Primary School Council reminds families that the amount for the contribution is $100.00 per student per year or $25.00 per term. All families should make this contribution as soon as possible.

Rovers Netball Club sign on day @ Gap View Hotel 9th February from 12.00 noon. Contact Leanne on 0400737730 for information.

Teach Peace Yoga kids’ and family classes commence 2nd February at OLSH Sadadeen. Contact Bethan on 0423276844 for details.