From the Principal

What a talented group of students and teachers we have in our school! The Ross Park School uniform flooded the auditorium and stage at the 2018 Centralian Eisteddfod. The adjudicator’s reports contained comments such as: focused and calm, vigorous and cheerful singing, good articulation, presentation shows a high level of preparation, lively and rhythmically performed and excellent collaboration. Well done to all those involved. Special thanks to Mr. Sheriff and Ms Merry for their effective partnership in managing student registrations, payment and preparations for the on stage performance. Ms Merry is a parent who volunteered countless hours this term. Results are on page two of the newsletter.

School Excursions and Events

- Year 5/6 Colson and Merritt are camping at Hamilton Downs Youth Camp this week, returning on Friday. When I visited the happy campers they were well prepared with beanies and gloves to combat the very cold evening and night ahead.

- Approximately 30 Year 4-6 students will be competing in the Interschool Cross Country Event on Friday at the Telegraph Station. They will be accompanied by Mr. Sheriff and Mr. Adami. Thankfully the weather is ideal for this type of sporting event.

- On Wednesday 10 students will be competing in the Dance Sections of the Eisteddfod and we wish them all the best of luck.

- 2018 Ross Park Sports Day will be held on Friday 8 June. The day will be packed full of activity and enthusiasm. This year, all junior primary classes will be involved in a tabloid circuit comprising of activities like corner spry, tunnel ball, three legged races and hurdles. Students will practice the skills required and learn the games so they can give it their best in front of families on the day. Senior students have been conducting heats for the athletic events throughout the last two weeks, so selections for the Interschool Athletics Carnival will be based on the outcomes of the finals conducted at our Sports Day. All students will be involved in running races and class relays and are encouraged to dress up in their house colours. Please come and join us if you can as it is always a highlight of our school calendar.

Wildlife in our School Grounds

We have a number of areas in the school grounds which are attractive to native and wild creatures. These include: golden orb spiders, lizards, bearded dragons, finches, parrots and more recently Tawny Frogmouths. Teachers can utilize animal sightings as opportunities to learn more about the animals sharing our school environment. We can discuss with students their physical features, learn more about their food sources and develop general knowledge about living creatures. It also generates conversations about how we care for them and how we might encourage more wildlife into the area, like having a bird bath in a garden area. Sighting wildlife can spark curiosity in children and we encourage curiosity yet we do not condone hunting living creatures unnecessarily. There have been a few repeated incidents of stick/rock throwing or efforts to capture lizards which cause harm to the animal by some students. We have had Rex, from the Alice Springs Reptile Centre, Vicky and Kerry, from the Wild Care Australia, come to junior classes to give short presentations on these issues to help our students develop empathy and curb inappropriate behaviours.

We will work together to foster responsible, confident children who have a strong social and environmental conscience - part of Ross Park School’s Vision. I am now calling for your help to raise your child’s awareness of living things and how we show an appreciation of and respect for them. Please talk about how we can all help wild animals by making sure they have access to the habitat they need and to use observation and research skills to learn more about them if there is an interest there.

Staff News

Ms Spring and Ms Stevenson are on the NAPLAN Marking Panel this week and next. We would like to sincerely welcome back Ms Mapstone from maternity leave. She will be teaching with Mr. Stedler in the 3/4 classes in the coming weeks.

Suzi Burgess Principal

Dates to Remember

- Whole school assembly Friday 1st June TOMORROW
- Interschool Cross Country tomorrow Friday 1st June
- RPPS Sports Day Friday 8th June
- Queens Birthday Holiday Monday 11th June
- Junior school assembly Friday 21st June ONLY
- Interschool Athletics Friday 22nd June
Media Arts
Our focus in Media Arts this term is film production. Students are either focusing on a fairy-tale or writing their own 5-minute short film. We have been exploring how to use Garage Band to create a movie soundtrack and also how different camera shots are used for different scenes i.e. Close-up for inconsolable crying. Our editing stage, called Post-production, will see students add sound effects, filters, music and much more to then show their peers for feedback.
Jess Mooney, Performing Arts Teacher

Shrinking Stars
Our scientists have been thinking about the size and location of objects in our solar system. Did you know that Earth would fit inside the sun 1.3 million times? Here’s 3/4 Stevenson examining why the Sun looks so small if it is so big. Using a marble as the Earth and a basketball as the Sun, we tested how far away the ‘Sun’ needed to move until it appeared as small as our ‘Earth’.
Anna Hind, STEAM Teacher

Technology in the Junior School
2 Thompson and 1 Morris have been learning about coding. Using “Scratch Junior” on the class set of iPads, students have explored how to create their own interactive stories. Children snap together programming blocks to make characters move, jump, dance, and sing. This process is coding, it is how we instruct the computer to do things. This week students will share their completed assessment projects, which are an amazing mix of technology and creativity!
Tom Middleton, Senior Teacher

Eisteddfod 2018
Results
10yrs Vocal Quartet 1st place
Alexia Major, Bahzi Nicholas, Violet Allen & Esther Klerck.
Junior Talent Quest 1st place
Transition Dawson and Harper.
Senior Talent Quest 1st place
4/5 Panthers
Junior Choir - Highly Commended
Senior Choir - 1st place
Recorder Group 1st place
4/5 Panthers
Recorder Duet 1st place
Duc & Phu
Prepared Reading 10yrs 1st place
Shivangi Panchal
Prepared Reading 10yrs
Highly Commended
D’Arcy
Impromptu Reading 10yrs 1st place
D’Arcy
Character Recital 10yrs 1st place
Beccy Colson
Prepared Reading 8yrs
Beccy Colson
Prepared Reading 8yrs Highly Commended
Shona
Prepared Reading 8yrs Highly Commended
Violet Satharasinghe
8yrs Vocal solo Highly Commended
Violet Satharasinghe
Prepared Reading 8yrs 1st place
Aaron McVeigh
Impromptu Reading 10yrs Highly Commended
Jimmy Bellette
Prepared Reading 8yrs Highly Commended
Fred Bellette
Impromptu Reading 9yrs Highly Commended
Natalie Mupamhadzi
12yrs Vocal Solo Highly Commended
Matilda Wall
8yrs Vocal Solo 1st place
Amelia Smulders
7yrs Nursery Rhyme 1st place
Dusty Dogs
7yrs Nursery Rhyme Highly Commended
Funny Five

Auskick Reps Will and Bec.
This was there last visit, they had been here for the past 5 weeks. Kids enjoyed learning different ball skills and having fun.

We have our Saturday Morning Auskick Centre starting this Saturday at Traeger Park. Auskick is aimed at 5-8 year old kids who are looking to get involved in football, we develop kids motor and football skills in a fun and happy environment.
If possible are able to have the attached document advertised in the school newsletter or on your school Facebook page. If preferred we can drop off flyers to the school. If you have any questions or queries please don’t hesitate to contact me on 0425 207 772 or via email at Rebekah.boyle@afl.com.au