Principal’s Report

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all returning and new families at Ruskin Park Primary School.

The beginning of a new school year always brings great anticipation and excitement. For our returning students, it is a chance to share holiday experiences with friends and for our Foundation students it signifies the start of a new chapter in their education. It has been a positive two weeks with students settling well into their new classes.

The Ruskin Park newsletter will continue to be published each Friday fortnight. The newsletter is an important source of information and will provide our community with key dates and information about upcoming events.

Staffing for 2017

In 2017 we welcome Mrs Jenny McArdle, Ms Molly Marshall, Mr David McManamon and Ms Ashleigh Doensen to Ruskin Park.

Classroom Teachers:
Foundation: Alaine Beare, Katrina Tozer, Sam Williams
Year 1: Sue Dickinson, Rochelle Jinks
Year 2: Jennifer Clarke, Ashleigh Doensen, Lydia Manz
Year 3: David McManamon, Sarah Poynter
Year 4: Brendan Alexander, Molly Marshall
Year 5: Todd Bell, Jenny McArdle
Year 5/6C: Ben Coffin
Year 6: Nina Pratley

Specialist staff:
Greg Brown (Japanese), Kate Burgess (Music), Mary Kelly (Art- Semester 1), Julie Donaldson (Art-Semester 2), Lachlan McDonald (Phys Ed), Neil Scott (Support Ed/Phys Ed)

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**Upcoming Dates**

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Family and Friends first meeting

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Education Support Staff:
Carol Beach, Tracy Cant, Sharyn Carroll, Jo Charles, Jacqui D’Arcy, Melanie Horner, Jacob Saddler

Office/Administration:
Brenda Porteous (Business Manager), Deb Brown, Vicki Rimmer

Information Nights

These will take place next week and parents are encouraged to attend and find out what is planned for their child during the year. This is also a great opportunity to meet the teaching teams and ask any questions you may have.

Monday 13th February – Foundation - 6:30pm
Tuesday 14th February – Year One and Year Two - 6:30pm
Wednesday 15th February – Year Three and Year Four - 6:30pm
Thursday 16th February – Year Five and Year Six – 6:30pm

Meet the Teacher Interviews

Families would have received a letter detailing information about the upcoming Meet the Teacher Interviews. These will be held in the week beginning Monday 20th February. These interviews are an opportunity for parents to share with teachers any information they feel is pertinent to their child’s schooling.

Two further interview times are allocated this year. One will be early in Term 2 and the other late in Term 3. Compass will continue to be used for booking Parent / Teacher interviews.

Please remember that you are welcome to contact your child's teacher to arrange a meeting at any point throughout the school year.

Family and Friends Network

The Family and Friends Network is an enthusiastic and incredibly supportive group of parents that provide assistance across many areas of the school. Their contribution is greatly appreciated and has resulted in many thousands of dollars being raised. Some of the activities led by the Family and Friends Network include special lunch days, Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls, morning teas….. and so much more.

I encourage you to consider joining this group. If you would like to be involved, please complete the notice that was sent to families earlier this week and return it to the office.

School Council Elections

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.
Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider
- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

2017 Timeline
Notice of election and call for nominations
Friday February 10th
Closing date for nominations
Friday February 17th (4pm)
Close of ballot and votes counted
Friday March 3rd

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<td>DET employee member</td>
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Nomination forms are available at the office.

Personal Accident Insurance
At this time of the year I find it prudent to remind parents that the Education Department does not provide Personal Accident Insurance or ambulance cover for students. There are a number of companies that provide such cover and they can be found through a Google search. The Department does not cover private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors and does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment or cars parked on school property.
**Compass**

Compass is an incredibly powerful tool that we are endeavouring to use more frequently across the school. Currently, it is used for newsletters and also the sending of reminders and some whole school communication. Parent / Teacher interview bookings, school reports and absences are some of the other capabilities.

For families that have limited Internet access we are endeavouring to set up a computer in the office that will be available for parents to use.

If you have not previously logged on to Compass we encourage you to visit the office to obtain your username and password. It really is a valuable tool that will enhance the level of communication between home and school.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Andrew Moore
Principal

**Visual Arts**

The Visual Arts program at Ruskin Park Primary School is considered an important part of students’ overall development. Planning is guided by the Victorian Curriculum. Students will make artworks using different materials, techniques and processes and will be encouraged to describe artworks they make and view. At the end of the year students will have the opportunity to share their creative endeavours with the school community at our Annual Art Show of student work.

During Semester One students from Foundation to Year 2 will have weekly Visual Arts lessons.

Each child is requested to have an art smock to protect their school uniform whilst in the art room. This does not have to be a particular type although art smocks are commercially available that have elastic at the neck and wrists to enable the students to put their smocks on easily. An old T-shirt, shirt or apron will work just as well.

Please ensure your child has their art smock with their name on it for their Visual Arts lesson.

Mary Kelly
Assistant Principal
Foundation News

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our 50 new Foundation students and their families. It is wonderful to see the children gaining confidence daily in the classroom setting. Although there is the occasional tear in the morning the children are settling into their new environment with ease. Our rooms are filled with chatter as the children interact and engage in a range of new experiences.

During this term the focus of our ‘Identity’ unit will be establishing routines, and developing self-esteem and a willingness to engage in the learning experiences offered. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the school facilities recently and without doubt the highlight of the tour was Frisbee throwing in our gym.

In English we are focusing upon the concepts of print such as reading from left to right with a return sweep and the difference between letters and words. We are stressing the importance of using pictures to predict the text. We have already introduced some high frequency words through stories and games. The children are also being immersed in a language rich environment to develop a love of literature. Everyone is working hard to refine their pencil grip and to form the letters in their name correctly.

In Mathematics we are focusing upon using one to one correspondence when counting and the recognition of numbers from 0 to 6. The children loved making a number caterpillar out of patty pans which involved limiting and recording the numerals correctly.

We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year.

Mrs Alaine Beare, Mrs Katrina Tozer and Miss Samantha Williams
Junior School

In the Junior School we have enjoyed getting to know our new classes. We are focusing on learning from mistakes and learning challenging things to grow our brains.

In Grade 1 we have kicked off the year with an author focus on Mem Fox. We will be exploring her books this term through our library and reading lessons. Students are also learning to write excellent recounts, and we look forward to seeing the recounts they write at the end of this unit. You can help your child by sending in photos, brochures from places you’ve visited and other items which can be added to your child’s Writer’s Notebook, to help them with inspiration for writing.

In Maths students are learning to count to 100 by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s. We are also looking at the durations of days, week and months, the seasons and features of a clock. You can help your child at home by talking about the day, date and season in the morning or on your way to school.

In Grade 2 we have been learning about number patterns, calendars, months and seasons and have made some beautiful wheels to help us remember our learning. Next week we will also begin learning place value of numbers to 1000. You can help your child at home by placing a calendar in a prominent location and having your child track and mark special events.

We have been reading lots of recounts including the ‘Diary of a Wombat’ series by Jackie French. Soon students will be asked to write a recount of their own and we look forward to reading them!

In Science this term we are learning all about water including how we get it, use it, conserve it, and also about the water cycle. You can look at where and how you use water at home to help your child tune into this unit!

Miss Jennifer Clarke
Leader Grade 1-2
Middle School

The Middle School teachers would like to welcome all of our families and hope everyone had a fantastic holiday. This year the Middle School teachers are Sarah Poynter (3P), David McManamon (3M), Brendan Alexander (4A) and Molly Marshall (4M).

We would like to thank all parents who labelled stationery items and returned them to school. This is a great help when starting a new school year.

During the first week of term, the Grade 3 and 4 students have been getting to know their new classmates, classroom and teacher. We are all looking forward to an exciting year!

**Term 1 Specialist Timetable:**

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<td>Wednesday 12:30pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 11:30am</td>
<td>Friday 2:30pm</td>
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**Library Timetable:** Students can borrow two books each for a period of two weeks. Books must be either returned or re-borrowed after two weeks.

- **3P:** Monday 2:30pm
- **3M:** Tuesday 10 am
- **4A:** Friday 11:30 am
- **4M:** Tuesday 9 am

**Important Dates:**

- **15th February 6:30pm:** Grade 3 and 4 Information Night
- **20th February 3:30 – 8:00pm:** Meet the Teacher Interviews
- **22nd February 3:30 – 5:00pm:** Meet the Teacher Interviews

Mrs Sarah Poynter
Leader Grade 3-4

Senior School

**Welcome**

Welcome to the Senior School for 2017! It was great to see so many fresh and smiling faces and all students are settling in beautifully to their new classrooms. The positive attitude and willingness to learn displayed by the students is fantastic. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming ‘Meet the Teacher’ chats, as well as the Senior School Information evening. We are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to working in partnership with you to make this a successful year.
**Science**

On Monday students commenced their respective Science units. Our focus for Term One is Chemical Science. Grade Five students will be learning about solids, liquids and gases and their properties, and the Grade Six students will focus on the changing states of matter when heated or cooled. Students will be involved in various experiments throughout the semester.

For some of the Grade 6 experiments we require jars of all shapes and sizes. If you have some of these (e.g. pasta sauce jar) we would love it if you could bring these along to school.

**Grade 6 Canberra Camp**

With only a few short weeks until our Canberra Camp we are working very hard on final preparations. You will have received a notice last week detailing payment(s) required. If you have any concerns, please speak to our business manager, Mrs Porteous. We will soon be sending home clothing and medication forms for you to begin your own organisation.

**Melbourne Storm**

We were lucky enough to have Melbourne Storm ambassadors, including Captain Cameron Smith and youngster Nelson Asofa-Solomona, visit the Middle and Senior Schools last Thursday. They discussed with us the idea of ‘respect’. The players identified how we all belong to different groups including family, clubs and teams and highlighted the need to celebrate our differences. Students were made aware that they belong to the Ruskin Park team and we look forward to discussing this further in our classrooms.

Mr Ben Coffin
Leader Grade 5-6

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**JAPANESE TERM ONE**

Term one will be a busy term in the Japanese area with two Reitaku University students arriving on Sunday to work with our students for the next 4 weeks. They will be helping with some of the special events planned for term one. As well as supporting our regular Japanese classes they will help run the Master Class, on Thursday afternoons, with our advanced students. They will also help support the Japanese Day, a whole day of Japanese cultural activities, which will be held on **March 10**.

While the Graham family has generously offered to host both Reitaku students for the first two weeks, we need some more host families to help host the girls for the second two week period, Feb 26 to March 11. If you think your family would like to host one of the students, please contact Mr. Brown and register your interest. The student would need their own room and the family would receive a small fee to cover the cost of hosting the girls. Hosting a Japanese student is a fantastic experience, which allows the whole family to learn more about Japanese language and culture, while introducing the visiting student to life in Australia.
The visiting students will be, **Konoko**, a first year student who is visiting Australia for the first time and will spend the whole four weeks with us.

**Mutsumi**, a graduating student, who is visiting Ruskin Park for the second time (she loves us so much) and will stay for the first 2 weeks only, before returning to Japan to start her working life.

**Riko**, who is visiting Ruskin Park for the third time (she really loves us). She will be with us for the second 2 weeks before beginning her working life in Japan.

I hope that there are some families that can help host these lovely students. Please contact Mr. Brown if you can help or would like more information about hosting a Japanese visitor.

**Greg Brown**
Japanese Teacher

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**OSHC News**

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our new families and children. We are looking forward to working with you all in 2017.

**Farewell to Anne Campbell and Hannah**
At the end of term 4, 2016 we said farewell to Anne and Hannah (Seeing Eye Dog puppy). We would like to thank Anne for the wonderful contribution she made to the OSHC program over several years and we wish her all the best for the future.

We look forward to Anne calling in for a visit with Hannah and hearing all about how Hannah is progressing with her training.

**HATS**
Our OSHC program supports a “Sun Smart”, policy so please ensure your child has a broad brimmed or legionnaire style hat to wear when playing outside at After School Care. We supply Coles brand 50+ sunscreen, however if your child is allergic to this brand or you would like to supply your own please let us know.

**OSHC Enrolments**
Please note enrolments do not roll over from one year to the next.

Families can enrol online via the **My Family Lounge** parent portal available on OSHC page of the Ruskin Park Primary School website.

If you used the OSHC program in 2016, an instruction sheet on how to enrol is available from the OSHC program.

If you have not used the OSHC program before and would like to enrol your child/children for 2017, please click the link below to access the **My Family Lounge** parent portal to enrol your child/children.

More information on how My Family Lounge works, is available at www.myfamilylounge.com.au

If you do not have access to the internet, please telephone the OSHC program on 0439 345 134 to arrange for a paper copy of our enrolment form.

**Cancellations**
If your child/children will not be attending Before or After School Care please inform the OSHC program by calling or texting the OSHC mobile phone 0439 345 134 as soon as possible. This will enable us to offer casual places to other families.

**OSHC Educator team**

**Garden Club**
Garden Club will be held every Thursday at 1-30pm, if you would like to help out in the garden you are welcome to attend at this time. Please remember to sign in at the office first.

**School Banking**
This year School Banking will start on Monday 13 February so bring in your bankbooks. There are some great rewards you can earn this year as you save.
If you would like to start an account just come and see us and we will give you the form to fill out.

Thanks
Marit, Allison and Pauline

Welcome to Elisabeth and Andy for coming on board to join the banking team

We are in need of a banking helper.
Tasks will include:
- counting money
- entering data into the computer system
- ordering rewards
- distributing rewards
- writing out certificates
- balancing monies
We will give you full training and support. It usually takes 1- 1½ hours and we currently do the school banking on a Monday starting at 9am
If you would consider helping please let the office know or email marit.almenning@gmail.com
THE RUSKIN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL VISION

Every student at Ruskin Park Primary School can develop their natural curiosity and imagination through new and engaging approaches to teaching and learning. The encouragement of a positive attitude within a friendly community of learners will promote success today, tomorrow and into the future.

THE RUSKIN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL VALUES ARE

Building Friendship, Creativity, Honesty & Respect

Birthdays
These students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Lucas  Nikki  Edie  Kate
Chloe  Caleb  Charity  Brock
Chloe  Elise  Bowie  Ruby
Hunter  Numam  Aleisha  Zoe
David  Alexis  Chloe  Jeim
James  Zara  Luke  Kai
Liam  Charles  Daniel  Jacob
Kelsey  Teaghan  Theresa  Max
Eve  Oliver  Rohan  Jet
Klarysa  Jake  Tristan  Carina
Jame  Sarah  Heath  Lara
Harper  Sophie  Tina  Cameron
Olivia  Max  Ava  Ewan
Neave  Kaede  Gabriella  Jorji
Lilly  Aiden  Madelin  Tiara
Learn music here at school
Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, drums, trumpet, here at Ruskin Park Primary School.
Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.
Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.
Tuition costs from $16.20 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2017.
Interested parents should call Swee during office hours on 9818 2333 or email swee@creativemusic.com.au
Creative Music
www.creativemusic.com.au

The time is NOW to register for the winter season at SCYC Scorpions Basketball Club!

We invite you to join us at this family-friendly club, playing a sport that you can enjoy all year long, through all weather conditions.

All new registrations will receive a 50% discount for your second season.

Glenn scycscorpions@gmail.com