ISSUE NUMBER 24

RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE
Term Two is now well and truly underway. The atmosphere in each of the classrooms is productive with students working hard to achieve their best. Already we have welcomed guest presenters, held a camp and cross country and seen students engaged in a wide variety of classroom activities.

**ANZAC Day**

Over the past week there has been a significant focus on ANZAC Day. It began on Sunday 17th of April with our Senior Choir performing a medley of songs at the Croydon RSL’s ANZAC Service. This was followed on Wednesday with a group of Grade 6 students attending the Maroondah Schools ANZAC Service.

On Thursday our school community came together for a special ANZAC Assembly in the gym. We were fortunate to have the Hon. Tony Smith visit the school again for this important occasion.

We are incredibly proud of how our students embraced the significance of the day and the message of sacrifice so we can live the fortunate lives we do today. A massive thank you to everyone involved, particularly the wonderful Family and Friends who assisted with morning tea.

**Parent / Teacher Interviews**

Last week you would have received a notice about the upcoming Parent / Teacher Interviews.

As you would be aware, regular communication between home and school is important in your child’s educational journey. This year, we have three rounds of parent / teacher interviews scheduled and two written reports to parents. Interviews will be held in Week 3 of this term.

As advised earlier in the year, we will be utilising Compass’ online booking system for the upcoming interviews. Online bookings are designed to create greater flexibility for parents. You are able to choose a time that best suits your needs and make alterations to your scheduled time if necessary.

The notice you received contains step by step instructions. As this is a new process, some families may experience difficulties either accessing Compass or making their booking. If this is the case, please don’t hesitate to contact the office.

**Bookings will remain open until 9am on Tuesday 26th of April.**

**Curriculum Day**

A reminder to all families that Monday 2nd of May is a student free day at Ruskin Park. On this day staff will be attending school and completing a workshop on Reading. One of this year’s goals is to implement an engaging, whole school approach to the teaching of Reading. We are fortunate to have secured the services of Lisa Keskinen, a highly regarded educational consultant, who will guide us through the instructional model. OSCH will be running a program on the day for any families needing support with childcare.
Principal's Report continued

Family and Friends Network
A massive thank you to all of the parents who gave up time over the weekend to support our Bunnings sausage sizzle. It was an incredibly successful event with over $2000 being raised to support our school. All funds raised by our Family and Friends network will be spent on items for the school. Further information about this will be provided later in the year.

Student Awards
Acknowledging and celebrating the hard work of our students is important. For this reason, the staff have decided to increase the frequency in which we distribute awards at assembly. Rather than monthly, awards will now be presented fortnightly.

Assistant Principal

The Grade 5 students had a wonderful time at Sovereign Hill. This year the camp was used as an introduction to student learning activities that will be further developed during the term where the students will learn about the Gold Rush and gain an understanding of life on the Victorian Goldfields in the 1850s. In small groups, the students were able to walk around Sovereign Hill and focus on areas of particular interest. On Monday Night after a delicious dinner at Sovereign Hill’s New York Bakery we made our way to Blood on the Sothern Cross, a sound and light show, relaying the important story of the Eureka Stockade.

During the camp students were able to go down into the Red Hill gold mine to discover the hardships the early miners endured in their search for gold. They were able to explore the diggings and pan for gold. The Year 5 students listened carefully to instructions on how to pan for gold and were able to put their new found skills into action with much success.

Students were able to participate in other activities including old fashioned bowling, candle dipping and coach rides. They watched gold being poured and confectionary being made the old fashioned way. They visited a 1850s classroom and learnt to write using the olden day cursive script that was used by school children in the 1850s. Congratulations to all of our students for their excellent manners and willingness to participate in a range of different activities, while learning about life on the goldfields in the 1850s.

Reminders
Interviews - commence Tuesday 26th April
School Photos - Thursday 28th April
Curriculum Day - Monday 2nd May
This term the students are being encouraged to accept responsibility for their learning as they work independently in groups. We have begun guided reading sessions with the focus being on developing reading and comprehension strategies to support students in becoming independent readers. In library lessons this term, we will be focusing on the features of picture story books and the structure of stories, which will enhance student comprehension and ability to retell stories in detail. When reading your child’s library book at home, you can encourage your child to tell you the main events in the story.

In Mathematics we are focusing on subitising (dot patterns) to develop automatic recognition and their understanding that numbers can be formed in different ways. We are also focusing on number lines, numbers before and after, the concepts of more and less, and location.

This term we will be commencing formal ICT and music lessons which are scheduled to begin this week. The children will be developing confidence in mouse skills and how to access and navigate through simple programs. In music, students will be exploring expressive movement, beat and the concepts of fast and slow.

On Tuesday 19th April the sun shone and our Foundation students had a wonderful day at Healesville Sanctuary learning about what Australian animals need to survive. There was much excitement as the students discovered wombats snoozing in their burrows and squeals of delight as we watched an emu scoop water from a local river. One of the highlights of our excursion was visiting the animal hospital where the students were able to dress up as vets and care for sick animals.

We would like to thank Josh’s grandmother Julie who met us at the hospital and showed us the new displays. A big thank you also goes to our parent helpers Kath, Deb, Jeanette, Linda and Leonie who were absolutely fantastic on the day. Finally, we would like to mention how proud we were of the students. Their behaviour was impeccable and they represented our school incredibly well.

We look forward to now exploring our new Inquiry unit about living things and their needs for survival.
Middle School

Homework expectations this term will be similar to last term. Occasionally there will be something related to our units of work and each student will be required to prepare and present a speech to class on specific topics (this will be sent home next week). Otherwise, students should be reading every night for 20 minutes at least and record this in their diary, practise times tables and basic number facts and practise their weekly spelling words nightly.

This term’s Science unit is titled Night and Day and examines Earth’s rotation on its axis, night and day, the positions and rotations of the sun and moon, shadows and light and using the Sun to tell the time.

In History, the Grade 4s will continue to research the arrival of the First Fleet to Australia and the activities that led to this event.

We are greatly looking forward to our Science and History excursion to the Melbourne Museum on the 4th of May.

Junior School

Students in Grades 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed the Creepy Crawly incursion held in the last week of Term 1.

The children were really excited to touch or view a number of creatures including a shark’s tail, shark’s eggs, a baby possum, several giant cockroaches, various stick insects, a bird-eating spider, a blue ringed octopus and some stink beetles. Students became braver as the sessions continued and were fully engaged.

Students compared and discussed the internal and external features of creatures, their habitats and lifecycles.

The presenter was very impressed with the children’s knowledge, attitude and involvement.

Please remember to book your Parent Teacher Interview time on Compass.

Interviews are scheduled for Tuesday 26th April and Wednesday 27th April.
It was a pleasure to welcome the Hon. Tony Smith to Ruskin Park, when he came to speak to our Grade 6 students last Monday morning. He explained his role as Federal Member for Casey and answered questions about his role of Speaker of the House of Representatives. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear about the origins of our Australian Democracy. He is looking forward to returning and speaking to the students once again after we have been on our tour to Canberra in May.

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.
07 Calendar dates....

**APRIL**

- Monday 25ᵗʰ - ANZAC Day (School closed)
- Tuesday 26ᵗʰ to Thursday 28ᵗʰ - Parent / Teacher Interviews
- Wednesday 27ᵗʰ - Grade 3 Wyrena Excursion
- Thursday 28ᵗʰ - School Photos
- Friday 29ᵗʰ - Grade 6 Sport at Montrose

**MAY**

- Sunday 1ˢᵗ - Working Bee at Ruskin Park
- Monday 2ⁿᵈ - Curriculum Day (No students at School)
- Wednesday 4ᵗʰ - Grade 3 & 4 Museum Excursion
- Thursday 5ᵗʰ - Mother’s Day Stall
- Friday 6ᵗʰ - Grade 6 Sport at Ruskin Park
- Tuesday 10ᵗʰ to Thursday 12ᵗʰ - NAPLAN
- Friday 13ᵗʰ - Grade 6 Sport at Rolling Hills
- Wednesday 18ᵗʰ - Education Week open morning and evening (6:30pm)

**MAY**

- Friday 20ᵗʰ - District Cross Country
- Monday 23ʳᵈ to Friday 27ᵗʰ - Grade 6 Camp Grade 1 / 2 Swimming
- Tuesday 31ˢᵗ - New House Athletics date

**June**

- Friday 3ʳᵈ - Grade 1/2 Swimming Grade 6 Sport at Pembroke
- Friday 10ᵗʰ - Grade 1/2 Swimming Grade 6 Sport at Pembroke
- Friday 17ᵗʰ - Grade 1/2 Swimming
- Wednesday 22ⁿᵈ - School Disco
- Friday 24ᵗʰ - Grade 1/2 Swimming Junior Choir performing at Assembly

08 Transition

The grade 6 students visited Yarra Hills Secondary College on Tuesday, where they took part in activities including Science, Art, Foods and Sport. These school visits are extremely helpful in broadening the students’ understanding about ‘life in a Secondary College’.

The Grade 6 students have also received their official application form for their preference of Secondary School in 2017. There are still open nights at some schools so check websites for dates and times if you are still undecided and wish to visit. If your child has been accepted into a non-government school, please return the application form with a note to your teacher naming their new school for our records.

Many thanks and don’t hesitate to ask if you have any questions about the Transition Process.

Jenny Rainbow - Transition Coordinator
Last term was a very busy term in the Japanese classroom. We hosted two students from Reitaku University, Mariko and Yuka, who helped support some special programs such as **Master Class** (for our advanced students) and **Japanese For Parents** classes.

Angelina, who is heading to Fukuoka, Japan in July as a Junior Ambassador featured in the Maroondah Leader newspaper.

_Angelina tops the class and hits Japan_
The “Koinobori” awards were introduced last term for the first time. These Japanese awards are to recognise students who have been participating well during Japanese classes and always try their best. The first recipients of this award were:

- Hoi Kun Chin FB
- Van Len Par 1D
- Maddick 4A
- Mason 6P

This term, the Japanese Film Club will be starting again and we hope to enter another Japanese language film in the Video Matsuri Awards this year.

All students in years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be doing a hiragana writing test this term and should start to practise their hiragana at home. I recommend using a hiragana chart for tracing or a free hiragana app such as Japanese-Hiragana (see icon below). There are also many hiragana games, charts and practice sheets available on the internet.

“Gambate Kudasai” Please try hard!

OSCH News

We would like to thank all the parents, grandparents and school staff who attended our special Easter Breakfast on Thursday 24th March 2016. The children were delighted to share this experience with you and we appreciate your support.

Curriculum Day – Monday 2nd May 2016

We will be running a Curriculum Day Program on this day from 7am to 6.30pm and have planned an excursion to “Clip and Climb” – an indoor rock climbing centre in Richmond. Booking forms will be available from the OSHC program on Monday 18th April.

If you have not used the OSHC program this year and would like your child to attend the Curriculum Day please enrol your child in the OSHC program before Monday 2nd May.

Details of how to enrol online are available on the OSHC page of the Ruskin Park Primary School Website.

If you do not have access to a computer please contact the OSHC program on 0439 345 134 to arrange for a hard copy of our enrolment form.
Homework Club

At Ruskin Park, we are very proud of our homework club, which is held weekly to support students who come from non English speaking families. These students receive additional support to complete their weekly homework tasks and are supported to improve their understanding of the English language. Homework Club is run by a dedicated group of teachers who volunteer their time. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ruskin Park Fete

Fete – Saturday 22nd October 2016

Our next fete meeting is on Wednesday 4th May at 6.30pm in the staff room. Lots of planning is underway and we hope to get as much help and support as possible. If you have a suggestion or great idea, please see one of the fete committee members and let them know.

Family and Friends Network

On Saturday 16th April, we held our major fundraising event at Bunnings Warehouse Croydon. It was a great success and a fantastic fundraiser for our school. Thank you to the families that supported our school. Without your help, this event would not have been possible.

A massive Thank you Kate Kay, Kath Herring, Lorna Morrison, Karen Kimpton, Brenda Daly, Paul Trethowan, Nikki Trethowan, Jeffrey Holdsworth, Claire Chesneau, Nikki Kelly, Rachael Kearney, Wendy Pritchard, Tracey Walne, Lisa Pohl, Melissa Baker, Rodney King, Ajne Graham, Don Allen, Janine White and Melissa Allen who made this event happen!

Fundraising for Ruskin Park Primary School

Once again we are selling the Entertainment Book or Digital Membership for $65. Our school will receive 20% of each membership sold. The Entertainment™ Book, and the brand new Entertainment™ Digital Membership, is your guide to the most popular restaurants, attractions, shopping, travel and more, all with valuable up to 50% off and 2 for 1 offers. You can view the book in the school office and it is on sale now. If you would like any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact Wendy on 0401048490 or ask at the school office.

Easter

At the end of last term we held our annual Easter Raffle. Thank you to all the families who donated a prize and also purchased / sold tickets. Your support helped us raise $1446. An amazing effort! All funds raised by our Family and Friends network will be spent on items for the school. Further information about this will be provided later in the year.
Come along to
Ruskin Park Primary School
and join us for a

Sunday 1st May
From 1pm-4pm

Please bring your gloves, shovel, brooms, post hole diggers, secateurs and pruning saws and help us

- Weed, mulch, and tidy our grounds.
- Prepare the Foundation & 3/4 area for Tree Planting Day.

Birthdays

Emily  Nate  Gloria  Declan
Angeline  Ngun Tha Vang  Jackson  Charlie
Pierson  Charlotte  Hunter  Alexander
Leah  Sarah  Austin  Ngun Cer
Holy  Tyler  Brodie  Jake
Ella  Riley  Brianna
Tristan  Aaron  Yuanna
Dear Parents and Students,

Ruskin Park Primary School PHOTO DAY IS 28/04/2016

School photo order envelopes have been or will be distributed to every student and it is important that the order instructions (below) are followed.

ONLINE ORDERING: Your child’s school photos are now available for secure online purchase, please note if you are ordering online, you do not need to return an envelope to the school.

4 Easy Steps to Online School Photo Ordering:
Step 1: Easy Access Link: Click on this link if you are using a supported device: Click Here
- OR - Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [JKMV78A T81]
Step 2: Enter your student's details
Step 3: Choose the package that best suits your needs (all orders will be returned to the school for collection)
Step 4: Pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page)

Please Note: Late fees will apply once orders are closed (5 days after photo day)

FAMILY / SIBLING PHOTOS: No envelope required if ordering online.

4 Easy Steps to Online School Photo Ordering:
- Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [JKMV78A T81]

- Family/Sibling photo orders online close on 26/04/16
- Orders can be placed by returning an envelope up until photo day with cash or cheque enclosed

Ordering Using an Envelope:
Envelopes will be handed to each child, please see the school office if you have not received one.

Step 1: Student Details: Complete the student details section on the front of the order envelope.
- Please use black or blue pen.
Step 2: Purchase Details: Complete the purchase details on the front of the envelope.
Step 3: Payment Methods: Select your payment method.
- Credit Card = Online Only at www.advancedlife.com.au
- Cash = Please enclose correct money - no change is given under any circumstance.
- Cheque = Make payable to Advanced Life Photography with your name & address on the back of cheque
- Please allow 60 days for your cheque to be finalised - a $25 fee will apply to any dishonored cheque payments

Please feel free to contact us via email or phone should you have any queries in regards to your child's school photo order.

info@advancedlife.com.au or 03 9852 1333

AdvancedLife Team