RUSKIN PARK
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 25

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE
This week’s curriculum day provided a wonderful opportunity for our teachers to work closely with the highly regarded Lisa Keskinen. The focus was on Reading, and specifically how we can continue to support our students to develop their comprehension and thinking skills. It involved discovering new ways of making connections between a text and the author's purpose and meaning. There were also a number of practical activities that teachers can employ in their classroom.

One of the key measures in evaluating the success of such a day is to see how it impacts on practices in the classroom. Throughout the week I have enjoyed visiting each room and seeing first hand these new techniques being combined with the best of our current practices. This is part of an ongoing program with further professional learning for teachers planned later in the year.

Foundation 2017 Information Night
Earlier this week we held a successful evening for prospective 2017 Foundation families. Mrs Beare and Mrs Donaldson spoke about a wide range of topics, including readiness for school, the Foundation program and also the transition process.

An important transition session is the meet and greet on Wednesday 8th of June. At this time our new 2017 Foundation students will have the opportunity to explore activities in the Foundation classroom.

It may seem early in the year but already planning for 2017 has commenced. As such, it is important that we get an understanding of our numbers for the new year. If there is a younger sibling or you know of someone planning to attend Ruskin Park in 2017, could you please arrange for an enrolment form to be completed and sent to the office.
Open Night
Please mark Wednesday 18th May in your diaries. To celebrate Education Week we will be holding an open morning and evening at Ruskin Park. We encourage families to get involved and help celebrate all the wonderful things that happen at our school. The Junior and Senior Choirs will launch the evening session with performances commencing at 6:30pm.

Further details of the day will be sent home shortly. We hope to see you there!

Working Bee
We had a small but committed group of volunteers who braved the chilly weather for last Sunday’s working bee. We were able to complete a number of jobs and help to ensure our grounds remain clean and attractive. A big thank you to those who were able to spare a few hours, I know the weather prevented some families from attending; however there will be further opportunities later in the year. Many hands make light work.

Mother’s Day Stall
A committed group of mums have been busy preparing items for the Mother’s Day stall. Without their efforts we would not be able to run such an event. Many hours have been spent purchasing and preparing items so our students can have the opportunity to shop for that special gift. The stall was held on Thursday morning with many keen shoppers in attendance. We wish all our Mums a happy Mother’s Day.

NAPLAN
On Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th of May students in Years 3 and 5 will sit the NAPLAN tests. These tests will provide us with detailed knowledge about how our students are progressing in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy.

As a school we can use the results to identify strengths and weaknesses in our programs and also to assist in setting student’s future learning goals. Parents will receive a copy of their individual child’s report later in the year.

The best way to help your child to prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and urge them to do the best they can on the day.

Parents of students in Years 3 and 5 received a notice containing further information about NAPLAN earlier this week.

Attitudes to School Survey
The Attitudes to School Survey is an annual student survey for Year 5 to Year 12 students offered by the Department of Education to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students’ perceptions and experience of school.

Students in Years 5 and 6 recently completed this survey. The responses, which are all anonymous, will be collated by the Department with results likely to arrive at the school by the end of July.

Once they are received, we will share the key findings with our school community.
A Day At The Museum

The Grade three and four excursion to the Melbourne Museum was planned to consolidate the recent Science unit of work on Living and Non Living things. At the Melbourne Museum students had the opportunity to visit several exhibition spaces. Students were able to wander through the ‘Dinosaur Walk’ and gain an understanding of the size and power of the animals from long ago. They were also fortunate enough to be able to hold fossils in their hands and were surprised at how heavy the fossils actually were.

‘The Bugs Alive’ exhibition space was exciting and students were able to have a close up look at insects and their habitats. There were also informative and colourful static displays of hundreds of butterflies and insects. The ‘Forest Gallery’ was amazing and some students from 4M were lucky enough to see the Bowerbirds up close.

In addition students visited ‘The Melbourne Story’ exhibition space where they discovered interesting aspects of Melbourne’s history including Phar Lap, the ‘Cob and Co Coach and early Melbourne houses.

Mary Kelly
Thank you to the parents who came along to help out.
Your help was much appreciated.
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our Parent/Teacher interviews last week. The purpose of the interviews was to strengthen the link between school and home by providing you with information about your child’s progress to date, which will enable us to work together to support your child’s development. We hope you found the information shared informative.

In English, our students are now working productively in small groups to develop their use of reading strategies and comprehension skills. They are developing an ability to complete tasks independently and thoroughly enjoy working in teacher directed guided reading groups.

Last week we began our 16 Week Phonological Awareness Intervention Program. Once again students are group based on their specific needs and work in a one to one situation with the teacher to isolate the initial, medial and final sounds in words. They are also given opportunities to segment words and blend sounds together. Our students are thoroughly enjoying our study of Lynley Dodd’s work and are becoming experts at identifying the rhyming language within her books. We are also studying the key features of a recount in writing and our students are attempting to include the key features in their simple recounts.

In Mathematics we have been exploring positional language such as behind, between, beside and under. Our students loved using photographs taken during our recent excursion to Healesville Sanctuary to describe themselves in relation to objects they had seen. We have created a photographic display highlighting positional language in our classrooms. The students are also being given opportunities to give instructions using simple grid maps. In Number, we are reinforcing counting by intervals of 1 to 50, number words to ten and developing the student’s ability to estimate and accurately count collections of objects.

There is also great excitement in the Foundation classrooms now we have begun our new unit ‘Living Things’. Foundation B welcomed a gorgeous rabbit called Bandit to their room on Friday and he will remain with us for the rest of the term. Foundation B students learnt how to set up Bandit’s home and how to care for him by listening to a wonderful presentation conducted by Miss Clarke who is an expert on the topic of rabbits and the proud owner of Bandit. During the remainder of the term the students will be rostered on to monitor the pet’s behaviour and ensure it has sufficient water, food and a clean living area to survive. We hope Bandit doesn’t escape from the loving hands of the students again because to their delight it took us 10 minutes to catch him last Friday.

Alaine Beare & Julie Donaldson
Foundation Teachers
In the Junior School we have been learning about ANZAC Day. It was wonderful for students to learn about the meaning and significance of ANZAC Day—a significant day in Australia’s history. Not merely a day off from school and work or a football match, but a day of commemoration, pride, sorrow and thankfulness. Students respectfully participated in classroom activities and discussions sharing stories they’d heard at home about their families and ancestry.

Our classes have enjoyed leading the National Anthem in Assemblies over the past weeks and we appreciate all the parents who have come to watch their children perform.

On Wednesday the 27th of April the Grade 3 students went to Wyreena to participate in the opening ceremony of the new playground which they helped design. The students had a great time playing on the new playground, listening to the speeches and participating in a story adventure with the Wizard Sim Sala Bim and Zia the Queen of the Elves.
ANZAC SERVICE
I would like to say congratulations to the students of Ruskin Park for showing such respect and interest in our recent ANZAC Ceremony. Our guests from the Croydon RSL and the Hon Tony Smith were delighted with the service, praised our lovely choir and found our students to be suitably engaged throughout. I would like to thank the Grade 6 Student Action Team of Taj, Jake, Deena, Phoebe, Marcus and Abbie, for their assistance in preparing for the service and making our guests welcome.

CANBERRA TOUR
The countdown to our trip to Canberra has begun. With only 3 weeks to go the students in Grade 6 have been learning about Democracy and related topics. Some of the places we will be visiting include Parliament House, The Australian Institute of Sport, Australian War Memorial, Royal Australian Mint, Electoral Education Centre, Questicon and more. Please hand in your Medical Forms as soon as possible and complete all payments before we leave on Monday 23rd.

There are a number of students not attending the 5 day tour. These students are expected to attend classes each day as normal, where they will undergo their class studies with Mr Bell and Mr Coffin.

TRANSITION
A reminder to all grade 6 parents, that the Enrolment to Secondary School form is due back to their class teacher by May 13th.
Jenny Rainbow
Senior School Leader

GRADE 5 SPORT COMPETITION
The Grade 5 Sport Competition began on Friday and we were delighted to see all students participating and learning new skills. Students have been broken up into four teams and will play various sports across the term. This fortnight students will play a modified version of European Handball. The first round of matches of handball, witnessed students quickly learn the skills needed to play the game and saw all teams work together as teams to score points. All students displayed a positive attitude to the first week of the competition and encouraged and supported teammates and opponents.
Ben Coffin
Grade 5 Classroom Teacher and Compass Coordinator
### MAY
- **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)
- **Friday 20th** - District Cross Country

### MAY
- **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 Ruskin**
- **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**

### Reminders
**NAPLAN**
- **Tuesday 10th May**
- **Wednesday 11th May**
- **Thursday 12th May**
Family and Friends Network

ANZAC Day

Thank you for the wonderful spread of food that was supplied for this special occasion. We’d like to say thank you to our bakers; Nicole Brown, Ajne Graham, Linda Gibson, Janine White, Sonja Pawsey, Raham Msahli, Robyn Benson, Leonine Henare, Nikki Trethowan, Sarah Read, Tanya King, Georga Johnston, and Kerry Doevelaar. And thank you Rachael Kearney, Claire Chesneau and Carolyn Young for their assistance on the day.

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, are 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. This membership can be purchased at school or online; https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/189q377 If you would like any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact Wendy on 0401048490 or ask in the school office.

Bayswater Bucks
Bayswater Bucks have been coming in and we have had the pleasure of spending the rewards to benefit our school. We have been lucky enough to purchase an Iron, Ironing board, 2 x portable Bain Maries and a Coffee Machine. All these items will have great value for our school. Thank you to everyone who has handed in coupons or used the new system and swiped your card to build up our points.
Don’t forget to ask for Bayswater Bucks when shopping at The Good Guys Discount Warehouse in Bayswater.

Ruskin Park Fete

Fete – Saturday 22nd October 2016

Our next fete meeting is on Wednesday 1st June 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 or send a message to the office via your child.
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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 2, 2016.

Interested parents should call Swee during office hours on 9818 2333

CreativeMusic
www.creativemusic.com.au