Winter is well and truly upon us. The cold snap that greeted us this week hasn’t curbed the students’ enthusiasm and it has been pleasing to see them settle quickly following the term break. I hope the holidays were enjoyed by all our families and trust they provided some quiet time to relax and re-energise.

The school was a busy place over the holiday period with a number of important jobs being carried out. There appears to be great excitement around our new sand pit play area. Already this term a large number of students have spent time socialising and playing under the tepee, in the sandpit, on the stepping stones or utilising the activity walls. The social interactions and level of engagement are pleasing to see.

I would like to acknowledge one of our parents, Emily Preece, for her support in designing the area. Her skills and creative vision, with the support of our buildings and grounds subcommittee have provided us with a play area the students can enjoy for many years.

In recent months we have been working closely with a qualified arborist to ensure the safety and health of our trees. This was a priority as we had instances where some large branches had fallen. The arborist carefully inspected each tree at the school and provided us with a detailed report. There were trees identified as dangerous with recommendations including pruning of branches and removal of some trees. As safety is a priority, it was decided at school council that the recommended works needed to take place.

We are fortunate to have beautiful leafy grounds and this is something we are keen to protect. The buildings and grounds committee have been busy looking at ways to replace any trees that needed to be removed. The first step is tree planting day, occurring later this month, where over 150 trees will be planted.

If anyone has any questions or would like further details of the arborist report please visit the office.
Transition Family Forum

Our school has combined with other local primary schools to secure the services of Kate Wilde. Kate is a sought after guest speaker who will present to Grade 6 students and their parents on Thursday 21st July. The focus of this presentation is to assist the transition from Primary to Secondary School. The evening will be held at Ruskin Park PS commencing at 6:30pm. Please return the RSVP form by Monday 18th July.

Grade 6 Football Team

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of accompanying our Grade 6 football team to their first Yarra Division final. It was a high standard game with our team coming out in front by a solitary point. Both our team and the students from Birmingham Primary School displayed great determination in a match played in cold and at times wet conditions. At the end both teams shook hands and congratulated each other on their efforts.

I would like to congratulate our team and wish them well as they progress to the next level of competition.

Election Day

I would like to thank all the wonderful parents who assisted at the school on election day. The BBQ was enjoyed by the many visitors to our school. I know it was a busy day for our parent volunteers but your assistance and support is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes for the term ahead.

Andrew Moore
Principal

Foundation News

We are all very excited to be back at school and to welcome Ms Samantha Williams to the Foundation level. We have spent many hours planning a range of new experiences to cater for the needs of our students.

This term the Foundation classes will work together to explore our topic called ‘Designers Galore’, using the inquiry process. During the initial immersion stage the children will explore a range of activities to inspire them to ask questions to find out more about the design process and how and why certain materials are selected. They will also be encouraged to persist and overcome problems during the construction phase.

The key understandings we hope to reinforce are as follows:

- Designers use creative thinking
- There is a design process which includes: formulating ideas, planning, drafting, creating, testing and evaluating to improve their final product
- Materials are selected depending on their suitability

We need guest speakers, can you help?

An integral part of the inquiry process is to pose and ask questions to learn more about a subject. So we are looking to recruit people who have experience in design to talk to the children about the design process. This would involve
a short 10 to 20 minute presentation about how they formulate their ideas and the processes they go through to design a new object.

If you have a hobby or occupation which involves designing objects we would love you to share your knowledge and expertise with the children. You may be a graphic designer or perhaps make clothing, cakes, soft toys, biscuits, patchwork or furniture. If you have a friend or relative who would be willing to come along we would be very grateful. Last year the children loved watching a parent decorating cakes and another mother explained how she created beautiful soft toys. If you can help, please see one of the Foundation teachers.

MATERIALS NEEDED

If you have any of the following items at home we would appreciate it if you could send them to school and we promise they will be put to good use:

- Cylinders
- Aluminum pie holders
- Old CD discs
- Lids that could be used for wheels
- Lace or ribbons or items that could be used to decorate a hat

We look forward to hearing from lots of volunteers.

Junior School News

We hope all our Ruskin Park families had an enjoyable school holiday and are as excited as we are to start Term 3! Last term, we said farewell to Mrs Ami and wished her well at her new school. This term, we welcome Mrs Tozer back into our Grade 1 team. We have been busy planning lots of exciting teaching and learning experiences for Term 3 for Science: Looking at Earth and Space, and History: Our Past, Present and Future. Please have a look at your child’s News Time grid to see how you can support your child’s learning at home. If you have any queries regarding your child’s learning please pop in or make a time with your child’s teacher, we are always happy to chat with you.

Grade 1

Our Term 3 curriculum focus in Reading will look at Sequencing (of events, ideas, timelines, procedures etc.), Rhyming Features (poetry, rhymes, songs, chants etc.) and Comparing and Contrasting (information, facts, observations etc.). In Writing, students will be learning about Procedural texts, Poetry and Free Writing. In Mathematics, students will learn about and explore topics such as Money (recognise, describe and order Australian coins), Time (telling time to half hour), Shape (recognise and classify 2D and 3D shapes and objects using obvious features).

Homework –

Grade 1 students will be expected to read their reader each night, practise spelling and sight words and prepare a News Time Talk once per fortnight. In addition to this, we ask that students complete a ‘What Changed at Night?’ activity sheet to bring to school for class discussions. This will relate to our Science topic Earth and Space – Changes in the sky and landscape.
Grade 2

Our Term 3 curriculum focus in Reading and Writing will look at Narratives and Poetry. We are learning to make predictions when reading and to summarise what we have read. In Mathematics, students will learn about and explore topics such as Fractions and Measurement (Capacity, Volume, Area and Length). Our Science unit, Earth and Space will explore how we use, store and transport water.

Homework –

Grade 2 students will be expected to read their reader each night, practise spelling and prepare a News Time Talk once per fortnight. In addition to this, we ask that students continue to use the Mathletics program at home to support their learning at school.

Middle School

The Middle School teachers hope all of our families had a fantastic holiday. This term Mr Scott will be on long service leave, we would like to welcome Mrs McArdle who will be teaching 3S in Term 3. Term 3 is going to be a very busy term for the Grade 3 and 4 classes.

Swimming will commence on Thursday of week 2 and will continue for 6 sessions. An information sheet and a parent helper form went home this week.

The Grade 3 and 4 Hoop Time will take place on Friday of week 2. We wish all of our teams the best of luck and hope they all enjoy the experience.

Homework and Home Reading will start up again in week 1, with speeches to begin in week 2. It is important for all students to remember to bring their diary to school each day.

In English, Grade 3s are exploring information texts and report writing. The Grade 4s are reading and writing a variety of poems.

In Mathematics, the Grade 3s are learning about fractions and perimeter. The Grade 4s are focussing on place value and capacity/temperature/mass.

This semester the Grade 3s and 4s will be studying Chemical Science. The grade 3s will be exploring a unit called Melting Moments and the Grade 4s will be learning about lots of different materials in a unit called Material World.

The Middle School teachers are looking forward to another wonderful term with our classes.

Senior School

Welcome back to what is yet another busy and productive term.

As we eagerly approach the 2016 Rio Olympics, our Inquiry focus will be World Geography. We will study elements including climate, resources, and physical features.

We are looking forward to our Media Roadshow Incursion which will link technology with our understandings of The Olympics.
ACTION TEAMS

After much hard work and commitment many of our remaining Action Teams will see all of their efforts come to fulfilment as they present their efforts to the school community this term. One of the Arts teams will conduct their Talent Expo whilst another will conduct some dance classes. The Technology team will work with some junior grades on Microsoft applications and our Science team will present some interesting experiments during assembly. We want to congratulate those teams that have already completed their Action Team ideas and wish those completing them this term lots of luck and enjoyment.

SPORT

Congratulations to all the Interschool Sports teams for their positive representation of both themselves and our school. Lots of fun and enjoyment was had by all!

The footballers progressed to the next round this week against Birmingham Primary School and after an exciting finish won by 1 point!!! They will now progress further with a date to be advised.

Many students will be involved in Hooptime this Friday. Yet another opportunity to represent our school! Good Luck to all.

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

Once again we are delighted to host our annual Ashton Scholastic Book Fair from Tuesday 17\textsuperscript{th} August until Tuesday 23\textsuperscript{rd} August. The theme for our book fair this year is ‘AUSTRALIA! STORY COUNTRY’ and it is aimed at encouraging children to read frequently. Research shows us that 91 per cent of children aged 6-17 years agree their favourite books are ones they pick themselves. A Book Fair is the perfect place for autonomous choice- children can discover a love of books and ignite a lifelong passion for reading.

Last year we reached our target of $3500 in sales and this provided our school with funds to purchase reading comprehension boxes for the junior, middle and senior school levels valued at $1500 dollars. We also purchased book collections for the middle school to supplement class reading sets as well as an assortment of poetry, grammar and picture story books for the library.

This year our Book Fair target will be $4000 in sales. We hope you will once again support us and help our school earn bonus points to purchase reading resources.

Alaine Beare

Book Fair Coordinator

News from the Art Room

We are thrilled that a group of Ruskin Park Primary School students are participating in a very special exhibition. This will form part of the Cambodia, Australia & New Zealand Friendship Festival. We are delighted to be working with this group with the shared vision to make a huge
difference to Cambodia through Education (our Exhibition) and exploring opportunities for trade and tourism (the Festival).

The students’ artwork is a gift to the children of Cambodia. All the student artwork will be silently auctioned on Saturday July 23rd at Federation Square. There will also be a LIVE AUCTION of a selection of paintings by the children from ODA and amazing photos from a student saved from the streets of Phnom Penh through FLAME CAMBODIA/Bong Paoun.

The theme of the Exhibition, ‘Our Sunset, My World’, is to inspire our children to appreciate and value the rich diversity of ‘their’ world appreciating how lucky and blessed they are to live in a country like Australia. The exhibition will have the dual purpose of highlighting children’s art while raising awareness and funds for disadvantaged children in Cambodia, providing them with much needed opportunities for education and a future. To read more see the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/haveaheartforcambodia.

The Exhibition will be open from 10.00am on SATURDAY JULY 23, 2016. If you would like to support our school and this event, raising funds for the disadvantaged children of Cambodia, join us at Federation Square.

Family and Friends

We held our school disco on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 in the Gymnasium. What a fantastic night!! We saw lots of groovy moves, laughter and excitement!!

This night was only possible due to the dedicated staff of Ruskin and the Family and Friends network – Thank you!!

The Election BBQ was a huge success. We were unsure of how busy the BBQ would be, but the queue didn’t stop all day, therefore we hit our target and have raised enough funds to purchase our school flags. We would like to say THANK YOU to our volunteers; Sandi Laird, Eugenie Chilvers, Kate Kay, Stuart Mc Kenzie, David Bowyer, Nikki Trethowan, Jeffery Holdsworth, Peter Kilgour, Kath Herring, Wendy Pritchard, Michelle Mitchell, Lisa Dalmau, John Dalmau and Paul Trethowan.

A special mention to Nikki, Lisa, John and Paul as they just dropped what they were doing to help out!!

Fundraising

We are running a Winter pie drive in Term 3 with the help from a locally owned and run business that make great pies (sweet and savoury), quiches and sausages rolls.

There’s nothing like a quick easy meal on a cold Winter’s night! Please share this great fundraiser with your Family, Friends, Neighbours or anyone that might be interested in ordering these great pies.

- Orders are to be in no later than: WEDNESDAY 27th JULY
- Orders are to be collected on: FRIDAY 5th August from 2.30pm- 6.00pm for working families in the front room of the gymnasium.

Order forms went out this week, if you did not receive a form, please see the office staff to collect one.
We have 2 x Entertainment Books left or Digital Memberships for $65. Our school will receive 20% of each membership sold.

Please call or come into the school office if you need more information,


Garden Club

We are appealing to the school community for assistance! Garden Club is extremely fortunate to be able to purchase a new garden shed but are hoping to find a generous, helpful and handy adult to erect it for us.

The shed will provide space for us to safely store our equipment and supplies whilst freeing up space in the main shed for the tools frequently used by the students and creating a more functional space that can be accessed safely by the students, teachers and OSHC.

If you can help, please contact Pauline on marigold3136@gmail.com or leave a message for me in the office.

Thanking you in advance

2016 National Schools Tree Planting Day

Friday 29th July 10:00am-2:30pm

This year is our fourth consecutive Tree Planting Day. With the support from Maroondah Council, Toyota, and our students, teachers, families and friends, we hope to add 170 plants to continue enhancing our environment.

Ruskin Park Primary School Garden Club parents have organised this event. This year Craig from Maroondah Council has once again sourced a range of tube-stock and larger plants for our planting. A total of 170 plants from Crisp and Kuranga nurseries. Toyota has also returned to support us with the provision of stakes and plant guards, AND as an amazing coup, has organised for Sam Bramham, an Australian Paralympic swimmer to pop in to say ‘hello’! Robin from Toyota has organised for a photographer to come and publicise our event, and there is also a possibility of an apiarist coming to have a chat with us too… what a day it’s going to be!

We will be planting native herbaceous plants and grasses, small gum trees and bushy wattles near the Grade 3 & 4 classrooms which will provide food and homes for birds, nectar for bees and protection for small mammals, whilst growing into a beautiful vista for the students and teachers to enjoy and stimulate their senses.

Canopy trees, lower canopy shrubs and ground level grasses will be planted with the Foundation students to replace some of the trees we have unfortunately had to recently remove. This will be providing trees to add to the ‘tree-top highway’ which is important for the tree dwelling animals in our area, as well as food and shelter for many birds, insects, and bees! For us, it will grow into a shady, interesting space to enjoy. Students will be asked to invite their family members to assist on the day and have an amazing time planting a tree with the children.

Thank you to the Baptist Boys Brigade for preparing the areas, and thank you in advance to Rachael Kearney and Ajne Graham for helping plan and organise this fantastic event, I’m looking forward to an exciting day!

Please stay tuned for more information coming home to the relevant classes closer to the date.

Pauline Lane (Garden Club Co-ordinator)
Fete

Saturday 22nd October 2016

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.

LUCKY JARS FETE STALL

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have donated glass jars to support the Foundation students Lucky Jar Stall. We desperately need additional little treasures to the value of $2.00 to be donated such as bags of lollies, pencils, new hair ties, ribbons, McDonalds toys, lollies, rubbers, little figurines or toys. When preparing for our last fete lots of families cleaned out their children’s toy boxes and discovered figurines and items that were ideal and colourful which created lots of interest in our stall.

During our design unit in the next few weeks, the Foundation students will be busy decorating the lucky jars with colourful lids and ribbons. We would love to collect another 80 jars to fill our stall. If you can help, simply drop off your donations at the office or you can send them directly to the Foundation classrooms. Your support is very much appreciated.

Alaine Beare & Samantha Williams- The Foundation Team

Please spread the word that Garden Club is running the plant stall once again at the School fete, and we would love donations of plants or unused garden bits and bobs that we can re-sell. It’s not too late to plant hardwood cuttings, and if you are separating clumps of grasses, bulbs, or tubers, please put some aside for us! 😊

Please leave them near the office and we will take them to the Garden Club shed.

Thank you- The Garden Club Crew.

Birthdays

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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