Principal’s Report

Dear Parents,

Our strong curriculum focus has continued this fortnight with Lisa Keskinen returning to Ruskin Park and working closely with teachers and students. Lisa conducted demonstration lessons for teachers and ran a series of professional learning sessions. This work has proven to be powerful and led to some wonderful things happening in classrooms. I encourage you to discuss with your child the different reading and writing activities they have been completing at school.

Prep Transition

We enjoyed having our 2017 Foundation students at the school for their Story Time transition session. There was great excitement in the classroom as the children became familiar with their new environment and started the process of making some new friends. The Foundation teachers were pleased with how well the students settled and are looking forward to future sessions.

We have already had a large number of enrolment forms submitted at the school. If you still need to submit an application for Foundation in 2017 could we please ask you to contact the office.

Parent Opinion Survey

Each year the Education Department conducts an opinion survey of a percentage of the school’s community. Parents are randomly selected to participate and we use the information to inform and direct our future school planning and improvement. This year we are sending out over 50 parent opinion forms. If you receive one of these forms, please complete the survey and return it to the school as soon as possible in the envelope provided. Your information is completely anonymous. The sealed envelopes go directly to the Education Department, who open and collate the forms.

Upcoming Dates

<table>
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<th>August</th>
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<td>Tues 2\textsuperscript{nd}</td>
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<td>Tues 16\textsuperscript{th}</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 17\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Fair begins</td>
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<td>Wed 17\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Fete Committee Meeting- 6:30pm</td>
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<td>Thurs 18\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Fete Committee Meeting- 6:30pm</td>
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<td>Fri 19\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Media Roadshow</td>
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<td>Grade 5/6 Media Roadshow</td>
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<td>2017 Foundation Transition Session-9:15am</td>
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| September       |       |
|-----------------|       |
| Mon 5\textsuperscript{th} | Book Week commences |
| Tues 6\textsuperscript{th} | Book Week Dress Up Day |
| Fri 9\textsuperscript{th} | Fete Committee Meeting- 6:30pm |
| Tues 13\textsuperscript{th} | Grade 5 Norwood Excursion |
| Fri 16\textsuperscript{th} | Parent / Teacher Interviews |
| Fri 16\textsuperscript{th} | End of Term 3- 2:30pm dismissal |

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A second survey, conducted by National School Surveys will be open to all families. You will receive an email link during August inviting you to complete the online questionnaire. This is also anonymous with results collated and analysed, then presented to the school.

We will share the results of these surveys with school council and the wider community later in the year.

Tree Planting

A big thank you to Pauline, Ajne and Rachael for all their work in preparing and leading Tree Planting Day. There were also a large number of parents and staff who assisted on the day and we thank them for their support. It was a wonderful event which saw students and special guests planting trees to enhance our school grounds.

Paralympic swimmer, Sam Bramham also attended and spoke with students about his journey and life as an athlete. We were fortunate to have the support of Yarra Valley Toyota, CRISP Nursery, and Maroondah Council who sponsored the day.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to what was a great day.

Sporting News

Ruskin Park has been involved in a number of sporting events over the past fortnight. Our Grade 3 and 4 Hoop Time teams showed great spirit and determination at last week’s competition. They played a series of matches at Kilsyth Sports Centre, developing their skills and teamwork. Thank you to the coaches and scorers who supported the students on the day.

Our Senior Football team have completed a successful season, winning the Montrose District Premiership. These students now progress to the Eastern Metropolitan Region finals, to be held next Tuesday. We congratulate them on their achievement and wish them well at the next level of competition.

Public Speaking

I had the privilege of attending the Grade 5 and 6 Public Speaking final last week. It was the culmination of several weeks’ work, that required students to create, rehearse and then present their own speech. The quality of presentations was particularly high, with speeches delivered in a clear, articulate and engaging manner. I congratulate all students for their effort and positive attitude. Aliyah and Hannah were nominated as the Ruskin Park representatives for next week’s interschool competition. We wish them well.

Winter Bugs

We have noticed an increased number of illnesses reported this week. The teachers will be reminding students to wash hands regularly, particularly before eating. Soap will be available in all classrooms in an attempt to highlight the importance of hygiene. If your child is feeling unwell, please do not send them to school.

If a child contracts Gastroenteritis they should not return to school until there have been no episodes of vomiting or diarrhoea for a minimum of 24 hours.
Family and Friends

I would like to acknowledge our Family and Friends Network for their continued hard work and support. The Pie Drive has proven successful and a team of bakers and hosts helped to make this week’s transition session morning tea a success. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Foundation News

Our students are enjoying our inquiry topic: Designers Galore. They are now actively involved in a range of design challenges which include designing a playground, a boat that will hold 10 paperclips, and a high chair for a teddy bear. These tasks are providing the students with an insight into the design process and they are being encouraged to persist and consider different options when they encounter problems during the construction phase. In coming weeks the end products will be on display in block 2 for you to view.

As you can imagine, we need lots of construction materials such as cardboard boxes. Our stocks are depleting quickly because we have 42 students using them. 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/ empty packaging such as cereal boxes
- Aluminium 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

Could you share your expertise?

We need parents to explain the design process they use to our students. All you need to do is explain how you come up with ideas and the process you go through to create something new. You would only need to do a brief talk but our students would gain so much from the experience. You may design gardens, make soft toys or clothing or create patchwork designs. If you have a friend or relative who would be willing to come along we would be very grateful. If you can help, please contact the Foundation teachers.

In Mathematics we are learning about time and our students have all made an analogue clock. They have played games such as ‘What’s the Time Mr Wolf?’ and are gaining confidence in reading and recording o’clock times on both analogue and digital clocks. Students at this level often find it difficult to connect certain times of the day to activities they are doing. For example at 7am you would be waking up and eating breakfast. While at 4pm they might be at home relaxing after school or riding a bike. You can help your child by drawing their attention to the time during the day and relating it to the activity they are doing. For example, at 7pm you are going to bed or it’s 12 o’clock and it’s time for lunch.
**Junior School News**

Grade One have been continuing their Science work on changes in sky and landscape. This week we’ve been looking at the changes in the clouds, describing them and naming them. We’ve also talked about what imaginary pictures we can sometimes see in the clouds and have made cotton wool pictures to represent them. They will be displayed soon...come and have a look!

Grade Two have been investigating water for Science, including learning about the water cycle. We have especially enjoyed learning the ‘Water Cycle Song’ by Have Fun Teaching and have almost memorised all the lyrics! We are experimenting with our new exciting vocabulary when discussing the weather.

We have been busy investigating how long water takes to evaporate and how different surfaces react to water.

**Middle School**

On Friday 22nd of July, 58 students participated in Hoop Time held at the Kilsyth Basketball Stadium. Six different schools participated in this event. Ruskin Park entered eight teams – 3 All Star teams, 1 Future Stars team and 4 Rookie teams.

Each of our teams played up to six games. The All Stars girls and boys teams made it to Grand Finals! While some of the students in the Rookie teams had never played a game of basketball before, all students put in their best effort and we could see their basketball skills develop over the day.

All of our students showed great sportsmanship and respect towards the other teams, referees, parent helpers and teachers. The teachers were proud of how all students conducted themselves on the day.

The 3/4 teachers would like to thank Mr McDonald and all of the parent helpers for their assistance.
Senior School

Interschool Sport

Congratulations to our Footy Team who won their football game once again last week. The boys showed excellent sportsmanship and great skill and will now compete in a Round Robin competition on Tuesday 2nd August.

Secondary Transition

Over the next week or so we will be receiving official notifications from the Secondary Colleges about schools that the students have been accepted into for 2017. You will be notified of your student place via a letter. Please remember that if you are not content with the school allocated, an appeal can be made. Please speak to your teachers if you are unsure about any steps you need to take.

Information Night

A big thank you to all of the parents and students who attended our Transition Information Night with Kate Wilde last Thursday. Kate did not disappoint and delivered her information to the audience with honesty and humour. The atmosphere in the room was vibrant with parents and their children working together in teams to solve social issues that they may face in Secondary School.

Media Roadshow Incursion

We are looking forward to our Media Roadshow Incursion taking place on the mornings of the 15th and 16th August. The children will be involved in film making, green screening, radio presentations and animations. This incursion supports our ICT program and ties in with the Olympic theme. Just a reminder to return your permission form and payment.

Our study of Geography in the Senior School continues to raise many questions and this is a perfect opportunity for you to discuss the world around us with your child.

The Book Fair is coming!

Once again we are delighted to host our annual Ashton Scholastic Book Fair from Wednesday 17th August until Tuesday 23rd 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
Book Week Is Coming!

Once again we will be celebrating National Children’s Book Week at Ruskin Park from the 22nd - 26th August. The theme this year is Australia: Story Country. This theme is based on the theory to know about a nation you need to listen to its people’s stories. Over the next few weeks our students will explore the shortlisted books for the Book of the Year awards.

KEY EVENTS

**Wednesday 17th August- Meredith Badger Presentation**

Students in grades 3 to 6 will have an opportunity to enjoy an informative presentation by Meredith Badger who is an accomplished writer for children and a highly sought after guest speaker.

**Monday 22nd August – Whole School Picnic Lunch**

Students are being encouraged to bring along their favourite book to share with a friend while they enjoy a picnic lunch between 1:15-1:40pm in our beautiful school gardens.

**Tuesday 23rd August - Whole School Book Parade 9:00 am**

We are encouraging all of our students to dress up as their favourite book character. Our teachers, office staff and teacher aides are joining in on the fun too and they are all very busy creating their costumes for this fun filled event.

Please encourage your child to dress up as a book character so they can participate in the parade of characters which will be conducted in the hall at 9:00am. Parents are invited to attend and join in the fun.

**Thursday 25th August- Lee Fox**

We are delighted to have Lee Fox, an accomplished writer conduct two workshops for our junior school students.

**Family and Friends Network**

**Foundation Transition**

On Wednesday the Foundation teachers welcomed our new 2017 Foundation students. While the children were engaged in Story Time, the Family and Friends Network welcomed the parents into our school community.

It was lovely to have baked goods to offer them for morning tea. We would like to say thank you to our wonderful volunteers, Tanya King, Marnie Skinner, Wendy Pritchard, Linda Gibson, Lisa Dalmau and Nikki Trethowan. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

The next Foundation Transition is on **Friday 19th August 2016**. If you would like to host or can help bake, please contact the school office.

**Fundraising**

Thank you to everyone that placed an order for our Winter Pie drive. The delicious pies (sweet and savoury) are to be collected on:

**FRIDAY 5th August from 2.30pm- 6.00pm** in the front room of the gymnasium.
We still 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, https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/189q377

Fete Updates

LOB A CHOCOLATE - FETE STALL

As you know, plans are well underway for our school fete which will be held in October. The students in Grade 3S are very excited about taking responsibility for the ‘Lob A Chocolate’ stall which is always extremely popular with everyone. Participants have an opportunity to test their throwing skills as they try to land a 50c coin on their favourite block of chocolate. If the coin lands successfully on a block of chocolate they win it and if not they are encouraged to have another go. It is fascinating and lots of fun watching the concentration and special techniques used to win a chocolate block so remember to visit this stall.

Can you help us?

In order for our stall to be successful we need everyone to donate a family sized block of chocolate. The more chocolate blocks we have the more money we can raise for our wonderful school. Be sure to watch out for specials at the supermarket in coming weeks.

Please send your donations directly to Grade 3S or the office. Your support is very much appreciated.

FOUNDATION LUCKY JARS FETE STALL

We would like to thank everyone for donating over 125 jars for our stall. The Foundation students are very excited about the prospect of decorating them and they will be very busy in the coming weeks. Hopefully with lots of tender loving care our Lucky Jars will be as popular as ever and we will sell them all.

Can you help us with items to fill the Lucky Jars?

Although we have lots of jars only 9 of them have been filled and we do not have items to fill the remaining 96 jars. We are asking everyone to donate little things to the value of $ 2.00 such as bags of lollies, pencils, new hair ties, little figurines, cars or toys and collectables from McDonalds and we will use them to fill the remaining jars.

Please look through your children’s toy collections and if you find any small toys they are no longer using send them along to school. Remember the more jars we fill and sell the more money we can raise for our school.

Please send your donations directly to the Foundation rooms or leave them at the office. Your support is very much appreciated.

Senior School

Many wonderful ‘treasures’ have been rolling in for the Grade 6 Second Hand Fete Stall. Thanks so much for sending them along. We have plenty of storage room to accept all donations - which we will welcome with open arms.
The Grade 5s are continuing to accept all contributions of lollies and novelty items for their stall and these can also be brought to school as soon as possible.

**Birthdays**

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<td>William</td>
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<td>Brodie</td>
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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
NORWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE PRESENTS

The Addams Family
A New Musical

AUGUST 25-27TH

BOOK BY MARSHALL BRICKMAN AND RICK ELISE
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ANDREW LIPPA
BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY CHARLES ADDAMS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGINAL THEATRICAL
ON BEHALF OF THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, NEW YORK
WWW.ORIGINALTHEATRICAL.COM.AU

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