Principal’s Report

The past week has seen many students and classes captivated by the Rio Olympic Games. This event has provided a wonderful opportunity for students to discover various cultures and sports played throughout the world. They have heard stories of persistence and discovered how athletes have attained their goals through commitment and hard work. Sportsmanship has also been promoted widely.

To celebrate the 2016 Rio Olympics we will be holding our own Ruskin Park Mini Olympics. On Friday 19th August, commencing at 11:40am, students will participate in a rotation of ‘modified’ Olympic events. Students will be placed in cross aged groups, fostering positive relationships across year levels. On the day, we ask that students wear their house colours. We expect the events to conclude at approximately 1:15pm.

Parents are welcome to attend and cheer on the students.

Playground Station

This week saw the introduction of our new Friendship Station. Led by the Year 5 students, it is a place in the school that students from any year level can visit during lunch play to participate in organised games and activities. The Year 5 students will have a variety of sport equipment available and will be wearing bright orange vests. The Friendship Station may benefit a child who is feeling lonely or looking for ways to develop some new friendships. The Year 5 students will also be able to provide assistance in setting up games they can then play on their own. I think this is a wonderful initiative that will help to make our playgrounds even more welcoming than they already are. I thank all the students for their willingness to be involved.

Staffing update

This week we welcomed Mrs Kelly Stephens to Ruskin Park. Mrs Stephens will be working in the art room with our Grade 3 to 6 students. I would like to thank Mrs Lana Graham who supported us during this transition. Mrs Graham will continue to be a regular at the school as a casual relief teacher.

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<th>Upcoming Dates</th>
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Parent / Teacher Interviews

This week you would have received information regarding the upcoming Parent / Teacher Interviews. These will be held on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of August. Bookings can be made online using Compass. Please refer to the information sheet sent home this week for further details.

Public Speaking Competition

Last week I was fortunate to be in the audience as Aliyah and Hannah (Grade 6) participated in Rotary’s Public Speaking Competition. Both girls performed exceptionally well. They were articulate and spoke with confidence and expression. It was a most entertaining evening. Representatives from a number of Primary Schools participated. As the standard was so high, judging would have been particularly difficult. Congratulations to Aliyah who finished in second place. Both girls should be proud of their efforts.

Football

Last week saw the conclusion of a successful season for our senior football team. After winning the district and division competitions the boys progressed to the Eastern Metropolitan finals. It was a full day event with all games played to a high standard with excellent sportsmanship. To reach this level of competition is an outstanding achievement. We congratulate all members of the team.

Angelina’s Japan Trip

At last week’s assembly Angelina (Grade 6) shared with the school her experiences in Japan. Angelina was successful in obtaining a place at the Asia Pacific Children’s Conference. In the lead up to the event Angelina had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Maroondah, Cr Natalie Thomas, and appeared in the Leader newspaper.

While in Japan she had the opportunity to attend schools, meet peers from around the world and be immersed in Japanese culture. A generous homestay family supported her during the trip and we are sure this relationship will be one that lasts for many years.

Curriculum Day

A reminder that Monday 5th of September is a curriculum day at Ruskin Park Primary School. Students are not required to attend school on this day. OSHC will be running a program for families requiring support with supervision.

Assistant Principal’s Report

Our Grade 6 Dolphin Ambassador team; Izzie, Aaron, Angelina and Mel visited the Banyan Reserve wetlands in Carrum Downs to understand that litter dropped can eventually find its way into creeks and waterways and ultimately end up in the bay. Together with many students from other schools they were able to see tonnes of pollution emptied from a Carrum Downs pollution trap which captured the stormwater and pollution washed from the streets. They were able to see how water is tested and then were able to further explore the wetlands. They later visited Frankston
and walked along the lower part of Kananook Creek to gain an understanding of how wetlands and creeks drain into the bay.

Our Ambassadors will share what they have learned with other students so that we can all try to be more careful about how we dispose of litter.

Foundation News

It is hard to believe we are at week 5 already, the old saying time flies when you are having fun is certainly true! Despite the cool weather conditions recently our Foundation students thoroughly enjoyed participating in the annual Tree Planting Day Program. We were delighted to have so many parents join us on the day. There were smiles all around as the parents began digging a large area to a chorus of 43 students chanting, ‘Dig, dig, dig!’ After much strain and effort we all embarked upon the important task of planting and mulching the area. The importance of plants in our environment was stressed and we are sure our Foundation students will nurture and watch their plants mature over the coming years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pauline Lane and her band of Gardening Club helpers for the time and effort they put into the day.

In reading lessons we are focusing upon the comprehension skills of prediction and visualisation. Our students are being provided with an opportunity to imagine and create mental images based on a passage they have read before they are exposed to picture story books and the results are amazing. They are also taking responsibility for setting up the classroom libraries, sharing books they love and creating collections that inspire them to read for pleasure.

In Mathematics we are reinforcing numbers to 20 and the concept of addition. Students have been busy creating their own number stories
representing them in both numerical and pictorial form. We are also exploring the concepts of length and money.

Thank you to everyone who is keeping us stocked up with boxes. They will be used to create a mini shop in each room which will enable our students to role play being a shop keeper. This simple activity will reinforce the importance of money and recognition of notes and coins. The Foundation students are thoroughly focused as they explore the concept of length and they are using informal units to measure and compare the length of objects.

Our students have just completed their first design challenge! They created either a high chair with safety features for a teddy or a playground they would love to play in. Our next task is to reflect upon our finished product and to suggest ways to improve our design. Their second challenge will be to design a hat of their choice for a fashion parade. If you have any spare ribbon, flowers or decorations to inspire our little designers please send them to the Foundation classrooms.

Middle School

3/4 News – National Tree Planting Day

On Friday the 29\textsuperscript{th} of July, the Grade 3 and 4 students participated in National Tree Planting Day. Garden Club volunteers organised native trees and a variety of grasses for the students to plant.

Sam Bramham, a three-time gold medal Paralympic swimmer came to talk to the Grade 3 students. His speech was inspiring and the students had a chance to ask him some questions.

All of the students learnt how to dig and plant a tree correctly. Students used tools such as: spade, forks, shovels and wheelbarrows. Our new trees can be seen at the front of the school outside Mr Alexander’s classroom.

On behalf of all the Grade 3/4 students and teachers we would like to say a big thank you to Pauline, Ajne and Rachel for organising and helping us all on the day. We would also like to thank all of our parents and friends who came down to help.
The Wizard of Oz Musical.

Melba Secondary College has invited 12 Ruskin Park Primary School students to be part of the cast of their musical production of The Wizard of Oz on Tuesday 30th August. These students will be from Grade 4 and Grade 5. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and Melba Secondary College students to collaborate in the Performing Arts.

Melba Secondary College welcomes all of the families at Ruskin Park to come and enjoy the musical (on any of the nights that it is running) and tickets can be purchased through www.trybooking.com – click buy tickets and search for Melba College ‘The Wizard of Oz’. Tickets cost $23 (adult) and $15 (concession). The musical will be performed at the Melba College Theatre at Brentnall Road, Croydon (the senior campus off Maroondah Highway).

We’re off to see the Wizard.....

Senior School

Transition

Students in Grade 6 were notified on Wednesday the 10th August of the school they have been accepted into for 2017. Secondary Schools host an Orientation Day for Year 6 Students on Tuesday 6th December.

Also, as part of transition the Grade 5 students will be enjoying a day at Mooroolbark College as part of their annual Red Earth All Rounders Day, where they have the opportunity to meet other local Grade 5 students and to spend a day in a Secondary School environment.

A similar day is planned at Yarra Hills Secondary College later this term. All students are encouraged to participate in these transition days regardless of what school they plan to attend in 2018.

Grade 5 will be attending the Norwood Secondary College Production on Wednesday 24th August.

Croydon Rotary Speech Competition

Last week two of our Grade 6 students represented Ruskin Park in the Annual Croydon Rotary Speech competition hosted by Melba College. Aliyah entertained us with her speech: “I Found a Frog in my Garden”, whilst Hannah had us thinking about the unsung heroes in her speech: “Someone I Admire”. There were 10 students in the competition and both girls did an outstanding performance. Big congratulations to Aliyah who was awarded 2nd place on the evening.

Media Studies Roadshow

This week students are busy preparing scripts and animations in preparation for next Monday and Tuesday’s incursion. Children will participate in a green screen TV show, a radio play and create an animation activity about the Rio Olympics.
Book Week Is Coming!

Once again we will be celebrating National Children’s Book Week at Ruskin Park from the 22\textsuperscript{nd} - 26\textsuperscript{Th} 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 17\textsuperscript{th} August - Meredith Badger Presentation**

We are delighted Meredith Badger, a well-known author and illustrator has agreed to join us to speak about her experiences as an author. She first published an article in a DOLLY magazine at the age of 15. Today Meredith is the modest author of over 375,000 books sold across Australia and New Zealand.

She is one of the main contributing authors of the phenomenal Go Girl Titles, a series which has now sold over 1.6 million copies since 2005.

Meredith’s other credits include writing and illustrating a picture book Cinderella, with an Australian twist and the very cute Fairy School Drop-Out Trilogy. She has also written under the Zac Power author pseudonym H. I. Larry.

Our students in Grades 3 to 6 will have an opportunity to enjoy an informative presentation by Meredith Badger and we hope will be inspired to use their imaginations to write their own stories.

**Monday 22\textsuperscript{nd} August – Whole School Picnic Lunch**

Students will enjoy a wonderful picnic lunch in our school gardens with their peers. We are encouraging students to bring along their favourite book to share with a friend while they enjoy a picnic lunch between 1:15- 1:40pm.
Tuesday 23rd August Whole School Book Parade 9:00 am

We are encouraging everyone at Ruskin Park Primary School 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 their favourite book character so they can participate in this much loved event. The parade of characters which will be conducted in the hall at 9:00am and parents are invited to attend too.

Thursday 25th August - Lee Fox

We are delighted to have Lee Fox an accomplished writer conduct two workshops for our junior school students. Lee Fox writes hilarious stories in rollicking rhyme about things children do not like doing. She cleverly disguises literacy concepts in her stories that young readers don’t even know they are learning.

Lee has had a variety of life experiences from raising 5 children to working as a production assistant in a radio station. She returned to studies as a mature aged student and works part time as a library officer. A highlight of her career was being shortlisted and long listed for the CBCA and a Speech Pathology Book of the Year award. But her passion is to meet and work with students who love her stories.

Mrs Alaine Beare
English Coordinator
The Book Fair is coming!

ASHTON SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our annual Book Fair will operate from the 17th – 23rd August in the school library from 3:30 to 4:30pm. This week a leaflet advertising the event will be sent home on Thursday, highlighting some of the books that will be available.

Our students are currently busy creating items for our Australian themed Book Fair so please pop in and have a look at the wonderful range of books on offer. Remember funds raised from the Book Fair will be used to purchase additional books for our school library so we hope you will support this special event.

Student Experiences

We are the bridge

I attended the 28th Asian Pacific Children’s Convention in Fukuoka Japan. There were 50+ countries that attended and there were 4-6 children from each country. The Convention was called ‘We are the Bridge’. The aim was for children from around the globe to get a chance to meet and learn about each other’s countries and culture.

For the first 6 days of my trip we stayed at a camp. All of the countries were there. I made friends with girls from Atlanta, Vanuatu, Tahiti, Philippines, France and India. We did lots of activities at the camp such as dressing up in kimonos and playing sport.

At the camp we had really good Japanese food. They served us rice with most meals and some sort of soup. Our food was served by lots of lovely volunteers.

During our stay at the camp we went to a Summer Festival. We travelled there by bus. At the festival there was great entertainment. We lit our own Sky Lanterns and there was fireworks.

On the Friday I met my host family, their names were Jun, Kayoko and Karina. They were really nice, friendly and took great care of me. A cool thing about them was they had a pet ferret.

I went to school in Japan for 2 days. At school I did Japanese calligraphy and morning assembly. I introduced myself in
front of all the kids in Japanese. In Japan they do not have to wear a school uniform like we do in Australia.

My host family took me to lots of places. Did you know that Fukuoka is home to the world’s largest Buddha, it is 41 meters long and weighs over 300 tonnes. My host family also took me to ninja world, we did a whole bunch of ninja activities and there was a ninja show. My host family took me shopping, we went to the Disney store and Diaso.

During the week my host family took me to do something a little bit different. They took me to make sample food. In Japan they have plastic food in front of their shops to show you what they are selling. I was lucky enough to make my own.

On the performance day I got dressed in my netball outfit and headed to the town park. All of the countries preformed a dance. Australia did ours on the song called ‘Happy’. We were wearing sports uniforms.

On the last day we had to go to the airport to say good bye to our host families and get on a plane to come home. It was such an amazing experience and I feel so fortunate to have been chosen to represent Australia as an Ambassador.

Angelina Graham

New Japanese Assistant

I am pleased to introduce our new Japanese assistant, Ms. Haruna Yamaguchi, who will be helping with our Japanese program for the next 4 weeks. I’m sure the students will enjoy having her in their Japanese classes and benefit from her language and cultural expertise. Please say “Konnichiwa” to Haruna when you see her and make her feel welcome at Ruskin Park Primary.

Thank you to the Quan family and the Daly family who have kindly offered to be host families to Haruna during her stay.

Please let me know if your family would be willing to host any future Japanese visitors and I will add your family to the host family list.

Greg Brown
Japanese Teacher
OSHC NEWS

During the past few weeks we have been very fortunate to have had one of our parents, Tylie Allen share her sewing expertise with the children. Tylie has visited Before School Care on Monday mornings to assist the children with their chosen sewing projects. The children have learnt how to use a sewing machine to make mini quilts, cushions, pyjamas and teddies. We would like to thank Tylie for her wonderful contribution to the OSHC program and for her generosity in donating many pieces of material for the children to use.

Curriculum Day – Monday 5th September

We will be running a Curriculum Day Program from 7am to 6.30pm on this day and have planned an excursion to the National Sports Museum. Booking forms will be available from the OSHC program on Monday 22nd August 2016.

If you have not used the OSHC program this year and would like your child to attend the Curriculum Day you will need to enrol your child in the OSHC program before Monday 5th September. 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.

OSHC Educator Team

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.
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

FOUNDATION LUCKY JARS FETE STALL

Can you help us fill our Lucky Jars?

Although we have over 150 jars only 20 of them have been filled with colourful items to attract buyers. We would really appreciate donations of little things to the value of $2.00 such as bags of lollies, pencils, new hair ties, little figurines, marbles and tiny dolls or cars.

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

Aili Jackson Saphire Abbi
Taniesha Sam Hamish Cooper
Chloe

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Melba College and Ruskin Park Primary School proudly presents

**The Wizard of Oz**

**Tuesday 30th August 2016 at 7.30pm**
Adults - $23.00/Concession - $15.00
Melba College Theatre
Brentnall Road, Croydon

Or Pam Peters on 9870 4551