NAPLAN

Students in Years 3 and 5 have now received their individual NAPLAN results. As a school, these assessments provide us with a wealth of information that we will analyse over the coming weeks and months. It will allow in depth review of current programs and guide future planning.

We are incredibly pleased with how our Ruskin Park students performed. One key element that schools analyse is student growth. When compared to Victorian means, our students have recorded above expected levels of high growth in nearly all areas. It’s exciting for the school and reward for the hard work put in by staff and students, supported by a strong parent community. It provides us with an excellent foundation on which to build in future years.

Book Week

Book Week is always a highlight on the Ruskin Park calendar. We were thrilled to have Meredith Badger and Lee Fox attend the school to address our students. These talented authors shared their journey and discussed the process involved in publishing a book. Both sessions were highly engaging and I am sure they inspired our young Ruskin Park writers.

On Monday we held a picnic lunch that provided all students in the school the opportunity to come together and read a favourite book. It was pleasing to see the students sharing their books and participating in some very interesting conversations.

On Tuesday students came to school dressed as their favourite book character. It was obvious that great thought and preparation had gone
into so many of the costumes (staff included). There were excited faces throughout the gym as classes participated in the parade.

In addition to all of these events, our library was transformed into a giant book shop. The Scholastic Book Fair ran for a week and saw many families visit and search for that special book. This is a wonderful way to promote reading across the school.

It is important to acknowledge the teachers and parents who worked together to provide our students with these excellent opportunities. Ajne Graham was instrumental in the planning and running of the Book Fair. Combined with the work she puts into our Book Club, Ajne has been responsible for many books entering our students’ homes. Thank you also to Melissa Allen, Tracey Walne and Lisa Dalmau who provided great assistance at the Fair. Again this year, Lisa Dalmau played a key role in securing our guest speakers. These presentations always add an extra dimension to Book Week.

The English committee, led by Mrs Beare have also been pivotal in this week’s activities and in further raising the profile of reading at Ruskin Park Primary School.

ES Month

In August, schools celebrate the contribution of our Education Support staff. We are incredibly fortunate to have a strong ES team that promotes student learning across the school. If you see Mrs Beach, Mrs Cant, Mrs Carroll, Mrs Charles, Mrs Horner, Mr Saddler, Mrs D’Arcy, Ms Brown, Mrs Porteous or Mrs Rimmer, I would encourage you to acknowledge the excellent work they do in classrooms and the office.

Curriculum Day

A reminder to families that Monday 5th of September is a student free day. An OSHC program will be running for any families requiring assistance with supervision. Details of the OSHC program, including cost, have been sent home to families and are available in the OSHC room. Please note that places are limited.

Footy Day

Footy Day will be held on Tuesday 6th of September. On this day students are encouraged to wear the colours of their favourite football team. It can be any code, not just AFL. Please remember to return your footy day lunch order form. A vegetarian option is available; just make a note requesting a vegetarian pie when completing the order form.

Preparing the Footy Day lunch is an enormous task. I would like to thank the Family and Friends Network in advance for their contribution to what promises to be a fun day.

Andrew Moore
Principal
Foundation News

Our students have enjoyed participating in the many activities related to Book Week and they thoroughly enjoyed dressing up for our book parade on Tuesday. They have also had an opportunity to attend their first Book Fair where they excitedly created a wish list containing their favourite books. Another highlight was their buddy session last Friday when over 80 students were fully focussed on producing their favourite book character using collage materials.

Everyone was very excited about meeting Lee Fox, the author of ‘Ella Kazoo Will Not Brush Her Hair’. Our students have loved the rhyming language used in the story and the repetitive nature of the text which they have explored in reading groups.

Our Foundation students love reading and this was evident when they were focussed and engaged in the reading process during our ‘Share a Book Picnic on Monday. They thoroughly enjoyed reading with their Grade 6 buddies and this is evident in the photographs shown.

Over the past fortnight our students have had an opportunity to go shopping at the canteen which reinforced the value of money. Our students were shocked to discover they could only buy one marshmallow for 10c and that there was nothing for sale to the value of 5c. They were very surprised to learn that even though a $2.00 coin is smaller than a $1.00 coin you can buy a great deal more with it. In fact you could buy a bag of popcorn and a hot chocolate which included a marshmallow. After much discussion our students are hoping the tooth fairy will leave them either a $1 or $2 coin next time she visits. This week we will be setting up a shop so the children can learn to add the value of coins to make their purchases.

This week we have introduced the concept of subtraction and we are using concrete materials to model the process and reinforce the language related to this operation. We are also introducing 3D objects and their properties and our students are busy sorting and grouping them according to their features.
Junior School

Grade 1 students have been reading, discovering and enjoying the books written by Colin McNaughton. We are enjoying exploring different forms of poetry and are very proud of our writing about clouds displayed in the office and junior school building. We are learning the sounds od, ip, it, um, un, up and learning to identify beginning and ending sounds.

In Maths we are learning about money, including discovering Australian currency and its value. Students are totalling different coins and using a variety of coins to create a common value.

We are also learning to read the time on analogue and digital clocks and observing the characteristics of half hour times by identifying the hands to the ‘hour’ and ‘minute’.

In Science Grade One students have been discussing the changes that occur during the different seasons. The students have identified changes in the sky and landscape at these particular times. They looked at how different artists have depicted the seasons through paintings and the students made wonderful representations of the seasons using oil pastels and pencil crayons.

In Grade Two we are also beginning to explore poetry and have already tried reading and writing a variety of poems. One of our favourites is ‘My Neighbour’s Dog Is Purple’ by Jack Prelutsky. Many students visualised the neighbour’s dog (crocodile!) and drew the image they saw in their head, while others have been creating the own rhyming word lists.

In Maths we have explored how to measure the length, area, capacity and mass of familiar objects. From measuring with unifix block to rulers, to balance scales, measuring jugs and trundle wheels we have been all over the school measuring and estimating. Over the next few weeks Grade 2 students will be discovering how to find fractions of whole objects and sets of objects. We will also be looking at data and how we display it as tallies and graphs.

In Science we continue to study water, including how we use and store water. Students are becoming more conscious of how we waste water and its impact on the environment.

Middle School

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 ‘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

Media Roadshow

The Grade 5 and 6 students had a fantastic two days exploring different media platforms including animation, radio and green screen filming. The students performed radio shows they had written themselves and created their own animations. They also worked as a collaborative team to practise and produce an informative talk show. All of these activities celebrated the 2016 Rio Olympics and gave us an insight into the various workings of multimedia productions.

Bookweek

Book Week was launched with a visit by Meredith Badger. She shared many of her writing ideas and experiences with us and inspired us to become creative and thoughtful writers.

On Monday we shared our favourite books during our picnic lunch with our Buddies and the Grade 1’s. This was followed up with a tremendous book parade. It was great to see so much effort put into the costumes!!!

Interviews

We look forward to seeing you at the parent teacher interviews on the 29th and 30th. If you haven’t yet booked an interview with your class teacher you can do so on Compass.

KEY EVENTS

Book Week Update

Special Guest Author - Meredith Badger

In what is becoming a much anticipated feature of the Book Week celebrations at Ruskin Park, we were very fortunate in being able to secure another world-renowned children’s author to come and talk to our students about the life of a writer and the creative writing process. This year we welcomed Meredith Badger, popular and bestselling children’s author of numerous books including the Go Girl series, the Girl vs World series, several of the Zac Power books (under the pseudonym H.I. Larry), the Fairy School Dropout series, the Tweenie Genie books, the Tinklers Three series and, more recently, the Super Baddies series.
In two separate one hour presentations, one for the Year 3 and 4 children and then another for the Year 5 and 6 children, she took us all on the journey of the creative writer. Meredith had Ruskin Park students mesmerized with dramatic readings from some of her best known stories and a verbal sketch of how she goes about developing her characters and storylines. Raised in Melbourne, but now living in Germany, Meredith involved the children in various activities to tweak their creative thinking. A quiz on some famous children’s stories, illustrating a new character and then collaboratively developing the character’s “back story”, and playing a game where the children had to work out their own “secret agent” name were all part of the presentations that the children enjoyed immensely.

Meredith was more than happy to answer the many questions the children had about being a writer and how she developed her original ideas. Many of the students were also thrilled to have Meredith sign copies of their books for them. We thank Meredith for her time and her presentations were another wonderful addition to the fun of Book Week and once again inspired our students to get back to their classrooms and write, write, write.

This was another great reminder of the pure joy of storytelling and imagination.

Mr Alexander
There was a definite buzz of excitement in the air on Tuesday as we prepared for our annual Book Character Parade. Squeals of laughter could be heard in the corridors before school as staff revealed costumes they had been preparing for weeks. We had Snugglepot and Cuddlepie, Fantastic Mr Fox, Mary Poppins, Ella Kazoo and Scarecrow from The Wizard of Oz to name just a few.

However our students stole the show with the originality and diversity of their costumes. This year Willy Wonka alias Mr. Moore presided over the event and he had everyone enthralled. Perhaps it was the promise of a golden ticket that added to his charisma. Nonetheless our parade was a huge success and it is getting bigger and better each year. There were certainly lots of flashing cameras as parents attempted to capture magical moments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting this event and for highlighting the wonderful characters we can discover when we read. I would like to also thank all of the Grade 6 students who helped their buddies overcome their nerves by providing a helping hand.
Whole School Picnic Lunch

To launch our Book Week celebrations over 340 students and their teachers attended an informal picnic on the basketball court on Monday. Our students had an opportunity to share their favourite books with each other. This was a simple and very effective way to promote reading as a pleasurable experience for all. Fortunately for us the sun broke through the clouds and we all basked in the sunshine which made the whole experience even more enjoyable. As you can see everyone was totally immersed in the reading process during our picnic lunch.

Book Fair

Once again the Ashton Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! The library was decorated in an Australian theme which was created by the students and teachers. The setting was cosy and appealing and certainly enticed people to come in and browse.

It was wonderful to see children and their families exploring the wide range of books and novelties on offer. There was great excitement when children discovered that one special book that appealed to them.

Due to your support we reached our magical target of $4000.00 in sales. Our school received a commission of $1300 from the sales which is an amazing effort! These funds will be used to update our school library collection this year. The English Committee members have selected a range of picture story books for the junior school and wonderful novels for both our middle and upper primary students. The new books will be in circulation in early term 4 and I am sure they will be enjoyed for many years to come.

The Book Fair could not have been possible if it had not been for our dedicated band of parents and our Grade 6 Library leaders who kindly volunteered to assist with the set-up of the fair and sales each day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following parents: Ajne Graham, Melissa McPhee, Tracey Walne and Lisa Dalmau.

I hope you enjoy many wonderful hours reading and plans are already in place for our Book Fair in 2017.

Alaine Beare
“MUSIC MATTERS”

Term 3 is always a busy one, and this one has been no exception. There’s been a lot going on in the music department. Of special note, several students have chosen to take up instrumental music lessons at Ruskin Park, becoming part of that very special group of people learning an instrument. Another highlight for this term has been the running of the student driven Talent Quest. This was held over two consecutive Fridays and it was great to see so many of our students standing up and doing such a good job of performing. Those sitting in the audience warmly appreciated all the performances. Well done to everyone involved.

Music in the classroom at Ruskin Park this semester has gotten off to a flying start with the new Prep classes and returning Grade 1 and 2 students particularly enjoying returning to the music room. A favourite in the classroom has been our latest additions to the music space - “Music Monsters”. The Music Monsters are greatly assisting all our students with being stars, encouraging good classroom habits: “Always listen”, “Come and go quietly”, “Raise hand to talk”, “Do your best” and “Be kind and respectful”.

Other highlights in the music space have been the introduction of the “Crazy Conductor”, continuing parachute time and seeing Mrs Burgess take up the ukulele to help accompany her songs during class time.

The choirs have been enjoying rehearsing and are working hard towards putting together several new pieces with some very special performances coming up. Please keep the last Friday morning of term free in your calendars if you can, as both choirs will be performing at assembly on that day. Both choirs also voted in two choir leaders, and I am very pleased to announce our Junior Choir Leaders are Hazel and Cyrus and Senior Choir leaders for 2016 are Hannah and Kimberley.

Finally, I am very excited to remind all of you about a whole school event which is coming up very soon. On Thursday September 1 we will see the fantastically energetic drumming group “African Beat”. This will be a highly engaging and interactive performance in our gym that all RPPS students will be part of. We look forward to seeing the positive responses to this absolutely fabulous show.

Keep on enjoying your musical experiences RPPS and remember: “Music Matters!”

**Upcoming Events:**
Friday August 26 – Musician of the Month and Music Class of the Month announced at assembly
Thursday September 1 – African Beat
Friday September 9 - Senior Choir Leaders Badge Presentation
Friday September 16 – All Choirs Performing at Assembly
OSHC NEWS

OLYMPICS FUN
During the past few weeks the children have enjoyed sharing their knowledge about the Olympics. We have talked about different sports and the achievements of our Australian athletes at the Rio Olympic Games. A number of children initiated “Olympic” events in OSHC, setting up hurdle races, volley ball and hockey competitions and running races.

It was wonderful to see the children cooperating together and showing good sportsmanship. We even had a few gold medals made from recycled materials!

Curriculum Day – Monday 5th September

We are running a Curriculum Day Program from 7am to 6.30pm on this day and can take a maximum of 49 children only. We are going on an excursion to the National Sports Museum followed by lunch and a play at Wombat Bend playground in Lower Templestowe. If you would like your child to attend, please complete a booking form and return it to the OSHC program no later than Wednesday 31st 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
Garden Club

Spring planting workshop! We are fortunate to have a Bunnings representative supply and help us plant our Spring vegetables on Thursday 8th of September at Garden Club! Please note this date on your calendar and remind your children so they can join in on the action. Thank you to Bunnings Croydon for their generous donation of plants and their time for this event.

We are also busily planting for our Fete and getting our garden looking beautiful to showcase to our wider community how awesome we are at gardening and caring for our environment at RPPS. So please, if anyone has some plants to donate to us, or some spare time to assist us at garden club, let us know! We would appreciate any assistance.

Either email Pauline at marigold3136@gmail.com or leave a note at the office for me. Please remember to volunteer you need a working with children check, which is simple to apply for and free for volunteers.

Spring has come early and the weeds are popping up, if you happen to see the gardener wandering around spraying the weeds, please don’t be concerned, as it is an organic child and pet safe recipe of white vinegar mixed with salt and a dash of dishwashing liquid!

Happy gardening

Thank you
Pauline, Rachael, and Ajne

Family and Friends Network

Foundation Transition

Another successful transition was held on Friday 19th August 2016. The morning tea was delicious once again. We would like to say Thank you to our wonderful bakers, Fiona Allan, Tanya King, Marnie Skinner, Nikki Trethowan, Robyn Benson, Kate Kay and Rebecca Bowyer. Also, many thanks to Nikki Trethowan for setting up and our hosts; Rachael Kearney, Nikki Kelly and Claire Chesneau.

The next Foundation transition is on Tuesday 13th September 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. We hope you enjoyed your sweet or savoury pies.
Thank you to Rachael Kearney and Claire Chesneau for organising the Pie drive and making a profit of $380.00 for our school.

Father’s Day Stall

The Father’s Day stall will be held on Friday 2nd September 2016 after assembly in the courtyard. Please give your child $5.00 on this day to purchase a gift.

Footy Day

Mr McDonald has organised lots of fun activities for Ruskin Park Primary School’s annual Footy Day. You have an opportunity to order a special footy day lunch on Tuesday 6th September and to come dressed in your favourite team’s colours!!
If your child missed out on a Footy Lunch order form, there are more at the school office. Please have them returned by Tuesday 30th August 2016.
Fete Updates

FOUNDATION LUCKY JARS FETE STALL

Can you help us fill our Lucky Jars?

We desperately need colourful items to fill our jars. This week our students will begin filling the jars with the generous donations we have received to date. Please keep sending in colourful items to the value of $2.00 such as bags of lollies, pencils, new hair ties, little figurines, craft items, marbles and tiny dolls or cars. We now have sufficient jars and do not require any more at this point.

Please keep looking through your children’s toy collections and if you find any small items they are no longer using you can send them along to school. Remember the more jars we fill 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.

Alaine Beare & Sam Williams

The Foundation Team

3/4 News: Fete Update

Sausage Sizzle

For the fete this year 4A will be organising the sausage sizzle. A notice will be sent home soon with further details. The sausage sizzle will rely on a roster of enthusiastic volunteers working 1 or 2 hour shifts to help with the cooking.

Nail Polish and Body Art

This year for the fete 3P will be running a nail polish and body art stall. This will include a variety of coloured nail polish, body glitter and temporary tattoos. We currently have a good amount of nail polish, if you are able to donate some body glitter or temporary tattoos that would be fantastic. If you have anything to donate, please either drop it off at the office or Room 1 to Mrs Poynter.
Lob a Chocolate

3S will be running the famous *lob a chocolate* store. This is where you toss a coin and if it lands on a block of chocolate you get to keep it! Thank you to everyone who has been sending along blocks of chocolate for our Lob a Chocolate class stall.

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. We promise to keep an eye on Mr Scott to make sure he doesn’t sample any of the chocolate before our school fete.

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

Photo Booth

This year at the fete 4W will be running a *photo booth* store. There will be lots of costumes and props for everyone to take an amazing photograph. 4W will also be running a staff baby photo competition...

Mini Golf

What is the only thing better than playing mini-golf? Making a mini-golf course. At the fete, Grade 4M will be in charge of mini-golf. The students have been busy planning, modifying, and evaluating their designs but we would like some adult help in constructing some mini-golf holes. If you have some plastic pipe, can knock up a ramp, or have always wanted to make a windmill, please come and talk to Ms Mitchell about helping make our course.

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.
**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

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**Birthdays**

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TOM BURLINSON
PERFORMS
THE BEST OF
SINATRA
THE GREATEST HITS
FEATURING SENSATIONAL
ALL STAR BAND

Rotary Club of Croydon

George Woods Performing Arts Centre,
Yarra Valley Grammar School
Kalinda Road, Ringwood

Saturday 8 October 2016
At 8pm

Mail to: Concert Box Office, Rotary Club of Croydon, PO Box 226, Croydon VIC 3136
Please send me _______ tickets @ $40 I enclose cheque for $_______

or charge my Visa Mastercard (circle) Expiry ______

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ Postcode: ____________

Book tickets online at www.trybooking.com/215800
Or in person at: Hans Music Spot, 77-79 Main Street, Croydon

All proceeds will go to a project to support children who are victims of family violence
Melba College and Ruskin Park Primary School proudly presents

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

Bookings — www.trybooking.com – click buy tickets and search Melba College ‘The Wizard of Oz’

Or Pam Peters on 9870 4551