



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

19 May 2023



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

May

Wednesday 24th Year 5 Excursion
 Thursday 25th Yr. 5 & 6 Interrelate
 Friday 26th Sushi Lunch
 Wednesday 31st Curriculum Day

June

Thursday 1st Yr. 5 & 6 Interrelate
 Wednesday 7th Foundation Excursion
 Friday 9th Year 5 & 6 Gala Sports Day

June

Monday 12th King's Birthday Public Holiday
 Friday 16th Subway Lunch
 Thursday 22nd Disco
 Wednesday 21st Reports available through Compass
 Friday 23rd End of Term 2: 2:30pm dismissal

July

Monday 10th Term 3 Commences
 Monday 17th Parent / Teacher Interviews
 Wednesday 19th Parent / Teacher Interviews

Principal's Report

The past fortnight has seen a number of excursions, incursions and whole school activities take place. Highlights include Year One exploring Healesville Sanctuary, Years 5 and 6 spending time inside a special science dome, a team representing the school at District Cross Country and a successful Mother's Day Stall being held.

Education Week

Wednesday's open afternoon was a highlight of the week. It was wonderful to see parents touring the school and our students sharing what they have been doing in class. This year's theme, Active Learners: Move, Make, Motivate, saw students involved in a variety of classroom activities as well as some morning exercise sessions. On Thursday we came together for a whole school workout, which was a great way to start the day.

Curriculum Day Reminder

A reminder that Wednesday 31 May is a curriculum day. Students do not attend school on this day. Staff will be onsite completing professional learning with a focus on Literacy and student wellbeing. OSHC will be running a supervision program, details on how to register were sent home earlier this week.

Mother's Day Stall

A sincere thank you to all the parents involved in the Mother's Day Stall. This event takes significant planning, with items ordered many months in advance and then sorted in the lead up to the stall. There are also volunteers who assist on the day. Our students enjoyed the opportunity to shop and without the collective efforts of our parent volunteers the stall would not have been possible. Thank you!



Building Removal

From next Monday there will be temporary fencing installed around the portables on the soccer field. These classrooms were used last year while our new learning centre was under construction. Preparation works will run throughout the week, with the rooms to be removed on Wednesday 31 May (curriculum day). I am sure our students will enjoy the extra play area.

School Council have been working on a longer term plan for the space, with the aim to install a synthetic soccer field surrounded by a running track. Initial planning is underway!

2024 Foundation Information Evening

Thank you to current and prospective families who attended last week's 2024 Foundation Information Evening. We hope you found the presentation informative, and it answered any questions you may have about the Foundation program.

It may seem early in the year, but we have started receiving enrolment forms for next year. If you have a sibling that will be commencing school in 2024, could I please ask you to visit the office and collect a form.

Please feel free to come and see me should you have any questions regarding the enrolment process.

Cross Country

Congratulations to all students who represented our school at today's District Cross Country. Our students applied themselves well and we are proud of their efforts. Cross Country is one of the more challenging events and tests everyone's stamina and commitment. Our team certainly rose to the challenge. Weeks of early morning training sessions with Mr McDonald had the team well prepared for the day.

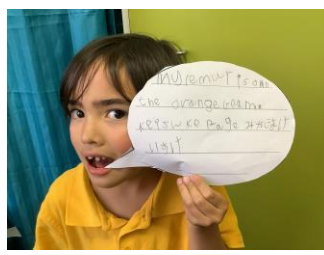
Andrew Moore
Principal

Foundation

Education Week

This week we celebrated Education Week! This year's theme was 'Active Learners: Move, Make, Motivate'. In Foundation, our job was to make something. As we were exploring lemurs throughout the week, the Foundation students got the opportunity to create their very own lemur. We created the tail using various materials to give it a fluffy effect and used chalk and pencils to create little strokes for the fur. The next step for students was to find a spot in the room to hide their lemur and write about where you could find it. As we started to explore position this week for Math's, students were able to incorporate key terms such as behind, on top, below and next to.

If you were free and able to attend the open afternoon on Wednesday, we thank you for coming! If you weren't able to, check out some of the photos below to see what we made for Education Week.





Zoo Excursion

Just a quick reminder that the zoo excursion is live on Compass. Permission and payment is due before the 1st of June. If you are having any difficulty with paying or providing consent, please discuss this with your child's teacher or office staff.

PMP

Thank you to all the parent helpers who came along and supported us for the first week of PMP. It was a great success! This was definitely one of our highlights so far this term. It was great to see students engaging in different physical activities and practising moving their bodies in different ways. We can't wait to see how the students' progress throughout the term! Have a look at some of the fun we had below:



Literacy

We have been focussing on recalling and spelling sight words that we read and write regularly. The students have been 'training' their brains to automatically remember these words through a variety of activities such as, rainbow writing, whiteboard tracing, magnetic letters and so on. We will continue to build their knowledge in this area throughout the rest of the term. Students have been investigating animal facts throughout the 'Amazing Animals' unit and have been challenged to record, draw and explain their understanding in reading and writing tasks. We are so proud of the students' developing ability to write an information text using diagrams and labels! Way to go Foundation kids!

Maths

Last week students explored the days of the week. We practised identifying the days of the week, talking about how many days are in a week and differentiating between weekdays and weekends. We also revised our school schedule and the sorts of activities that we specifically do on each day. Students were exposed to this in a variety of different

ways, which includes songs, visual cues and hands-on activities. This week, students investigated positional language and were encouraged to use words relating to where an object (or lemur, ha ha) was located. We learnt and employed terminology such as between, over, above, under, beneath, left and right to navigate our way through many experiences. The text 'Rosie's Walk' was a wonderful way to showcase our learning of prepositions!

Junior School

Year 1

Just like that, it is already week 4! It has been a busy but exciting few weeks in Year 1. Our students are growing in their learning every day.

This week was Education Week! The theme of Education Week this year was 'Active Learners: Make, Move. Motivate'. The students had a wonderful time using objects from nature to make their own Australian Animals, move in the classroom during brain breaks and during our amazing excursion, and motivate each other in all tasks throughout the week. As part of Education Week, on Wednesday we invited families to visit to see what we have been focusing on in the classroom. The students were so excited to have you in their classrooms and to show you all the wonderful things they have been learning over the semester. We hope you loved seeing their interactive information reports and how much pride they take in their work.

Wildlife Excursion

On Tuesday 16th of May, the Year 1 students were lucky enough to go on an excursion to Healesville Sanctuary. Even though it was a cold and wet day, the students did such a wonderful job walking around and discussing the animals with a positive attitude!

The excursion was a great opportunity to support our growing knowledge of Australian animals and to assist us to write detailed information reports. We learnt so much about Australian animals and the things they need to survive. Did you know that Koalas have 3 fingers and 2 thumbs? Amazing!

A big thank you to the volunteers for coming and making it a successful and enjoyable experience. We could not have done it without you!

Check out some photos below.





Literacy

In Writing, students have been focusing on writing information reports all about animals. We have been focusing specifically on Australian animals. We have also been concentrating on structuring our writing into particular sub headings such as appearance, habitat, diet and interesting facts. Students have experimented with editing their work by underlining unknown words and extending their ideas with adjectives. Students have also published their own platypus information reports which they are very proud of!

In Reading, we have continued to explore the features of nonfiction texts. We are also learning how one information text can have many ideas. We have started to focus on identifying the different words that repeat on each page to identify what the section/page is mostly about. Using this strategy helps students to determine the main idea. Ask your child to demonstrate this strategy to you at home.



Maths

The adventure to Healesville Sanctuary has supported students to develop and apply their directional knowledge, which has been our focus unit this week. We have used our hands to help us recognise 'left' and 'right' and explored prepositional terms used including up, down, in, out, under, and over through a range of activities. Students have had the chance to create their own Beebot track and direct it through using the terminology explored this week. It was wonderful to see how creative and unique each design was!

Wellbeing

In Wellbeing we have been focusing on the importance of using kind words to the people around us. Mr Moore showed us just how important it is to use kind words as after your heart is 'wrinkled' it is hard to smooth it out again! We read the book 'Wrinkled Heart' and discussed the many ways we are respectful and caring to those people around us. The main message being 'Before you speak, think and be smart, it is hard to fix a wrinkled heart'!

Year 2

How fantastic it was to see so many parents and students come along to celebrate learning on our Education Week Open Afternoon. There was lots of chatter and excitement as our students shared their thinking with their grown ups and showed them how to play lots of classroom games.



Don't forget to take some time to drop in and view our amazing "Motivate" display. Students created figurines of what motivates them such as doing gymnastics, running and learning to do handstands!



Wellbeing

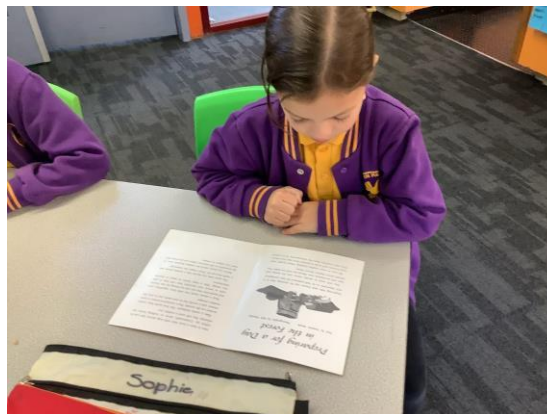
This week we revisited our school value of Resilience. Together we celebrated the students' achievements and talked about any obstacles that might have got in their way. Our students were amazing at acknowledging that through resilience and a willingness to overcome challenges, we can grow.

Look how we can grow!



Literacy

Information Texts have continued to be a focus in both reading and writing sessions throughout the fortnight. Students are busily researching information and learning how to record this in a data chart before creating engaging pieces which begin with a topic sentence and include subheadings and graphics. When reading non-fiction texts, we have been thinking about what the main idea is and what key details the author has included to support this. Students have been busy recording their thinking.



In spelling we have continued to focus on 3 letter blends. We have consolidated our thinking with lots of games and challenging tasks!



Maths

What's the time? We have explored all sorts of clocks including analogue and digital and looked at when we use clocks and time in our lives. This fortnight students have explored the parts of a clock and told time in lots of ways including quarter past and quarter to. A focus has been on understanding why the minute hand points to the 3 for quarter past and why a digital clock says '15'. What a great opportunity to continue this learning at home by allowing your child to tell you the time whenever possible! Perhaps you could create a Bingo game and play this on family game night?



Geography

In Geography students have explored the states and territories of Australia. They have named them and located them on a map of Australia. We have talked about where in Australia students have visited. Students are learning to use the compass points of North, South, East and West to describe the position of the states and cities of Australia.

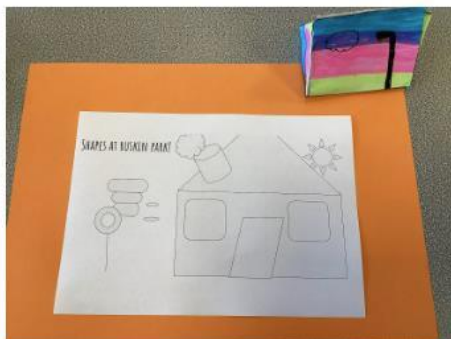


Middle School

Year 3

Education Week

On Wednesday afternoon we had an open afternoon to celebrate Education Week. Students had their 3D shapes on display along with their digital colouring shape picture which had been created on the computers. Families could also build their own 3D shape out of mini sticks and playdough. It was so wonderful to see children showing their parents and carers about the classroom and showing off their wonderful work. Students also enjoyed a whole school activity session in the gym on Thursday morning.



Geography: Australia States and Territories

Year 3 students have been learning about Australian states and territories. They have also been learning about their capital cities and famous landmarks such as Uluru, The Great Barrier Reef and Sydney Opera House. All students this week researched and wrote an information report on the Great Barrier Reef.

Year 4

In Literacy, students have been delving deeper into the world of fantasy. Using the characters they previously created, students started developing the problem for their narrative, making a plot mountain that includes 2 rising actions, a climax, 2 falling actions and a resolution. Students began drafting their fantasy narratives keeping in mind the character's flaws and strengths.

Students engaged within our fantasy rotations where each classroom created a different fantasy experience.

Monster Mania - In this rotation, students had to put their hand in a box without knowing what was inside. They felt the object hidden inside, discussing the sensory experience and how these elements could be a monster. If the object was hard, I wonder if the monster has a hard scaly exterior. If the object was soft, I wonder if the monster is made out of a jelly like material.



Magic Dust -The students had the opportunity to create their own magical dust. They selected from a range of coloured sand, glitter and some special fragrances (Fairy Dust, Pink Marshmallow and Trick or Treat) to create the perfect magical dust. Once the dust was created, students wrote their own spell that could be used alongside their dust to create magic. Once their spell was complete, the students were able to wave the magical wand to help make the 'magic' happen. Students were encouraged to think about how they could incorporate the dust and spells into their fantasy narratives. Will your dust be used for good and evil? What happens when your dust is sprinkled?



Powerful Potions - In this rotation, students combined ingredients such as vinegar, bicarbonate soda, food colouring and dish washing liquid to make a magic potion! As groups, students discussed how fantasy characters use different ingredients in their environments in order to create a special type of potion. Following a step by step set of instructions, students mixed the ingredients together and watched on in awe as their gooey surprise came to life! This encouraged students to think about how they can describe objects in the settings of their story, and they were

inspired to think about how characters can create something special which can influence the plot and outcome of a story.



Story Squad Incursion

Students engaged with our Story Squad Incursion last week. They created fantastic fantasy worlds, using their senses to describe the world around them. Students discussed the rules and limitations of magic, thinking about Shrek's 'Happily ever after' potion. We used props to awaken our imaginations, to allow us to think of the rules and limitations of the prop. What magical power does the prop have? What is the rule when using the prop? What are the limitations?



Senior School

This week the Year 5 students went to Melba College to experience a day at high school. We participated in four different lessons including Sport, Science, Japanese and Food Tech. In Science, students completed two different experiments, in Food Tech we each made chocolate coconut balls, in Sport we played games and completed agility challenges and in Japanese we learnt more about the country and culture. It was a fantastic opportunity and we all had a great day out.



Reading

We have continued our learning about documentaries, examining the multimedia features of documentaries and the effect that they have on the audience. The multimedia elements we have examined include music, sound effects and use of images. All of these aspects contribute to the meaning and message of the documentary. Students have also closely examined written transcripts of documentaries, making annotations to show their learning and understanding of the text features.

Writing

Students have been working hard to write their documentary script, where students were supported to include facts, opinions, topic specific words and write with a 'storyteller' voice. They have also planned the images, music and sound effects that will be included in their filmed documentary. After the written component, students then used iMovie on the iPads to record their script and add in the multimedia elements. This has been an exciting and interesting unit and we can't wait to see the finished documentaries.

Maths

In Maths we have been learning about representing and interpreting data. We explored some interesting statistics about Australia, recorded it in a table and then represented it in different ways including bar graphs, line graphs, dot plots and pie charts. We've also worked on interpreting, or understanding, different data sets by making observations about the data including finding the least/most, highest/lowest, trends and outliers.

Interrelate

This week we started our first session of Interrelate, which is a 3 part program designed to help children understand some changes that happen as they move into the teen years. The presenters are fabulous, quickly making everyone feel comfortable, and students are really enjoying learning something new.



These students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Heer	Austin	Alwyn	Liam	Jacob	Harriet	Chloe	Eva	Ali
Keisuke	Felicity	Blair	Keidi	Savannah	Miller	Miles	Nely	Samuel
Darcy	Eleanor	Bobbie	Teddy					

