



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

18 August 2023



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

August

Monday 21 st	Book Week Dress Up Day
Wednesday 23 rd	Yr 5 Camp Departs
Thursday 24 th	Book Fair Commences
Monday 28 th	Foundation to Yr 2 Swimming
Tuesday 29 th	Book Week Incursion
Thursday 31 st	Fathers' Day Stall

September

Friday 1 st	Yr 3 & 4 Hoop Time
Monday 4 th	Yr 6 Camp Departs
Monday 4 th	Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Commences

September

Thursday 7 th	Yr 5 Super Speak Parent Showcase
Friday 8 th	District Athletics
Monday 11 th	Yr 5 & 6 Swimming Commences
Friday 15 th	Footy Day
Friday 15 th	End of Term 3 (2:30pm dismissal)

October

Monday 2 nd	Term 4 Commences
Thursday 5 th	Whole School Photo
Monday 9 th	2024 Foundation Meet & Greet (4:15pm)
Monday 16 th	Year 4 Camp Departs
Monday 23 rd	Year 3 Camp Departs

Principal's Report

There is plenty to get excited about as we approach the final four weeks of term. Multiple camps, a dress up day, swimming, Hoop Time and footy day are just some of the experiences we have ahead of us. Please continue to check Compass for updates and to provide permission for relevant events.

Some of our whole school events to mark in your diary include:

- Book Week Dress Up Day- Monday 21 August
- Book Week incursion- Tuesday 29 August
- Book Fair- commences Thursday 24 August
- Father's Day Stall- Thursday 31 August
- School Swimming Program (various dates)
- Footy Day- Friday 15 September

Trivia Night

This time last week the gym was being set up for our first Ruskin Park Trivia Night. What followed was an evening filled with fun, laughter, some embarrassing moments, some challenging quiz questions and some great raffle and auction items. The quest for bonus points provided some of the many highlights, with dancing and singing getting many up and out of their seats.

It proved to be a hugely successful event. A time for parents and staff to come together and enjoy a fun and relaxing evening. I believe we are fortunate to have a wonderful community at our school.

An event such as this is not possible without the tireless efforts of our parent volunteers. Considerable time and effort went into planning and organising the night. I thank all parents who were able to attend and the many volunteers who assisted in the lead-up and on the night. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Gemmi, Rachel, Julie, Vicky and Teena.



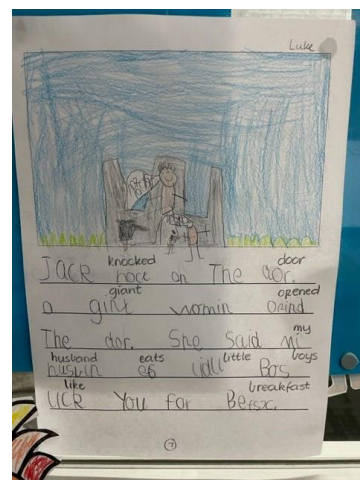
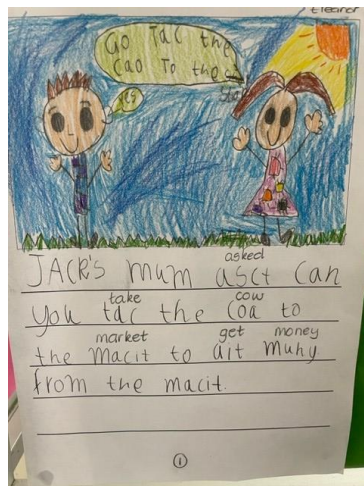
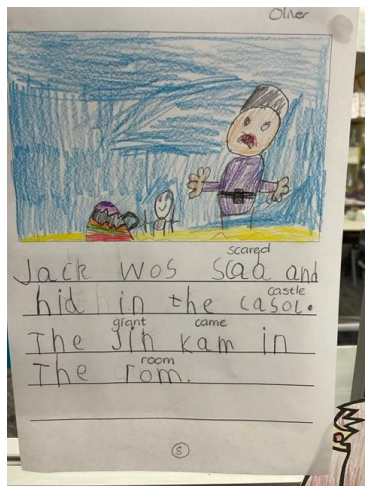


In 2023 our current strategic plan reaches its conclusion. This provides us with an important opportunity to reflect and celebrate our successes and look for areas to focus on in the future.

Andrew Moore
Principal

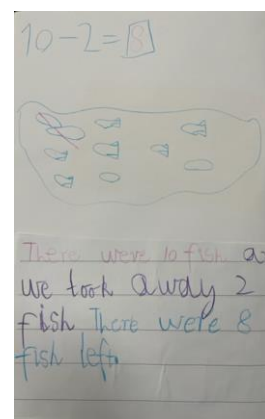
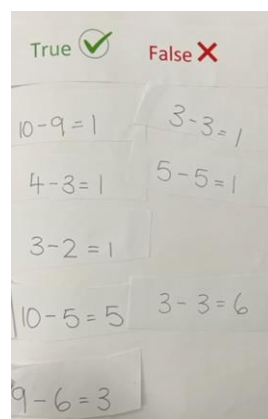
Literacy

The first drawing (left) shows a grid with four panels. The top-left panel is titled 'Runaway Dinner' and features a black, round character with a red 'X' on its side. The top-right panel is titled 'The Gingerbread Man' and shows a small figure running. The bottom-left panel shows a black, round character with a blue 'X' on its side. The bottom-right panel shows a black, round character with a red 'X' on its side. The second drawing (middle) shows a grid with four panels. The top-left panel is titled 'The Three Little Pigs' and shows three pig-like figures. The top-right panel is titled 'The Gingerbread Man' and shows a small figure running. The bottom-left panel shows a black, round character with a red 'X' on its side. The bottom-right panel shows a black, round character with a red 'X' on its side. The third drawing (right) shows a grid with four panels. The top-left panel is titled 'The Three Little Pigs' and shows three pig-like figures. The top-right panel is titled 'The Gingerbread Man' and shows a small figure running. The bottom-left panel shows a black, round character with a red 'X' on its side. The bottom-right panel shows a black, round character with a red 'X' on its side.



Numeracy

In Maths, students have been learning about subtraction. We have had plenty of discussions around the words we use when we subtract (take away, less, minus). Students used a range of manipulatives including number lines, blocks, dice and board games to practise subtracting and also used drawings to create subtraction stories to show their understanding.



Fire Safety

We were thrilled to have the Croydon Firefighters out this week to finish their fire safety education with our students. We have been learning about 'good' fires and 'bad' fires, a safe meeting place and how to safely exit a room that is filled with smoke. Students were very excited to squirt the hose and investigate the truck!





Junior School

Year 1

This week, we started 'Action Teams'. Action teams is a whole school initiative where students from each year level come together in different classrooms to be taught about our school values by a few of our Year 6 superstars! There were a few nervous students who were a bit worried about going into a different classroom with unfamiliar students, but there was certainly excitement in the air! When our students returned from Action Teams there were smiles all around. They had so much fun and can't wait for the next session that will occur on Friday the 1st of September.

Wellbeing

In Wellbeing we have been delving deeper into our URSTRONG focus 'Making Friends'. The students were presented with different real-life scenarios where they needed to discuss and practise their friendship making skills. You might like to discuss some scenarios with your child at home or you could even try and create your own!

There's a kid in another class who seems to have all the same interests as you. It seems like you would really "click"!

REMEMBER TO USE...

A FRIEND-MAKING STRATEGY!

It's the first day of swimming lessons & you're in a group with kids from another class.

REMEMBER TO USE...

A FRIEND-MAKING STRATEGY!

Literacy

We are coming to the end of our Procedural Text unit. The students have had a wonderful time publishing their 'How to' spells based on the text 'Room on the Broom' in a very creative way. They were able to use bright, colourful paper and a personally decorated witches hat to show their amazing writing pieces. In the Year 1 corridor, you will see our beautiful work! The Year 1 students were also very proud of our whole school writing display that is located in the hallway where lost property can be found. The Year 1 writing display showcases our fantastic writing pieces that were developed during our Procedural Writing unit. Check out the amazing photo below.



During our Reading sessions, we have continued to explore the reading strategy 'Determining Importance'. The students have read familiar and unfamiliar texts such as 'The Magic Hat' and 'Harry the Dirty Dog' to practise identifying and recording *key* details and *important* details and what the difference between the two is. The students also have multiple opportunities to practise using the key details to write a sentence focusing on what the text is mostly about. You might like to ask your child at home what their reader was mostly about using the key information from the text.

Our phonics focus over the past fortnight has been the long 'u', specifically focusing on the split digraph u_e and the long e sound, created by the blend 'ee'. When reading with your child at home, see if you can spot some of our focus blends in the take home readers!

Maths

In Maths last week, we learnt about gathering data and graphing information into picture graphs. To engage and introduce students to the topic, they were asked to demonstrate a variety of different ways to sort a range of concrete materials. The students enjoyed asking their peers questions about specific topics, gathering the data and recording the information in a picture graph. Can you figure out how our students have grouped the shapes below?



This week, we are exploring shapes! The students have been consolidating their understanding and exploring new learning about 2D shapes and the similarities and differences between 2D and 3D shapes. The students have been discovering everything about 3D shape properties. They have been learning new vocabulary such as shape faces, edges and vertices. You might like to see if you and your child can find some 3D shapes at home or when you are out and about!

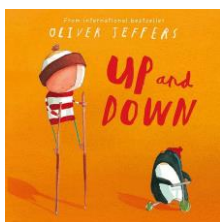
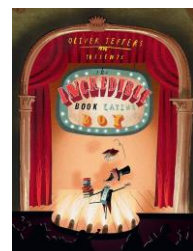


Year 2

Another fabulous fortnight in Year 2. We had our very first round of 'Action Teams' where the students were grouped together with one or two other students from each year level and participated in an activity and/or craft run by the Year 6's! The Year 6 students did an excellent job at stepping up and showing leadership and we can't wait for our next round in week 8. Book Week is fast approaching (next week!) so now is a great time to make sure you've got your costume ready for the parade. Be sure to also come past and check out the amazing work the Year 2's did for our Book Week display on Pippi Longstocking (we've been reading this in class). It is hanging up on the windows in the hallway near our classrooms!

Literacy

We continued our authors study on Oliver Jeffers in Reading, focusing this time on 'Up and Down' and 'The Incredible Book Eating Boy'. We looked at internal traits that some of the characters in these books had, such as brave, crazy and adventurous, and looked at how some characters may have the same traits or different traits to each other. We also focused on character feelings, and how these feelings can change throughout the story. We also incorporated this into our Writing. As we continued our narratives, we included character traits that we may have discussed in our Reading lessons, and even included some of our own that we thought of!



Our Spelling focus has continued to be long vowels, this time focusing on the long 'i' sound and all the different letter combinations that make this sound (we found as many as 8 different ones!). We played kapow to practise our spelling and use of the patterns, and we also added to our long vowel craft display in the hallway by adding long 'i' kites! Our kites feature lots of different words that have the long 'i' sound in them.

Maths

We finished up our unit on Transformations, having had lots of practise at flipping, sliding and turning our bodies and shapes! We have now just begun investigating place value. We've discussed hundreds, tens and ones, and what these numbers and words mean, and played Place Value War! This game has been sent home as homework so the students should be able to explain how to play to their adults. We will continue to explore this concept for the next few weeks (and beyond, as there is place value in all of the maths that we do!).



Wellbeing

This term we have begun our URStrong Friendology program. This fortnight we focused on how to make new friends, as well as what is healthy and unhealthy in a friendship. Students learnt and discussed some strategies that they could implement in the classroom or the yard to make new friends, such as asking them what their favourite game is and then inviting them to play! We also talked about how, even though we all have differences and similarities, we are all the same at heart and everyone should be treated with respect. The students also practised the '4 Friendship Fact' song, and talked about healthy and unhealthy behaviours in friendships. The 4 Friendship Facts are:

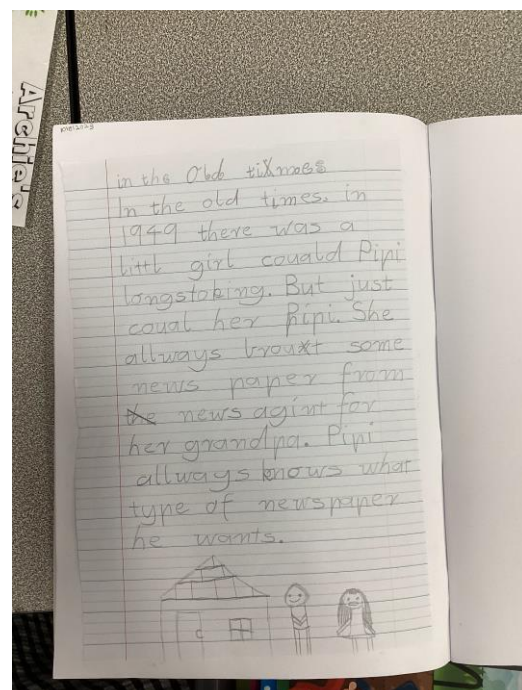
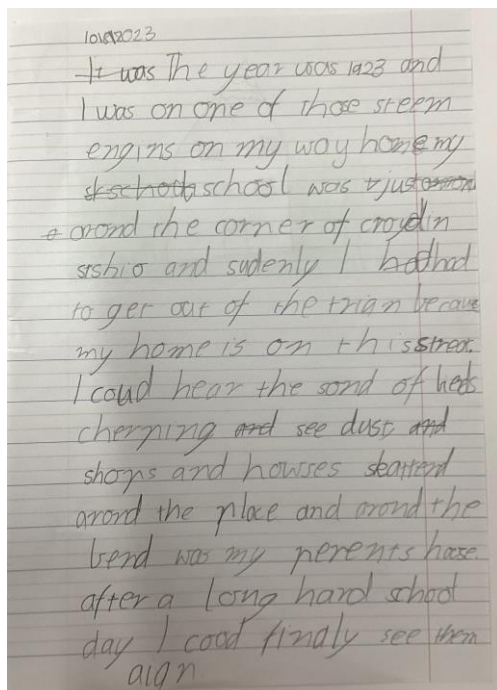


1. No friendship (or relationship) is perfect
2. Every friendship is different
3. Trust and respect are the two most important qualities of a friendship
4. Friendships change... and that's okay!



History

In History, we had a go at writing our own creative writing piece based on or set in the past! We've had lots of discussions about and seen lots of old photos of what Croydon, and surrounding suburbs, looked like in the 'olden days' and so it was fantastic to read some of the creativity that came out in these pieces!



Digi Tech

This fortnight we continued to experiment with Dash, the student's favourite new friend! We've completed a few different 'lessons' with him, working through things like coding Dash to make and respond to sounds, creating a flashing pattern with his lights, to look around in all different directions and even to use his sensors to sense things around him! The students love being able to complete their own coding with Dash!

Reminders

Please continue to complete your child's home reader and homework and return it to school each day. Homework is due back at school each Friday and is sent home on Mondays.

Our Book Week incursion is coming up on Tuesday August 29th. If you haven't completed the consent form and payment for your child, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Swimming is coming up in Week 8 - please provide consent and payment on Compass.

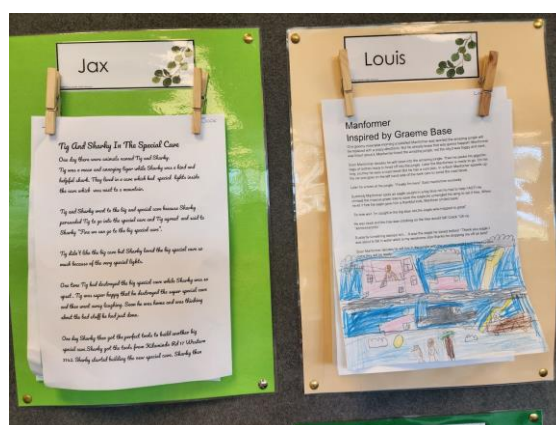
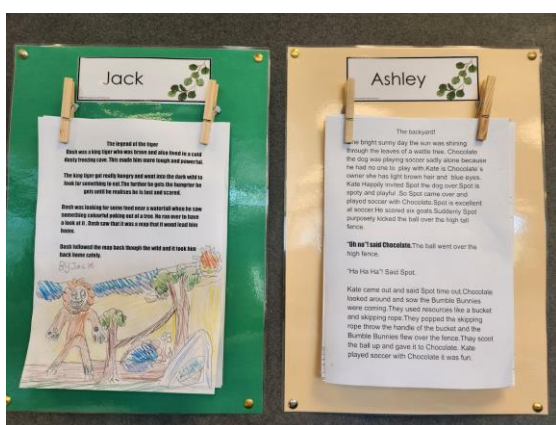
Student ICT agreements were sent home last week so please ensure you send these back signed by you and your child as soon as you can.

Middle School

Year 3

Literacy

Over the last two weeks, the Year Three students have been diligently crafting, drafting, editing, revising, and finally publishing their own narratives inspired by Graeme Base. Using the knowledge they've gained in recent weeks, they skillfully incorporated a range of Graeme Base's distinctive features into their writing. After completing the publishing phase, the students dedicated themselves to producing detailed illustrations that complemented their stories, mirroring the artistic approach of Graeme Base. They should be so proud of their finished stories!



In Reading, The Year Threes began researching Graeme Base. First, we watched a documentary on him followed by the students completing their own research on the computers. They have learnt many things about him including:

'His favourite author is JR Tolkien' - Seb 3C

'Graeme Base has three kids. Their names are James, Kate and Will' - Dylan 3C

'He was born on 6th April 1958' - Louis 3C

'He has a wife called Robyn' - Sadie 3C

'He has written 51 books' - Ashley 3C

'If he wasn't an author he would be a musician' - Ted 3C

Maths

The Year Threes have begun their unit on Fractions this week. We first began by looking at different fractions such as a half and a quarter and all the different ways that they could be represented. We then began comparing fractions through educational games where we were able to challenge our partners by getting them to be able to prove to us their thinking. Students have also enjoyed learning new maths warm ups such as tic tac toe and adding and subtracting cards above their foreheads!



Wellbeing

The Year Threes have continued their understanding of honesty through the use of classroom discussion and scenarios. They had a go at role playing different situations where they needed to be honest in small groups. Once the students acted out their role plays we then discussed how the situation would be very different if the person/people were not honest. There was a lot of rich discussion about this and why it is so important to always be honest.

Action Teams

This week we held our very first Action Teams session for the year. The Year Threes were very excited about these because they were able to meet new people within the school. Some of their comments included:

'We got to make name tags and play games' - Poppy 3C

'We got to meet new people and learn more about them' - Stephanie 3C

'We got to spend time in different classes' - Jax 3C

'I liked it because the Grade 6's got to teach us' - Grace 3C

'I liked playing four corners with the group' - Cade 3K

'I liked playing silent ball with the group' - Zayden 3K

'I liked learning people's names that I didn't know' - Hamish 30

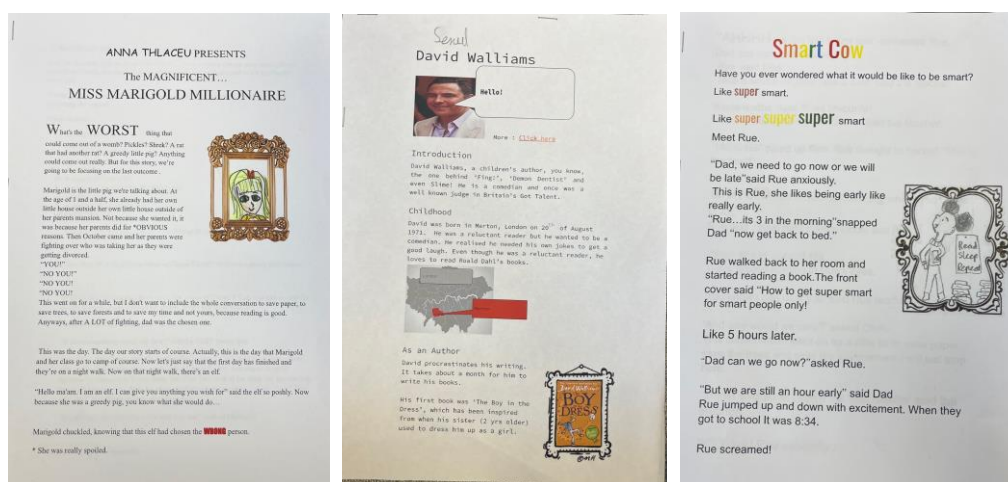
'I liked playing with a ball and saying our favourite food'- Jenny 30



Year 4

Literacy

In Literacy, students have finished their Author Study on David Walliams. We have been analysing and critiquing his texts, discussing the purpose of including literary devices. As a class we watched the movie Gangsta Granny and compared the movie to the text, documenting the similarities and differences and why there are differences. Students have also been working really hard on publishing their biographies about David Walliams, as well as their David Walliams-style narrative. We can't wait to show off our display during book week!



Maths

In Maths, we have been further developing our knowledge of fractions. We have been analysing fractions in a variety of ways, including shapes, collections and number lines with a variety of open ended tasks. Students have created a school flag using fractions, incorporating elements such as the school colours, patterns and a unique element that reflects the school into their flag design. We have also begun to investigate how we can convert mixed numbers into improper fractions, as well as improper fractions back into mixed numbers. We have enjoyed learning about fractions and how we apply fractions into everyday scenarios!

Look around your home and see what fractions you can find.



Wellbeing

Students have been focusing on a different school value, Persistence. We were able to identify what persistence looks like when watching videos of cheeky animals doing silly things, like cats opening doors and pandas trying to climb up a hill. Students came up with a definition and were able to determine what persistence looks like, sounds like and feels like. We are enjoying discussing moments when we have shown persistence and also times we were not persistent and could have 'bounced back'.

Senior School

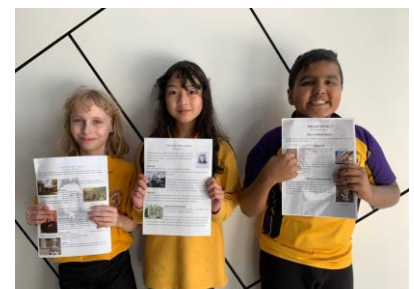
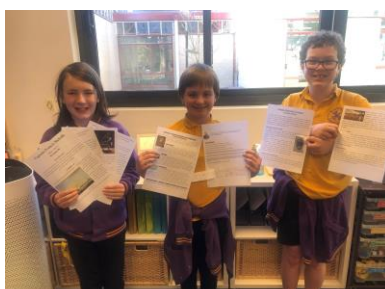
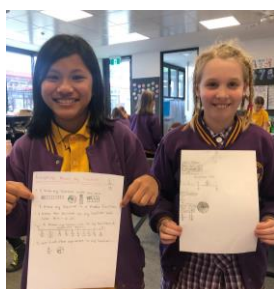
Year 5

We had a wonderful time on Wednesday on our excursion to Karralyka Theatre to watch Norwood Secondary College perform '*Anastasia the Musical*'. We were very impressed by the amazing singing, dancing and the live music! It was inspiring to see secondary students perform in a high quality production.



Literacy

We finished our unit learning about Historical Biographies. Students read various biographies, selected an Australian historical figure to research, drafted and published a biography on their chosen person and finally read their biography to the class, practising their speaking skills. Students did a great job providing peer feedback using a predetermined rubric, giving feedback on their partner's presentation, along with the content of their biography. We are so proud of the efforts shown by everyone.



Maths

Over the last two weeks the Year 5 students have continued to improve their understanding of fractions. We revised equivalent fractions while playing 'fraction bingo' and discussed how and why we would add and subtract fractions with the same or like denominators. Students learnt about the 'halving', 'thirding' and 'fifthing' strategy, and how they can be combined when we break something into equal pieces. We have done a lot of work using fractions on a number line, and had fun creating 'Everything About My Fraction' pages, where students chose a fraction and explained everything they knew about it. We have also looked at improper fractions and mixed numbers and how to convert between the two.

Wellbeing

We have been enjoying learning more about friendship through our URstrong program. We are now half way through our module and have so far learnt about our 'Inner Ninja' - treating ourselves like a best friend, Friendship Facts, 'Friend-o-Metre', and 'Friendship Fires'

To help support and reinforce our social and emotional learning and friendship skills, we have spent a couple of afternoons playing indoor games. These have been great fun and a fantastic opportunity for students to build and strengthen friendships with peers in their class.



Year 6

Specialist award: Congratulations to both Year 6 classes for their wonderful efforts and achievement in receiving the much anticipated STEM and Art awards. Over the past 6 weeks the Year 6's have put in tremendous effort to show leadership skills and respect in all aspects of their learning and what a huge reward. To celebrate we will be holding a special afternoon in Week 7 where we will watch a movie and celebrate with a special lunchbox. Some snacks will be provided by both Miss Marshall and Ms. Payne. Well done Year 6!



Warrnambool Tour Monday September 4th - Wednesday September 6th

We are very excited for our Warrnambool Tour! We are finalising details with the tour company and will soon send home a letter detailing what to bring and the departure/arrival times.

If possible please hand in any medication to Miss Marshall prior to the Monday of departure. If your child needs their medication over the weekend before camp, the morning of departure is fine.

Literacy

We have come to the end of our unit on non-fiction texts during our reading sessions and crafting information reports in writing. Now, the excitement continues as we begin a new adventure into the exploration of poetry. In Reading, we're immersing ourselves in a diverse range of poetic forms, mastering the art of analysing. We're sharpening our abilities to uncover a poem's purpose, sense its mood and tone, decipher rhyming patterns, understand its structural composition, and explore the richness of vocabulary. Meanwhile, in writing, our creative spirits are beginning to soar as we begin to compose an array of poems - from playful limericks to ballads, from odes to haikus, and beyond. This journey is expanding our literary horizons, enriching our language skills, and fostering a profound appreciation for the magic of words. The year 6's are loving poetry so far!



Mathematics



Over the past 2 weeks in Year 6, our focus has been on decimals. Guided by the idea of place value, our students have deepened their understanding of the significance of each digit's position in a decimal number. Through engaging activities, we've explored the intricacies of multiplying and dividing decimals, carefully considering the decimal places to ensure accuracy. Students have learned what to do when faced with remainders, and we've tackled thoughtful problem-solving concepts with estimation skills. Additionally, we've connected our understanding of the relationship between decimals and fractions, revealing how they mirror one another. We're proud of the progress our Year 6's have made and look forward to incorporating the idea of percentages in the weeks ahead.

Action Teams

On Tuesday morning, the students began their first Action Teams lesson titled "Getting to Know You!" The school buzzed with a mix of nervousness and excitement. The Year 6 students took charge of their session displaying confidence and positive attitudes, impressively delivering the activities. Miss Marshall and Ms. Payne wandered through the school and we were delighted by the high level of student engagement in each classroom. Congratulations Year 6! Our next Action Teams session will run on Friday, week 8 and will have a focus on 'Respect'.

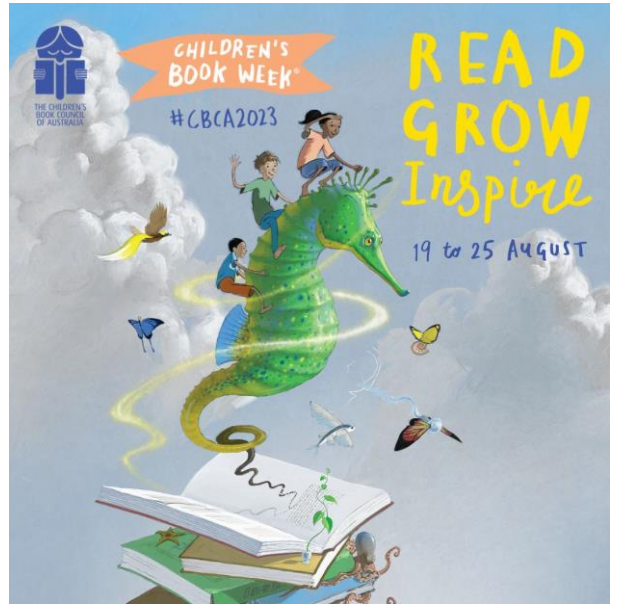


Other News

Book Week

We have a number of exciting activities planned for Book Week. We would like to remind families that we will be holding a parade in the school gym on Monday morning (21st August). The Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving at the school during the middle of next week and students will be given the opportunity to view the books and create wish lists to take home to their families. The students will be exposed to a range of shortlisted books for 2023 and will get to complete some fun craft activities in the classroom. The following week we are lucky to have Tony Bones come to perform his live show of "Jorn's Magnificent Imagination" on Tuesday 29th of August. If you haven't already done so, can you please provide your consent and payment for this event.

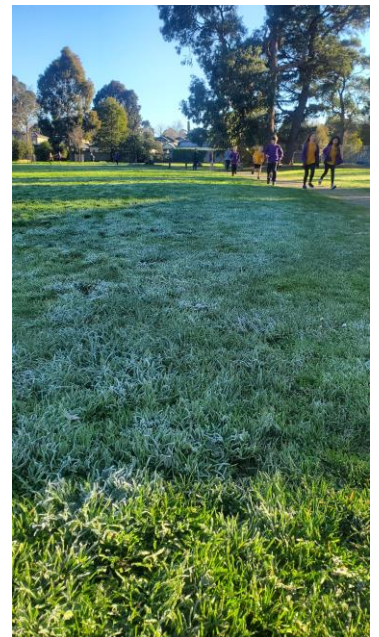
We can't wait to see everyone dressed up for the parade on Monday!



Morning Movers

Whilst we have been able to run every session these last two weeks, winter has definitely set in, with ice and frost on the grounds this week. Many students were delighted with the chilly conditions, spending time playing with the snow on the nearby playground before commencing their laps. The below 5 deg conditions however were felt by many students, with hands and fingers feeling painful due to the cold. Students are encouraged to wear gloves and jumpers whilst moving to reduce the impact of the cold.

Our Movers community continue to bring energy every Tuesday and Wednesday morning, with many students arriving before me, ready to move right on 8.35am. I am enjoying seeing students making their own decisions about how many laps is 'enough' for them each morning. It is wonderful that students are listening to their bodies and do what they feel they need. Other Movers are working hard towards gaining a certificate. We have a current community of 117 students and parents who have been regularly engaging in Morning Movers this term!



Some exciting news this week to share, with four of our Year 5 students achieving a distance of 50km since we started tracking distances back in Term 2! This is an incredible achievement and something they have been working hard to achieve. It has been wonderful seeing these girls running together and motivating each other to achieve their goal. These students will be presented with their certificates at assembly soon.

Mover Moments

"I joined Movers to help me get faster. I like running around. I keep saying, 'keep going fast' in my head, because I am fast."

Dane, Foundation

"I like moving my body and running around with my friends whilst talking. I love that you can track how many laps you've run and see if I can go further."

Tora, Grade 5

Keep moving Ruskin!

Mel



Congratulations Mr McDonald

A huge congratulations to Mr McDonald and his wife Em on the safe arrival baby Kadin McDonald.



These students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Mila	Phoebe	Tori	Eden	Matilda	Leo	Georgia	Rachel	Robert
Zeke	Daniel	Caitlin	Bik	Olivia	Jaden	Ngun Tha	Vihan	

School Vision

Every student at Ruskin Park Primary School is encouraged to develop their natural curiosity and imagination through new and engaging approaches to teaching. We believe a positive attitude toward learning in a friendly community promotes success today, tomorrow and into the future.

Our values are:

Respect

Honesty

Persistence

Resilience

Active Kids, Healthy Minds



**September school holiday fun
for families with young children!**

Outdoor games day

Wednesday 20 September

Play gym and swim day

Wednesday 27 September
(Bookings essential)

Yoga and mindfulness classes

Thursday 21 and Tuesday 26
September (Bookings essential)

For more information and bookings

Visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/activekids or scan the QR code.

#maroondahactivekids



**Bookings
online**





DIGIMAKER

Programming for young Makers

In a world where technology touches every aspect of our lives, it is crucial that our children understand how it works. To accomplish this objective, there is an exciting coding club running at the school.

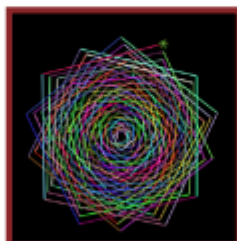
COMPUTER PROGRAMMING CLUB!

@ Ruskin Park Primary School



DEVELOP SKILLS

- Creativity
- Logical thinking
- Problem solving

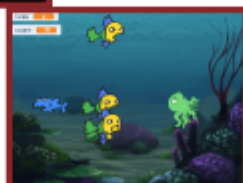


LEARN

- Computer Science Concepts
- Fundamentals of programming
Loops, Events, Randomness and more

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Scratch
- Python
- Javascript
- .. and many more



MAKE

- Games
- Web pages
- Apps

Digimaker structured program runs each term and is charged on a per-term basis. Students will use school computer during the lesson.

9 WEEK TERM PROGRAM

Program for **Term 4 2023** is as follows:

Year levels: 3 to 6

Term Fee: \$165 excl GST

LUNCH TIME

1:10pm – 1:55pm

BATCH 1

Mondays 9th Oct to 11th Dec 2023 (no lesson on 6th Nov)

LUNCH TIME

1:10pm – 1:55pm

BATCH 2

Fridays 6th Oct to 1st Dec 2023

Fill out the form online by
Thursday 14th Sep 2023



www.digimaker.com.au/enrol

Digimaker will confirm your child's spot via email**

** All important emails from Digimaker will be sent from info@digimaker.com.au. Please ensure this address is whitelisted in your Junk Email filters or added as a Trusted contact.

HOLIDAY E-LEARNING PROGRAM

**2 HOURS OF FUN FILLED CODING
FULLY SUPERVISED OVER ZOOM
(5 DAYS A WEEK!)**

<https://www.digimaker.com.au/events/school-holiday-coding-program/>