



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

27 October 2023



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

November		December	
Thursday 2 nd	2024 Foundation Transition	Friday 1 st	Subway Lunch
Friday 3 rd	Sushi Lunch	Monday 4 th	2024 Foundation Information Night
Monday 6th	Student Free Day	Tuesday 5 th	2024 Foundation Transition
Tuesday 7 th	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	Thursday 7 th	Christmas Concert
Friday 10 th	Remembrance Day Choir Performance	Monday 11 th	Moving Up Day
Friday 10 th	Colour Run	Tuesday 12 th	Yr 6 High School Transition
Wednesday 15 th	2024 Foundation Transition	Wednesday 13 th	Yr 6 Graduation
Wednesday 15 th	Robotics Competition	Thursday 14 th	Foundation Graduation
Friday 17 th	Yr 5 & 6 Fun Sports	Monday 18 th	Year 6 Excursion
Friday 24th	Staff Professional Practice Day (Student Free Day)	Wednesday 20 th	End of Term 4 (1:30pm)
Thursday 30 th	Yr 2 Sleepover		

Principal's Report

Year Three and Year Four Camp

It has been an exciting fortnight for our Middle School students with both year levels attending their respective camps. There were many activities available and it was great to see high levels of enthusiasm. Camps provide a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their independence and spend time with their peers and teachers outside of the classroom. Our students (and staff) returned home a little weary but with many memories and entertaining stories to share. Please see the relevant sections later in this newsletter for more details.

A sincere thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers who attended the camps and supported our students.

World Teachers' Day

Today, Friday 27 October, we celebrate World Teachers' Day. I would like to thank and recognise the dedicated, enthusiastic and talented team of teachers we have at Ruskin Park. I am privileged to work with a team that is committed to providing the best possible learning opportunities to our students while at the same time striving to support their emotional wellbeing and development.

They really are an amazing team.

Outside School Hours Care

At the end of the year, after more than 20 years of wonderful service, our OSHC Coordinator Sharyn Carroll will be retiring. Sharyn is incredibly passionate and dedicated and with the support of her team has developed an excellent OSHC program that has cared for many hundreds of students. She has worked tirelessly to ensure our students are provided with a wide variety of engaging opportunities while at the same time making sure all compliance tasks are well managed. We will miss Sharyn but wish her well in her exciting next chapter.

In recent months School Council has spent considerable time developing a plan for OSHC in 2024 and beyond. I am pleased to inform you that next year we will be partnering with TheirCare. We will provide more details in the coming weeks. I have included TheirCare's philosophy below:

TheirCare exists to enrich communities. We provide exceptional care focused on children. We value being caring, open and engaged. The foundations of our care philosophy centre around the My Time, Our Place Framework and we adhere to the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care. We incorporate the needs, interests

and learning development of all children in our care, to ensure children and families have a sense of belonging and engagement.

Colour Run

Excitement is building ahead of this year's colour run. Please highlight Friday 10 November in your diary. For those who may not have experienced a colour run before, the task is to make your way around an obstacle course while avoiding (or not avoiding) the coloured powder stations. The course is accessible to all family members, so parents and younger siblings are invited to join in the fun. Please see the information pages sent home in recent weeks for information on how to register and purchase the optional t-shirts.

Thank you to our Family and Friends team and the parents who have volunteered to assist on the day. Please support their efforts.

Referendum BBQ

Thank you to everyone involved in cooking, serving and preparing the Referendum Day BBQ. It proved to be a busy day with many sausages sold. Overall we raised \$1256 for the school.

Curriculum Day and Professional Practice Day

Each year schools need to conduct four curriculum (student free) days. At Ruskin Park we generally spread these out across the year, with one held each term. Our Term Four curriculum day is Monday 6 November.

We also need to schedule a student free professional practice day. This will be held on Friday 24 November.

Andrew Moore

Principal

Foundation

The last two weeks have been filled with fun. We've caught up with our buddies, explored narratives, played with money and have learnt about data. The term is moving quickly, before we know it our Foundation students will be in Year 1!

Literacy

In Reading, students have been exploring character traits through rich texts such as Ella Kazoo Will Not Brush Her Hair, Tough Boris, The Recess Queen and The Invisible Boy. We have been discussing the difference between what the character looks like and is like and students have been using wonderful descriptive language to express their opinions.



In Writing, students have created their own characters, settings, problems and solutions to draft an imaginative story of their own. In word work students have been experimenting with word families and the deletion and addition of sounds to make new words such as, p.a.t says pat and if we take the p away it says at. If we add s to at it says sat.



Maths

In Maths, students have delved into learning about money and financial reasoning. We have looked at Australian coins, the value of money (coins), making transactions and the purpose of money. Students made shops, items to sell, price tags and then had a lot of fun role playing various financial transactions with play money! Just look at those faces!



We've also been recapping our knowledge of data handling. Just look at how we have been recording and sorting information.



Geography

In Geography, students have also been exploring the links between Aboriginal land and their local geography and surroundings. Students looked at and discussed different maps and how they represent important landmarks, mountains, rivers and deserts.





Family & Friends will be selling Zooper Dooper's for 50cents every Friday until the end of term. In Foundation, icy poles will be ordered through the classroom and a random selection will be

delivered at lunchtime for distribution.

Thank you to those parents who are still helping out with reading! If anyone else is able to help, the more the merrier! You just need a WWCC at the office.



Junior School

Year 1

We have had a fantastic fortnight of amazing learning experiences. The Year 1 teachers have been so impressed with how focused and determined our students have been so far this term. Before we know it, it will be the end of the year and our students will be heading into Year 2!

Just a reminder that on Monday the 6th of November there is a curriculum day where students are not required at school. Tuesday the 7th of November is Cup Day. On Friday the 10th of November we will also have our Ruskin Park Colour Run! It is going to be an amazing event full of fun and laughter. The students might even get the chance to throw some paint on the teachers! Don't miss the fun!

Please keep an eye on Classroom Dojo and Compass throughout the term to ensure you don't miss any important information.

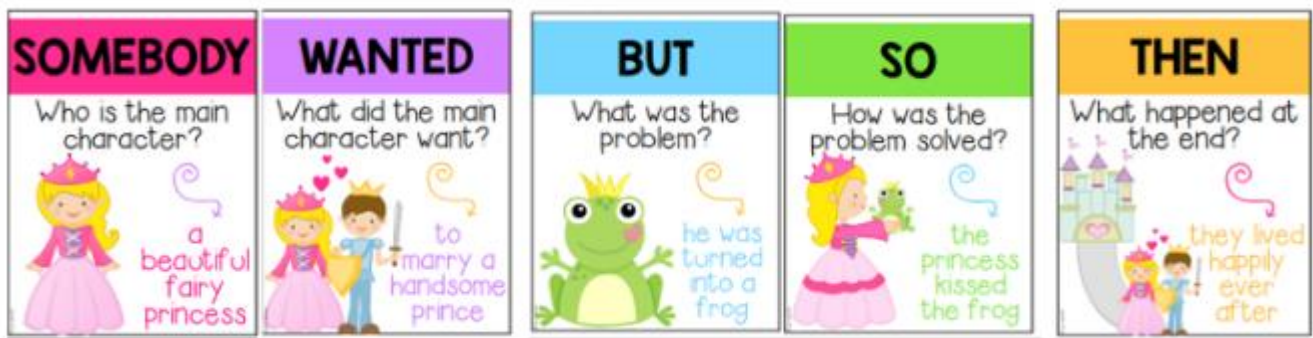
Wellbeing

In Wellbeing, we have been focusing on the importance of working in a team. Students were given the opportunity to develop the skills that they need to effectively work in a team with others through small group activities. We highlighted that skills such as being respectful, listening and taking turns are crucial in teamwork. Students were able to have respectful discussions, solve problems together, and be inclusive of everyone by allowing them to have a voice.



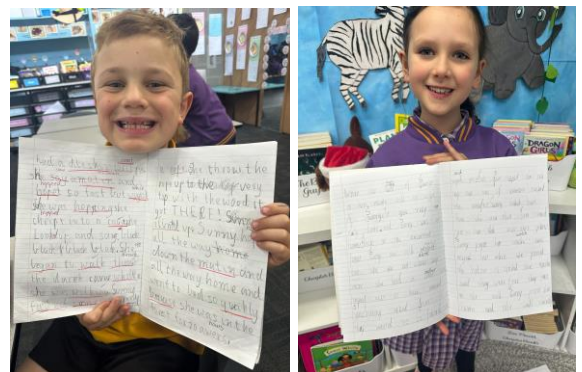
Literacy

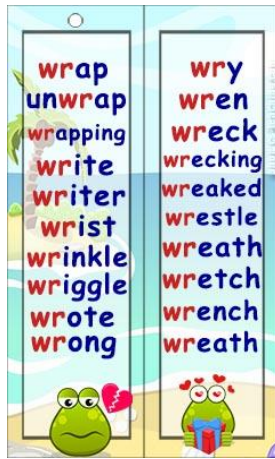
In Literacy we have continued to focus on narrative writing, reading a variety of different texts by Julia Donaldson and some other rich mentor texts. The students have enjoyed learning about the reading strategy of 'Summarising' using the SWBST Strategy (Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then). The students have had multiple opportunities to practise the taught strategy using a range of passages and their own 'Just Right' texts. When reading with your child at home, encourage them to summarise the text using the SWBST strategy. The more they practise, the better they will become! Have a look at the parts of the strategy below.



The students have loved using their imagination and creativity to write detailed problems and solutions. We have been identifying and recording interesting and descriptive vocabulary and sentence starters and have been using the ideas in our writing. The ideas that the students have come up with and the incredible language that they have been using has been very impressive!

Our phonics sessions and homework over the past fortnight have been focused on the blends 'ng' and 'wr'. Some examples of words that have those blends are below.





NG Digraph Words

bang
bing
bling
bring
brung
clang
cling
clung
dang
ding
dong
dung
fang
fling

flung
gang
gong
hang
hung
king
long
lung
pang
pong
prong
rang
ring
rung

sang
sing
slang
sling
slung
song
songs
sprang
spring
sprung
sting
string
strong
strung

stung
sung
swang
swing
swung
tang
thing
thong
throng
tong
wing
zing

When reading with your child at home, see if you can spot some of our focus blends in the take home readers.

Maths

Last week we continued to develop our understanding of addition and subtraction. The students loved participating in hands-on activities and using a range of concrete materials to support and demonstrate their understanding. We explicitly focused on 'equals' and developing a deep understanding of what it means. The students had multiple opportunities to develop 'balancing' number sentences where both sides of the equals sign equaled the same amount, for example: $4+3=6+1$. You might like to create some of your own 'balancing' number sentences at home!

This week in Maths, we started developing our understanding of Mass. This has seen us hefting and comparing. We've used our arms and shopping bags to improvise 'human scales' as we explore and discover the properties of Mass. We started looking at objects with varying masses and we compared them by highlighting if they are lighter or heavier.



Year 2

We can't believe it is already Week 4 of what has already been a busy term that will only get busier! Coming up soon this term we have the Year 2 sleepover (November 30th) which we are so excited about! Now is a great time to begin the conversation about the sleepover and what to expect so that the students can have plenty of time to prepare for sleeping at school.

Literacy

We have continued looking at and practicing writing our persuasive texts. Our first piece had the students choosing between whether they would rather have a giraffe or a lion for a pet, and the students came up with persuasive reasons for their choice. The students then practised their persuasive skills as they argued whether Maths was the best subject or not. A lot of students argued that there were other subjects that were better - one great example was, "PE is better than Maths because we get exercise in PE but what does Maths do for us?"

In Spelling we are looking at the suffixes “-er” and “-est” and we have spoken about how adding these suffixes changes the meaning of the word. The suffix “-er” means “more”, and “-est” means most, and the students experimented by beginning with a base word and adding the two suffixes and discussed the changes they noticed. For example, tall, taller and tallest.

We also had a Grammar focus on synonyms. Throughout the week the students have explored and discussed how a synonym is multiple words with a similar meaning, and have had some practice coming up with synonyms for different words. We’re excited to see if students use some synonyms they have learnt in their writing!



Maths

We have been learning about all things data in Maths - from collecting and recording data, to interpreting the data. The students had a go at collecting and recording data from their classmates, on subjects such as eye colour, favourite colours or even what sports they play outside of school. Once the data was collected and recorded, the students then put this data onto a graph (in their Maths book and on Microsoft Word!) and asked and answered questions about their and others' data. For example, “how many people play Netball?”

We also began exploring mass, capacity and volume. The students loved experimenting with the balance scales, estimating how many blocks will weigh the same as each item, and then using the scales to check our estimations. We also investigated capacity, figuring out which container Mrs Pratley could have used if she knew that she drank 3 cups.



Wellbeing

In Wellbeing, we spoke about tricky situations and how we can respond when these situations arise. The students discussed situations like not being invited to a birthday party, being bossed around by a friend, or a friend snatching their toy. We learnt a few strategies that can be used to deal with these situations, how to say no in a kind way, and discussed how it is definitely okay to say no! The students were then able to create and decorate their own Friendship Ninja headband which was lots of fun, and great to see their creativity come out.



Digi Tech

We had a go at creating our own bar graph using the data we collected in our Maths lessons! The students learnt how to insert a table, change the colours of the rows and colours, and insert text boxes in order to label their graphs.

We began exploring Google Classroom this week in Digi Tech. Students were given their new logins and their task was to get onto Google Classroom, log in to their accounts, and follow the link posted for them in the classroom.



Middle School

Year 3

Camp

On Monday the Year Three students headed to their first ever school camp at Wombat Corner adventure camp. The students showed us bravery, determination and resilience during their first school camp. They participated in a variety of team building activities including canoeing, low ropes course, archery, hut building and more. The food was amazingly delicious with most students having seconds. Before bed, the students participated in a night walk around the camp site followed by a movie before heading to bed.

The next morning students participated in two more activities before we packed up all our belongings and had a ride on Puffing Billy. It was wonderful to see all the students participating in the activities, smiling and laughing with their friends. It was also great to see so many students helping out their peers and teachers throughout the activities. We are so proud of the students and we hope that they have created many everlasting memories.







Literacy

In Literacy the students have continued to work on their understanding of persuasive texts. The students have continued to read a variety of different real estate listings and have specifically focussed on the vocabulary that is included within the listings. Students had a go at writing their own real estate listings for a house and did an amazing job at the way they were able to persuade buyers to purchase their houses.



Digitech

This fortnight the students have continued working on their coding skills by using the Spheros. The students had to challenge themselves to code the Spheros to travel exactly one metre. This was achieved by trial and error and adjusting the Spheros speed, distance and timing. Students then had a go at attempting to get the Spheros to follow the lines on the mat which involved a whole new set of codes. It was wonderful to see the students working together and being so persistent to get the codes correct.



Year 4

Camp Gundiwindi

Wow! Last week we had the best time attending Camp Gundiwindi. It was fantastic to see the Year 4 students challenge themselves, adopt a growth mindset and develop their independence while away at camp. Students participated in a range of outdoor activities including the giant swing, flying fox, archery, low ropes course and they even had the opportunity to make some damper. Yum! The students also participated in a range of team building challenges where they needed to work together successfully to complete a range of activities. Students had the opportunity to get up close with a range of farm animals and they also found themselves with the chance to hold blue tongue lizards and go yabbying. This was a highlight for many. To finish off the camp, we took students to Rush Hq in Rowville. Here the students had the opportunity to participate in rock climbing, a ninja course, high ropes course, dodgeball and trampolines. The Year 4's are to be commended on their behaviour and the positive attitude they displayed towards all activities at camp. Check out some of the fun below.



Literacy

In Literacy we have been continuing to explore persuasive texts. Students have focused on identifying an author's point of view, highlighting topic sentences and recognising key arguments in a text. They have worked on identifying the persuasive devices used by the author to engage the audience. In Writing, the students have researched, planned arguments and found supporting evidence to help craft their own persuasive piece of writing. They have looked at using engaging hooks, such as rhetorical questions, emotive language and high modality words to help persuade their audience.

Maths

In Maths we have been looking at different methods of data collection. Students created survey questions to support the research they were conducting for their persuasive piece of writing. They then explored the most suitable way to display and present this data. Students have also been tracking the daily temperature, reading thermometers and recording this data on a line graph. This week the students have begun building upon their fluency skills by working on their recall of 10 x 10 multiplication facts.



Senior School

Year 5

Reading and Writing

In Reading and Writing we have continued learning all about the Australian author Jackie French. We analysed many of her books, examining her word choice, sentence structure, the use of images and text placement. We used this learning to help write picture story books that are in the style of Jackie French. These books look fantastic and show careful consideration of word choice, sentence structure, text placement and use of images. We are so proud of the effort put in!



Maths

In Maths, we are learning about money and finance. We first of all built our Maths vocabulary, exploring the many, many words associated with money and finance. Some words include: budget, invoice, GST, deposit, credit, debit, and withdraw. We have practised creating budgets and planning expenditure based on a set budget for picnics, pizza nights and special lunches. Through these activities, students have determined the affordability of items and practised adding and subtracting money. We have also explored GST - learning what it is, and how to calculate it.

Buddies

We had a great time with our Foundation Buddies last week. We collected them from their classroom and walked them to assembly, where they sat with us for the entire time. Afterwards, we came back to our classrooms where we enjoyed some quality time together, reading picture story books and talking about the books we read.



Geography

We are continuing learning about places in the world, focussing on continents as well as key geographical features such as the Equator, Tropic of Capricorn, Tropic of Cancer and the International Date Line. Students are really enjoying exploring atlases, Google Earth and key geography websites.

Digi Tech

In Digi Tech, we are using a web based program called 'Scratch' to design a character for a video game and to code instructions to animate the character. This is a very popular project with many students and we have been so impressed with their design, creativity and ability to code simple instructions.

Year 6

Mathematics

In Mathematics we have commenced a new unit on Chance. So far students have been learning about listing outcomes and how to list these as fractions. Students then extended their skills learning how to calculate expected frequencies and compare these to the observed frequencies. This allowed for some fun hands-on activities including using dice, cards and counters. Students would select and play an activity, such as drawing a blue counter from a jar of counters or selecting a Queen from a set of playing cards. Students would perform this activity 'x' number of times and tally their results, i.e., observed frequency. They would then do the calculations to work out the expected frequency which required them to utilise previously developed skills in fractions. Students would then compare their observed frequencies to the expected frequencies, which promoted some interesting discussions.

We have also been playing fun Chance games including Greedy Pig and The King's Tax.

The King's Tax has been a favourite with the Year Six classes. Using a deck of cards, students stand behind their chairs and progressively tally their totals. They may sit down after any card is drawn out, which is their final score. The King in the deck means out and anybody standing is out and scores zero; the Queen represents doubling the score; whilst students have a say in what the Jack and Joker represent. If they represent the Jack as x10, the Joker needs to be a negative outcome, such as -20. Try it at home!

Literacy

In Reading, students have been exploring a range of multi-modal texts; analysing the five modes of communication; aural, spatial, linguistic, visual and gestural. The past fortnight students have been watching and reading a range of multimodal texts including the mini-series 'What's for Dinner?' and short clips from everyone's favourite – Shrek. Students have identified and discussed in depth how sound, brightness and camera angles impact on the viewer. Students focused on two Shrek scenes and created a Venn diagram, comparing and contrasting. Students have also been critiquing a range of multimodal texts and identifying the meaning and purpose of these texts.

In Writing, students have been busily planning, researching and drafting their multimodal texts. Students have researched a topic related to our Geography unit and they have selected a country from Asia, Europe or North America. They have collected a range of information including facts, images, graphs, maps, data tables, etc. Last week students commenced drafting their multimodal text which will be in the form of a website using Google Sites. Shortly students will commence creating their website. We cannot wait to share some of the finished products.

Year 5/6 Fun Interschool Sports Day

On Friday 17th November we will be competing in our first ever Term Four Fun Interschool Sports Day. The four sports on offer are slightly different and it is a celebration of the sporting year. The four sports include: Downball, Dodgeball, European Handball and Ultimate Frisbee.

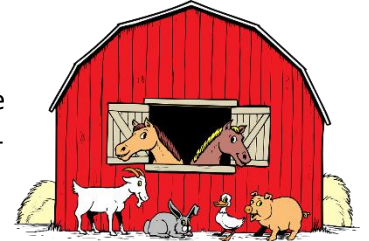
Students commenced training last week and we will be practising for the next couple of weeks in preparation for the day.

More information will be available via Compass shortly.

OSHC News

Curriculum Day Program – Monday 6th November 2023

On Monday 6th November we will be running a curriculum day program from 7am to 6.30pm. We have planned an excursion to Bundoora Park Farm where the children will be able to observe and feed a variety of farm animals, enjoy a wildlife ride, and play in the well-equipped playground.



If you would like your child/children to attend, please complete the curriculum day notice and return it to the OSHC program by Wednesday 1st November 2023.

Please note children must be enrolled in the OSHC program to be able to attend the curriculum day. If you have not used the OSHC program this year and you would like your child to attend, please ensure you complete an OSHC enrolment before the curriculum day program. Details on how to enrol in the OSHC program are available on the Ruskin Park Primary School website.

Gecko Sports Incursion

We were fortunate to have Gecko Sports run an Ultimate Frisbee Incursion on Monday 23rd October in after school care. The children had lots of fun playing a variety of games, practising their frisbee throwing techniques and learning new skills. We are looking forward to Gecko Sports returning to OSHC on Friday 17th November to run a Tabloid Sports Incursion.



OSHC Educator Team

These students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Alijah	Hugo	James	Jemma	Ashwin	Keziah	Hayden	Evelyn	Sadie
Sebastian	Eamon							



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



**INTERESTED
IN PLAYING
BASKETBALL?**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR
BOYS BORN IN 2016 AND 2017
TO HELP FILL OUR TEAMS IN THE**

**SATURDAY
BOYS COMPETITION**

THE SUMMER SEASON IS JUST STARTING
AND WE ARE LOOKING FOR ONE OR TWO
MORE PLAYERS IN SEVERAL TEAMS.

**TRAINING NIGHTS ARE
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY.**

MANY CURRENT MAROONDAH MAGIC
PLAYERS ARE FROM **RUSKIN PARK PRIMARY.**
WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US.

If you would like to find out more,
please contact **Peter on 0400 577 476**