



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

24 November 2023



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

November

Friday 24th **Staff Professional Practice Day**
(Student Free Day)

Wednesday 29th TheirCare Parent Information
Session (online @7pm)

Thursday 30th Yr 2 Sleepover

December

Friday 1st Subway Lunch

Monday 4th 2024 Foundation Information Night

Tuesday 5th 2024 Foundation Transition

December

Thursday 7th Christmas Concert

Friday 8th Parent Helper Morning Tea- 10:45

Monday 11th Moving Up Day

Tuesday 12th Yr 6 High School Transition

Wednesday 13th Yr 6 Graduation

Thursday 14th Foundation Graduation

Monday 18th Year 6 Excursion

Wednesday 20th End of Term 4 (1:30pm)

Principal's Report

Our Ruskin Park Colour Run was a success with the community coming together to experience an event that involved laughter, excitement and 'colour'. Energy levels were high as students navigated the obstacle course while teachers and parents applied coloured powder to each participant.

Whilst the evening was a lot of fun, what stood out was the strong community spirit we continue to have here at Ruskin Park. It was great to observe the interactions between students, families and staff.

I would like to thank everyone who played a part in the day. The key organisers, Deb Schubert, Russell O'Brien and Leanne Milne spent many hours planning and preparing for the big event. It is no exaggeration to say that without them, the Colour Run would not have been able to happen.

A large team of helpers also provided crucial support. This includes Jeff O'Brien, Steve O'Brien, Priscilla Crocker, Teena Hartrup, Kylie Smith and Damian Smith who spent much of the day assisting with setting up and also throughout the event.

During the evening, there were also a large number of volunteers who assisted with many tasks, including throwing powder, filling powder bottles, packing up, managing the bbq and pizzas and much more. Thank you to Gemmi Reballato, Danielle Hall, Sarah Osanz, Mangai Muru, Paul Trewthowan, Ben Crocker, Samantha Day, Susan Markham, Leslie Watson, Kerry Walton, Melissa O'Brien, Paul Rodset, Brodie Vittorio, Liz Forde, Julie Smith, Michael Watson, Servaas Luckhoff, Brett Schubert, Brock Schubert, Sigourney Crocker, Olaf Richter, Ashlea Whitmore, Paul Whitmore, Steve Milne, Simon Bismark and Barry Kearney (If we have missed anyone we do sincerely apologise).

It was a wonderful Ruskin Park event and I thank our entire community for their support.



End of Year Reports

As we approach the end of year, teachers are busy completing final student assessments and adding the last touches to school reports. I would like to acknowledge the staff and thank them for the many hours that have been spent writing and editing reports. I trust that you will find them informative and that they provide a clear picture of your child's achievements and areas to focus on in the future.

The reports are scheduled to be published via Compass on Wednesday 13 December.

Staffing Updates / Planning for 2024

Planning for 2024 is well advanced. Students will shortly commence transition sessions and there is a sense of excitement about the year ahead. Teachers are spending a significant amount of time planning classes. This is a complex process with consideration given to a variety of factors, including academic and social balance. Teachers are well placed to make these decisions as they see the interactions and learning of each student every day.

Sadly, the end of a school year is also a time where we farewell staff.

Mr McDonald has been a member of the Ruskin Park community for close to a decade. As our PE teacher he has worked with all students and led many whole school events. His care, support and connection with students is of the highest calibre and he will be missed. We are hopeful he will still be a regular face as a relief teacher. In 2024 Mr McDonald is embarking on a new journey, running his own sporting franchise.

Mrs Page has been working part time in Year 4 over the past two years since returning from maternity leave. Mrs Page has brought great knowledge and worked closely with her colleagues to provide students with some wonderful learning opportunities.

Mr Cosham joined Ruskin Park at the start of 2023. Initially teaching Year 2, he moved into Year 4 this year. He has formed strong relationships with his students and been a valued member of staff.

Mrs McKerrow has been working in a part time support role for most of this year. While her main focus has been supporting students in Year 5 and 6, she has been a contributor across all aspects of the school.

We thank all of these teachers for the contribution they have made to Ruskin Park and wish them all the very best for the future.

With the teacher changes listed above, and the addition of extra classes next year, we will welcome new teachers to Ruskin Park in 2024. We look forward to each new member bringing their experiences and knowledge to the school as we continue our learning journey. Next year we will welcome Josh Taratuta, Lexi Daw, Nicole Thoonen and Emma Roche.

In some exciting news, I can share with our community that Miss Doensen is expecting her second child. She will be with us for the first couple of weeks next year before commencing maternity leave. Congratulations Ash and Matt.

Christmas Concert & Art Show 2023

We are looking forward to presenting our 2023 Christmas Concert & Art Show on Thursday 7 December. The Art room and foyers will be open from 5:30pm for families to view some of the wonderful art that has been produced this year.

Once you have viewed the art work, bring your picnic dinner and join us for some great entertainment on the oval. Pre-show entertainment will start from 6:10pm with the concert commencing at 6:30pm.

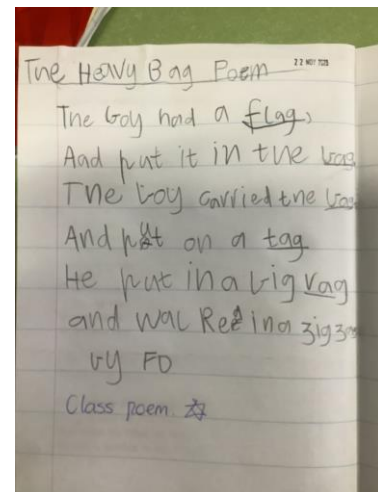
Through our Family and Friends team we will be supporting the Salvation Army's food and gift drive. A poster is included towards the end of the newsletter. There is a Christmas tree in the main office foyer where donations can be left. Thank you in advance for your support.

Foundation

Literacy

onset **rime**

bag	tag	flag
cat	flat	splat
dip	ship	strip
pale	male	stale

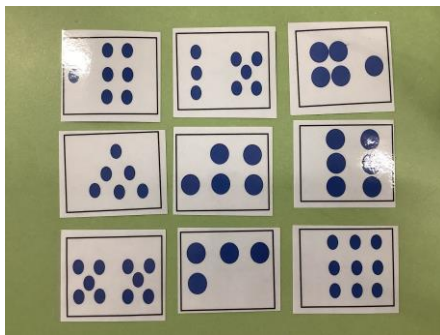


Maths

In Maths, we have been focusing on subitising and estimating. We are developing the skills to look at a set of dots, objects, and pictures to **quickly** state how many we see. This has linked well to estimation, as students have been able to use their subitising and other maths related skills, such as addition to make plausible guesses. Discussing how our brain has worked it out has been great for discussion and explaining strategies.

Have a look at some of the examples below of questions we ask and how students might explain their reasoning! You might like to challenge your little one at home and get them to do some estimating. For example, how many lego pieces are on the floor?

Subitising



"I can see 3 and 2 more, so that's 5."

"It's like a full tens frame, but one is missing. It's 9."

"It's two lots of 3's, that makes 6."

"It's the same as two dice with 5 each...it's 10"

Estimating



"How do you know it's ___?"

"What groups did you see?"

"Explain your thinking"

"Why did your estimation change?"

Special Events

Christmas Concert

We have started to practise our song for the Christmas Concert, and we are excited to show you our beautiful singing voices and Christmas spirit. The Christmas Concert is on Thursday 7th of December and will be held at school. Please keep your eye out on Dojo and Compass for further information about the night!

Things to note:

As we're nearing the end of the year please return all library books before December 1st. The following week is our last **full** week of school and we will be busy with all sorts of exciting extra activities such as...graduation, class parties, transition to Year 1. Therefore, we will continue to send home our reader books and sight word folders until **Friday 8th December**, so please return home readers by then.

Class Party

We will be holding our class party on the **15th of December**. Please send a special party lunch box for **your child only**. Please still include a sandwich or a different lunch food that is enough to sustain them throughout the day. Please also remember that due to allergies, do not send any nuts or nut products in your child's lunchbox.

Junior School

Year 1

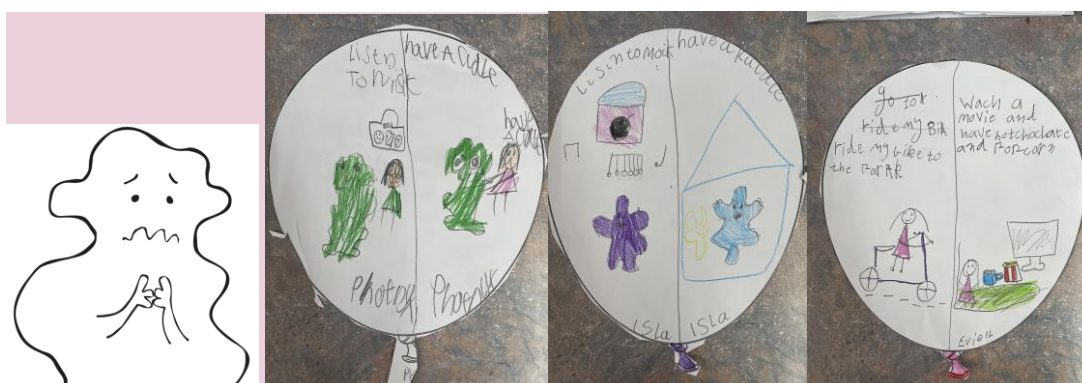
What a fortnight! There have been multiple opportunities for the students to participate in engaging learning experiences, start to think about personal goals that they have achieved throughout the year and begin to get their mindset ready for Year 2. The next few weeks will be jam packed so keep your eyes peeled for important updates and information on Classroom Dojo and Compass.

Last week the students and teachers had so much fun at the Ruskin Park Colour Run! It was amazing to see the smiles on everyone's faces as they started off the run very clean and ended up in a very different way. As you can see from the photos below, a ball was had by all!



Wellbeing

In Wellbeing we have been developing our understanding of stress through Wibbly. In groups, students were able to identify situations and circumstances that might cause them to feel worried and anxious. The students also had the opportunity to think of strategies to cope and deal with stress.



Literacy

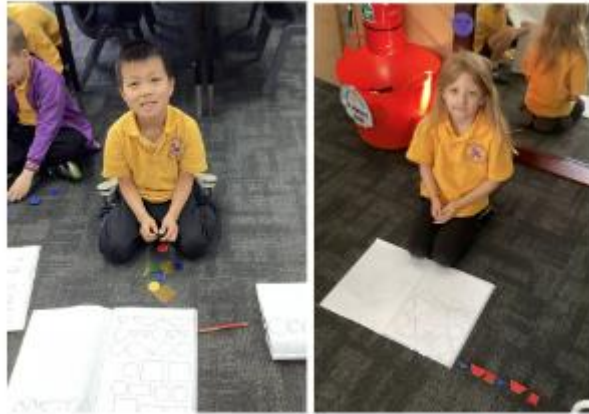
Last week, we finished our unit on Imaginative Texts as students were given the opportunity to work on their own individual goals. In Writing, students engaged in free choice writing focusing on the use of punctuation.

In Literacy, we have begun to focus on transactional texts. This is a topic that we will explore for the remainder of Term 4. Transactional texts look at how different people communicate with others for a specific purpose. Examples can include postcards, emails, text messages and invitations. In both Reading and Writing, we have focused on the purpose and structure of postcards and letters. This week we have begun to explore friendly letters. Students have read and looked at a variety of different books that feature friendly letters, such as "Can I Be Your Dog?" and "The

Jolly Postman and Other People's Letters". They have begun to write friendly letters to a range of different people and characters.

Maths

In Maths we started our unit on patterns. To engage and introduce students to the topic, they were given the opportunity to explore creating patterns using 2D shapes. The students enjoyed making different patterns based on colours, size and shape. We were also able to revise 2D shapes and their features. The students had the chance to work together where they were encouraged to continue patterns created by their partner. Check out patterns we've created below!



This week we are continuing patterns, focusing on patterns made by numbers. The students were again provided with 2D shapes to explore various patterns that could be created. Connections were made between patterns made by objects and numbers as they were challenged to give each shape a number of how much it is worth. The students then had the opportunity to use their additive thinking skills by adding all numbers together to figure out how much their pattern is worth. What are some patterns that you can create using objects and numbers?

Rotations

Students were given another opportunity to work with their peers from different classes, participating in History, Grammar, Coding and Wellbeing. The students have loved having the opportunity to work with different students and teachers within Year 1 and make some new connections!

Year 2

We have had a wonderful time over the past couple of weeks exploring various learning opportunities and enjoying the increasingly good weather. This also included the Colour Run and it was amazing to see so many families enjoying the afternoon.



The students and teachers are so excited that our Year 2 Sleepover is coming up on Thursday 30th November! Please keep your eyes peeled for updates and additional information posted on Class Dojo.

Literacy

In Literacy we have started our Multi-Genre unit. The students have been reading and writing about topics of their choice. Last week we used our topic to create an engaging narrative that included all the necessary elements such as characters, setting, key events, problem and solution. They included lots of interesting language and details to really paint a picture in the mind of the reader. The students had a wonderful time editing and publishing their work using Google Classroom.

This week we have used our topic of choice to begin planning and creating some fabulous persuasive pieces. The students have eagerly been using what they learnt in our last unit in their own writing. We have been focusing on including persuasive words and sentence starters as well as using convincing reasons and evidence to support their ideas.

Maths

In Maths, we have continued to learn more about fractions of shapes. The students have had a wonderful time creating quilt squares to demonstrate their understanding of halves, quarters and eighths using different shape combinations. They had to create their own unique pattern to fill the square and then label the fractions they had created.

Here are some examples of their creations:



This week the classes have used a code, where each letter of the alphabet has a value according to its alphabetical order, eg A = 1, B = 2 etc. They worked out the value of each of their names, as well as other problem solving questions. It was great to see them thinking about different strategies to work out the possible combinations.

Wellbeing

In Wellbeing, we have been exploring our own individual character strengths. The students had to imagine that if they were a superhero, what superpowers they would have and what kind of super friend they would be. They then drew a picture of their very own superhero cape that reflected all their qualities, strengths and super friend powers.



Digitech

The classes love using Google Classroom to publish their Multi Genre writing. They have been practising logging in and accessing their assignment in class which allows them to type their writing into Google Slides. When completed they will have a narrative, a persuasive piece and an information report all on their topic, as well as a decorated front cover using different colours and pictures.

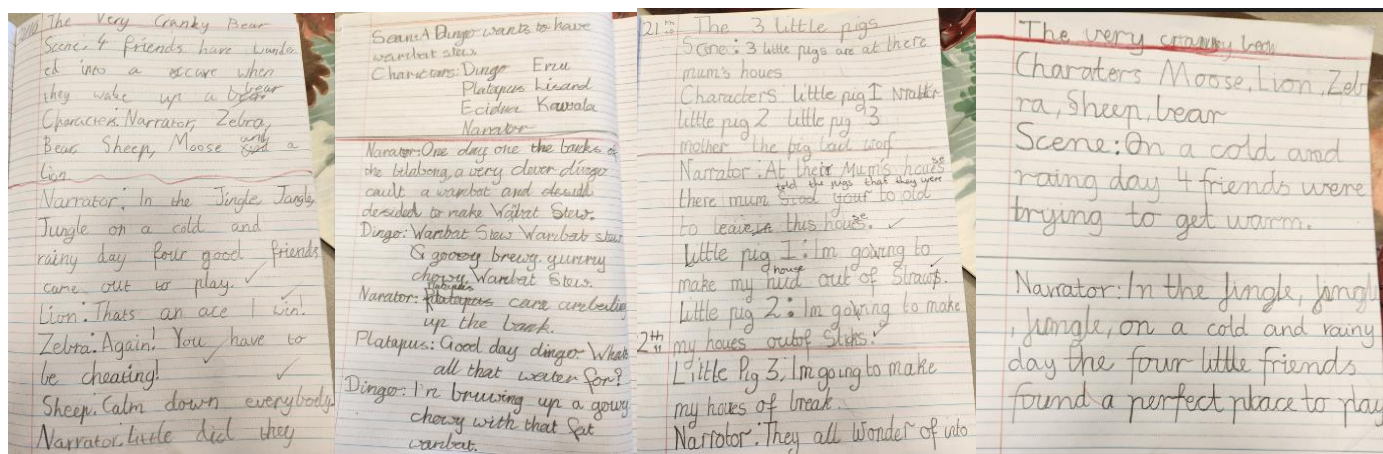
Middle School

Year 3

Literacy

This fortnight the Year Three students have been enjoying participating in our 'Reader's Theatre' unit. The students have eagerly begun reading, breaking down and performing scripts during reading sessions. Students have also been working on their use of voice throughout their performances. It has been a pleasure to see their enthusiasm and personalities shine as they take on different roles and characters. The ability to take on different roles/ characters and changing their voices has been entertaining to watch throughout each script they participate in.

During Writing, the students have continued working on scripts where they have been learning how they are constructed and their specific features. Students have been able to follow the correct structure of a script by turning daily routines, conversations and picture story books into their own scripts. We have been so impressed with their ability to understand the structure so quickly and we are looking forward to many more sessions of script writing.



Maths

In Maths the Year 3 students have been working on understanding the concept of volume. Students have been comparing the volume of different shapes by using concrete materials. They have also been practising our fluency of subtraction this week using cards, dice and dominos. Students have been going over the terminology of subtraction such as 'difference' and have been solving worded problems using the split and jump strategy.





History

In History, the Year 3 students have been working on emblems and symbols. This week they looked at Indigenous symbols and their meaning. Students had a look at the painting that was created for the bottom foyer of the new building which was designed by a local indigenous artist. They found the different images within it and discussed what they meant.

Home Reading

Please ensure that you are continuing to read with your child each night. It is important to continue reading every night to practise their decoding, fluency and expression. Students need to record the books they are reading in their diaries, which will be checked by their classroom teacher throughout the week. Students are able to read their own chapter books from home as part of their home reading.

Digitech

In Digitech the students have been learning how to code the Spheros to tell a story. The students used a story template to organise their story and included extra information such as what sounds the Spheros would play or what the lights would be doing. The students then used their coding skills to code and recreate the stories. The students were very engaged throughout the activity and enjoyed showing the group their stories and Spheros' actions.



Year 4

Colour Run

What an amazing time we had at the Colour Run! It was wonderful to see so many happy faces and an array of different colours across the obstacle course. A big thank you to the Parent and Friends committee who worked hard to put this successful event together. It was a fantastic community event with lots of fun, colour, bubbles and laughter. See if you can recognise some of Year 4 faces amongst the colour below.



Library Excursion

Last Friday we enjoyed a wonderful experience at the Croydon Library. We departed from school as one big group to head to the library, eating our lunch along the way at the nearby playground. Once we arrived at the library, we were treated to a range of short picture story books by the lovely staff at the Croydon Library. Our experience focused on building our knowledge and understanding of different genres that we may come across in our reading and writing, identifying different styles and purposes that authors achieve by writing in a particular genre. Students completed a scavenger hunt activity that required them to search for different genres around the library. We had a very positive experience and will no doubt apply our new knowledge of genres to our current multi-genre unit.

Literacy

In conjunction with our library excursion, students have been continuing to build their knowledge of genres through our multi-genre unit. During our Reading sessions, students have been analysing realistic fiction texts by exploring the features and purposes of a text. They have been identifying topic specific language which helps to create a realistic fiction text. This has linked closely with our Writing sessions, where students have been creating their own realistic fiction text through narrative writing, based upon their chosen topic for their multi genre unit.

Maths

We have brought out our creative side this week in Maths! During our Maths sessions, students have been investigating how shapes can be combined to create composite shapes when making an object. In small groups, students were tasked with planning and designing a small city using their knowledge of composite shapes. Students were required to follow a set criteria when creating their city that demonstrated their knowledge of the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, and how shapes can be combined to create composite shapes for buildings and other key features within a city. Check out some of our amazing work below!



Senior School

Year Five and Six Fun Sports Gala Day

Last Friday, we participated in our first 'Fun Sports' Gala Day where we competed against local schools in Dodgeball, Downball, Ultimate Frisbee and European Handball. The day was a huge success with students showing sportsmanship, integrity and persistence. A special mention goes to our Downball teams, with one team of 4 coming 1st in the boys' competition, and one team of 4 coming 2nd in the girls' competition. Our dodgeball teams had a wonderful day out too! The Girls team made it to the semi final and our Mixed A team made it to the grand final in an absolute nail biter! The game ended in no sets won, but the winner being determined by which team had more players on the court, resulting in Montrose taking the win. We are so proud of everyone's efforts in training each week, using a growth mindset and showing the school values. Congratulations and well done to all.



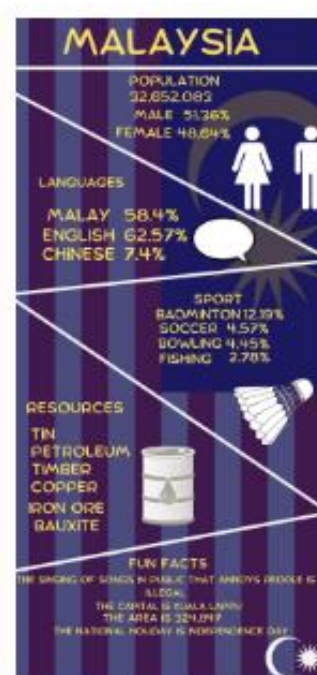
Year 5

We have enjoyed a productive fortnight in Year 5 and some fun events including the recent 5/6 Fun Sports Day and another Buddies session. On Wednesday last week, we enjoyed looking after our Buddies again while the 2024 Foundation Transition sessions continued. Our Year 5 buddies were set the challenge of helping the Foundation students design a maths track style game to practise their counting, addition and subtraction skills. After looking at different design options together and practising some counting with some songs and videos, our Year 5 students demonstrated excellent care and consideration of their buddies' needs to create an age appropriate and fun game. As we looked around the classrooms, we admired how unique each game design was and how our Year 5s have grown in confidence in supporting their buddies. At the end of the session, the Foundation students proudly took their games back to class with them to use as part of their practise in Maths lessons. We look forward to seeing our Year 5 students continue to be positive role models for their buddies in the remaining weeks of the term.



Writing

In Writing, we have used our knowledge of multimodal text features to create our own texts. Students have had fun exploring the design program Canva to create infographics about one of Australia's neighbouring countries in the region of Asia. When creating their infographic, students have considered how the visual and spatial modes of their text will enhance the linguistic mode. With this in mind, students have carefully selected graphics, background images and a colour palette to complement the focus of their infographic information. With many templates to choose from and the option to design from a blank canvas, we have enjoyed seeing how students have customised their infographic design and layout or perhaps started from scratch to bring their planned infographic designs to life. Throughout the fortnight, students have utilised a self-reflection rubric to evaluate the success of their infographic, reflecting on how their chosen modes, intended purpose, relevance of information and impact of visual features have combined to achieve an engaging and informative text.

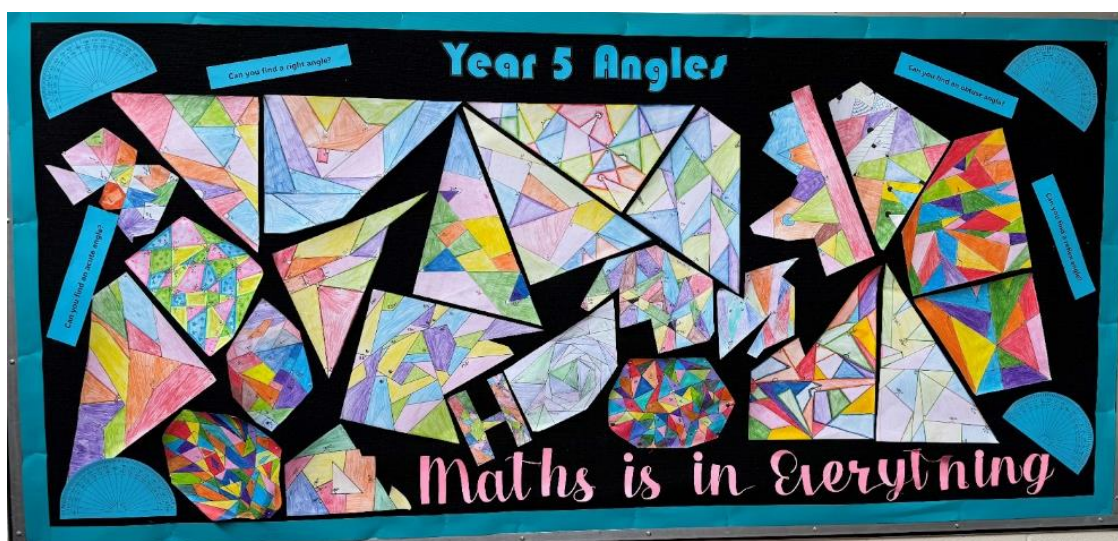


Maths

In Maths the Year 5s have been analysing and comparing data sets to help us make decisions. We began by looking at the amount of different coloured skittles in 14 different packets, making predictions and asking questions as we went (red was most). We then had fun deciding if we would go on a holiday to Phillip Island, Lorne or Torquay based on a range of data sets, including tourist data, rainfall and temperature averages, distance and time to travel to the destinations. Students then made decisions about which Asian country they would like to visit. They made their decisions based on each country's population, pollution levels, climate and tourist data.



Have you seen our Year 5 displays? Check out our angles display in the foyer and our Jackie French picture story book display opposite lost property. Mackenzie and Isabella are pretty proud!



A selection of some of our previous writing pieces inspired by Jackie French are proudly on display near lost property in the office building. If you get the chance to pop by for a look, we hope you enjoy the sample of stories our students created!

Year 6

Mathematics

In Mathematics, students have been busy developing their skills in the unit on 'Mass, Volume and Capacity'. Students have been involved in a variety of hands-on activities with a specific focus on being able to convert between common metric units for mass. Students have drawn upon their skills from decimals, and multiplying and dividing by powers of 10.

Following on from this, students have been developing their skills in 'volume'. They have learnt how to calculate the volume and capacity of prisms using familiar metric units. We then moved onto learning about 'capacity' and the common metric units for capacity (mL – millilitres, L – litres, KL – kilolitres, and megalitres) and how to convert between these units, again drawing upon their skills in decimals and the powers of 10.

Literacy

In Reading, we have continued with our unit on Reader's Theatre. Students have been immersed in a range of scripts with a recent focus on Myths and Legends.

We have focussed on developing fluency, tone and expression when presenting the script to the audience. Students have been provided with independent time to learn their lines and identify any unfamiliar vocabulary. They have also learnt how to correctly pronounce some tricky vocabulary and names. It has been fantastic to see students pushing themselves with this unit and taking risks. In coming weeks, students will write their own scripts in small teams and present these scripts to the class.

In Writing, students have recently completed their multimodal websites on Google Sites. Students chose a country they wanted to research and learn more about. They completed a homepage and at least three subpages which included a range of multimodal forms including facts, images, graphs, maps, data tables, etc.

Following on from this, students then performed a self-assessment of their Google Site using the class rubric. Students then viewed a range of Google Sites from their peers and performed at least two peer assessments, carefully scanning the websites and analysing according to the rubric.

We have been impressed with the effort students have gone to with their websites and these are accessible for families on Google Classroom.

Digital Technologies

In Digital Technologies students have begun constructing their mBots. In pairs, students are required to follow a set of elaborate instructions, step by step, assembling the robot using screwdrivers, bolts, and screws. There was some frustration at times, however students have supported each other and are working through any issues with a positive manner, showing resilience and persistence.



Once students have completely constructed their mBot, they will be provided with time to explore the mBot's capabilities, instructing it to follow some simple commands such as forwards, backwards, turn to the right or the left, avoid obstacles and even play a tune!

Following on from this, students in their pairings will begin programming the mBots. They will use the software program specifically for mBots – MakeBlock and draw upon their skills in coding and programming. Some examples of mBot coding includes coding the mBot to follow a range of requests, including following a line or shape on the carpet, altering the speed of turns and other multistep processes.



Music News

Thank you to our choir members who performed at the recent Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Croydon RSL. They sang two beautiful songs – I am Australian & The Last Anzac. Conducted by Sione Quaass and accompanied by Mark Nunis, the choir gave an excellent performance for the community. A special thanks to the families who were there to support our choir members.



FIRST® LEGO® League

FIRST® LEGO® League is a competition open to students in Year 5 and 6 at Ruskin Park. In this annual event, teams of up to 10 students build, program, and compete with a robot. The competition, designed to foster innovation in science and engineering, also tasked students with addressing a modern problem. On November 15th, our dedicated team, comprised of Evelyn, Elsje, Hilmar, Josh, Jasmine, Varshaa, Hazel, Adah, Scarlett, and Ayesha, showcased exceptional teamwork, innovation, and problem-solving skills.

This year's theme, "**Masterpiece**," challenged our students to explore how technology and the arts could be used to engage and involve others in their passions. Our team, bonded by a love for reading, conducted a survey among Year 3-6 students to find out why some people don't enjoy reading. The insightful survey revealed that some students face challenges in finding a 'Just Right' book or simply find reading to be 'boring'. In response, our team created an interactive 'choose your own book adventure' using a Google Slides presentation. This engaging tool, built on would-you-rather questions, provides personalised book recommendations based on individual interests.

During the competition, our team secured an impressive 8th place out of 20 teams, narrowly missing the opportunity to advance to the national competition. Nevertheless, they took immense pride in their achievements. The team demonstrated remarkable progress, scoring 110, 115, and an outstanding 165 points in their three robot game runs.

We extend our congratulations to the entire team for their hard work and dedication. As a school, we can't wait to see what you achieve next year! A video from the event will be shared at next week's assembly.





These students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Ayra	Zara	Van	Jordy	Harley	Susannah	Lucas	Mya	Hnem Hnem
Evie	Mia	Mona	Lexi	Louis	David	Elsie	Esther	Eli
Blessing	Everley	Grace	Nevaeh					

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

Donate **GIFTS** and **FOOD** here



Listed below are some items you might like to donate this Christmas.

FOOD

What to donate:

- Non-perishable items
- Supermarket gift cards
- Special Christmas items
- Food to suit kids & the elderly

GIFTS

What to donate:

- Gifts for all ages
- Gift cards
- Unwrapped gifts
- New items only

Nobody should struggle alone this Christmas



**CHRISTMAS
APPEAL**



THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2023

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



RUSKIN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

- ★ 6PM - BYO PICNIC
- ★ 6:30PM - SHOW STARTS
- ★ SCHOOL OVAL

ART SHOW

- ★ FROM 5:30PM - ART ROOM & NEW BUILDING FOYER

COME AND VIEW OUR ART WORK
BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT!





CROYDON RANGES FC



JUNIOR SUMMER SOCCER

**DEC 2023-END
FEB 2024**

**AGES 5YRS-14YRS
GIRLS AND BOYS**



- ✓ Ball technique
- ✓ Teamwork strategy
- ✓ Fun games
- ✓ Make new friends



Head Coach
Robin Otto

Junior Co-ordinator
Hou Tan

Registration fee

\$30

Belmont Park

97 Belmont Rd E, Croydon
South VIC 3136

To register scan the
QR above

More Information

crfc1971@gmail.com or www.croydonrangesfc.com.au