From the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers and the Ravenswood Community

Parents’ and the broader community play a vital role in supporting successful learning outcomes for our children. Research tells us that the most meaningful partnerships are those where schools, parents, students and the community work together to focus on student learning and wellbeing. Please don’t hesitate to come and see myself or staff about any issues relating to your children or school. Your input is invaluable and early identification of potential concerns/issues enables us to work together to benefit your children’s learning and wellbeing.

Parent Teacher Interviews

A schedule will be coming home next week regarding an informal parent/teacher interview.

The past couple of weeks has been very busy for one and all. I’d like to thank Mrs Alford and staff for helping maintain a smooth run while I was away at conferences.

The students have just finished Unit 1 of English and all year levels now concentrating on persuasive writing tasks. Prep to Year 2 investigate a book series called ‘A Pigeon Wants...’ and learn all about different strategies of persuading people to get what they want. I hope this doesn’t cause too many disagreements at home!

Year 5 and Year 6 have begun analysing data from various graphs and test out their problems solving skills with the task of analysing data to make recommendations. Year 3 and Year 4 are tackle probability and predict and the likelihood of events happening.

Year 5 and 6 have taken a real interest in their Japanese sessions and were keen to pass on their expertise to Constable Wade Tuesday afternoon. The cross country is fast approaching and students have been practising at break times. Constable Wade also got his whistle out and got them moving last Tuesday afternoon during sport. Hopefully the flu will stay away and we will all be fit for our cross country day.

Look forward to catching up with you all over the next couple of weeks.

Andrew Stallman
Principal
Our Purpose: Ravenswood State School exists to provide learning to all stakeholders. We provide a learning environment which supports students in their achievement, facilitated by skilled, professional and compassionate staff.

Attendance – 92.31%

Behaviour Focus: Being Respectful
Success Criteria: Identifying signals of ‘when enough is enough’
Thank you to the Year 6 students for their performance on parade. It was a great effort for their first time and there was certainly a few Golden Globe performances.

Key signals to look for when playing with peers:
- Look at the actions your peers are displaying  Eg. Brushing you away, moving away
- Listen to the sound of their voice  Eg. Tone of annoyance, frustration or anger
- Listen to words spoken Eg. Stop! leave me alone! go away!

Responsible/Organised Students
This year we have at least one student in every grade from Prep to Year 6. To allow teachers to share their time across all year levels, it is very important that our schedule is on time as much as possible. Furthermore, it is very important that student’s take responsibility for being organised for their learning and depending on their age, read and interpret a timetable. This is particularly important for the upper school who are heading to high schools next year. A timetable will be established for students benefit in the near future.

School Expectations:
8:50am - Lunch organised, toilet, drink, and books organised for the first session
8:55am - Students are organised and sitting on the carpet ready for roll call and class discussions
9:00 am - Students are at their correct area and learning commences

Maths Program
We have introduced a mental maths program called Emms (Elementary Math Mastery) & Jemms (Junior Elementary Math Mastery). It has been established around the Australian Curriculum and targets fundamental mathematical skills in core areas that we tend to use frequently. The lesson takes 10 min and will be done three times a week. Students will track their data from the tests and at the beginning of each maths lesson, identified questions/concepts will be retaught. Each question builds on the previous question. For example,
Question 1 - will always be an addition problem
Question 2 - will always be a subtraction problem
Question 20 - will always include problem solving question
These questions slowly build on difficulty.
Year 5/6 do Emms and Year 3/4 do Jemms.

Times Tables:
Year 2 to year 6 are now assigned a set group of times tables for homework each week. Students are working at their independent level, which is dictated by a short pre-test. Much of times tables learning is from rote learning and it is important that every child is chanting and learning the tables each night.

DRT
A District Relieving Teacher (DRT) will be organised for 2 days over the next 2 weeks. This is to allow Diane and myself joint planning time for Term 2. Our focus will be on Maths and English. The DRT teacher will be supplied a full schedule to ensure no learning time is missed by the students.
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Retell with Reading
Retelling is an essential component of literacy and provides insights into how well students gain meaning when reading a text to themselves.
Students need to be able to
- Retell events in their own words
- Interpret pictures
- Structure and organise retelling in sequence
- Include text specific vocabulary
- Include supporting detail for the main events.
Each night after reading their homework reader, please ask the students to retell the story they have read to you. Students may find it easier if they use time connectives such as First ...... Then ......
It is a good idea to have the book open in front of you only so you can prompt when your child is unsure and also observe how much of the story they are able to retell.

Diagnostic Testing
Prep will undergo a test called 'Early Start' next week. This will be done 1 to 1 with a teacher.
Year 1 to Year 6 will do 'Pat Reading' and 'Pat Maths over the coming weeks. This is done on computer.
The purpose of this data is to:
- generate purposeful data about literacy and numeracy achievement
- track student progress
This data will also inform curriculum planning and resourcing decisions and support teachers to more effectively differentiate teaching for students.

Communication Folders
Communication folders are checked by staff every morning. Please feel free to leave any messages or concerns. Each week, students from 2-6 will record their progress with their times tables in their communication books.

Cross Country
Homestead State School will be hosting the cluster cross country. The sleep over at Homestead will be on Thursday the 17th of March & the cross country will be on Friday the 18th.

P&C Meeting AGM
The P&C AGM will be held on Wednesday 23rd March. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Executive positions will be vacated as those holding positions have either left or some executive members need to step down due to reasons beyond their control, therefore we really do need new people to take on these roles. If these rolls are not filled, unfortunately the P&C will be forced to fold. Currently the P&C Boar Busters Competition is well on the way to being organized which raises funds for (and in the past completely covered the cost of) the school camp and along with other events helps fill the gaps on classroom supplies and resources that the school budget cannot cover. I ask you all to consider filling one of the positions even if just for 12 months. Thanking you in anticipation, Di Hood, P&C President.
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IN THE CLASSROOM

LOT E

SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

P - 2 Shared writing

Art
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P-1 Persuasive writing

Please can I just stay up for twenty more minutes! and watch tv? I promise I will brush my teeth and go to bed

Could I please play with the puppies? I promise so go to bed.