Parents and Community Members,

My apologies for this being the first newsletter of term, we have had an exceptionally busy start to the term and it is set to become even busier as we move forward. I would like to inform the community that over the Easter holidays my appointment to Ravenswood State School was confirmed as permanent. I would like to thank members of the P&C and school families for maintaining their confidence in me during the period I was acting in this position.

Please note that Monday 7th May is the Labour Day public holiday. School will resume on Tuesday 8th May.

Regards,
Cameron Warne
Principal

PARENT INTERVIEWS
Thankyou to those parents who have taken the time to speak with Mrs Watt and myself regarding their child’s progress this year so far. I trust that parents have been well informed through participating in interviews and invite those yet to organise an interview time to contact the school to arrange a time to speak. The value of communication between the school, students and parents cannot be underestimated.

BOOK CLUB ORDERS
Book club was sent home with students last week. If you would like to order book club, please ensure that your order forms and full payment is received by the school so that the order can be completed on the 10th May. This ensures that items are received and distributed before the school holidays.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE
I would like to thank the students and families who attended the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day last week. I congratulate students on their respectfulness and singing of the National Anthem.

P&C NEWS
The P&C has elected Shea Hughes to the role of Secretary. We would like to thank Shea for stepping into the role. We would also like to thank Joelleene Easton for the contribution she made to the school and the P&C whilst she was Secretary.

DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY
Congratulations to Sam Curr who recently competed in the Charters Towers District Cross Country at Richmond Hill State School. Sam came 16th out of 35 participants. We look forward to a top ten or better result in 2013!

GROUNDSPERSON POSITION VACANT
The school still has a vacancy open for the position of Groundsperson (Casual). Many thanks to Joelleene Easton who has performed this role but cannot continue due to family commitments. A position description is attached to the newsletter. I encourage any interested persons to contact the school.

SCHOOL UNITS OF WORK
This term, students have been studying narrative texts in English and performing analysis of characters in these texts. In Mathematics, students have been learning measurement, number and spatial (shape) concepts. Students are also studying the Earth and Weather in Science, Simple Machines in Technology and Soccer in HPE. So far, students have been working well with these units and I am very pleased with their consistent effort, concentration and hard work.

NAPLAN
In week 5, (15th, 16th and 17th May), students in Year 3 and 5 will complete the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The tests run over three days. Students have been receiving support to prepare for these tests in school, however parents should be aware that developing routines of things like regular sleep and a good breakfast are as important as academics.
Students will have their skills assessed in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

National tests will provide information on how students are progressing, and support improvements in teaching and learning. These tests will make it easier to monitor student performance in literacy and numeracy across the nation. Over 1 million students from 9,000 schools across Australia will participate in the national tests.

This information will be used to evaluate what students can do and how they perform against the national benchmarks. You can help your child by talking about these tests as a means of showing what they know and can do at this point in their schooling. Ease any anxiety by explaining that everyone in Australia will be doing this test at the same time and the testing process is an integral part of their school life.

Later in the year individual students will be given reports which will indicate their level of achievement in reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, grammar and numeracy. You will be given an opportunity to discuss this report with teachers. If you would like further information about this program please contact the school or visit the website at www.naplan.edu.au.

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR
This week I have had to speak to a number of students about how they are talking to others in the classroom and play area. We have had a number of incidents where students are yelling at others with the intention of getting them to perform a task, such as line up for class. While it may seem small, it is important for everyone to be aware that students are expected to behave in a SAFE and RESPECTFUL manner and at all times be a LEARNER.
Our Values
Respect – We treat ourselves and each other with respect, show care and regard for property.
Excellence – We work always as learners and seek the best in ourselves and others.
Accountability – We take responsibility for our performance and own up to mistakes, so that we can learn from them.
Productive Relationships – We are aware of others in our school and work together so that success belongs to us all.

Remote Area Families Service
Invite you to attend Playgroup

Frontier Services
serving remote Australia

Being held on
Tuesday 8th May 2012

At
Ravenswood State School

Program:
9am-9:50am Selection of activities including puzzles, playdough, shops and role play,
9:50am Clean up & Group time - parents and children gather together for a story and morning tea preparation
10:10am Smoko - please bring a plate for morning tea to share with everyone
10:30am-11:30am Return to activities: animals, construction, art masterpieces
11:30 Field coordinators will begin to pack up. Some activities will remain for children to continue with.
11:50-12:00 Final group time and farewell

Please:
- Note times are estimations only, this may vary as need arises
- Remember to bring a shared morning tea, a hat, sunscreen and clothes for messy playing fun!
- RSVP so we can keep track of numbers on 4982 0915 or by emailing us at emergdrafs@bigpond.com

Thank you!
Key Strategic Directions:
1. Provide quality schooling through curriculum programs that cater for individuals, educational initiatives and societal expectations.
2. Develop and share high expectations for individual student learning.

2012 Groundskeeper Position Description
6 Hours per fortnight (April-October)
10 hours per fortnight (November-March)

The ideal applicant is someone who has:
1. Ability to work with limited supervision
2. Ability to use and maintain or learn quickly to use and maintain groundscare equipment and materials
3. Ability to apply Workplace Health and Safety standards especially on the use, application and storage of petrol, insecticides, herbicides, fertilisers and chemicals
4. Awareness of safe and healthy practices especially in situation where students are present.

This person reports directly to the Principal.

Expected Duties

Fortnightly
1. Spray grass and weeds along edges and concrete as and if required
2. Use whipper snipper around fences and concrete sections as required
3. Prune trees as required, in consultation with school staff
4. Plant new plants or shrubs as required, in consultation with school staff
5. Mulch pruned branches and foliage if possible
6. Remove bulky rubbish to the dump as required
7. Water plants as required
8. Maintain organisation and cleanliness of the groundskeeper’s shed
9. Monitor level of water tanks
10. Ensure that ride on mower is filled with petrol – fill petrol at the Ravenswood Store using fuel account.

Monthly
1. Install and or maintain watering systems
2. Perform simple check of ride on mower, using Ride On Mower checklist
3. Monitor and/or maintain operation of equipment; including spades, shovels, digging forks, saws, whipper snipper,
4. Create new landscaped areas in consultation with school staff
5. Mulch gardens as required

Additional information
- The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 requires the preferred applicant to be subject to a “working with children check” as part of the employment screening process. DET are legally obliged to warn applicants that it is an offence for a disqualified person to sign a blue card application form. Further details regarding this check may be obtained by accessing the web site of the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian at the following internet address: http://www.coypc.qld.gov.au/ or on the Commission’s website at: http://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/
- Confirmation of employment is conditional upon the preferred applicant being issued with a Blue Card from the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian.
- Further information about the benefits of working for the Department of Education and Training including superannuation, flexible work life and leave is available through www.jobs.qld.gov.au/benefits/benefits.
- The Department of Education and Training is committed to inclusive workplaces where diversity is valued, and to fair and equitable treatment of all current and prospective employees.
- A non-smoking policy is effective in Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.
- Applicants are advised that the Department of Education and Training may initiate a criminal history check by the Queensland Police Service on the nominated applicant.
- The appointee to this position may be required to complete a period of probation in accordance with Section 126 of the Public Service Act 2008.
- For further information refer to the Department of Education and Training’s Applicant Information Bulletin (available through www.jobs.qld.gov.au and searching on a specific Job Ad Reference).
Key Strategic Directions:
3. Build the capacity of our teachers and staff across a range of professional competencies.
4. Provide appropriate resourcing and quality learning environments to support and extend student learning and commit to sustainable practice.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

I am a strong advocate for the wearing of school uniforms. Our uniform looks fantastic and we have received many positive comments about it. It is great that nearly all our students are able to wear their full uniform every day. There are enormous benefits for ensuring all students wear our full school uniform. These include:

★ Defining our school identity.
★ Developing within our students a sense of belonging to our school community.
★ Provides an opportunity to build and enhance ‘school spirit’.
★ Promotes a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity.
★ Enhances the health and safety of students when involved in school activities and excursions.
★ Complies with our obligations under Occupational Health and Safety Legislation. eg. SunSmart and broad-brimmed hats.
★ Promotes positive community perceptions of our school.
★ Makes school clothing more affordable by eliminating the risk of peer pressure to wear current fashions and expensive clothes.

While we appreciate that there are times when children will be out of uniform, it appears we have a small number of students ‘electing’ not to wear their full uniform or wearing jumpers which do not match school colours. We would appreciate it if children could wear appropriate clothing or preferably, clothing similar in colour to our uniform. Children who do not comply with the above will be provided with a ‘loan uniform’ on arrival at school or in the case of a non-school jumper or similar coloured jumper, they may be asked to remove it.

READING AT HOME

Reading is an important skill which is developed through experiences with a wide variety of texts. This includes reading books and magazines, posters and charts, pamphlets and packets, letters and postcards. It also includes viewing multimedia texts such as movies and documentaries.

Children make progress at their own pace; some pick up new skills quickly and some need more time for learning and practising the new skill. All children need to be ready to learn and to have the best conditions for learning new skills. At school, teachers create safe, happy and stimulating environments where children are encouraged and praised for ‘having a go’.

You can create a similar learning environment at home with the following ideas:

★ Make a regular time to read together and don’t stop reading TO your child when they can read themselves; they love listening to a competent reader.
★ When you introduce a new book to your child, discuss what it could be about, talk about the pictures or text and then read it to each other. With older children you can encourage them to make predictions and pause occasionally to confirm or reject their original thoughts.
★ Read and follow directions together such as when making a recipe or instructions for playing a game or assembling a new piece of furniture or toy.
★ Read magazines and newspapers together and talk about the pictures as well as the text.
★ Listen to audio books or story tapes and watch movies together. Once you’ve seen the movie, discuss it and then read the original book together.

Most importantly.....make sure your children see you enjoying reading.