Parents and Community Members,

TERM 3
The year is well and truly half over. By now, all families will have received interim report cards detailing their child’s performance across the full range of curriculum taught at school. It is important to remember that a child’s report card is one method that teachers use to communicate performance information: Parent teacher interviews (which were held last term), notes on Homework sheets about reading levels or sight word list levels, as well as informal conversations are all ways of communicating how children are progressing. If you feel that you need to know more about how your child is performing at school, please contact the office.

This term is set to be another busy one. Already a week has flown past without much time to sit and ponder things. This term, students are learning about informative texts (or Information Reports), personal recounts (Diaries, Journals) and folk stories. Students are studying properties of materials, as well as looking at sustainable practice regarding rubbish and waste. If you’re an expert on these topics, or would like to help out in the classroom in general we would love to have you come and volunteer to work with students.

As part of our strategic plan, we will be focusing on improvement of student spelling. This term, we have begun a project of explicit instruction of spelling concepts and spelling strategies. This differs to how we have previously been teaching spelling, where each week we have focused on a set of words to be learnt by students.

Explicit instruction refers to a simple methodology of teaching; I do— showing students the correct way by modelling and teaching the concept or strategy; We do—students practise the concept with teacher support and direct feedback about their progress; You do—students practise alone with teacher monitoring and feedback. This is a very simple but effective model of teaching which will result in improvement in spelling performance. Students will work in Year 1-2 and 3-4-5 level groupings as well as working individually with Teacher Aides. To make a real difference though we require your help. If parents are able to set aside time to work with your child at home for at least 20 minutes a day to practice their spelling it will make a huge difference. If you don’t have children at the school, but would still like to help, we are very interested in having you volunteer at the school— 30 minutes of your time a week could make an incredible difference to a child’s life. There is an old proverb which states—it takes a village to raise a child—it couldn’t be more true.

Please note, if you’re not a parent of a student enrolled at the school, you will be required to obtain a Positive Notice Blue Card before volunteering—more information is available at the office.

WORKING BEE—29th July
The school will be holding a working bee on Sunday 29th July. Work will commence at 9am. Below is a list of jobs for the day.

- Pressure wash exterior buildings, front school sign, pathways & front concrete pad
- Spray weeds around perimeter fences & in gardens
- Trim trees around school grounds
- Clear gutter next to water tanks near courts
- Re-paint wagon wheel in front garden
- Remove old art works from front fence
- Spread gravel on driveway
- Clear rubbish under administration block
- Plant flower bed gardens out the front
- Extend front garden to office building

Please let the office know if you are able to attend.
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.

SOCCER CARNIVAL—22nd June
I would like to thank all the parent, community and business volunteers who helped to organise our inaugural Soccer Carnival at Ravenswood State School. Students travelled from as far afield as Pentland and Greenvale and had an excellent time sleeping in classrooms, playing games and watching movies. Unfortunately, the weather turned foul for the day and the Soccer Competition had to be cancelled! Despite this, parents, students and teachers all enjoyed themselves playing games in our undercover facilities. We look forward to next year where we can have an excellent carnival under sunshine! I would like to recognise Carpentaria Gold who sponsored a trophy for the event, which will be held for the carnival next year. I would also like to single out the efforts of Di Hood, Pam Schneider and Ros Grant for their help in preparation of P&C catering, their work during the last working bee and preparation of the school grounds. While these people constantly work very hard to support our school, it would be excellent to see an increase in the number of volunteers from the school community.

PRE-SERVICE TEACHER
For the first two weeks of term we have Sarah Smith from James Cook University attending her 2nd Year Practicum at Ravenswood. Mrs Smith has been teaching students as part of her prac under supervision and is gaining valuable experience from being at the school. Teaching at a small school is a very likely destination for university graduates and Miss Smith will benefit from her time here.

ATHLETICS—17th August
On 17th August, Pentland State School will host Dalrymple Cluster School for Athletics. There will be a sleepover the night before at the school as well. More details will follow in an upcoming newsletter soon.

HOW WE LEARN AT RAVENSWOOD
How times have changed. I can recall being excited at school when we would go to a computer lab once a week for a half-hour lesson. We would use this time to practise our typing skills. In 2012, students at Ravenswood have daily access to information and technologies that are at the cutting edge of what is available. To support learning, students now use their own touch screen computers to access learning tutorials via online video, access games and ‘learning objects’ which provide innovative ways to learn new strategies across subject areas and access the general internet to study topics for assessment. Students are even using technology to create their own digital images, videos and animation movies. Using technology like this means that we are able to personalise the curriculum for our students and provide them with the information and tools they need to do this well.

WAVELL SHS BAND VISIT—18th June
Students were recently entertained to a range of music performed by Year 8-12 students from Wavell SHS (a large high school on the North side of Brisbane) including the sounds of Bob the Builder, You’re the Voice by John Farnham, Eye of the Tiger and even Metallica!!! Students were also given the opportunity to meet students from Wavell SHS and were able to discover musical instruments such as the flute, trumpet, trombone, electric guitar and drums. It is so wonderful to have had the opportunity to view this music performance and I know students had a great time!

WILDLIFE CARER VISIT—20th June
Rebecca McLellan (Carpentaria Gold—Community Relations Officer) organised a wildlife carer visit to the school on Wednesday, 20th June. Students had the opportunity to talk about wildlife care and what to do if they see an injured animal requiring care.

SCHOOL PARADE
In light of disruptions to our regular routine, school parade has not been operating each week on a Tuesday at 9am. Because of this I have taken the decision to hold Parade fortnightly on Tuesdays at 9am in the Classroom. Parade will be held on even weeks in the school term. At Parade, we sing the National Anthem, discuss issues relevant to all students, hand out achieve-
ment awards and recognise people in the school community who are working very hard. I apologise for the recent disruptions and hope this change will mean parents will have the opportunity to attend parade more regularly. Parade will be held from tomorrow (Tuesday 17th June) and every fortnight thereafter.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST—SCHOOL CLEANER**
I am seeking expressions of interest from community members who may be interested in working at the school as a cleaner. The current position requires a person capable of general cleaning duties Monday to Friday from approximately 3:00pm to 5:30pm (including some school holiday work). Any interested persons should contact the school to register their interest.

**GROUNDS PERSON POSITION VACANT**
The school still has a vacancy open for the position of Grounds person (Casual). A position description is attached to the newsletter. I encourage any interested persons to contact the school.

**COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS & WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN**
It’s that time of year again when parents and community members are encouraged to shop till they drop in support of our school. In 2011, efforts by parents and community resulted in the delivery of free hands-on Mathematics resources as well as a bunch of free sports equipment for students. We aren't worried which place you shop at, as long as when you do, the tickets you get come to our school!

I would like to thank all of the community members who have supported us in this program so far.

A box is at the school for collection of Woollies and Coles stickers and a collection box is available at the Ravenswood Store.
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 grounds care 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 website of the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian at the following internet address: http://www.coypcqld.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).