Parents and Community Members,

TERM 3 UPDATE

4 Weeks in already! How time flies. We are well underway with our spelling action project and students (and parents) should now be very familiar with spelling strategies such as Chunking, Making Connections and Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check. Next week, students will complete their final test for the first unit of spelling this term and I am confident they will exceed their performance targets. Our mid-way test results (Year 1-5) are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting % correct</th>
<th>Mid-way % correct</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>Week 5 Target % Correct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41.75%</td>
<td>52.00%</td>
<td>10.25%</td>
<td>65.00%</td>
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</tbody>
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I would like to congratulate students, staff and parents on their effort to improve spelling performance in such a short period of time. Please keep up the hard work.

VISIT TO CARPENTARIA GOLD

On 17th July, students had the opportunity to visit Carpentaria Gold—Nolans Site and witness the making of mined ore into gold bars. Students were also given a presentation about the operation of the mine, including how the underground mine operates and also the processing that goes on. Students learnt a great deal in a short time about this important operation that supports our community.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Last Friday, students from our school participated in a Tree Planting event as part of National Tree Day. Students planted 20 trees behind the classroom, which will eventually grow and create a natural screener from the elements. Students planted native Bauhinia, which has a white flower with red stamens, will grow to be a large shrub with dense rounded canopy. Its leaves are coppery red during the dry season then turn green during the wet. While it is slow-growing it is very hardy as it likes a lot of sunlight but needs little water. Students also planted Weeping Bottlebrush, which can grow to 6-8 metres tall with drooping branches. While it appreciates regular watering it needs little maintenance. The flowers attract a wide range of insects and honey-eating birds and are the floral emblem of Townsville. Many thanks to Rebecca McEllan and Alisa Wilkinson from Carpentaria Gold and A/Snr Constable Wade Haste for organising and supporting this event.

SPINAL EDUCATION AWARENESS TEAM—6th August

On Monday 6th of August, students will have a visit from the Spinal Education Awareness Team—S.E.A.T. There is no cure for a spinal cord injury, which is why the Association is so committed to
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.

prevention and raising awareness. The Spinal Education Awareness Team (SEAT) program is an award-winning, highly respected injury prevention program which has been presented in Queensland schools for 25 years. S.E.A.T. is accredited by Education Queensland and has reached more than 1.5 million children state-wide.

The presentation will be held at the Ravenswood Community Hall at approximately 2:00pm. Students will be able to be picked up from the Community Hall after the presentation at 3:00pm. I ask that parents please complete the permission slip at the end of this newsletter to ensure their child is able to attend. There is no cost for this event.

UPCOMING PRINCIPAL ABSENCES
I will be absent from the school on special leave on Friday 3rd August, Wednesday 15th August and Thursday 16th August. I will also be absent from 29-31st (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) August to attend the North Queensland Region Principal’s Business Meeting.

WORKING BEE—5th August
Thankyou to those people who supported the postponing of the working bee. The school will be holding the working bee now on Sunday 5th August. Work will commence at 9am. Below is a list of jobs for the day.
Please bring your own lunch!
- 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
- 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.

HOW WE LEARN AT RAVENSWOOD
Last year we tracked a significant improvement in students’ reading. This year it seems, progress is a little bit slower. This is because staff and students are focusing much more heavily on comprehension of texts. Ability in Reading broadly falls into two categories: Decoding (the actual ‘reading’ of a text) and Comprehension (understanding or using information from a text). To support the focus on comprehension, students have been learning Question-Answer Relationships, or QAR.

QAR, is a reading comprehension strategy developed to “clarify how students approach the tasks of reading texts and answering questions”. It encourages students to be active, strategic readers of texts. QAR outlines where information can be found “In the Text” or “In my Head.” It then breaks down the actual question-answer relationships into four types: Right There, Think and Search, Author and Me, and On My Own.

For example, these are questions at each level:

**In the Text**
1. Right There: Who is the main character?
2. Think and Search: How did the character return home?

**In My Head**
1. Author and Me: Would you have made the same choice the character made?
2. On My Own: Do you know what it’s like to feel jealousy?

Why Is It Important?
Students often follow an extremely literal or "in their head" approach when answering questions about what they have read. Understanding question-answer relationships helps students learn the kind of thinking that different types of questions require, as well as where to go for answers in the text. It encourages students to be more efficient and strategic readers.
Teaching students about question-answer relationships can help them to ask effective questions as they read and respond to the text. Teachers use questioning strategies to guide and monitor student learning and to promote higher-level thinking in their students. Teaching students the QAR strategy encourages teachers to be aware of, and, it is hoped, improve the types of thinking they are requiring of their students. Understanding how the question-answer relationship works is an important component of comprehending text.

**How Can You Make QAR Happen at home?**

You can support your child by using the levels and types of comprehension questions when reading at home. The following is a guide which might help. For more information, please ask Mr Warne or Mrs Watt.

**In the Text**

**The answers are right there in the text.** These types of questions are literal.

1. **Right There**—The answer is in one sentence of the text; the question and answer usually have the same wording. Answers usually are one-word or short-phrase responses. There is usually only one right answer to Right There questions.

Some examples of phrases used for Right There questions:

- Who is...?
- Where is...?
- What is...?
- When is...?
- How many...?
- When did...?

2. **Think and Search**—The answer is found in several parts of the text. The question and answer have different wordings. Answers are usually short answers. Some examples of phrases used for Think and Search questions:

- For what reason...?
- How did...?
- Why was...?
- What caused...?

**In My Head**

Students must use their prior knowledge to answer these types of questions.

1. **Author and Me**—The answer to the question comes from both clues in the text and students' prior knowledge. Students must synthesize the text to fully understand the question. Some examples of phrases used for Author and Me questions:

- Would you...?
- Which character...?
- Did you agree with...?
- What did you think of...?

2. **On My Own**—The answer comes entirely from students' prior knowledge. These questions require inferential and evaluative thinking. Answers do not require information from the text but do require that students make some type of judgment about or relate to the topic of the text. Some examples of phrases used for On My Own questions:

- Do you know...?
- Have you ever...?
- Would you ever...?
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.

SCHOOL PARADE
Please note that due to the public holiday on the 31st July, there will not be school parade until Tuesday 14th August.

SCHOOL CLEANER—POSITION VACANT
I am seeking applications from community members who may be interested in working at the school as a cleaner for 14.25 hours per week. 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 apply. A position description is attached to the newsletter.

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
I would like to thank all of the community members who have supported us in this program so far. We have collected a large quantity of stickers and vouchers, creating a fantastic opportunity for Miss Shea and Mrs B to use their lunch breaks productively, counting stickers and vouchers.

Please be aware that we will cease to collect Woolworths stickers and Coles Vouchers on Thursday 16th August. Please ensure any stickers or vouchers collected are handed in by this day.

A box is at the school for collection of Woollies and Coles stickers and a collection box is available at the Ravenswood Store.

Permission Note for Spinal Education Awareness Team — 6th August, 2012
I, ______________________________________ give permission for my child/children ______________________________________ to attend Spinal Education Awareness on Monday 6th August 2012. I understand the event commences at 2:00pm, and that students will walk to the Hall from the School to attend.

Please indicate below how your child/children will be picked up:
☐ I will collect my child at the Ravenswood Hall at or before 3pm.
☐ I will collect my child at Ravenswood State School after 3pm.

Signed ___________________________
Parent/Guardian

P&C News

SPORTS CARNIVAL
The P&C Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to Bianca Byers for her wonderful help leading up to and on the day of the soccer carnival - her continuous support is very much appreciated.
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.

PUBLISHED AUTHORS & Ravenswood State School Parents & Citizens Association present -

A new approach to fundraising cookbooks

We’re publishing our own cookbook!

To encourage healthy eating and to raise much needed funds, we’re publishing our very own premium quality cookbook.

To be involved, the process is so simple:

1. Go to the Published Authors website & submit your favourite recipe using their easy to use on-line template.
   - (www.PublishedAuthors.com.au)
   - Don’t have access to a computer? Just give us your recipe & we’ll try to find a volunteer to enter it for you.

2. Fill in the cookbook order form and return with payment.

Discounts apply for orders of 3 or more books, so why not order multiple copies as beautiful gifts for friends & family.

Price per book: $20
Price for 3 or more: 3 for $50
Submit your recipes & return your order form by: FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
For more info contact: Shea Hughes on 0747702184 or email sheahughes@gmail.com

www.PublishedAuthors.com.au  Tel: 1300 112 770

With thanks,
Ravenswood State School P&C Committee
President—Di Hood  Vice President—Ros Grant  Treasurer—Pam Schneider  Secretary—Shea Hughes
Position available—**Groundskeeper (Casual-Temp)**

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 situations 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.ccpy.qld.gov.au/](http://www.ccpy.qld.gov.au/) or on the Commission’s website at: [http://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/](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
- The Department of Education and Training is committed to inclusive workplaces where diversity is valued, and 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 128 of the Public Service Act 2008.

Please contact the Principal, Cameron Warne, via telephone, if you are interested in this position

(07) 4770 2152
Position Vacant—Cleaner
14.25 Hours per week (Afternoon Roster)

As the Cleaner, you will:
1. Contribute to the efficient and effective operation and environment of the school by providing a high level of cleaning support.
2. Ensure that a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness is maintained.
3. Ensure that the duties listed are completed to an acceptable standard as determined by their supervisor.

This person reports directly to the Principal.

Expected Duties
- Cleaning windows, pictures, doorknobs, taps, sinks, toilet basins, glassware, glass doors and cupboards etc.
- Cleaning and sanitising toilet facilities and sick bays.
- Cleaning sinks and drinking fountains.
- Cleaning and maintaining equipment.
- Cobweb and mildew control.
- Cleaning of concrete, bitumen and paved surfaces.
- Disposal of rubbish and litter control including removal of material from drains and gutters between buildings.
- Dusting including students and office furniture, equipment and fans.
- Hosing.
- Sweeping.
- Vacuuming.
- Vinyl floor maintenance.
- Other appropriate cleaning duties as directed by the Principal.

Additional information
- The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2009 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.ccypc.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).

Applications MUST be made in writing and addressed to the Principal. For an application pack, please visit the school office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 9am.