SO MANY WAYS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

It is such a pleasure to return from holidays and provide students at Ravenswood with a variety of ways to learn new things. This term, Year 4 and 6 students begin an 8 week program called ‘Students Achieving Success’, which is focused on improving reading, writing and numeracy skills. This program is completed online via web conference lessons with teachers from Charters Towers School of Distance Education and other schools across North Queensland. While students participate in this program, they are effectively receiving 1 on 1 instruction over the internet – this is a fantastic modern program which keeps Ravenswood students ‘connected’ with the 21st Century.

At the same time, Prep students enjoy plenty of hands on learning activity this term and can participate in activities such as painting, construction, games and play while developing their literacy and numeracy skills. These strategies, combined with traditional teaching methods such as small group guided reading (our school’s focus for this term), are helping to build and develop the students at this school to achieve their best in all subject areas.

READING

There are several items to think about to foster reading and to help with comprehension—one of the key strategies focused on by staff this term. Use this checklist to guide you to better assist your child in reading at home.

- Do you make the time to read aloud to your child each day?
- Do you ensure that the following strategies are used to encourage the child to focus on meaning: Discuss the book prior to reading by asking, what the child thinks the book will be about? If it is a book that has been read before, discuss what they can recall from the story? Discuss the content? Do you ensure that reading occurs each day? Let your child select their own reading materials? Talk about the reading that your child has done? Demonstrate respect for your child’s opinion?
- Ensure that your child has access to a variety of reading materials such as picture books, student generated material, novels, magazines, comic strips, news items, poems, rhymes, mysteries, instructions/directions, reports etc?

Most importantly - Children benefit from good modelling by parents. If you let them see you take enjoyment in reading often and take an interest in things they read, they too will begin to see reading as a pleasurable activity. At the opposite end, if you let them see you show reading as a chore, they will view it as a chore and not something to be enjoyed. When reading is enjoyed, it will naturally get better!

NAPLAN THIS TERM

Our students in Years 3 and 5 will soon participate in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. In recent years we have had all students achieve higher than the National Minimum Standard (NMS)—I expect we will continue this trend in 2013. The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 14–16 May. An individual NAPLAN report for each child will be sent home later this year. Results provide additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in key curriculum areas. Please contact the school if you have any questions about your child participating in NAPLAN testing.

Cameron Warne
Principal
In the office today

Today (April 24th) is recognised as Administrative Professionals’ Day. The idea began with Mary Barrett, president of the National Secretaries Association, now called IAAP (International Association of Administrative Professionals), and C. King Woodbridge, president of Dictaphone Corporation. They served on a council addressing a national shortage of skilled office workers. The account executives at Young & Rubicam, they originated the idea for a National Secretaries Week, now a day celebrated across the world. - Wikipedia

For Ravenswood: Today is a day where we recognise and celebrate the work that Miss Shea Hughes (Miss Shea) does behind the scenes. In a small school such as ours, Administrative Officers (or “AO’s”) are highly regarded professional people who are often seen as the people who really make the school ‘run’. This couldn’t be more true at Ravenswood. Miss Shea’s role is as important as ever as we continue to sharpen our focus on improving teaching and learning. We need autonomous, capable and enthusiastic people to ensure the business end of the school runs well.

Special thanks to Mrs Grant who kindly baked a cake to help us recognise and celebrate Administrative Professional’s Day.

In the Classroom

SOSE Community Tour

As part of our P-3 Unit in Studies of Society and Environment, students will be travelling around Ravenswood on the school bus for a ‘Community Tour’. Students will visit different places, including natural spaces, places of importance and public spaces around the town. They will be able to take photographs of their tour. This tour will take place on Friday 24th of May. As students are leaving school grounds, permission by parents must be given. Permission forms will come home in students’ communication folders today—remember that one form per child must be completed.

Erica Campbell
Classroom Teacher

P&C Update

From the Secretary

Ravenswood P&C Association would like to welcome staff, students and parents back to Term 2, 2013. This Term will be quite a busy term, for students and P&C members alike. Firstly, the winner for the $100 Fundraiser Board from Term 1 is... Gary V (number 30). Could Gary V please contact the Secretary (Shea Hughes) on 47702184 or drop in to the school during business hours (9-3pm). The $100 Board raised funds in support of Lowmead State School (Bundaberg) as they lost everything in the recent floods. Special thanks to Di and John from the Imperial Hotel who helped the P&C to sell spots on the board.

Secondly, the P&C will be operating a Fundraiser BBQ on Sunday, 19th May at Bunnings Fairfield Waters. We would like to invite community members who may be in Townsville on the day to drop in and show their support for the school. We would like to break the day into shifts, so if you are available could you please nominate either morning or afternoon availability (or both!) and return this slip to the school as soon as possible

Other upcoming events this term include the Dalrymple Cluster Schools Soccer on 14th June (hosted here at Ravenswood State School), a proposed winter Bush Dance and alternative sports options for the students.

The P&C would like to extend an invitation to all interested community members who would like to volunteer at one of our fundraisers or who may have a suitable fundraising idea. The next P&C Meeting will be held at 3:05pm on Monday, 13th May.

Shea Hughes
P&C Secretary

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<th>P&amp;C Bunnings BBQ Availability</th>
<th>Name: ...........................................</th>
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<td>Morning Shift (8am-12pm)</td>
<td>Afternoon Shift (1pm-4pm)</td>
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