**PRINCIPAL’S DESK**

**Nightly Reading**
Students who are good readers have developed great reading habits. There is an expectation that all students (Foundation – Year 6) read nightly for a sustained period of time. Children and parents should be developing a regular nightly reading time routine. Look at your schedule and pencil in the nightly reading routine and stick to it. Reading should take precedence over playing games on the computer.

Research also informs us that dads and significant other male role models can have a huge positive influence in reading performance if they participate in the nightly reading routine. Please spend the time reading to and with your child. This investment will certainly have a positive effect in your child’s learning. Our school expectation is for all students to read at least five times per week. Teachers will be following up with students each week to make sure that this is happening.

**Slip Slop Slap**
Park Ridge Primary is a Sunsmart accredited school. We require all students to wear a hat while outside in Terms 1&4. Students who do not have a hat must play undercover. Recently, while speaking to the students in their classrooms, I was surprised by the minimal number of students who wear sunscreen. Applying sunscreen and cleaning your teeth should become routine events each morning for students. The consequences for not protecting yourself against the sun could be catastrophic in the years to come.

**Parking in the Staff Carpark**
It’s not ok for parents to drive through the staff car park to either drop off or pick up students from school. It is a very dangerous practice that must not happen. Could parents please use the front entrance to enter and exit the school rather than the gate next to the staff car park. We do not want students walking through the car park.

**Mathletics**
The following students were successful in gaining their Gold Certificates with Mathletics this week: Gajaan T, Isabelle T, Alexia T, Luke S, Jake C, Cameron E, Evelyn K, Lachlan C and Liam J

**Foundation Information Night**
Our Foundation teachers and Miss Christofis conducted a very informative information session for parents on Tuesday evening. Apart from an overview of the Foundation curriculum in English and Mathematics, parents were given practical strategies to help their child to achieve to the fullest potential in reading and maths. Maths is all around us and we need to involve students in this exciting world. Curious maths learners achieve well at school.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13 February</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Camp Departs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17 February</td>
<td>PCA Morning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 February</td>
<td>Year 1 - 6 Human Race Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23 February</td>
<td>PCA Pizza Lunch District Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24 February</td>
<td>Year 1 Grandparents Show and Tell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2 March</td>
<td>Year 3 Sink or Swim Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6 March</td>
<td>Year 1 Coal Creek Excursion</td>
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<td>Tuesday 7 March</td>
<td>Foundation Picnic 5:00pm - 6:30pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 15 March</td>
<td>Resilience/Cyber Safety Parent Evening 6:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Lunch</td>
<td>Year 3 Teamwork Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 Grandparents Show and Tell</td>
<td>Year 3 Sink or Swim Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3 Teamwork Challenge</td>
<td>Year 3 Sink or Swim Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 March</td>
<td>PCA Easter Raffle Drawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23 March</td>
<td>School Athletics Year 3 - 6</td>
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**Parent Teacher Information Sharing Night.**
A great turn out of parents attended the Parent Teacher Information Gathering session on Wednesday evening. Developing a strong school/home line of communication is extremely important is we want our students to
achieve great things. If you were unable to attend this night due to other commitments, please contact your child’s class teacher to arrange another time. I expect for teachers to meet with all of their families.

School Council Elections
We need four Parent Councillors this year!
If you are interested and would like to find out more about being on School Council, please give me a call or drop into the office for a chat.
Listed below is the schedule for our School Council election process. Nomination forms can be collected from the office from this Friday. Please note that nomination forms need to be returned to the office by Friday 17 February 4:00pm. There are four parent positions and two DET teacher positions to be filled at this election.
School Council Election Timeline:
Friday 10 February Call for nominations
Friday 17 February Nominations close
Monday 20 February Distribution of ballot papers
Wednesday 1 March 4:00pm Close of ballot
Thursday 2 March Votes counted and declaration of poll
Thursday 9 March School Council AGM

School Council Elections
What is a School Council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on School Council?
There are three possible categories of membership:
Mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category.
Department of Education and Training DET employees can be Parent members at their child’s school.
Mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of School Council. The Principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
Optional Community member category. These members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual School Council election.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.
Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.
How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in February or March each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider - standing for election as a member of the School Council or encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on School Council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The Principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All School Council elections must be completed by the end of March. For parents, this notice will probably be given to your child so you may need to check with them whether it has been sent home.
If you decide to stand for election, you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate in either the Parent category or DET employee category. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the Principal within the time stated on the notice of election.
If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed. Candidates will be given the opportunity to write a brief description outlining their skills and interests for the parent community.

I hereby call for nominations for Parent Rep positions (6) (4 two year positions and 2 one year positions) and DET Rep positions (2). Nomination forms can be collected from the office. Please note that nominations must be returned to the office by 4:00 pm Friday 17 February.

David Mann

LIBRARY
The school library will be available before school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30am - 8:45am for borrowing and returning books, reading and homework.
The Dottawmites are bringing the future to your school.

Since 1931, CommBank’s School Banking program has been offering engaging ways for Australian children to learn the value of saving and develop lifelong money skills.

For our 2017 theme, a futuristic adventure is in store. Students will join the new look Dottawmites as Future Savers, making their way towards the Savings Hover Park – a fantastic playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech metropolis.

Encouraging savings habits with great rewards
School Banking will continue to reward children who demonstrate regular savings behaviour, and this year we’re introducing an exciting new range of reward items. Two are released every term, and available in Term 1 are the Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers. Your child can redeem one of these reward items, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to download and print this year’s Rewards Card. On our website you’ll also find a fun activity sheet and a Savings Tracker your child can use to keep track of their School Banking deposits throughout the year.

Dedicated savers get a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland
The Future Savers Grand Prize competition will take one lucky student on a family trip to Tokyo, Japan. Up to two adults and three children will get tickets to explore Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, including the futuristic Tomorrowland attractions. This prize includes:

- Return economy airfares from the winner’s nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
- Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea
- AUS$1,000 spending money

To enter, your child simply has to make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017. This will automatically enter them into the competition for a chance to win.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking
COMPASS

Compass School Manager now has the facility to send out push notifications to iPhones, iPads and Android devices. To receive push out notifications and also access the other features of Compass School Manager, please download the Compass App. We are hoping that this new facility will help you to keep informed about uploaded Learning Tasks and other school news. If you have difficulty with downloading the Compass App or have any feedback about this new facility please contact the office. Please remember the Compass Website link is available on the home page of the school website. Please note, attendance approvals are now preferred via this avenue.

STUDENT BANKING

Our School Banking program is a fun way for your child to develop the knowledge and confidence to handle their money, combining a savings Rewards Program with great activities throughout the year. If you would like your child to participate in our School Banking program please register your interest at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking Student Banking Deposits are processed every Tuesday morning at 9:00am. Please don't forget to send in your deposit books. Banking will begin for 2017 on Tuesday 14 February.

MONIES PENDING

- Year 5 Ballarat/Bendigo Camp Final Payment due today, Thursday 9 February
- ‘Treat Yourself Pizza Lunch’ orders due Wednesday 15 February
- Year 1-6 Human Race Incursion due Friday 17 February
- Year 3 Sink or Swim Incursion due Thursday 23 February
- Year 1 Coal Creek Excursion due Monday 27 February
- Parent Contributions Second Instalment due the week beginning Monday 20 February

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Before School Care operates between 7:00am and 8:30am. After School Care operates between 3:15pm and 6:00pm. Application forms are available from the school office or the Out Of School Hours office (situated in the Wentworth

TERM DATES

Term 1: 1 February to 31 March
Term 2 2017: 18 April to 30 June
Term 3 2017: 17 July to 22 September
Term 4: 9 October to 22 December

COMMUNITY NEWS

(We thank the following people for advertising in our School Newsletter, however Park Ridge Primary School does not endorse their products or services)

PIANO SINGING GUITAR LESSONS

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Learn, Excel and Enjoy
Rowville
0407 816 197 Natalia Speirs
www.melodymusicschool.com.au
Karate Classes

Free Karate Uniform!!!

Bookings available for term 1, 2017

TUESDAYS:
HEANY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
BUCKINGHAM ROAD, ROWVILLE
JUNIORS: 7 TO 13 YEARS; 6:45PM TO 8:00PM
TEENAGERS & ADULTS; 6:45PM TO 8:30PM

LION BUSHIDO KARATE ACADEMY
WWW.LIONBUSHIDO.COM

TUESDAYS also at:
Templeton Prim. School
Crestdale Rd., Wantirna

Saturdays:
Dandenong Primary School
Cnr New St. & Foster St.
Dandenong

MONDAYS:
Patterson Lakes Community Centre
54-70 Thompson Road
Patterson Lakes

FRIDAYS:
St Leonards Prim. School
349 Springvale Road
Glen Waverley

First Class is Free - Phone 9887 4098

Lynn’s Learning
Maths & English Tuition
Kinder to year 10

- Individualised extension and remedial programs
- Problem solving and mathematical skills
- Creative writing techniques
- Scholarship preparation
- NAPLAN and ICAS preparation
- English as an Additional Language program

Developed in Australia by teachers
Enrol your child for tuition today & make a lifetime of difference!

Rowville
Rowville Community Centre
20 Fulham Rd
Rowville
Wednesdays: 3.45pm-4.45pm

Rowville Uniting Church
cnr Fulham Rd & Bridgewater Way
Rowville
Saturdays: 1.00pm-4.00pm

Call now to book a free assessment
8794 8809
ENQUIRIES@LYNNLSLEARNING.COM
WWW.LYNNLSLEARNING.COM.AU

Phone: (03) 9752 8555 Email: park.ridge.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Website: www.parkridge-ps.vic.edu.au