Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st February Risdon Park PS staff spent time learning about Guided Reading as an approach to the effective teaching and learning of Reading. Stephan Graham, a literacy expert and consultant from Victoria spent two days sharing his knowledge and wisdom about teaching reading with us. Stephan also conducted a parent information session with a focus on "Helping Your Child To Read At Home". Thank you to the parents that attended this informative session as I am sure you received lots of helpful tips about supporting your child in their reading development at home!

Stephan Graham working with staff on Monday, introducing Guided Reading as having the right book, in the hands at the right child at the right time."

There are 3 main components to the teaching of reading and they are:

- **Modelled and Shared Reading**
  - In modelled reading sessions teachers demonstrate reading strategies by sharing the reading process with students.
- **Guided Reading**
  - In guided reading sessions teachers work with one student or a small group of students to read and learn about the text.
- **Independent Reading**
  - In independent reading sessions teachers construct conditions for students to read, explore and respond to text independently.

Research has shown that Guided reading has the most effective effect on teaching students to read successfully and independently. For Guided Reading to work effectively teachers need to identify what level of reading the student has reached in order to choose a text at the appropriate instructional level. Teachers will then group students at the same or similar reading level for a 20 minute guided reading lesson several times a week. Teachers also carefully and regularly monitoring students reading progress, so “running record” reading assessments to determine when the student needs to move onto the next level.

The Guided Reading process is used from reception to year 7, with students in the full range of ability. Although the process is the same for students struggling in their reading development, the level of explicit instruction, support and guidance is quite different depending on the year level and ability of the students.

Teachers at Risdon Park PS are trialling the Guided Reading process for the rest of this term and all of term 2, before we come to a whole school agreement of what the process looks and sounds like at each year level and with each ability group. If you would like more information about Guided Reading, please contact the school to talk to our Literacy Improvement Coordinator, Shellee Harradine or myself.

Regards,
Carolyn Clinton

Pictured below:

Miss Kupsch and Room 36 students having a guided reading session

Pictured below:
From the Principal……continued

Acquaintance Afternoon
Thank you to parents, students and grandparents for attending our Acquaintance afternoon last Tuesday 21st February. The highly successful afternoon gave families the opportunity to meet class teachers, visit the German room and speak to Frau Taylor about our German program, walk through our new library and have a sneak peak into our new computer suite.

Families and staff also enjoyed a sausage sizzle out on the lawn at the front of school.

It was great to see families enjoying their time in a picnic like atmosphere mixing casually with staff, and talk about Learning.

GERMAN WINNERS
Each year students learning German at Risdon enter into a state wide competition. This competition takes place every January at the Schutzenfest. Students have to research a state in Germany and produce a poster in German.

This year Risdon had two winning students. Riley Hunt took out 2nd prize in the year 3,4,5 category. Axel Chegwidden took out 2nd prize in the year R, 1, 2 category. Axel also went down to Adelaide on the 18th of February to the German Club for the award ceremony to collect his prize. While at the award ceremony Axel got to eat a German sausage. Risdon German students have been entering in this competition for the last 6 years and each year Risdon has had winning students. Congratulations to both Riley and Axel.

Frau Taylor

From the Deputy…Kids Co...

Congratulations to the following students who will be representing their class every fortnight at Kids Co.
Rm 11 Mackenzie Wilkes Brandon Brick-Wells
Rm 12 Emma Phipps Oscar Gray
Rm 13 Kasey Hudson Cooper Promnitz
Rm 15 Ciara Hadert Harry Johnson
Rm 16 Charlotte Baker Lucas Horsnell
Rm 21 Abbey Suttcliffe Sufyan Hashmi
Rm 22 Brody Maywald Ashleigh Seyfang
Rm 23 Chloé Davidson Luke Williams
Rm 24 Jak Mudge Timeka Cox
Rm 25 Maygan Barkla Jordan Williams
Rm 31 Chloe Olsen Braydan Tattoli
Rm 32 Georgia Tiller Joshua Hunt
Rm 33 Hannah Marwick Connor Smith
Rm 34 Chickkotae Wilson Kyan Crouch
Rm 35 Joanna Lloyd Lachlan Colyer
Rm 36 Ben Cooke Ebony Bennier

The Role of Kids Co Representatives include:
• Represent the class/school
• Work as part of a team and support each other
• To make whole school decisions regarding programs (lunchtime) and fundraising days
• To develop as a role model and positive leader

Well Done Damien Mellow

Reminder – Early Morning Procedures
Students are not to be dropped off to school before 8:30am as they are unsupervised at this time.

A teacher commences yard duty from 8:30am every morning until 8:55am when the morning bell goes for students to line up and / or make their way into their classrooms.

Frau Taylor

Photo at left: 2nd prize German winners Riley Hunt & Axel Chegwidden
A Learning Community that Values: Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, Caring

“Literacy is everyone’s business” -
On your marks, get set, READ!

Keep your eyes out for this column in every newsletter as I will be posting really important information on how we can work together to support your child with their reading improvement.

2012 is the National Year of Reading! Reading is also our literacy improvement focus at Risdon Park.

“The most important thing for young readers is that they believe they can read” (Stephen Graham).

Teachers will do running record testing to assess a level as well as aspects they need to teach at school. The home reader is absolutely for the practice of reading. Therefore your child will be bringing home a reader that is 2 - 3 levels easier than their instructional level they read at school. Your child should be able to read the book they bring home with 98-100% accuracy (eg. making very few errors) and they need lots of praise while they are doing this.

“Please don’t ask your child to read something that is too hard. It is not a race to the finish line (of level 30). Your child needs to be a balanced reader” (Stephen Graham). Stay posted more on this in the next newsletter.

Shellee Harradine, Literacy Coordinator

On behalf of the students at Risdon Park Primary School, thank you Woolworths for the new readers

School captains Jessica Marwick, Jessica Phipps, Riley Procter and O’Reilly Gray check out the new readers.

LITERACY PROJECT

On Monday and Tuesday I had the pleasure of being a part of a new “Yorke and Mid North Literacy Project”. Vanessa Biedrzycki, Pat Greig and Lynette Young also attended “The Big 6 in Reading” conference presented by Deslea Konza and Roger Nottage (Assistant Regional Director).

The aims of the project are to:

• Build staff understanding of the key elements of the reading process (The Big 6)
• Develop staff teaching strategies around initial reading instruction using a phonics (meaning sounds) approach
• Develop knowledge of staff for administering assessments and
• Provide ongoing support for all staff so they can use the synthetic approach confidently.

Information about students will be collected in the next 2 weeks (with parent permission) about their current reading knowledge. Specific synthetic phonics instructions will be given during class time and information will be collected again at the end of the year to see if the instruction has improved reading achievement at Risdon Park Primary School.

We hope to raise the literacy achievement of all students in Reception to Year 3 by being a part of this exciting project. As part of my Aboriginal Education Teacher role I will be collecting data on the achievement of the Aboriginal students in Reception to Year 3 and will be supporting all teachers to improve their synthetic phonics understanding. Vanessa and Pat will collect class data also.

By participating in this project our school receives money so teachers can attend the 6 training days, $1,000 of literacy resources, ongoing feedback from the data collected, valuable reading strategies, and a visit from Deslea at Risdon Park Primary School to provide individual teacher feedback.

Please help us to collect valuable reading information about your child by signing the consent form (being sent home this week) from Edith Cowan University. No student is identified by name at any time, as codes are used instead of names.

Thanks

Naomi Connor (Student Intervention Manager, AET, ESL. Reading Support Teacher)
A Learning Community that Values: Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, Caring

**SCOUTING AT PORT PIRIE**

Be part of Scouting at Pt Pirie Scout Group
Mary-Elie St Pt Pirie.

Come join Scouts on a Friday night

For more information
Call: Nolene and Tony 0431790161 or Mark 0418836540

Joey 6-8 years  6:30pm-7:30pm
Cubs 8-11 years  6:30pm-8:00pm
Scouts 11-15 years  6:30pm-8:00pm

**DISCO POOL PARTY**

When: Friday 16th March 7:00-9:30pm
Where: Pt Pirie Swimming Pool, Mary Elie St, Pt Pirie
8-12 Years  Cost: $5
Loads of prizes and giveaways
NO PASSOUTS, food and drinks available

**Australian Army Band**

The Crystal Brook Women’s and Children’s Hospital Auxiliary presents the Australian Army Band Adelaide in Concert.
When 18th March 2pm
Where: Crystal Brook Institute
Tickets $10 (includes afternoon tea).
All proceeds will go to the Crystal Brook Auxiliary of the Women’s and Children’s Hospital
Enquiries to Pauline Arbon ph 86362571

**FUN @ PLENTY**

WHEN: SUNDAY 4TH MARCH 4:30-6PM
For primary aged children and their families.
Games, Bible stories, craft, Sausage sizzle, no cost
Where: Plenty St Park
Conducted by accredited volunteers from the Baptist Church, Hannah St.
Contact Roger Kleinig on 86326086 or 0427399244

Visitors to the school this week included the swimming instructors who showed a water safety video and rescue procedures.

On the same day we were visited by Flinders Uni personnel who were measuring year 4, 5 & 6 students for a longitudinal study.

New staff member Penny Taeuber started Monday.

**GOVERNING COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM**

I nominate __________________________ for Governing Council membership at the election to be held on Wednesday 21st March, 2012.

Nominated by: ______________________
signed_________________________

Seconded by: ______________________
signed_________________________ OR

I __________________ am interested in being on the (Finance, Canteen, Fundraising)

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