Engagement for Learning

“Do we focus on disengaged behaviours or are we focusing on engaging all behaviours”.

One of the key aspects of students learning at their full potential is their engagement at school. With an enthusiastic approach to learning the data and research tells us students achievement scores increase and their social and mental wellbeing are supported.

At Risdon we are supported by:

Community Mentoring – 5 community mentors for an hour a week work with individual students to help support their self-esteem, goal setting and increase their enthusiasm for learning. This is done through a variety of activities including cooking, gardening, project based learning and modelling. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please talk with Cassie or myself.

Student Leadership – active participation of our leaders in school decision making and outcomes for student learning programs. Organisation of Kids Co and yearly events and role modelling of behaviour in and out of class are important tools for students to develop. The Captains again this year have displayed all virtues and we are looking forward to appointing new leaders for 2014 in the coming weeks.

Wilson McCaskill – this pro social behaviour development program has been running at Risdon for the last 6 years and has supported students in their decision making for their learning and behaviour. Games are a great way for students to engage in conversation and it helps support the language of learning. Training and Development for staff this year with Wilson helped with questioning and language skills and making things more visual in our classrooms.

Virtues – we use these to engage the students in what we want them to show each other but also to engage more in their learning. This year we have presented certificates at assembly stating the virtue and what it was for (language) and focussed on respect helpers and how students can use these and making these skills transferable.

Data – this supports the staff and leadership team to make decisions about the effectiveness of the programs we use.

These graphs show the difference for our students between negative learners (gives up easily), compliant (can manage challenges with support) and enthusiastic (accepts and values feedback).  We are seeing a shift from negative learners to enthusiastic learners in our school and improvement in this area continues to be our aim.

Engagement for learning continues to be an important area for our school community, staff and students and it will help continue to build our school culture. I am very proud of the relationships and learning at Risdon Park and look forward to 2014.

Cheers Damien Mellow Deputy Principal.
At last week’s Data Day, staff had a close look at the attendance data of their class students. Whilst collating this Data, some interesting observations occurred. At present, we have 3 students out of the whole school who have not been absent once, they are currently on 100% attendance for the entire year, a FANTASTIC effort – they are a Yr 5 girl, Yr 6 boy and a Yr 1 girl. Many other students have been absent for no more than 5 or less days for the year. This is a great attendance %. However, on the flip side of this, unfortunately we have had too many students miss equivalent of 8 or more weeks, including some who have missed equivalent to more than 2 ½ terms of school. Some students have missed more than 50% of this school year!! A day here, a day there quickly adds up. As you can imagine, this seriously hampers their learning, and puts them at risk of disengagement and of not meeting satisfactory school achievement levels. DECD attendance rate target is currently 93% for the school, we are below this, and at this stage of the year it will be hard to reach (The Great Risdon Plague of Term 1 was decimating), however, it is interesting to let you know that as of next year, that attendance target increases to 95% for EACH student. This year, for each student to achieve the attendance target, they can miss no more than 13 days for the YEAR, approximately 3 per term! Next year, it will be even less than this. As of next year, the expectations from you as parents are that you closely monitor your child’s attendance, as we ALL will have more accountability towards student absences for DECD.
MATERIAL & SERVICES CHARGES FOR 2014

In 2014 we will continue to set our material & services charges in accordance with the guidelines set by DECD and within the legally recoverable amount for schools. This has been verified by the DECD financial policy and will be presented for approval at our next scheduled Governing Council meeting. A copy of our proposed invoice is included with this newsletter. We invite the school community to either attend the Governing Council meeting on Wednesday 4th December at 6:30pm or alternatively express their views in writing to the Chairperson of the Governing Council prior to approval being sought at this meeting.

GARAGE SALE

When: Friday 22nd Nov and 29th Nov
Time: 2.00—3.30pm
Where: Northern end of the oval

Items for sale

Chairs  Tables / Desks  Filing Cabinets  Book Shelves
Captains Chat

This week is PE Week across the state in all schools, and here at Risdon it has been great to see all of the classes out and about participating in various PE activities. Miss Sargent’s class has tried out a new game Mr Mellow introduced to the staff - **FINSKA**, a lot of laughs and fun was had by all, check out the photos included.

Today, all the NEP Yr 7’s had a visit to JPSS as part of their transition; it helps them to settle in better next year having visited more often.

It’s been great to see the Yr 7’s start to get ready for their graduation night. We have had to bring in a baby photo and also re-enact it for part of our DVD; we can’t wait to see the final results.

Some of the current Yr 6’s are busy preparing applications for 2014 School Captains. They have had a chat with Mr Mellow about the requirements and the application process, so by the end of the year we will know our 2014 School Captains.

Yesterday we had next year’s Receptions visit us until recess to help familiarise them with school in readiness for next year. They return next week until lunch.

**Congratulations** to Decklan Gray, Mitchell Fuss and Darcy Puddy who were members of the SAPSASA Cricket team who WON their grand final match and came home with a Gold medal. Well done fellas.
Would you like to learn a Woodwind or Brass Instrument?

Year level: Years 4, 5, 6 or 7 in 2013. (Year 7’s must be going to John Pirie SS in 2014)

Instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone

Lesson cost: Free!

Instruments: approximately $50/month to hire or $300-$500 to buy (sax’s are more expensive)

Where: John Pirie SS (parents responsible for transport to and from high school)

When: 2014 - Tuesday

Time: small group lessons are ½ hour – timetable comes out early 2014

Other costs: tutor book, display folder and incidentals (reeds, valve oil, etc)

Why learn? Play in Bands & Concerts! Make new friends from other schools! Music camps! Lots of fun!

How do I apply? Fill in tear off slip and return to your school front office to receive more information ASAP!

Email: Lynn.Sheridan255@schools.sa.edu.au Woodwind Teacher - Flute/clarinet/sax mob: 0438 220 721
Joanne.Bosch85@schools.sa.edu.au Brass Teacher – Trumpet/Trombone

Student Name:______________________________________School____________________________

Year level in 2013 (please circle)  4  5  6  7

Parent Name:_________________________________ Mob:____________________________

Number instruments in order of preference (1 = 1st choice, 2 = 2nd choice etc)

Trumpet _____ Trombone _____ Flute _____ Clarinet_____ Alto Sax _____

Instruments previously learnt? eg piano, guitar etc____________________________

Do you already own a flute, clarinet, sax, trumpet or trombone?_______________________

Parent Signature___________________________________________________________

Interschool Sports Day

On 30th October Risdon Park competed in the annual Interschool sports carnival. The day comprises of sprint races, long distance and team games and has a strong focus on participation and sportsmanship. We took 49 students with us from year 4 -7.

There were many students who performed well but it was great to see Hannah Pollard in the long distance running second for a long way but in the straight overtook her opposition and cruised to victory. Zali Adams was another great performer who easily won her sprint and as I said the whole squad worked together and showed the virtues of Risdon Park PS.
A Learning Community that Values: Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, Caring

Donations of gifts and/or non-perishable food items would be greatly appreciated.

Please return raffle books to front office when sold or books can be returned partial or unsold as well.

**CANTEEN SPECIAL**

FRIDAY 15th Nov ONLY

New Hamburgers with meat pattie, cheese & sauce + Fruit Box

$4.00

NO Chicken Wedges on Fridays

**Book Club**

**Christmas Book Club Orders**

The last issue for the year is due by Monday 18th November 2013

Payment made at the front office please.

If you have any special Christmas orders for your child, please let us know. Please include your contact details so we can notify you when the order arrives and organise pick up from the Resource Centre.

**Breakfast Club**

**Thursday Mornings 8.30am**

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with Breakfast club, if you are available to help out please contact the school.
Looking for a tutor for a girl.
Preferably after school or weekends.
Please call John on 0432 480 607 for more details.

Looking for a tutor for a six year old boy.
Preferably after school or weekends.
Please call Siobhan on 0407 399 532 for more details.

You are invited to watch our...

end of year SPECTACULAR 2013

Please join us at the Keith Michell Theatre (Northern Festival Centre) on Saturday 7th December. We are staging 2 shows at 2.30pm and again at 7pm.
Showcasing the fabulous students and teachers from our Port Pine and Jamestown schools performing Hip Hop, Cheer, Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary.

Come and enjoy our talented dancers, colourful costumes, modern and traditional music as well as a surprise or 2! A fabulous way to follow up this year’s Port Pine Christmas Pageant.
Tickets available from the theatre $16-$20 each.

Hip Hop Bounce teach classical ballet, jazz, contemporary, competitive and just-for-fun cheer leading, adult dance classes and of course all the latest hip hop styles. We teach awesome routines with proper technique, celebrated at our end of year Spectacular at the Northern Festival Centre.

Classes are held at the Virtual Soccer Club Port Pine on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and at the Jamestown RSL Clubrooms on Wednesdays and Thursdays for ages 2 to adults, beginner to advanced.

Contact Natasha to book your place for 2014
nataasha@hiphopbounce.com.au
0418 229 624
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