NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Firstly I would like to welcome you all back for Term 3 – I hope all families had an enjoyable break and have settled in well to the routines of Term 3. I am pleased to be back at RPPS after spending Term 2 in the Student Counsellor role at John Pirie Secondary School.

This term already seems quite busy with a number of events happening across the school – from Book Week, Combined Choir and also the annual School Sports Day, these events are sure to add some excitement to the term. The virtue of ‘Respect’ is again the focus for the school community this term, with a particular focus on the school uniform. We would love to see all students wearing correct school uniform every day as we feel this sets a good standard for the promotion of respect throughout the school. We are currently in the process of reviewing and updating our School Uniform Policy and more information about this will be out soon. If you have any concerns with having the correct school uniform for your child please do not hesitate to contact myself to discuss this.

Another strong focus we are having across the school is on student attendance. DECD has set a goal for all schools to achieve an attendance rate of 93%. At RPPS in Term 1 our attendance rate was 87% and Term 2 saw a slight improvement to 88%.

Throughout Term 2 the Year 3’s had the highest attendance rate at 91%, well done!! This term we will be shifting the focus to individual classes & so far for Week 1 and 2 this term Room 23, Mrs Wohling has achieved the best attendance rate at 99%, followed closely by Room 21, Miss Jagielo at 98%, well done to these classes!!

As a school we also had an unexplained attendance rate for Term 2 of 4%!! Our aim is to reduce this rate to 0% with all student absences being accounted for.

As a parent/caregiver it is important to remember if your child is away you need to make contact with the school on that day or otherwise provide a note explaining your child’s absence in their diary to show their classroom teacher on their return to school.

Carly Pavy, School Counsellor
Port Pirie District Combined Primary Schools Choir Performance

Less than 3 weeks to the performance. Preferential tickets went on sale at the Keith Michell Theatre this week and general public sales commence Wednesday 12th August. Adults $15, Concessions $12, Youth $7.

Choir students need to return their green forms with collection details and health information as soon as possible. DVD orders with money are due 30th August.

Outstanding Engagement in Learning Through Homework

At times students see homework as something that needs to be done to keep the teachers happy. But the students in Ms Ashleigh Kupsch’s Year 6/7 class have shown eagerness for continuing their learning at home, meeting and exceeding the requirements of their homework assignment with remarkable enthusiasm and creativity. The 10 week homework assignment was a ‘free choice topic’ – students were able to choose a topic that interested them and complete five tasks related to that topic, they were given two weeks to do each task. They will be completing various task covering different curriculum areas being Art, Design and Technology, SOSE, English and a free choice task. Below are some of the very impressive final products from the first task.

Livi designed and produced a leotard, complete with diamantes as the ‘art’ component of her assignment.

Jack and Mitchell recreated different playing surfaces for their chosen sport, Jack building a soccer field and Mitchell a WWF fighting ring.

It is a great pleasure to see students challenging themselves with homework tasks, demonstrating engagement in the learning and establishing themselves as life long learners. Well done!
Nicole Cawley
Principal

For legal reasons it is important that parents and caregivers contact the school when a child is absent. This can be done via a note in the child’s diary or communication book, ringing or texting the school, having an older child fill out an absent slip for the parent to quickly sign, or the parent themselves filling out the absent slip and then returning them to school. If a teacher has not sighted a child in class for three or more days the teacher will make contact with the parent/caregiver and find out the reason for the child’s absence.

RISDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
INFORMING US OF CHILDREN’S ABSENCES
School: 8632 2226
Mobile: 0409 097 059
• Name of your child
• Class teacher or room number
• Day/s he or she will be away
• Reason for his or her absence

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**Literacy- Reading Comprehension**

On Wednesday of the last week of Term 2, staff at Risdon had a successful pupil free day focusing on reading comprehension strategies. This professional development day was run across the region, allowing staff the opportunity to work with teachers from other sites on an area of need for all schools - reading. The training was hosted by Sheena Cameron, an experienced classroom teacher who has taught in New Zealand, England and the United States. Staff engaged in a range of activities to build on their understandings of reading comprehension and how to best teach these strategies in diverse classroom settings.

Our focus for literacy at Risdon this year has been on reading. All teachers engage students in regular guided reading lessons to aid in their reading progression. The teaching focus within guided reading sessions varies from group to group, depending on the needs of the students at the time. Teachers at Risdon continually assess student’s reading to ensure they are receiving the required help.

Sheena Cameron has worked with researchers to find out what it is that good readers do. The strategies that good readers employ has been organised into 9 main groups; activating prior knowledge, self-monitoring, predicting, questioning, making connections, visualising, inferring, summarising and synthesising. There is a lot of evidence suggesting that if we can teach these strategies to students, we can give them the toolbox required to help students to become truly solid ‘comprehenders’.

What you can do at home:

*It is important that your child reads every night.* Sit with your child and demonstrate what a good reader does!

- Before reading: ask questions, activate their prior knowledge, talk about the type of text they are about to read, make predictions with them about what the text may be about, ask questions.
- During reading: monitor their understanding, make connections with the text – does this story remind you of another experience?, revisit predictions, talk about words they don’t know.
- After reading: evaluate the text, revisit predictions, summarise what they have read – can they retell you what they have read in just a few words?

Teagan Sargent
Literacy Coordinator
The Amazing Race is coming to Risdon! In combination with Literacy and Numeracy Week and our Book Week celebrations, students at Risdon Park will be participating in an Amazing Literacy and Numeracy Race on Wednesday the 21st of August. The theme for Book Week this year is ‘Across the Universe’, which is very fitting for the activity.

The concept of the Amazing Literacy and Numeracy Race has come about from the need to reinforce literacy and numeracy, as well as getting students working as a team in a physical activity. Students will compete in pairs, racing across the school to complete literacy and numeracy tasks. All pairs will have a passport, which they will get stamped to receive a clue which will lead them to their need station. Once students have filled up their passport they will run to the finish line and record their time.

Awards on the day will be for the fastest Unit, fastest pair, fastest year level, highest number of points scored in scrabble words, most creative work piece and much more!

If you would like any more information about the day, or would like to know how you can help, please don’t hesitate to contact me at school!

Warm Regards, Teagan Sargent
Literacy Coordinator

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School Photos
Tuesday 27th August

This service is provided by MSP Photography and all money is paid direct to them on the day.

Please send the envelope with your child whether or not you are purchasing photos. All students will be photographed.

Please provide correct money as the school will not have change.

If you have more than one child, the money for all your family may be put into one child’s envelope, and mark on the order form which child’s envelope has the money.

Students are expected to be in school uniform. Packs are as follows:

- Premium Pack $40
- Value Pack $35
- Basic Pack $30
- Group only $22
- Portrait only $25

Please do not send any money to school until photo day with the correct money. The school does not have change available.
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Captains Chat

Book Week Performance
This week we watched the play “Read Across the Universe” by Splash Theatre, presented by Roy, Steph and Esca.
The play involved various books including “Oh the Places You’ll Go” by Dr Seuss.
It was very enjoyable and the singing was good. Roy also had some awesome dance moves!!

CANTEEN SPECIAL
FRIDAY 9th August ONLY
Hot Dog with sauce +
Big M - strawberry or chocolate

Full Serve $5 1/2 serve $4

Please note due to the cold weather now being upon us there will be NO Slushies until term 4
NO Chicken Wedges Fridays

CHECKMATES SOFTBALL CLUB
SOFTBALL (9 years and older)/T-BALL (5-8 years)
Matches begin on Saturday, 19th October for all under age grades. Registrations for all interested boys and girls will be taken on Wednesday, 21st August next to the Playground, 3.15pm til 3.45pm. Trainings will commence on Wednesday, 28th August on the Murdoch St oval at 3.30pm.

All primary school children are eligible to play, and we encourage new players to come and have a try.
We also would welcome any parents/care givers who would like to be involved in coaching or assisting their child’s team. Players are also required for our senior teams; do you know anyone who might like to give softball a go – older brothers and sisters, mums and dads – we have a team to suit all ages and abilities.

Any queries or for further information, please contact either Samantha Youngman (7324 4420 a/hours) or Sharyn Combe (8632 3116 a/hours).

Socks n Jocks
Have you ever gone without your underpants?
Probably not! Or if you did, it was an awful feeling.
Charity organisations get lots of second hand shirts, jumpers, dresses, skirts, trousers, jeans and shorts, but who wants to wear second hand socks, jocks or pants?

Please join the Pt Pirie & Districts combined school choir in donating NEW socks, jocks, & knickers, to help those in need.

Cash donations also accepted.
Goods and cash raised will go to:
United Care Wesley, Vinnies, Anglicare Lifeline.

Donations can be made to front office Term 3.
**Uniform Statistics Week 2 and 3 — By Kelly Zwar**

This Term, Kevin Moore's Year 6/7’s and I, are conducting weekly uniform surveys to relate back to the schools new uniform policy that will be coming home shortly. Each week we survey the classes and calculate how many students are in correct polo tops, pants/shorts, dresses/pinafores and jumpers. So far this term, the results have been both good and bad.

Overall, the classes perform best with the polo tops, with every class being in the 90% or above range, for students in correct polo tops.

The correct school uniform colour for pants is either black or school green for shorts or track pants. Unit 2 was best performed in this area with most classes having a percentage of 72% or above. Unit 3 need to improve themselves, especially as being leaders of the school, so they should be setting the right example for Unit 1 to be able to follow.

Jumpers are proving to be the worst statistic with the uniforms. In week 2, only 2 classes out of 18, had students in correct jumper with a percentage of 90% or more. The rest of the classes were averaging in the 25 – 72% range, with 1 class having only 4% of students in correct school uniform jumper. However, in week 3, the percentages did marginally improve.

The jumper issues seem to be in the older classes, as many students prefer to wear country championship, SAPSASA or club jumpers. These range in various colours and make the students “stand out” in a crowd, especially for teachers on yard duty!!! Students need to be mindful that it does set them apart, so negative behaviours in the yard are easier to “spot”.

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**Central / Risdon Netball**

Raffle tickets are due back to Anne Fuss.

**PRESENTATION**

Sunday 25th August

1—3pm

Savoy Soccer Club

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**St John Ambulance Australia**

Recruiting NOW

First Aid Event Volunteers

Pt Pirie Division

St John Centre

Located at

TAFE Campus

Wandearah Rd, Pt Pirie

For further information, please phone:

Superintendent Lynette Pole

0427 719 998

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**Splash Theatre**

Roy, Steph & Esca perform Dr Seuss

“Oh the Places You’ll Go”
Last term Room 32 learnt about Aboriginal History within Guided Inquiry as part of the History curriculum. Students learnt about the arrival of Aboriginal people, impacts of colonisation, the Battle of Pinjarra, a timeline of significant dates, the Stolen Generation and researched and presented projects on significant Aboriginal