**THE VIRTUE OF RESPECT.**

Respect is an attitude of caring about people and treating them with dignity. Respect is valuing ourselves and others. We show respect by speaking and acting with courtesy. Respect includes honouring the rules of our family or school, which make life more orderly and peaceful.

Key virtues at Risdon Park Primary help us teach each other ways we are able to get along, show empathy and have the ability to communicate/function day to day. We have seen a need to have these virtues more prominent in our school and community which will support the learning and social needs of our school.

Starting with Respect gives us opportunities to support students to understand the basic skills needed to have a productive and supportive classroom learning environment and in social situations in the yard.

Ways that we will help support these in our school include:

- Visual displays in classrooms and in the yard
- Classroom lessons with support from Counsellor and Deputy
- Awards at assembly for two students in each class and then published in school newsletter
- Golden award to recognise outstanding displays of the Virtue in the school yard
- Positive reinforcement for all members of our learning community.

Being able to use these different virtues throughout the day strengthens the relationships and helps support the culture that Risdon has and wants our students to take away and share with their families and other interests in our community.

As parents you also have a valuable role to play in helping support your child or children to understand and learn about these important skills. I have found that when the learning at school is supported with the same key messages at home the impact of the learning is more powerful. The planning for this term will look like:

**Manners (Wks 3 and 4)**

Please, thankyou, excuse me, sorry, hello, goodbye are examples of the manners that are very easy to use but have a great impact on the person you are communicating with. Reminders, praise and role modelling the behaviour are some of the key aspects in helping support your child or children learn to use these in an appropriate way and situation.

**Belongings/Organisation (Wks 5 and 6)**

**Being Helpful (Wks 7 and 8)**

**Listening/Self Discipline (Wks 9 and 10)**

We will keep you up to date at home so the common message is transferred and Risdon Park Primary is helping support a culture that uses these Virtues each day but also recognises them.

Cheers, Damien Mellow

Deputy Principal

‘Treat others as you would like them to treat you’ - Wilson McCaskill.
News from the School Counsellor

I’d just like to start by saying how much I have enjoyed the first few weeks in my new role, it has been different, but I am enjoying the opportunity to meet new students in the year levels I have not worked with this year.

Some interesting information from attendance statistics from Term 1 2013:

DECD has set an attendance target for this year for our school of 92%, as a school we achieved 87% attendance, keeping in mind we had the “superbug” hit mid-way through the term which would have had a significant impact on student attendance levels.

Year 3’s had the highest attendance rate for the school – 90.2% - great job, the Year 7’s were the year level with the lowest percentage – 83.7%, however we had 2 students from the year level who between them missed over 100 days of school, as well as a couple more with high absence numbers. We are working with the Districts attendance officer regarding their absences in the hope of seeing them more regularly this Term.

As a school we had 4.5% of absences recorded as unauthorised (unexplained) out of a total of 1,682 absences.

It is important that parents and caregivers contact the school when a child is absent for legal reasons. This can be done via a note in the child’s diary or communication book, ringing 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 in class a child for three or more days, they (the teacher) are expected to try and make contact with the parent/caregiver and find out why.

Included are some graphs that further show our attendance rates from Term 1 2013, and let’s work together to increase attendance for Term 2 and decrease the unauthorised attendances too.

Unauthorised absences %
Term 1 2013
by Year Levels

Kids Co will be holding a PINK DAY in support of Breast Cancer
Tuesday 4th June
Students are encouraged to dress up for the day
Pink food available at the canteen
More information next newsletter
This Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday students in year 3, 5 and 7 have sat the National Literacy & Numeracy test known as NAPLAN. The main areas covered are:

- Language Conventions
- Reading
- Writing
- Numeracy (1 test for yr 3 and 5 students and 2 tests for yr & 7’s to include a test in which students can use a calculator)

Walking through the units, I noticed students quietly participating in the tests and seeking help when required.

The writing test this year asked the students to write a persuasive argument to why they think a person deserves an award for being their hero. I was interested in who students chose to be their heroes and some of them include:

- Mum
- Dad
- Grandparent’s
- Brothers, sisters and friends
- Sporting heroes
- Barack Obama
- Teachers
- Fireman
- Carers
- Police Officers
- Bindi Irwin

Quite a diverse group of individuals chosen as heroes.
Canteen Special

For Friday 17th May Only

Crumbed sausages served with gravy, mashed potato & mixed vegies, bread roll and Fruitbox.

Full serve $5.00
1/2 serve $4.00

Woolworths Earn & Learn 2013

You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn point for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Drop completed sheets into the collection box at school or at your local store.

School Fees

Reminder that school fees are now overdue.
If you wish to apply for school card please obtain a form from the office.
Prompt attention to this would be appreciated.
If you wish to make regular payments please see our Finance Officer Michelle Beyer.

Choir News—Next Combined 29th May

Students received a letter last week for purchasing their choir shirt. Please return the form whether you are ordering a shirt or not by 31st May. Students who have not yet purchased their choir book & CD please do so, they are $14.30 and you can pay for them at the front office.

Don’t forget your choir book every Thursday.

Next week we will start learning the choreography. If you did not get a cd with your book please see Tessa.

Cheers
I would like to thank everyone who supported the Mother’s day gardening programme by buying a bunch of chrysanthemums. We sold 34 bunches and raised just over $200.

Thank you to Mr Moore’s class for helping on the day and a special thankyou to Dianne Crossman and Ronnie Giles

Kathryn Wilsdon

Mother’s Day Flowers

Dear Parent / Caregivers

We are trying to restock some of our playboxes that are used as part of the Junior Primary Oral Language Program.

We would like families to donate any pre-loved toys or objects that might be able to be used in themed playboxes such as:

- Medical
- Farm
- Camping
- Hairdressing
- Restaurant
- Sandpit
- Vet
- Transport
- Gardening
- Dress Ups
- Shopping
- Construction

Wanted for Junior Primary