This week is National Recognition Week for School Services Officers. At our school we are very fortunate to have a terrific team of support staff helping to care for and educate your children and run our school. Most parents will have met some of the support staff, however the full team is:

Michelle Beyer
Christine Carman
Tessa Collins
Kathryn Wilsdon
Anne Fuss
Cassie Bond
Pauline Cooper
Lynette Young
Megan Voumard
Rachel Stringer
Rose Pisani
Anita Bellifemini

Please join us in thanking these staff during National Recognition Week. We’d be lost without them.
Did you know that:

- If a student misses 1 day a week of school each week, then by the time they reach Year 10, they will have missed equivalent of 451 days = 2 whole school years plus a term of learning.
- Missing just 5 days of schooling a TERM adds up to more than 1 school year missed by the time they reach Year 10 = 220 schooling days and a whole lot of learning missed.
- Being 30 minutes late each day, equals 1 year plus 1 and a half terms of learning missed by the student by the time they reach Year 10
- Research has shown that children and students who attend school on a regular basis, are more likely to achieve success in their education

Some startling information that is very relevant here at Risdon Park PS. We have too many students missing school for no genuine reason and putting at risk their future due to them missing too much learning; it also creates social issues for students, as those that miss too much school also struggle socially with creating and maintaining healthy friendships.

DECD has set an attendance target for ALL South Australian schools, of 95%. Currently, Risdon Park PS is sitting at just over 90% attendance for the current school year; so we are NOT meeting the DECD requirements. It is a LEGAL requirement that children from the age of 6 attend school on a compulsory level, and for those under the age of 6, once they have been enrolled at a school, parents are bound by the same legalities as those aged 6 and over, therefore they must also be attending school. Last week, Damien Mellow and myself had a meeting with the Pirie Partnerships Attendance Officer regarding our schools attendance – 17 referrals for poor attendance have been submitted, and many more students were placed on the “monitor” list.

We ask that you please notify the school of when your child/ren may be absent, as again, we have far too many absences that are unexplained. We also have the right to ask for a doctors certificate if your child has been absent for many illnesses, and the students are required to have a health care plan in place. Some of you will soon be receiving a letter asking you to come in and complete such Health Care plans with us.

On the flip side to this, we have many students that have a FANTASTIC attendance record, with some students having 100% attendance for the year thus far, and many that have missed less than 5 days for the year - a brilliant effort. We also acknowledge and thank the many parents who notify the school of when their child/ren have been absent and why. Please remember you can call, email, send a note, fill in an absent slip or send an alert via the skoolbag app to inform us of your child's absence.

For the remainder of the year, can we please work hard to improve our attendance rates so that we are all striving for the same goal - success in learning for your child/ren.

Kelly Zwar
School Counsellor
Videoing / Filming of Students

In today’s world of digital technology we often use video as once we used photography to record special moments, events and reflect on past experiences/practices.

At Risdon Park Primary School we use video/filming of students for the following purposes:

- Record special events (eg choir performances and practices, part of the sports day, sections of a whole school assembly, special events like hero day, activities on camp or excursions).
- Prepare for special events such as the year 7 graduation, for presentation night.
- Students work in the classroom (eg Guided Inquiry presentations, classroom presentations or special activities).
- Show on local television at a special event or for DECD’s purposes such as our Value Community Forums.
- Teachers to reflect on their own teaching practice for reflection, evaluation and improvement.

A permission note will be coming home soon for you to sign giving general permission for your child to be videoed/filmed for school purposes and programs only.

However, on occasion, teachers / school will seek your permission for your child to be videoed or filmed if the designed audience is extended further than the school.

Carolyn Clinton

DATES TO ADD TO YOUR DIARY

Pupil Free Day 15th August
Sports Day 18th September
Pupil Free Day 19th September
Last Day of Term 26th September Early Dismissal
Commonwealth Games 2014

I would like to say well done to all our students and staff for their integration into learning about the Commonwealth Games. Walking through classrooms I witnessed:

- Students researching about different countries (Geography)
- Asking questions about the history of the games (History)
- Designing their own mascot for Gold Coast 2018 (Art)
- Keeping a tally of the medals (Mathematics)
- Using the Interactive whiteboard to find information (IT)

The House Captains organised a taste of the games for each unit last week on the school oval. (Health and Physical Education)

The best way to show case this learning is through pictures.

Well Done Risdon.

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School Photos

Tuesday 26th August

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

Packs are as follows:

- Premium Pack $46
- Classic Pack $41
- Value Pack $37
- Essential Pack $35
- Basic Pack $33
- Group only $27

Please do not send any money to school until photo day with the correct money.

The school does not have change available on photo day.

Envelopes go home with this newsletter.
Please check with your child
Please collect Family envelopes from the front office

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A Learning Community that Values: Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, Caring

Helping each other to succeed
Robogals Excursion

On Friday in week 1 the year 7 girls went to John Pirie Secondary School and participated in Robogals. Robogals is a program that is run by University students that aims to get females interested in Engineering. All of the girls worked with laptops programming robots to move. First we had to make the robot form a triangle, and then we had a Sumo wrestling competition. The competition had four rounds plus a wild card round. If you won a round you progressed to the next round. It was exciting to see the kinds of things you could do if you had a career in Engineering.

Jordon Beveridge, Kyah Dienhoff and Paige Jansen
SAPSASA Netball and Football

On Friday of week 2 the year 7 girls and boys participated in an interschool football and netball carnival. The aim of the event was to allow students to have the opportunity to try these sports. Students were able to positively interact and develop teamwork skills with peers. Despite the cold and unfavourable conditions all students who attended worked well together and gave it their best effort. It was an enjoyable day filled with fun and laughs. Thanks to the parents who assisted on the day.

Theresa Bassett and Emily Langton
Cool Little Kids Anxiety Prevention Program

The program is an early intervention program targeted at 3-6 yr old children who are at a high risk of developing anxiety problems in the future. The program will also incorporate information that will be useful for children up to the age of 12yrs old. This program aims to educate parents about how best to parent their anxious child.

When: Starting in Term 3 2014. Two potential time slots:
- Thursday Afternoon 1pm-2.30pm
- Thursday Evening 4.30-6.30pm

Starts: Thursday August 21st and runs for 6 x 1.5hrs sessions

Who: Facilitated by Emily Zubrinich (Senior CAMHS Clinician Occupational Therapist and Brent Rowe (Speech Pathologist)

Where: GP Plus building, 50 Gertrude Street, Pt Pirie

Registration: RSVP required to Emily Zubrinich 86325304 or Brent Rowe 86381100.

Unfortunately no child care can be provided, this is a parent group and children do not attend.

** This is a FREE program **

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

**Week 4**
- Monday 11th August
  - L Pomery
- Tuesday 12th August
  - D Staehr
- Wednesday 13th August
  - H Davidson
- Thursday 14th August
  - M Brown
- Friday 15th August
  - Student Free Day

**Week 5**
- Monday 18th August
  - S Jebb
- Tuesday 19th August
  - H Davidson
- Wednesday 20th August
  - H Davidson
- Thursday 21st August
  - M Brown
- Friday 22nd August
  - R Giles, A Meaney

Canteen Special
Friday Only

**Crispy Chicken Roll**
with
**lettuce + mayo**

**With Big M**
(chocolate/strawberry)

$5.50 full serve
$4.50 1/2 serve

No Chicken Wedges or Meatballs available
Fridays
No slushies during term 3

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**CHECKMATES SOFTBALL CLUB**

Registration night for Juniors for new and old players

Boys and Girls must be 5 years or older

At Risdon Park Primary School
near Junior playground

August 20th after school
for 1 hour

August 27th training starts
Within Technology lessons students from Room 32 have been following visual designs plans to construct Knex Theme Park rides. Students have often found themselves challenged by the construction task as they follow comprehensive visual instructions, contend with parts disconnecting, correct their constructions to represent design images and make fine adjustments to create working models. Students are already feeling a real sense of achievement in working through difficulties within the construction stage of their models.
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 Tuesday the 5th of August. The theme for Book Week this year is 'Connect to Reading', with many of the activities encompassing this theme.

After the great success of last year’s Amazing Race, students are ready and eager to face the literacy and numeracy challenge. The Race is a great opportunity for students to work as a team in a physical activity - all while learning! 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 next 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, and other special achievements!

The students of Unit 3 will open the race in the morning, followed by the competitive students of Unit 2. All of our lovely Junior Primary students will be participating in a very special kind of race - class against class!

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
Site Improvement Coordinator