Dear Families,

The students in rooms 31, 33, 35, & 36 participated in a 2 night camp at Illawonga, near Swan Reach, on the River Murray. The exciting & challenging camp provided students with the opportunity to have a go at kayaking. Our thanks to Damien, Leonie, Kelly, Teagan, Emily, Henry and Anne, along with volunteers Mel, Paul and Jodi who accompanied the students.

Students who have spent time with Kathryn and Matthew in the garden grew chrysanthemums for Mother’s Day. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped create the beautiful bunches of flowers. This raised $140 and will be used to further develop the garden for future projects. We hope all mums had a great day.

With only 1 week to go of my time here at Risdon, I take this opportunity to acknowledge your wonderful school. It is such a busy place with so many opportunities for your children to be involved in different programmes of support and enrichment. Carolyn Clinton will return from Mon 25th May. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and appreciate the friendliness of the community. I do hope to see you and your children around Pt Pirie when I am up this way again.

Regards Annette

MONDAY 18th MAY IS A PUPIL FREE DAY. This is Monday of next week.
SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS
Staff will attend professional development in the teaching of Mathematics

FOOTSTEPS DANCE COMPANY are coming to RISDON PARK PS!

The dance instructors provide a great programme for year Rec—year 7 students to learn a variety of modern and traditional dance skills and routines.

Dance is a part of the Arts Australian Curriculum. Classes will work with the instructor on either a Tuesday or Wednesday across weeks 6-10. The cost per head has been subsidized through Rural & Isolated Funding.

A permission note is being sent home today with this newsletter outlining the cost of $10 per head and seeking permission for your child to take part.

Pirie Partnership Qualities—Respect, Responsibility, Persistence, Confidence

Our Vision: Quality Education Empowering Community Minded Learners - Helping each other to succeed.
This week is National Volunteers Week and Risdon Park Primary School is proud of the efforts our volunteers do for our school. There are so many roles that are filled in our school by volunteers which support aspects of student learning and wellbeing programs.

Breakfast Club
This program runs every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning at the amphitheatre and attracts an average of 50 students. Without the volunteers helping coordinate and serve, it would make it very difficult for this program to continue.

Community Mentoring
A one to one program aiming at connecting students with an adult in their life with a focus on conversation, learning and alternative programs including cooking, art and gardening.

Canteen
Sandra has a band of volunteers each day that supports the delivery of recess and lunches. This supports our canteen to be a success.

Play Boxes
Oral language is a developmental skill for students in Reception and Year 1 and using play helps supports their learning. Many volunteers (Parents, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles) take a group of students and select one of the many activities.

These are just an example of the work our volunteers do in our school but there is many more including class reading programs, support on excursions and camps and being on Governing Council.

THANKYOU to all volunteers at Risdon Park Primary School. If you would like to volunteer, please see someone at the front office about a role that could be suitable. Screening applications can also be found at the front office and we will support our volunteers in getting these processed.

Regards,
Damien Mellow,
Deputy Principal
NAPLAN National Assessment Program

This week students in year 3, 5 & 7 have been doing the NAPLAN tests in Literacy Conventions, Writing, Reading & Numeracy. Teachers use a broad range of methods throughout their work to identify what a student knows and can do. Then the teacher can focus on teaching to address the identified difficulty a student is having. This happens continuously throughout a student’s learning to ensure that a student can consolidate what they already know, and embrace the challenge of new learning.

This letter was circulated in a few Educational Journals and captures some of the important bits about the place of tests like NAPLAN. It is useful for indications of how cohorts are performing and can inform policy and resourcing decisions. It is just one way of collecting information and is conducted in a way that is not consistent with how most children can best show what they know and can do.

Literacy and Numeracy

My Dearest Students,

April 17, 2015

Next week you will take your State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam for Math and Reading. I know how hard you have worked, but there is something very important you must know:

The STAAR test does not assess all of what makes each of you special and unique. The people who create these tests and score them do not know each of you the way I do, and certainly not the way your families do. They do not know that some of you speak two languages, or that you love to sing or draw. They have not seen your natural talent for dancing. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them, that your laughter can brighten the darkest day, or that your face turns red when you feel shy. 😊 They do not know that you participate in sports, wonder about the future, or sometimes you help with your little brother or sister after school. They do not know that you are kind, trustworthy, and thoughtful... and every day you try to be your very best.

The scores you will get from this test will tell you something, but they will not tell you everything. There are many ways of being smart. You are smart! You are enough! You are the light that brightens my day! So while you are preparing for the test and in the midst of it all, remember that there is no way to “test” all of the amazing and awesome things that make you, YOU!

Love,

In Brown

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Aboriginal Education News


During Week 5 we will be paying particular attention to these two significant dates. National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week will be recognised at Risdon Park Primary School with a special assembly on Friday 29th May at 12.30pm on the turf (weather permitting). Our Aboriginal students will be hosting the assembly and we are inviting all parents to attend and learn a little more about these events.

The theme for National Reconciliation Week is “Change it Up”. During lunchtime on Friday Week 5 we will have an activity for the children to participate in where they can contribute to a whole school mural by drawing a picture or making a promise how they can change to better people. We look forward to seeing you there!

Melissa and Naomi

Party with Emmalee

Imagine your child’s party without the stress of preparing food, entertaining and making the perfect cake....

Walk In, Walk Out or Party in a Box
Pick your theme

Book today......
Emallee Baldock, 0488004086
14 Reginald St, Pt Pirie
partywithemmalee@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/Party.with.Emmalee

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Pirie Partnership Qualities—Respect, Responsibility, Persistence, Confidence

Our Vision: Quality Education Empowering Community Minded Learners - Helping each other to succeed.
National Consistent Collection of Data of Students with Disability

This year Risdon Park will participate in the Students with Disability Data Collection for the first time. All schools across Australia will be involved in the collection. It is designed to provide valuable data that will inform State and Federal Governments about students who fall under the broad definition of the Disability Act and the type of curriculum/classroom/school adjustment that are in place to enable them to successfully engage in their learning programs.

This information will drive future funding and policies relating to all levels of schooling across Australia. It is a Commonwealth Government initiative.

Parents/carers are advised that under the collection model, the definition of disability is very broad and includes learning difficulties, health conditions and mental health illnesses. All data collected will be de-identified to ensure no student’s identity can be ascertained.

The parent/carer information pack about the data collection will be sent home next Tuesday (19th May). Please take the time to make yourselves familiar with the “Collection” and how it may relate to your child at school.

Any questions or further clarification can be sought from Kevin Moore (Intervention/Disability Manager) on 8632 2226. Thank you for your time.
**RPPS ATTENDANCE**

RPPS achieved an attendance rate of **91%** for Term 1. The **DECD attendance target is 93%** which means we fell 2 % below the required standard. We are really striving to meet this target by encouraging students to attend school each day. As a parent/caregiver, it is your legal responsibility to make sure your child attends school on a daily basis. When your child needs to be absent for legitimate reasons, please notify the school of their absence. We urge parents/caregivers to ensure absent days are only for legitimate and unavoidable reasons such as illness, medical appointments out of town or unexpected family situations. Where possible, avoiding other types of appointments, social outings etc during school time is strongly encouraged. If you have concerns about your child not wanting to come to school or other personal reasons for your child not coming to school, please contact the school so we can provide support and work through these concerns.

**SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER:**

- School is important for your child’s learning but if they are unwell, it is important that you do not send them to school to share their illness with other students. With the cooler months now upon us, it is inevitable that your child will become unwell at some stage and need extra rest to help their bodies recover.
- Late arrivals and Early departures need to be signed in or out through the Front Office and by an adult. Please do not send your child straight to their classrooms or go to their classrooms to pick them up.
- It is essential and a requirement that you notify the school when your child is going to be absent, this can be done by phoning the school (86322226), texting the school mobile (0409097059), using the Skool Bag app or completing an absent note in your child’s diary/communication book.
- An adult must notify the school of why their child is away.
- It is not suitable for an older sibling or the child themselves to pass on information regarding attendance.
- If your personal contact details change at any time, it is important that you update this information with the school. We do make regular phone calls about student attendance and a range of other matters so it is vital that we have your most up to date information.

If you have any further questions about attendance or your child please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thanks ☺ Carly Pavy

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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<th>Week 4 Monday 18th May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayley Davidson</td>
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<td>Wednesday 20th May</td>
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<td>J Baxter</td>
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<td>Thursday 21th May</td>
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<td>M Brown</td>
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<td>Friday 22th May</td>
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<td>M Maywald, S Giles</td>
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<th>Week 5 Monday 25th May</th>
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<tr>
<td>K Conley</td>
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<td>Friday 29th May</td>
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<td>R Giles, A Meaney</td>
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**Canteen Special**
Friday 15th May only
Quiche & Potato Wedges + Sauce
+ Fruit Box
Full serve $5.50
1/2 Serve $4.50

No Chicken Wedges or Meatballs available Fridays