Term 1 Week 7 - 12th March 2013

From the Pen of the Principal: Ms Simmiss-Taylor

Comparing Your Children

I recently read an interesting Blog I thought that I would share these wise words:

Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling, or your friend’s children? Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity. BUT it’s hard to resist; when you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use. Kids develop at their own rates. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. It’s the first group that can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school. The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for progress. “Your spelling is better today than it was ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths. So, your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokavic, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. And also recognise that strengths and interests may be completely different than those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance. Parents should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones such as, taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or in their milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parent pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons- please you! The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as ‘unconditional love’.

Ms Simmiss-Taylor
ARTS EDUCATION MATTERS

Of course children like arts education. It is hands-on, has immediate and long-term rewards, focuses on positive achievement, produces concrete products and fosters collaboration. The arts provide opportunities for children to learn through practice and to demonstrate their skills through authentic performance. They learn disciplined habits, behaviours and attitudes essential for success in any field. They discover their own creativity.

Through arts, children learn to observe, interpret, see different perspectives, analyse and evaluate. They learn different points of view. They master new vocabularies and mathematical skills such as patterns and spatial and geometric relationships. They learn about beauty, proportion, conflict, power, emotion – and life itself. They grow in confidence. They learn to think positively about themselves and their learning.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of resource fees, uniforms, excursions etc. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

An update from the stage

Once again this year dance has expanded its opportunities for students at Ramsgate Public School.

We currently have over 80 students involved in the dance program. This year we have a Senior and Junior ensemble and have also introduced a boy’s hip hop group which has become very popular. Congratulations to all the students who were successful in making it into these groups as the audition turnouts were very high.

I would like to make a special note of one of our Senior Ensemble members Alyssa K. from 5T. Alyssa has recently been accepted into the Sydney Region Dance Ensemble as well as the NSW Dance Company. This is an outstanding achievement for such a young student and we wish her all the best of luck.

I am looking forward to a very busy and exciting year!

Miss Grant
Dance Coordinator
Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you to our Library and hope you and your child/children have some wonderful experiences using our Library.

The Library is open Monday – Friday.

Years K – 6 students visit the Library on these days:

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<td>5A – Tuesday</td>
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Miss Austin – Teacher Librarian

Library Opening Times

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It's time…….

To start reading for the 2013 Premier’s Reading Challenge!

It's easy to register.

Students are automatically registered as participating in this year’s Challenge, once they enter their first book in their online student reading record.

Students can use their DET User ID and password to logon to participate in the Challenge via the link in the Ramsgate Public School Website www.ramsgate-p.schools.nsw.edu.au site OR directly through the PRC Website. https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

If you are having difficulty, please see me for help.

Good Luck to all students taking the reading challenge!

Miss Austin – Teacher Librarian

Morning Protocols

Just a reminder to parents that we encourage all children to be at school by the first bell at 8.55am. If you are bringing your child to lines, this is the time to give them a kiss and cuddle, wish them a good day and wave goodbye. All children should be in line at 9am when the start bell goes. Parents wishing to stay to hear announcements are kindly asked to stand to either side of the assembly area. We would also ask parents to respect our rule of not talking at this time and not to return to their child’s class for a final farewell when the teacher is directing children to classrooms. With more than 500 children on the move, it is imperative that we get them to their classrooms quickly and safely to begin their day of learning.
Congratulations to our senior skipping team, the Ripper Skippers who have successfully trialled to represent the Jump Rope For Heart (JRFH) foundation as a demonstration team. The team is brand new this year and have been working extremely hard to put together a routine for the trial. Last Thursday Mitchell Watson from the Heart Foundation came to see us audition and announced that we were successful. The team will now perform around local schools aiming to raise awareness of heart health. We will also be having some celebrations later on this year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Jump Rope for Heart, so stay tuned for some interesting events.

Miss Coombes
Mrs Watson

WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE

Three of our wonderful Ramsgate students are participating in the 'World's Greatest Shave' this March. After the huge success Emma W of 6F had last year in raising $3,333 her brother Toby of 3/2D will be joining her along with classmate Ari S of 6F who thought this was an awesome charity to support. The boys have shaved their heads and Emma has gone Pink. Emma and Toby’s cousin had cancer last year and is now thankfully in remission and they feel this is a wonderful charity to support, who amongst us hasn't been touched by this disease in one way or another. So if you would like to support the kids please drop into 6F or 3/2D and the kids will happily take your donation no matter how large or small. They raised a total of $350+ on Friday night at our Disco so please stay tuned in the next couple of week to learn of their success.

Donations of $2 and over are tax deductible and you will be issued a receipt.

Thank you

DISCO UNDER THE STARS

We couldn’t have asked for better weather for last Friday evening’s Disco Under the Stars. The turnout was huge. It was great to see so many families getting into the spirit of the evening and sharing a fun filled night with their school community. A great big thank you to the P&C for their organisation of the event as well as the teachers who provided a scrumptious sausage sizzle (try saying that 10 times!) and of course the famous waffles!
"4V have been investigating symmetry and designed some very interesting and unique quilt covers."
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E News Mobile and Tablet Apps
COMING SOON........WATCH THIS SPACE!!!

All your school information, with you all the time, in one location. Get instant alerts, read notices, notes and newsletters.

For Parents

Parents can access school news and information in 4 ways:
1) Mobile and tablet apps
2) An email from your school
3) School website
4) School Facebook and Twitter
Clean Up Australia Day started in 1989 as a simple idea to clean up Sydney Harbour, and since then has spread across the country and the globe. It is now estimated that 35 million people across 120 countries take part annually in their national campaigns, and in the last 20 years in Australia alone, 200,000 tonnes of rubbish has been removed from our local environment. On Friday the 8th of March all Ramsgate Public School staff and students were playing their part. In addition to cleaning the school grounds we also collected rubbish from our local park and reserve.

Singing at Ramsgate

We love to hear the sound of children’s voices singing to a variety of tunes. At Ramsgate Public School, the students have the opportunity to participate in choir and also the Glee Club. Last year the Junior Choir performed as part of the massed choir at the St George Performing Arts Festival. Many of these students then formed the nucleus of the Christmas Choir who performed at the local aged care facility as well as the Christmas Under the Stars.

Our Glee Club has been asked to perform for another school who are very keen to start up their own Glee Club.