National Young Leaders Day

Regents Park Public School leaders leading the way!!

On the 25th March we went to the Sydney Entertainment Centre with Ms Arevalo and Ms Dakmak. We listened to many inspirational speakers, such as Nathan Hindmarsh and Olympian Jessica Fox. They gave us inspirational talks about leadership and how we should act as school leaders. They gave us examples of decision making when they were young and how they became inspirational leaders. It was an inspiring and fun day and we hope to put some of what we learnt into practice!!

By Emily Capra and Aiden Pillay

2013 Anzac Day Ceremony

The school held its 2013 Anzac Day Ceremony on Thursday 11 April, 2013. Our school leaders had the wonderful opportunity to listen to the stories of veterans and to share morning tea with them.

Principal’s Report

It’s all about student learning!!

I had so much fun with KF learning about celebrations. We played ‘Pin the tail on the Donkey’ on the Interactive Whiteboard.
The best part of my job is spending time in classrooms with students and teachers observing that magic which occurs when students light up with the joy of learning. One of my professional goals was to spend more time in classrooms this term and with teachers when they are planning and developing their educational programs. I continue to be deeply inspired by the wonderful work which is happening in our school and feel confident that our students are learning in a safe and challenging environment.

One important highlight this term has been the implementation of the ICT Peer Coaching Program with Mrs De Marcellis and Miss Jade working with students and teachers so that the use of technology enhances learning. I’ve seen some fantastic things with Edmodo, animation work using the solar system and visual presentations about symbolism in Chinese culture. Students are very engaged and working together cooperatively which is a very important life skill as we enter a period in our history when working together, learning together, sharing and cooperating are becoming increasingly important.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing P&C and congratulate our newly elected P&C Committee - Patricia Kucukakyuz, Raema Toataua, Donna Bailey and Leyla Kilic. Please support this committee and our school by attending the P&C meetings. I have parents say that they do not know what the P&C is about. Don’t be frightened to ask or just attend a meeting.

After a very long term we are all ready to recharge our batteries. Please do everything you can to ensure that your children continue to read and write during the school holidays as it is so easy to lose skills during the break.

Have a safe and relaxing holiday.
The 2012
Ms. R.Manousaridis

2012 Annual School Report

The 2012 Annual School Report has been published on the school website. If parents require a hard copy please contact the school.

P&C Message

Welcome back to all our students, teachers and parents from an Easter long weekend...

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as a new appointed President of P&C committee, as you are all aware at the beginning of the year we were anticipating on the future of our P&C committee due to the unfilled positions of Executive Members. I have a great pleasure to inform you that 2013 P&C Committee is now established and we will do our best to continue all the great works that the previous committee has been undertaking and also to continue on strengthening the bonds within the school community. So without further ado, I would like to introduce you to 2013 Regents Park Public School P&C Executive Members;

President- Patricia Kucukakyuz
Vice President- Raema Toataua
Treasurer- Donna Bailey
Secretary- Leyla Kilic

Please remember we are here to work with you in regards to any concerns/suggestions you may have within the school community in order to continue providing our children a safe, friendly, harmonious school environment where their main focus will only be to learn.

Just on a quick note, although we have missed our Easter Raffle this year, rest assure that there will be more events throughout the year, for instance Mother's Day Stall (in May) which we are all looking forward to in Term 2. Also I would love to encourage parents to attend P&C meetings and be involved as your involvement is as important as ever. If you have any questions or require more information regarding on P&C committee please do not hesitate to approach me or other members, we are more than happy to assist you. I will also continue to inform you of any updates/feedbacks within school community, in this column, so please stay tuned for more...

Remember: Eat well, Rest well and Learn well!!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten have had a big Term 1!
Many students have developed and enhanced many of their skills. They have been learning many new things and have been working hard to improve their listening skills. The students have improved their ability in the areas of reading, writing, creating and exploring.
KA in a Literacy session role-playing Handa's Surprise

In Term 1 we have competed learning ‘All About Me’. Students have shared their celebrations within their cultures thoroughly inside the classrooms. They have also learnt how to plan a celebration and have made creative and useful classroom party decorations such as hats and banners.

During Maths lessons the students have been learning about number through discussion, activities and manipulating concrete materials. The students are currently learning about addition and subtraction and developing a range of strategies they can use to problem solve.

In Term 2 COGS Kindergarten will be learning about How Things Grow. Students will have an opportunity to have an incursion with chick eggs coming into our classrooms in Week 2 Term 2. We will be able to observe the chicks hatching from eggs and learn about the lifecycle of a chick and how to care for them. In addition to this Unit of Work, we will be having a look at other lifecycles, needs and wants and the difference between living and non-living.

School Uniform

Please ensure that students clothing is labelled with their name to assist with identifying lost items. School hats are required in the playground all year, please note that a beanie does not protect your child from the sun and they will not be allowed to play. Also please ensure students come in black school shoes and not in any other form as it is part of their uniform.

Home Reading and Homework

We will be continuing our Home Reading Program for the remainder of the year. All students were provided with a purple plastic homework folder at the start of the year. If this has been misplaced, please replace it. In addition to Home Reading, students have been provided with Sight Words and a Homework grid. Please ensure this is completed and Sight Words are practised.

Parent Helpers

In Term 2 parent helper with reading inside the classroom will commence.

Have a safe and happy holiday.
From the Kindergarten Teachers,
Mrs Jones, Miss Fletcher and Miss Yeung

Stage 1

We had a stage party yesterday to end our celebrations topic and the students and teachers had a great time eating their lunches together, playing some games and dancing together in the hall. Today the students wrote detailed recounts about what we did.

Thank you to all the families who have provided their children with home reading folders, pencils, erasers and sharpeners. The holidays are a good time to stock up on new equipment so that we are all ready to start the new term.

In Term 2 we will be looking at our environment and we will be going on an excursion to the city. It would be great if all students had school jackets and hats before our excursion, as it really does make the job of identifying our students much easier when we are outside our school.

If any parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles are looking to fill in some of their free time, stage 1
teachers are looking for helpers to come into their classrooms and work with students on their reading. Just let Mrs Websdale know if you or a family member is interested in helping out.

Have a lovely break and we will see you all nice and refreshed after the holidays.

**Stage 2**

The term has flown by so quickly and we are currently assessing our students and are pleased to see the progress they have made through their hard work. We have also been planning for next term's learning. In COGS, we will be learning about the environment and the impact people have had on it over time. We will also be doing some exciting experiments in Science and learning a new text type in writing.

This term, we have been learning to write persuasive texts in preparation for NAPLAN. Please enjoy the following text written by Niketa in 2/3M

*Children should have free time at school.*

I definitely believe that children should have free time so children can have a rest from learning, play sport and get fit and make more friends in class.

Firstly, I recommend that children should have free time so children can run outside and get fit because if you get fit, you can get strong and healthy.

Secondly, in addition, children should have free time to have a rest from learning because if you just keep on learning you can get bored and silly.

Furthermore, children should have free time to make more friends and play with more people at lunchtime.

In conclusion, children should have free time to rest, play sport and make friends.

**News from Stage 3**

During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You've probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them.

Perhaps it's best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experience rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely children’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities for them to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It's also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in their stride here are some tips to help prepare your child o for the NAPLAN tests:

1. Take your cues from your child. If your child doesn't worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. Focus on doing their best & trying hard. Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.
3. Listen to any concerns they have. If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. Give them some relaxation ideas: Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. Help them retain their perspective: One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, if they don’t do as well as they’d like. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.

Ambassadors for Public Education

South Western Sydney Region’s Ambassadors for Public Education Program provides opportunities to develop his leadership skills, to interact with students from other schools in the region and most importantly, to act as an ambassador for public education for our school and at regional events and special functions throughout the year. Our 2013 Ambassador is Mohammed Chamma of 5/6A.

Mohammed participates enthusiastically in academic, cultural and sporting areas at Regents Park Public School. He is passionate about any role he adopts, showing good leadership and organisational qualities in his endeavours. We congratulate him on his appointment as our school’s ambassador.

Swimming News

On Thursday 28th February we had our annual school swimming carnival at Ruth Everuss Aquatic Centre. We watched many good swimmers swim in the races before we got into class groups and participated in various fun aquatics activities. The following table shows the house group results of the carnival.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boronia</th>
<th>Banksia</th>
<th>Wattle</th>
<th>Waratah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatics Carnival</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to the following children who represented our school at the District carnival which was held on Monday 4th March…. 5-6W: Joanna H, Mia G, Neha K, Eternity S, Tahlia R. 5-6A: Emily C, Jessica D, Phoebe L, Geoffrey B, Mohammed C. 3-4J: Lyn C, Ahmed C, Andy T. 3-4K: Hayley S, Taylor T. 2-3M: Kobe E, Yasir E, Blake S. They all tried their very best!

Joanna Hutabarat and Mia Greenwood (pictured below) achieved excellent results at the District Carnival. Joanna came 1st in Butterfly and 2nd in Breaststroke, Freestyle and 100m Freestyle. Mia came 1st in Backstroke, 2nd in Freestyle and 3rd in Breaststroke. These amazing swimmers moved on to represent our district at the Regional carnival which was held on Tuesday 19th March. They competed against the best swimmers in the region and we are all very proud of their efforts.

Mrs Koroneos

Mia and Joanna
Community Corner

Term 1 has been great so far. I have had the opportunity to meet and speak to so many parents and families. It has been fantastic getting to know everyone.

Our playgroup has gotten off to a wonderful start. It has been so fun playing, making things, singing, dancing and listening to stories. The children have been focusing on developing their fine motor skills by doing lots of craft that use the tiny little muscles in their fingers. Take a look at the photo of our macaroni necklaces below. Also, the children really enjoy their time playing on the outdoor equipment. They really don’t want to go home.

The playgroup is growing each week and more children are always welcome. If you are free on Thursday mornings from 9 – 11, bring your child along and join the fun. Remember to bring along a healthy snack, water to drink and a hat for outdoor play.

A few of our lovely parents will be undertaking the PALS (Program to Aid Literacy) course in week 10 that is provided by St. Johns. This course will provide them with the skills to help with Literacy in our classrooms in term 2. Thank you so much to those parents who have volunteered. If you are interested in helping children in the classroom with Literacy, please come and see me or contact me on 9644 2404.

I hope to see you all around,
Rabiha Kanj
Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

and Communities. Interpreters and child minding will be on offer. Please fill out the note that was sent home with your child and return to the office. I have had many parents express interest in English conversation classes. I’m working on organising FREE English classes to begin in early term 2. There will also be a possibility of providing free child minding. If you are interested in the English classes, then please see the ladies at the front office and fill out a form.

If you have any questions or you would like more information on any of the above events, please contact me on 9644 2404.