Leader’s Report

NAPLaN Testing

This week all year 3, 5, and 7 students sat these tests of literacy and numeracy understandings. It won’t be until August/September that students will receive their results in comparison to National Benchmarks.

Student Free Day

Please note ALL teachers will be involved in training & development on Friday 30th May, therefore students will not attend on this day.

The front office will however be open from 9am to 1pm!

Canteen

REMINDER: We have a new canteen manager, Kym Saunders, who is also operating the Marion PS canteen. At this stage hours of opening will be Thursday and Friday mornings. This means students can order lunch and / or visit canteen 11.10am to 11.30am each day. The canteen will not be open at recess time on those days.

If our profits improve we will look at increasing opening hours!

Website

We are about to upgrade our website in order to improve the marketing of our school and emphasize our ‘Specialist Sport’ programmes. We have engaged the services of DBG Technologies who specialise in website design and marketing. It should take about 6 weeks for our new website be up and running. In the meantime our current website is accessible.
COME ALONG AND PLAY!
What: Play Gym is a gymnastics-based program suitable for children aged between one and four. Climb, hang, swing, jump and have some fun!
Where: Ascot Park Primary School Gym (located behind the front office).
When: 9am-10am Monday (during the school term).
If you have any queries, please either contact Principal Greg Cox for more information or come along next Monday and see for yourself!

Family Maths Challenge!!!
Our school is a part of the Leading Numeracy and Literacy Improvement (INLP) Project to support students to achieve better learning outcomes in Maths.
To encourage students to practise their skills and involve families in their maths learning, a Maths Challenge will be put in the Newsletter each week. They are intended for the family to do together. Talk about Maths and see how you all solve the problems. Record how you do the challenge and then bring it into school (with name and class) and post it into the Maths Box in the office by Friday.
We will acknowledge students’ and family efforts in the next newsletter.

Happy Problem Solving!

Challenge # 1: THURSDAY 1ST MAY 2014
Did you know that the 1st May is the only first day of the month in 2014 which falls on a Tuesday?
Add together the dates of all the Tuesdays in May this year.
Which day of the week has the largest sum of dates in May?

GARDEN CLUB MOTHER’S DAY STALL
Preparing seed packets to sell.
At the seed-packet stall.
Selling our pots of plants at $1 or $2 each.

We made $73.80
We have bought spades, seeds, seedlings and compost so far. We still have half our money left for potting soil and mulch.
Heather Smith.
Performing Arts – Heather Smith

This term years 3 - 7 are learning about William Shakespeare. Students have watched an enactment of his life on DVD and discussed what life would be like 450 years ago. Pam’s, Sam’s & John’s classes began studying Hamlet by attempting to understand his state of mind as he became aware of successive situations.

We listed his various states of mind and then the positive strategies we use to deal with stress and trauma. We made long lists of things we did that Hamlet did not seem to do.

Then we made plays involving the kinds of challenges Hamlet faced but set them in the present day.

The scenery was set up so we could practise using it in a more creative way.

Actors could hide or walk behind scenery. Some actors did speaking parts behind the scenery so they could add characters or 'action' that would be too hard to show. It is a very effective technique.

Each group came up with very different ideas.

Some plays only had two people in them but they were very effective just the same.
Canteen News!

Reminder!!
Canteen is open only on Thursdays and Fridays.

We are looking for volunteers to help out in the Canteen. No experience is necessary as full training is provided. Volunteering in the canteen is not only fun and rewarding, but also a way to get to know some other parents and carers involved in our school. If you are able to help out please let myself or the front office know.
Kym (Canteen Manager)

Canteen special

CHICKEN WRAP

A Delicious BBQ Chicken Breast Fillet, with Lettuce, Tomato and Mayo or BBQ Sauce in a Wrap

Only $4.00

Kym Lardner

Nobody makes kids laugh as much or librarians, teachers and principals as Kym Lardner. After his visit ask your children what they want to be when they grow up. Now they all want to be authors. A brilliant multi-faceted entertainer!

Kym Lardner be coming to Ascot Park Primary School on Tuesday May 20th
SASVI will be joining us

Cost: gold coin donation

FosterCare

Foster Carers can be single, couples, people at home, working full-time, part-time or studying. Free training and ongoing professional support (including 24-hour assistance) is provided. Find out more at one of our upcoming information sessions:

Tuesday 3rd June 2014
Woodcroft- Morphett Vale Neighbourhood Centre
175 Baines Road
Morphett Vale SA
6.30-8.30pm

For more information or bookings call Linda on 8131 3456 or visit www.anglicare-sa.org.au/foster-care

ANGLICARE SA
Competition – what does that word mean to you? Competition is an activity bounded by rules whereby one side tries to win or gain something by defeating the other side. Competition can involve two people or teams of people or even one person who competes against themselves. It is an essential component of growing up and, as such, forms part of healthy behaviour. Two healthy sides competing against each other contribute to the healthy growth of each side. But, as we know, competition can easily be abused with devastating consequences. To prevent this we could ban all competition, but I am not sure that this is realistic. The alternative is to strive for healthy competition at all times and to manage difficulties as they arise. To do this we need people around us who can encourage us to face the challenge of competition, and who will comfort us when things go wrong so that we can get up again to face the next challenge.

The focus at school this week has been on the NAPLAN activity. NAPLAN is not designed as a competition but some people try to make it so. I just hope that all the students who participated learnt something about themselves this week which will be useful in the future.

With Easter and Mother’s Day, the last couple of weeks have been filled with chocolate. This has been a distinct tease for my dog Toby. A couple of times he has led me to the bench where the Easter eggs were sitting and pleaded with me with his adorable eyes, his smiling face, his wagging tail and excited yelps. I remembered that a couple of years ago I had a left an egg outside a bedroom door only to find the empty alfoil in the morning and a contented dog nearby! This year his antics told me that he actually likes chocolate and wanted me to give him some. But chocolate is not good for dogs as it contains theobromine which in large doses can cause illness and death. I was struck by the fact that my dog can actually like something that is bad for him and that it was in my power to say “yes” or “no” to his request. In the same vein our children often want things from us that can cause harm. It is not always easy to say no. The answer to this is to keep learning so that our decisions have a solid basis. On the other hand sometimes our children say no to things that they should say yes to. Here again we need to encourage participation with guidance and well-thought out answers to our children’s questions.

Let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no”! Enjoy your parenting!

Til next time
Karen

CPSW
A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This week marks the 25th anniversary of National Volunteer Week, a time set aside to celebrate our volunteers and highlight the incredibly valuable work they do.

The Department for Education and Child Development is fortunate to have 25,000 volunteers who make life easier in our schools, preschools, children’s centres and child protection settings.

Today, I recognise and thank those volunteers - parents, grandparents, family and friends - all giving their time to ensure children are safe, supported and free to learn.

You listen to children read, join Governing Councils, fundraise, put your hand up for excursions, sports day and canteen duty, you ensure schools run smoothly and staff can focus on teaching. You provide the transport – sometimes over long distances - so children in care can make appointments and keep in contact with grandparents, aunties and uncles.

Our Ethnic Schools could not operate without the services of dedicated teachers who are volunteers. They give their time simply for the reward of sharing their knowledge, culture and heritage.

Thank you to all our volunteers who generously give their time, their skills and their enthusiasm to helping others. I assure you your contribution does not go unnoticed.

I hope, in amongst your volunteering, you find time this week to enjoy one of the many activities on offer, including special lunches and morning teas held by workplaces.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your patience, for listening, for caring, and for making the life of a child better.

Jennifer Rankine

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT