Leader’s Report

2016

If you know your child will not be at Ascot Park PS next year can you advise us immediately as it will have impact on our class structure. Thank you in anticipation.

Pupil Free Day

Governing Council has given approval for our final ‘student free day’ to review and analyse our student’s data and set our directions and priorities for 2016. Council are very keen to have this day on the last day of the school term, Friday 11th December. I will confirm this when I receive approval from DECD.

SCHOOL CONCERT

Wednesday, November 25th

6.30pm – 7.30pm

All classes have an item to share.

Barbeque begins at 5pm. Drinks available

Students are now rehearsing in earnest. They are allowed to wear what they like to the concert as long as it is appropriate for school. Some students will dress up for their items. They have been told not to nag families about buying costumes as the drama room is well equipped.

See you there! Heather Smith
**OPEN DAY!**

The Ascot Park Primary School will be having an open day on **Tuesday November 17th**.

**Time:** 9:00am – 11:30am

There will be a school assembly at 9:00am followed by classroom visits and a barbecue at 11:30am. We will also be having soccer and netball trials on the day.

Hope to see you on the day!

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**CALLING ALL PARENTS, CAREGIVERS & STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS FOR OPEN DAY**

Anyone interested in giving a testimonial on their experience of Ascot Park Primary School, please ring Renae on: 0434895144 to discuss. The testimonials will be displayed around the school.

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**NEW APP TO ENGAGE PARENTS**

A new mobile app, which encourages parents to become more involved in their children’s education, is now available to download free on Apple and Android devices. Developed by the Australian Government’s Department of Education, in consultation with ACARA, the app offers access to articles and informative videos, as well as practical tips and suggestions for parents of children from pre-primary to high school.

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A part of visual arts is to understand that art has various uses. This activity was very useful because:

- Students saw a practical reason for their art
- They had to plan, discuss, cooperate, collaborate and agree on what they were doing
- They had to organize themselves and their equipment
- Their art is made public (published)
PCW CORNER

The topic of the week is HALLOWEEN which is celebrated on October 31\textsuperscript{st}. This is an event with very ancient roots and it is celebrated at various levels all over the world depending on the local social, religious and civil culture. The celebration can wax and wane in any given society and at the moment in Australia it is waxing (growing). An article on the retail side of Halloween in the Sunday Mail said that Halloween sales were quite minimal ten years ago but have really taken off in the last three years. Coles has reported an increase of 15% in sales of pumpkins and Spotlight a 100% increase in its Halloween products with people shopping earlier each year in readiness for the event. The increase in sales of the traditional costumes has been added to with
people now dressing up their pets for the occasion. The Americans spent $330 million on pet costumes in 2013. Pyjama King Retailer Peter Alexander said “Halloween is so much fun. It’s great to see Aussies embracing this scary, spooky, wonderful day more and more each year”.

So why is it that something that can be so much fun can also have a controversial element? Well, it all has to do with the scary and spooky side of Halloween (spiders and ghosts etc) and the fact that historically the event of Halloween all has to do with the subject of what happens to us when we die. There are different rituals all over the world that are used when people die and they are buried or cremated, and these rituals tell a story about death.

There are two traditions which have been combined to form Halloween. One tradition stems from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. This has its roots in pagan practices where the spirits of the supernatural world were believed to return to earth and needed to be appeased by gifts of food and drink (treats) otherwise bad things would happen (tricks). The other tradition is the Christian tradition of remembering the holy ones or saints (those who had died and gone to heaven ie the Hallowed Ones) on All Saints Day on Nov 1 – hence the evening before is known as All Hallows’ Eve or Halloween.

The school is having a Halloween movie night for the juniors and the seniors on Friday night. On Halloween (Saturday) you may see some children dress up and visit houses for treats. In Australia it is common these days for any house that is happy to be visited on Halloween to indicate that on their house. The decorations can be quite amazing – especially the pumpkin lanterns, and the scary bits can be dealt with through a caring education.

Til next time

Karen Tromans

PCW