Principal’s Report

At the recent Principal’s Conference, I was lucky to win some books and resources by Nature Play Qld, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting unstructured outdoor play for all children. I look forward to sharing with you some of these resources at the upcoming P&C meeting. In particular, I’m hoping to introduce you to one of the resources, Passport to Play, with a view to incorporating it as part of our weekly homework routines.

All of us here are dedicated to having meaningful conversations with you and your children about homework. Over the past few weeks, you may have noticed that some of the homework routines have changed to promote our more holistic view of learning and child development. These changes are rooted in relevant research and it is our sincere hope that together, we collaboratively design a whole school homework plan that is relevant, rigorous and rewarding for all children and families.

One of the books from Nature Play is called The Nature Principle by Richard Louv and it discusses the importance of ensuring our children receive sufficient exposure to nature in our technologically rich world. I am reminded how lucky we are to live in amongst a World Heritage listed rainforest and a community that values children having authentic encounters with nature as evidenced by the parents who continue to volunteer in our garden and kitchen. Special thanks go out to Carol for teaching the senior students the chemistry of baking bread from scratch. Also, many thanks to Margo for bringing in so many marvellous mangosteens for us to munch on.

I would like to share with you a quote from The Nature Principle: “Creative genius is not the accumulation of knowledge; it is the ability to see patterns in the universe, to detect hidden links between what is and what could be.” I’m very proud to lead a school that affirms this vision daily by inviting your children to explore philosophy, problem solving and positive education. At this week’s staff meeting, we will be discussing ways to further develop the creative geniuses in your children as we plan for next term.

Cheers,
Amelia Jenkins

Term 1 2015

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Dental Van @ Rossville SS: 17 March — 27 March
- Wednesday 1 April, AFL Carnival in Cooktown
- Thursday 2 April @ 2:30pm—P+C AGM
- 3 April—Good Friday, Holidays begin
- Friday 1 May, Cross Country at Rossville
- Friday 15 May, DATE CLAIM—Cooktown’s Got Talent

Weekly Activities:

- Gungarde Homework and Culture Club—Every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30—4:30pm
- French with Mme. Jo Tuesday mornings
- Chappy visits us every Tuesday
- BOOST! Tuesday afternoons at 1:20 pm
- Art Electives, Wednesday afternoons at 1:20 pm
- AFL with Dane and Dwayne every Thursday
- Library open Thursday at 1st lunch
- Parade every Friday afternoon at 2:00 pm

Phone: 07 4060 3988
Fax: 07 4060 3088
Email: the.principal@rossvilles.eq.edu.au

Tropical Cyclone Nathan

As Tropical Cyclone Nathan continues to threaten the Cook Region coastline please stay safe and prepared. The school will be in touch in regard to any possible future closures.

Rossville State School P + C Annual General Meeting

Thursday 2 April @ 2:30pm

All parents and community members are invited to attend Rossville State School’s P + C AGM to be held on Thursday 2 April at 2:30pm. Nominations for 2015 office bearers will take place at the AGM. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting.

REMEMBER: Every Day Counts!

We Learn • We Show Respect • We Are Safe
Junior Class Capers!!

From Miss Tonya

I’m so impressed with the Maths skills of the Junior class. Lately we have started checking our number facts, and some students are number facts whizzes! You might have noticed a change to the homework – instead of a page of Maths questions, I’ve just listed your child’s number facts goal, leaving it up to families to find the best way to practise.

We’re working hard on our reading skills in English. We’ve just learned to use the school iPads to record our reading. By the end of the term we will be recording stories for the Preppies to listen to.

Netta and Jackson working hard on their reading skills

For Science we are investigating materials. After looking at the properties of various materials we’ll be designing our own lunchboxes, specifying which materials should be used to make our lunchboxes and why. We’ve started off our lunchbox unit by talking about healthy lunches.

Every morning we start our day with a fruit snack. Help your child get a healthy start with fruit or vegetable sticks. Unfortunately, we don’t have enough staff to cut fruit for children. Please send cut fruit pieces or bite-sized bits like grapes or sultanas that kids can easily handle.

For Gungarde and PaCE, Rossville SS is now able to provide a after school homework and culture club every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30—4:30 pm. If you would like further information, or if you need another consent form, please contact the school office on 4060 3988.
Senior Class Capers!!

From Miss Heidi

Homework
A new section has been added to the homework. Students are able to record quality time spent with an adult as part of their homework. Not only is this valuable for relationships, the language, processes and discussions that occur during this time build valuable skills for education and life.

Fine Motor and Patterning
A big thank you to Carol Gavin who has begun craft classes with the senior students as part of their maths rotations. This week we have started with loom bands. These provide lots of different skills in one activity. The patterning that is required is part of maths, the fine motor skills assist with handwriting and following a pattern is part of literacy.

Carol is then spending the lunchtime with students who want to knit. Some students are continuing their knitting from previous years while others are completely new to the task.

English
Ask the students about the idea they have for their quest narrative. They are about to commence the drafting process after completing a week at the planning stage. Some stories look extremely interesting so keep a look out for some of the texts in the newsletter.

Marco was very excited to complete his first ever loom band. He used lots of persistence to complete the task even when he thought he couldn’t do it.

School Dental Van
The School Dental Van will be at Rossville State School for the next 2 weeks. All students have the opportunity for a free general dental check-up and treatment.
The focus for this term is...

**GRIT**

We are continuing to discuss and put into practice optimisn, self-discipline and persisence in lots of different ways in our school day. Students have been showing grit in practising for the cross country and also in their one practice test for NAPLAN. We also began last week giving out blue tickets for the three strengths of optimisn, self-discipline and persisence.

People who display GRIT can say:

- “I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge.”
- “I can focus on one project and not get distracted by new ideas and other projects.”
- “Setbacks don’t discourage me.”
- “I am a hard worker.”
- “I often set a goal and achieve it.”
- “I finish whatever I begin.”
- “I have achieved a goal that took years of work.”
- “I am diligent.”

*Students working together in the Boost program.*