

1st November 2024

*A small school achieving BIG
Things*

Dear RPS Families,

Welcome back students and families to term 4. This term is packed full of community events, activities, and of course learning! This year we are also celebrating a very special occasion; our school is turning 40! We are honouring this milestone on Friday of week 6, as part of Kakadu fun day.

This week we have welcomed three preservice teachers across the school, in preschool, 3/4 and 5/6. We look forward to having them with us over the next few weeks as they complete their placements.

On Friday the 1st of November we held our community event, Walk and Ride to School Day. This event aimed to encourage primary school students to ride, scoot or walk safely to school. Activities included a helmet and bike decorating competition, obstacle course, bike maintenance and washing, and an interactive session with Kenny Koala. It was a lovely opportunity for the school community to meet over a sausage sizzle breakfast and a coffee. Congratulations to our prize winners.

Earlier this term, Year 5 and 6 students visited the National Gallery of Australia to enhance their understanding of art and portraiture. They explored the Sculpture Garden and participated in a guided tour, learning about various artworks, including Indigenous pieces and a pencil painting of the Battle of Waterloo. This excursion has inspired creativity and critical thinking in time for the Richardson Art Show on November 7.

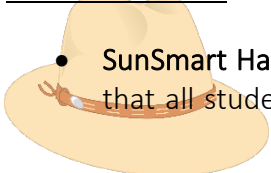
The preschool students Learning on Country trips this term have been to the National Arboretum. They visited Mununja, the Butterfly Garden, which depicts a dreamtime story of the Ngunnawal people. The garden's layout and colours reflect the scales of the Orchard Swallowtail and Common Crow Butterflies, native to Australia's east coast. Plants have been selected to provide habitat and food for butterflies, and for their cultural significance, with an emphasis on plants that grow naturally in the ACT and surrounds.

Kindergarten students and Mrs Turtle completed the end-of-year BASE testing, assessing their reading, phonics, and numeracy skills. This program includes two assessments: one in Term 1 and another in Term 4. The final assessment provides information on how well students have progressed during the year relative to their starting point. We use this data to monitor and revise teaching programs.

Our Drop-in Day for Term 4 is on November 13, inviting families to visit their child's classroom and observe teaching and learning in action. All families are welcome to drop in and see teaching and learning in action. Please note that Year 5/6 classes will be on camp during this time, so they will hold their Drop-in Day on November 27.

A few reminders:

- **SunSmart Hats:** Now that summer is upon us and the warmer weather has arrived, a friendly reminder that all students need to be wearing an appropriate SunSmart hat when playing outside during school



hours and attending outdoor excursions. Students will be reminded to play in shaded areas if they are not wearing a broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style hat.

- Students who ride their bikes or scooters to school need to ensure they are wearing a helmet and that their bike/scooter is taken to the bike shed as soon as they arrive at school. The bike shed is accessed through the back gate and not through the side classroom.
- Our annual **art show** will be held next week on Thursday the 7th of November at 3-3.45pm, we look forward to welcoming families to celebrate the creativity of our students.
- The last **GAME ON** event will also be help next Thursday the 7th on the oval, with activities involving bike skills.
- KOORI hearing checks will take place on Tuesday and Thursday of week 5.
- Preschool transition visits will begin next week.

Kind regards,
Paul Swinbourne
Executive Teacher



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