30 January 2013
Term 1 Week 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL …

WELCOME
It was great to see so many parents and smiling children return to us yesterday and the day went very smoothly. Welcome to all of the new children and parents. Please contact us should there be any issues with your child settling in as their welfare is very important to us.

If you have been with us for a while, you will know that at Stuart Park School, we follow the changing Top End Seasons throughout the year. The Aboriginal people of the Top End identify six seasons and we use the names given by the people of Kakadu and West Arnhem region. I hope you enjoy the season names and descriptions throughout the year and that you can also identify with these seasons as our land changes.

I feel a bit of a fraud declaring the monsoon season this year but this is the season that we should be having.

“The season is Gudjeuk -The Monsoon Season. The winds are blowing from the North-East, bringing the monsoon rains with them. Storms blow across the countryside and rain rejuvenates the land after months of being dry.”

SOME QUICK POINTS:
Morning supervision – There are teachers on duty to supervise children from 7:50am until the bell goes at 8:10am. Before this, children dropped off are unsupervised.

Traffic – The start of the day can be hectic. Please remember that there is usually room in Verberg Street should your child be in Years 3 to 6. In all other areas, park safely so that our children are safe.
In the afternoon, if you are picking up and don’t need to go to the classroom, we suggest out children wait at the front of the office and get picked up on the drive through. Wait until about 2:45pm and the buses will have gone and it is a stress free pick up.

There is no parking at this time on the drive through.

Wet Weather pick up – If it is raining at 2:30pm or there is a storm close by, we keep children under cover so the idea is to be patient and get to the classroom to pick up if you can. If you usually pick your child up from various arranged places around the school, please wait until buses have gone at about 2:45pm and pick them up out the front of the office. They will be safe there. Otherwise just wait out the storm knowing that we will keep your child safe and dry.

Parent Contributions – We ask for $130 per child per year in the primary school and $60 per child per term in the preschool. These provide very valuable additions to our programs and we thank parents greatly for this assistance to enhance our educational resources.
School Times
School starts at 8:10am. Children should be at school before this time so that they can enter class and start the day with their class. **If children arrive after the bell** they are to go straight to the office to have the daily rolls adjusted correctly. School finishes at 2:30pm and children must be picked up or other arrangements made for this time. We have a large After School Care and so children are not to remain at school after classes finish.

Contacting the school
There are many times that parents contact teachers direct with information regarding attendance, early pick ups, changes to after school arrangements etc. We request that copies of these details are also sent to the main school email address stuartpark.school@nt.schools.net as at times teachers are not on class due to professional development, non-contact times, or absences.

Students Mobile Phones
All students mobile phones are to be handed into the office before school and then collected at the end of school. Any urgent messages can be passed through the school office.

UNIFORMS
We apologise for the lack of uniforms to start the new year. They were certainly ordered with lots of time to spare but have not yet arrived, two months after the due date. We thank you for your patience and will let you know as soon as they are here.

The Northern Territory Government provides a voucher each year for each child in Preschool to Year Six. The voucher is worth $150 and we have it ready for your use here at school. The voucher can be used for educational purchases at the school. Because we do not work with book packs, at this school these vouchers are generally used to buy uniforms.

SCHOOL CULTURE
Over the first few weeks the teachers will work with your child to ensure we all have common understandings of how we work and learn together at Stuart Park School. The three important parts of our school culture are:

*The Tribes Agreements* – In every classroom you will see the five agreements on display. These apply to all of us, staff and students, and many families find that they are also a great way for them to operate at home. I will explain these in more detail over the next few weeks and will also send home a pamphlet for your reference. I also hope that your child will be able to explain these agreements to you. The agreements are: Do your personal best; Show mutual respect; Show attentive listening; We have the right to pass; Give appreciations, no put downs.

*No Bullying* – All students will do some work around how to identify bullying and what to do if it happens to them. Importantly, we know that bullies cannot exist if we all feel confident to tell someone who can help.

*Relationships* – In order to have a positive learning environment, it is important that all children have positive relationships with fellow students and their teachers. A lot of work is put into forming these relationships in these first few weeks.

I will expand on these over the next few weeks.
COMING EVENTS

- **BARBARA BRANN PARENT EVENING**
  Over the past two years we have had quite a bit of professional development on phonemic awareness and spelling from Barbara Brann. Barbara will be at our school during week 3 and there will be an opportunity for you to come along and hear what she has to say on Monday, 11\textsuperscript{th} February from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. *Please put this time in your diary.*

- **MEET THE TEACHER**
  While you are more than welcome to meet your child’s teacher at any time, in Week 3 on February 13\textsuperscript{th} at 5:30pm to 6:30pm, we will have an opportunity here at school for all parents to drop in and see their child’s classroom, meet their child’s teacher and see some initial work the students have done. This is not a parent teacher interview and if you have any concerns about your child’s progress then you should make a separate time to meet the teacher.

- **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
  In week 3 on Monday, 11\textsuperscript{th} February, straight after the Barbara Brann session, we will hold our School Council AGM and invite you to become a part of a very active and supportive group of parents. I assure you that this is a group who gets things done and our meetings are efficient, fun and productive.

  Even if you feel that you are not ready to join us as a member at this stage, your attendance at the AGM would be greatly appreciated. Call me at school if you would like to find out more.

**NEWSLETTER WITHOUT PAPER**
You may be aware that we plan to go digital soon and we have been collecting email addresses to send newsletters rather than the paper copy. The email version will start in the next few weeks once the database is complete. Thank you to for the several hundred email addresses we have recently received. Keep them coming.
You can still opt for paper if you wish.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Barbara Brann Parent Information Evening 5:30 – 6:30pm</td>
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<td>School Council AGM 6:45pm</td>
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<td>13\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher Evening at 5:30-6:30pm</td>
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<td>22\textsuperscript{nd} March</td>
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<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} April</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>5\textsuperscript{th} April</td>
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<td>15\textsuperscript{th} April</td>
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OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE
Welcome to all new and past students of OSHC. This is a reminder to all parents, if your child is enrolled at OSHC and you pick your child up from class, please remember to come to the service to sign them out. Alternatively you may inform the office with a phone call on 89816260. Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sharon Wade  Director SPPS OSHC

DEFENCE NEWS
Hello and welcome to 2013 at Stuart Park PS.

My name is Phillipa Cosgrove and I’m the Defence School Transition Aide. To all our new families I extend a warm welcome. To all those returning for another year, welcome back! Over the next couple of weeks, I will be making contact with our new students and will spend time with each new child in their classroom. One child from each new family will come home with a Welcome Pack. The pack contains pertinent information regarding our school, my role and how I can best support yourself and your child/s transition into Stuart Park.

We will hold a welcome morning tea in the next few weeks. Details will be in this school newsletter and I look forward to seeing you there.

Phillipa Cosgrove  DSTA

The following advertisement not necessarily endorsed by this school

OTTWAYS TAE KWON DO AND SELF DEFENCE.
Classes are held at Stuart Park Primary School on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6.30 to 8 pm. Come and enjoy martial arts with a qualified instructor for self defence, fitness and fun. Contact Peter on 0427991394. Come and Try.