13 March 2013
Term 1 Week 7

“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.”

FROM THE PRINCIPAL …

WHY HOMEWORK?
This may be a question that your child often asks you. Many children are not keen to get into their homework when they get home but there are also many who have formed a routine and find it no problem to complete. The question is really about what is it for? Many educationalists ask if children have spent six hours at school with their teacher, what extra could be added by then going home and doing more work?

It is important to remember that homework should be work that the student has already covered during the day. It should not be new work. It serves three purposes;
- It gives the parents a brief picture of what is being taught at school;
- It gives the students some practice in what they have learnt;
- It helps to set routines which research indicates is very useful later in their schooling.

You may find that the book they bring home to read is quite easy. This is as it should be. Teachers will be teaching at a higher level but the book sent home is to consolidate their skills, give them something they can read and discuss with you and get them into the habit of reading.

Also, the written work may seem a bit easy. Once again, that is to be expected as the teaching happens at school and the homework is to consolidate this work.

Parents should use the homework time as a time to interact with their child. Ask questions about the day and see if they can explain what they learnt. Model good reading and study habits. For example, you could explain how you learnt your tables and then do some tables chants with them.

The last thing we want is for this to be an onerous task for parent or student. Discuss any issues with your child’s teacher as it should be a short and happy time that helps to form good study routines.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
On the last Tuesday of the term, 1st April, we will make a time available for you to come in and discuss your child’s progress with their teacher. Letters will soon go home for you to book a time.

This should be a time to celebrate their successes and discuss what needs to happen to ensure continued progress.
BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS
The vouchers worth $150 are available to all students and are to be used by the end of Term 1. If we are unable to supply the uniforms you require, we are able to take orders and supply at a later date. Vouchers not used by the end of term will no longer be valid.

HARMONY DAY EVENTS – FRIDAY 22 MARCH
In addition to the 3 dance performances from our Chinese, Greek and Filipino students at the Harmony Day Assembly on Friday, 22 March, there are other exciting activities that will also take place on that morning. The Stuart Park Primary School Choir has been preparing two songs for Harmony Day in what will be their first performance of 2013.

Upper Primary classes have been busy writing persuasive texts about the meaning of Harmony Day as part of a prose/poetry competition to commemorate the occasion. Class winners of this competition will be announced at the assembly.

On the verandah out the back of EC from 11:00am to 12.30pm Early Childhood students will each use their “Passport to Harmony” to visit four countries; India, Indonesia, Mexico, and Indigenous Australia. Students will get their passports stamped upon participating in cultural activities, games and food organized by every class in the Early Childhood unit. This event is the culmination of a unit of work the students have undertaken this term exploring other countries and cultures.

STUDENT AWARDS ...
At last week’s Whole School Assembly we awarded Principal’s awards to the following students for earning 4 merit awards. Our congratulations to: Adriana Kokkinidis, Brandon Feasey, Thomas Bennett, Cassandra Linnell, Jackson Richards, Marcus Lee, Ryan Clark, Paris Diamandopoulos, Jomar Benisano, William Ferguson, Shannon Clark, Tia Naidu, Theo Matthews, Will McCue, Amira Misa, Ethan Warthold, Anastasia Cotis, Tahlia Mann, Oscar Nicholson.

What a pleasure it was to award three more Stuart Park flags to Adrianna Kokkinidis, Thomas Bennett and Brandon Feasey for earning 4 Principal’s Awards. Well done to you all.

What wonderful role models we have in our school. It makes us very proud.
TOY DONATION FOR EC
If you have any used bath toys, sand play toys, water play toys, measuring jugs, funnels and containers that are in good condition, Early Childhood would appreciate your donation. These will be used in conjunction with our Waterplay Tray and sand pit to promote learning and imaginative play. Please feel free to drop off any toys at the front office.

Thank you on behalf of EC

DENTAL NEWS
Last week we had Ms Cole and Ms Kennedy’s transition classes call in to the dental clinic for a visit.

Lots of fun was had and we got to have a good look at all the special gadgets we have in the clinic AND learn about looking after our teeth. A lot of the transition children have already had a dental check in the last year, however, we would like to remind you that if your child is new to the school and you would like to have your child checked, please call and have their name placed on our appointment list.

So parents, should you have a question about your child’s dental status, or where they are on the recall list or wish to enrol them in our service, please give me a call on 89815250.

Further information is available on Oral Health Services website: www.health.nt.gov.au/oral_health  Imogen Hoppmann  Dental Therapist

Defence News
DCO hopes to present a series of ‘Family SMART” programs. Whether or not these sessions occur depends on the interest shown. If you would like to attend a ‘FamilySMART” presentation, please contact DCO Darwin on 8935 7900 or e-mail dco.darwin@defence.gov.au to register your interest.

Phillipa Cosgrove  DSTA
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.

EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE IN 2013 AND IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME
In June-July students from over 20 countries around the world will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student

ALLORA GARDENS NURSERY is hosting an event for the Leukaemia Foundations Worlds Greatest Shave. **Sunday March 17**
- 11am - Tour Of Allora Gardens Nursery!
- 12pm - 3pm, - Hair colouring and wacky hair styles
- 3pm - Auction conducted by Frank from United Realty!
- 4pm - Jen has her hair shaved and Estelle’s Choir will sing for us!
Lots of activities and fun throughout the day also!
Feel free to colour or shave with us!
There will be lots of yummy cakes and food including delicious cupcakes from House Of Cupcake!
Sausage Sizzle from Midday!

HOCKEY – A GAME FOR EVERYONE
Join the Redbacks (Commerce-Pints Hockey Club) Training on Tuesday, commencing March 19 at the Marrara Hockey Centre, Abala Road, Marrara. Juniors contact Robyn or Kevin Northcote 0408 317 392 knorthcote@aapt.net.au or Seniors contact Ian Berry 0419 856 401 commerce.pints@gmail.com. Come and join the Redbacks and wear a stunning spider uniform