Dalay – Monsoon Season

“Dalay is the monsoon season. Monsoons replenish the thirsty land. Water gushes from rivers and creeks, and floodplains are buried under lakes of water. The water disperses seeds and new plants are sprouting. Manmanma (cyclones) seem more frequent and are a sign of a troubled planet.”


FROM THE PRINCIPAL …

AGREEMENTS

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, we have three important aspects to the way we learn and work together at Stuart Park Primary School. Our Tribes agreements make up an important part of this.

Tribes is a culture that develops successful learning. It focuses on a student’s social abilities as well as their intellectual development. Tribes is a process that develops co-operative learning; it uses human resilience and is based on the eight multiple intelligences. All of these skills help children to prepare for their future. The agreements encourage a positive, caring, inclusive environment.

The five agreements we use at Stuart Park are:

- **Good Listening** – Your child will probably be able to tell you that a good listener listens with their ears and their heart, has a closed mouth, sits still and looks at the speaker.
- **Appreciations/No Put Downs** – This agreement shows children that appreciations, however small, are positive and putdowns are hurtful. We encourage students to say nice things to each other because we are a friendly community and we want all the people in our school to feel really good inside.
- **Personal Best** – This encourages students to always put their best effort into their work. It also helps children realise that we all have various strengths and that these can be different from others in our class.
- **Mutual Respect** – This agreement means we look after each other, our personal belongings and school belongings as well as ourselves.
- **The Right to Pass** – This agreement allows students to miss a go if they aren’t feeling confident. We return later to give them another opportunity and we find that, when children don’t feel threatened by circumstances, they are more likely to be actively involved.

MEET THE TEACHER  Monday 17th February, from 5:30-6:30pm

You are invited to come along to school Monday week and meet your child’s teacher. While you are here, we hope your child will:

- Introduce you to their teacher;
- Show you around their room and explain any significant parts or displays;
- Show you some of their early work for the year;
- Take you on a walk around the grounds;
- Show you other rooms and teachers that they see throughout the week. E.g. Science Room, Performing Arts Room, library.
There will not be time to have a discussion regarding your child’s progress, it is just to meet and have a look at your child’s school environment. You are more than welcome to make another time to sit and talk with the teacher should you wish to.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Immediately after the Meet the Teacher Evening, 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 or email me at school if you would like to find out more.

**WHAT IS NUDE FOOD?**
**NUDE FOOD = A HEALTHY BODY + A HEALTHY PLANET**

Nude food was introduced to schools with the dual purpose of cutting down on rubbish waste and increasing the nutritional value of school lunches. In promoting nude food, we aim to promote healthy, rubbish free food.

We ask that you make decisions when making your child’s lunch that will ensure that there is no left over rubbish such as wrappers, containers or packets. This means that all food should be in re-usable, sealed containers that are easily accessible by children.

Some examples are:
* Home-made biscuits and slices which are not only a healthier alternative, they are also cheaper and better for the environment!
* Fresh fruit and vegetables which often don’t even need any preparation apart from a quick wash and can then be thrown into your child’s lunch boxes. Children do like their food chopped into kid size portions.
* Fresh wraps and sandwiches (our school provides the students with a fridge to keep their food cool in). There are many containers perfectly shaped for a sandwich to fit into.
* Reusable stainless steel or plastic bottles are a great alternative to poppers and can be reused, saving you money as well! Water is the best drink your child can have during the day and we have lots of that.
* Buying things in larger quantity, for example sultanas and other dried fruits, and then putting a serving in a container for school, saves on needless waste and is much more cost effective.

Please support us in our drive to rid our school of the waste that results from so many food containers and at the same time give our children tasty, nutritious food for their day at school.
**EATING TIME AT SCHOOL - ALLERGIES**

At Stuart Park, in both the preschool and primary school, we have students who suffer from allergic reactions. For these students the reaction to nut or other products can be fatal. The classroom teacher and office staff are trained to treat the allergic reactions but we are asking parents to talk to their children about what they can do as a preventative.

Students will be asked to wash their hands after eating, not share food, be aware of children in their class with allergies and understand just how certain products can affect others.

The school has an “Allergy Awareness Policy” as we recognise that we cannot completely rule out nut products entering the school. We do, however, request that you do not pack food in your child’s lunchbox that could cause allergic reactions in others and this means no nuts or nut products.

In some classes you may also be informed of other allergy issues and asked not to pack specific food items.

Thank you for your understanding and thoughtfulness regarding this issue.

**STUDENT ELECTIONS**

Here at Stuart Park Primary School we conduct elections to determine School Captains and House Leaders for the year. We encourage willing students to write a speech, make posters and even give out ‘how to vote cards’ as part of their campaign.

On **Friday 14th February** at 8:30am, students from year 3-6 will gather in the Dragonfly Room to listen to the speeches by the candidates for School Captain. The candidates must be in year 6. The students will then proceed to their own classroom to vote for their favourite candidate. Two boy and two girl Captains will be elected.

On **Friday 21st February**, after assembly (about 9:00am), students from years 3-6 will gather in their House Groups to hear the speeches by the candidates for the House Leaders. Voting will take place in the House groups immediately after the speeches. A boy and girl captain will be elected from each House and can be either a year 5 or 6 student.

We encourage parents to come along and listen to the speeches. Good luck to all the candidates.

**WELCOME TO NEW STAFF**

This year we are happy to welcome **Miss Irini Kypreou** as our Year 3 /4 teacher. Miss Kypreou completed her Charles Darwin University studies here at Stuart Park and so we know first-hand just what a great teacher she is.

**Miss Renae Livermore** joined us at the beginning of term 4 last year and this year she has moved into our Performing Arts teacher, **Miss Streader** has moved to a Year 5 class.

**Mrs Jacqui Murray** is now our Special Education teacher and Ms Ros Coggan is Senior Teacher Upper Primary.
PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS
We are asking that all our families make their Parent Contribution for 2014. This is $130 per student for the year and it covers the following:
- All stationery is supplied throughout the year.
- Any required reading, spelling or maths books are supplied.
- Many of the resources both inside and outside of the classroom are purchased out of School Council funds and Parent Contributions are a part of this.
- Classes attend performances or excursions that are curriculum based and Parent Contributions help cover these costs.

Also, the school has subscribed to the following online resources and you also have home access. User name and password will be sent home by your child’s teacher as the new classes get set up. I will explain more of this over the next few weeks.
- Mathletics- www.mathletics.com.au
- Sound waves– www.soundwavesonline.com.au

Contributions can be paid at the school office by cash or credit card or you can make the payment over the phone.

NEWSLETTER WITHOUT PAPER
Last year we sent nearly all of our newsletters to you by email. They are also found on our website - www.schools.nt.edu.au/stuartpk/

We are planning to commence this next week – please make sure all changes to email addressed are notified to the school office. You can still opt for paper if you wish.

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<td>First full school assembly</td>
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<td>14th February</td>
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<td>School Captain speeches and election</td>
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<td>17th February</td>
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<td>Meet the Teacher Evening at 5:30-6:30pm</td>
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<td>21st February</td>
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<td>House Captain elections</td>
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School website: www.schools.nt.edu.au/stuartpk/

CRICKET SELECTION TRIALS
In 2014, students will be selected to School Sport NT Darwin Regional Sports Teams through selection trials that take place after school hours. Cricket trials will take place next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the 10th, 11th and 12th of February at the NT Cricket Fields, Marrara from 3.30 - 5.30pm. Students who participate must take a water bottle, sunscreen, hat, appropriate footwear and cricket gear. A student must attend at least two of these trials to be eligible for selection.