Principal’s Report

Welcome to our very first edition of “The Turtle Times”! We hope you will enjoy these newsletters and find the information in them useful. Being a new school, there will be many announcements about special events and achievements throughout our new year so taking the time to read will always be able to inform you of something new. But more than this, reading “The Turtle Times” will help you learn all of those smaller operational matters that we all need to know and establish – whether it’s getting a lunch order completed, finding out about our home reading system or even After School Care options.

Firstly, may I begin by congratulating you all – staff, students and families – on an amazing start to our inaugural school year. As I mentioned at the opening assembly, I have walked through that undercover play area many, many times through the last 12 months. But only on that first morning did I feel that this place had an atmosphere and an excitement about it. This atmosphere only comes from excited children and a curious school community. It was fantastic! I wish to thank you all for helping us achieve our initial objectives for the first week – to provide a calm experience for our students. These thanks extend particularly to our school staff who have showed quickly why they are becoming more than just a great bunch of teachers – but also a great team that includes our school’s non-teaching staff too.

I’d like to encourage you all to come along to the Open Day and Official Opening of the school this Saturday. The Chief Minister Paul Henderson will be in attendance with the Education Minister Dr. Chris Burns to unveil our opening plaque. There will be a jumping castle, face painting and a sausage sizzle so that this will be a fun time for all the family. The event will run from 11am – 1pm in the Assembly and Gymnasium areas of Rosebery Middle School. You can feel free to park in our usual parking zones, but please remember that the Primary School itself will be closed. I’m looking forward to seeing you all there.

I’ll finish this update by affirming our commitment to be the best community school in the NT. We believe that the combination of our “Big 4” whole-school approaches can get us to our goal:

- Evidence Based Programming.
- Co-Teaching
- Kagan Co-Operative Learning
- Restorative Practices

But we also need you. As many of you will know, a favourite quote of mine is from a famous educator, Sir Francis Keppel, who said “Education is too important to be left solely to the educators”. It’s my wish that we can continue to live this out in our work throughout 2011.

Kind regards,

Adam Voigt
Principal

Every Child, Every Day - improving student enrolment, attendance and participation is everybody’s responsibility and everyone’s business.
HATS
Our school hat is an important part of our uniform – so don’t lose yours! A good way to achieve this is to label it very clearly and keep it at school. Other hats can be worn to and from school if you wish. Students without a school hat for recess and lunchtime will be given an inside space to hang out until it’s time to return to class.

SHORTS AND SKORTS
At Rosebery PS we value a full school uniform. This means all shorts and skorts should be our official uniform emblazoned with our logo. As we know this can be tricky in buying several uniforms for large families for the first time ever, we understand that you may have purchased some other black shorts while you are working towards purchasing our official uniform shorts. This is fine in the short term. We’ll continue to remind each other of this until we are able to have all of our students identifying with their school in an equal way.

Please speak to our office staff if you would like to make a payment arrangement for our wonderful uniform.

ANIMALS IN SCHOOL
Please remember not to bring the dog along when you walk to school in the morning. While we fully understand that this might seem like a wonderful activity and a great way to ensure your pet is getting some exercise, we do have some students who are very anxious about dogs. We also have a handful whose bravery gets the better of them and they may approach a dog, either tied up or on a lead, in an inappropriate way. If they were to make a mistake, we don’t want anyone to have to deal with a nasty bite. Thanks so much for helping us keep our school as a safe environment for all.

ARRIVAL TIMES AND PICK-UP TIMES
School starts at 8.10am each day and there will be a teacher on duty (usually Mr. Voigt) from 7.50am each day. Parents and students should be aware that the school’s duty of care only begins at this 7.50am marker.

While we understand that some kids will be around beforehand, we hope you will help us in trying to ensure students don’t arrive at school too early. Also, for our Pre-School parents – please remember that the end of the Pre-School day is 2.10pm and the Primary School day ends at 2.40pm. It’s important to pick up these little ones on time to keep anxiety at a minimum.

Date | Event
--- | ---
February
Sat 5th | Rosebery Middle & Primary School
Open Day 11am to 1pm
Mon 14th | North Queensland Cowboys (NRL) Visit
Mon14th | Happy Healthy Harold Visit
Fri 18th | Assembly
March
Fri 14th | School Assembly
Mon 7th | School Photos
April
Fri 16th | End of Term 1

ABSENTEE LINE
Rosebery Primary School has an absentee line for students who will be absent from school. Parents or Guardians can ring 8930 5140, follow the prompts and leave your message.
This ‘Whole-Class’ 1-at-a-time structure leads to unequal participation. What about the ‘free-riders’ who never put up their hands to join in? With Cooperative Learning Structures the students know they are ‘on the hook’ for their own learning and contribution. In the same amount of time two or three students have been called on to share in a Traditional Whole-Class Question Answer structure, each and every student in a Cooperative Learning class could have shared several answers using the structure RallyRobin, every student having been called on to think and then verbalise their ideas means that engagement and retention are far greater as well as leaving less time for disruption or boredom. In a traditional classroom, students are actually happy when they see another child fail. Is it any wonder why some students never put their hand up when the odds of being picked are stacked against them? Group work just recreates the inequalities of ‘whole-class’ teaching.

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY!
Check out our next edition of the Turtle Times for more information on Kagan Cooperative Learning!

KAGAN PHILOSOPHY
AT ROSEBERY
Kagan is Structures for Success!

Take a look at this picture of a traditional classroom:
• The teacher has asked a question.
• Take a look at the student’s expressions.
• They all look keen, desperate to have their say.
Now imagine how they feel when the teacher picks just one of them to answer the question?
FRUSTRATED? UPSET? ANNOYED?

The students are disappointed not to be picked. Secretly they may wish the chosen student to fail in order that they may get their chance to shine, they want the student chosen to answer to get the question wrong so that they have their chance at answering. They are happy if another student fails.

Is this the climate we wish to create in our classrooms?

How disappointing for the eager students who want to answer the teachers question and are not the ‘chosen one’ and what a relief for some students who want to hide and do not want to answer questions, they are ‘off the hook’.

---

**CANTEEN MENU**

The canteen Specials menu will commence from 7th February to 18th February.

**Tuesday:**
Fruit sticks $1.00

**Wednesday & Thursday:**
Frozen smoothie stick $1.00
Small fruit salad $4.00

**Thursday:**
4 Chicken nuggets & salad $4.00
Meat pie & wedges $5.00

**Friday:**
Small chicken burger & popper
$5.00

**Every Day:**
Corn on the sick $0.90

**SCHOOL DENTIST**

For any dental work or enquiries please call the Palmerston Dental Clinic at the Health Precinct on 8999 3314

A variety of lessons
* First Timers to Advanced Players
* Group sessions or Private lessons
* All ages welcome

Session times range between:
Monday 3.00pm - 7.00pm
Tuesday 3.00pm - 7.00pm
Wednesday 3.00pm - 7.00pm
Thursday Private lessons available
Friday 3.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 8.00am - 1.00pm

Located in Fairway Waters
next to Durack Primary School.
Please don’t hesitate to contact head coach Daniel Parker for more information.