FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Science Success

I would be surprised if there was anyone who was not aware that Mr Johnson has won the coveted Prime Minister’s Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools. It has certainly been a wonderful fortnight with Mr Johnson travelling to Canberra to receive his award at a presentation dinner last Wednesday evening. (Photo of Richard Johnson with The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia courtesy of http://www.innovation.gov.au/science/InspiringAustralia/PrimeMinistersPrizesforScience/Recipients/2013PrizeRecipients/Pages/2013-Gallery.aspx)

The presentation evening was held in the Great Hall at Parliament House and was attended by over 500 people including the Prime Minister, eminent scientists, previous winners and supporters and other distinguished guests. It had all the fanfare of a gala occasion with Mr J being most magnanimous in receiving his award.

There are a number of reasons which have made his selection a very credible one. We all know that he is passionate about science teaching and has worked hard to build up resources within his laboratory which are appropriate and engaging for primary school children. It is as important to add that he has developed a lovely rapport with all of the children he teaches. They thoroughly enjoy attending science classes where they engage in a wide variety of activities. Very much a positive of our program is the fact that the classroom teachers join Mr J for the lesson and take an active part in the children's learning.

It is an absolute pleasure for me to congratulate someone who is so deserving of this recognition. If you are interested in more information about Mr J's award visit the following website: http://www.innovation.gov.au/science/InspiringAustralia/PrimeMinistersPrizesforScience/Recipients/2013PrizeRecipients/Pages/default.aspx

As a school we are extremely grateful for the $25,000 we have received from the Federal Government as part of this award to further enhance our science program.

Junior Tabloid Sports Day

We were finally blessed with some really pleasant weather for last Friday’s junior tabloids. The first session in the morning which included all children taking part in a variety of activities was very engaging with everyone trying really hard for their faction. After the break the children had their running races and team relays. Riley won the carnival in a very close finish. It was great to see Riley have success after quite a number of years. Miss Wells and Miss Vedel and the supporting staff did a great job organising what was a perfect carnival.

Tom Campbell
Principal
Rostrata Primary School Board
End of Year Report 2013

Achieving Independent School status in 2012, Rostrata Primary School Council ceased it’s operations, taking the form of a School Board at the commencement of 2013. It has been a learning experience for all Board Members taking on this role under the new responsibilities entrusted to them.

Consisting of staff, elected parent representatives and an invited community member, the Rostrata School Board encompasses a cross section of the Rostrata School Community.

Our current representation is-
Tom Campbell (Principal); School Reps: Annabella Clarke, Cindy Wells, Rebecca Peckitt, Julie Peterson, Helen Scott
Parent Reps: Paige Jones (chair), Melissa Lowe (secretary), Jon Langford, Louise Lathbury, Jodie Davis, Jude Fapani
Community Rep: Damien Carter

Meeting termly, the School Board has worked together to assist the school in setting the long term future for the school and maintaining oversight of the school’s operations to assist the school to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

Over the past 12 months, the Rostrata School Board has achieved the following:

• Approval of the School Financial Plan
• Assisted in the Formulation of the Schools Business Plan
• Signing off on the Rostrata Primary School Business Plan
• Developed the Rostrata School Board Operational Guidelines and Code of Conduct
• Sought an appropriate Community Representative to join the Board
• Initiated the Rostrata Fellowship Program
• Reviewed School NAPLAN data and discussed results to assist the school to determine future areas for improvement
• Reviewed the School Creed
• Supported the school through gaining parent and community signatures on a petition seeking investigation into School Funding Cuts through Sue Ellery MLC.

Having established ourselves over the past 12 months, the Rostrata School Board is in a sound position to continue its support of the school, its workforce and the wider school community.

On behalf of the Rostrata School Community, I would like to sincerely thank all Board members for their hard work and contributions to the activities of the Board this year. While the board has met formally on five occasions this school year, many more hours have been spent researching, emailing, documenting, collating and collaborating. Your hard work has gone a very long way to establish the School Board and allow us to provide ongoing support to the school.

Thanks to all.

Paige Jones
Chair ~ Rostrata Primary School Board, November 2013

Leaving Rostrata?

Will your child be attending Rostrata Primary School in 2014?

To assist with class allocations for next year, please call into the office and sign a clearance form before 25th November if your child will be leaving Rostrata Primary School.

This includes current Year 6 students who will attend private secondary schools from Year 7.

Thank you!

Voluntary Contributions and Charges

Final reminders re: unpaid voluntary contributions and charges are being sent home with students this week.

Prompt payment so that all accounts can be settled before the end of the year would be appreciated.

Helen Scott, Registrar

School of Instrumental Music (SIM) Strings Program

During Term 4 the children in Years 2 and 3 will be participating in the School of Instrumental Music test. This enables us to select students to participate in the violin (Year 2) and cello (Year 3) instrumental programs in 2014.

Final selections are not made until early Term 1, 2014.

Leanne Rankin and Kendall Genders, Music Teachers
# 2013 Faction Athletics Carnival

## Champion Results

### Year 4
- **Champion Boy**: Korede Oyemade (RILEY)
- **Champion Girl**: Saskia Saville (RILEY)
- **Runner-Up Champion Boy**: Clynton Culbong (COLLINS)
- **Runner-Up Champion Girl**: Edha Singh (MASON)

### Year 5
- **Champion Boy**: Alex McLean (WILLETT)
- **Champion Girl**: Danielle Riha (MASON)
- **Runner-Up Champion Boy**: Timothy Ong (COLLINS)
- **Runner-Up Champion Girl**: Teya Saville (RILEY)

### Year 6
- **Champion Boy**: Raymond Burge (WILLETT)
- **Champion Girl**: Kutemba Njamba (RILEY)
- **Runner-Up Champion Boy**: Avinash Pary (MASON)
- **Runner-Up Champion Girl**: Alice Congdon (COLLINS)

### Year 7
- **Champion Boy**: Brian Magombedze (COLLINS)
- **Champion Girl**: Tyler Nel (COLLINS)
- **Runner-Up Champion Boy**: Jordan Farrugia (RILEY)
- **Runner-Up Champion Girl**: Amanda Ong (RILEY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Faction</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>COLLINS</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>RILEY</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>WILLETT</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>MASON</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Project Numbat

On Tuesday 22nd September the children were invited to participate in a sausage sizzle lunch run by members of Project Numbat. An educational session was also held for students of D Block to explain the need for numbats conservation in WA.

The event raised $800, to be used for radio tracking collars when numbats are released.

Many thanks to the staff and students who supported this cause.

Mrs Jose (D6)
IN THE GARDEN......with Mrs Martini

Thanks to Jae’s family for looking after the chickens on the last two weekends.

We have started planting the herb garden made by Mr. Baugh’s class. We are planting for the last crops of this term and preparing to plant out vegetables for next year. Mrs. O’Brien’s class finished the potato harvest. We weighed the whole lot (Nadines and Royal Blues) and we had 15 kg. The loquats have finished, the silver beet consumed (by the children) and the broad beans have just managed to last 13 classes worth of dishes. We are harvesting the rest of the red cabbage and using the outer leaves and scraps to do our pH experiment with the year 6s. The year 4s are helping the predators rid our garden of insect pests.

Over the holidays we were privileged to have a family of Willy Wags nest in the shade house and many children were able to see the 3 chicks in the nest and now flying around ‘their’ garden squawking for lots of food which is plentiful after the spring rains – we have white fly and white cabbage moth caterpillars aplenty. The chickens are relishing the occasional free range to collect some extra protein! There is a nice balance of pest and predator this year in our organic garden.

Some of our potato harvest

Parents on guard and chicks in the nest.

We are looking for families to help with the chickens on the weekends in Term 4 and school holidays over Christmas. Remember no experience needed. Ring or SMS Karina on 0427 586139.

The chickens need more laying pellets so if you would like to sponsor a chicken by buying them some food you can donate $25 (feeds one chicken for a year) by contacting Karina on 0427 586139 or see me in the garden on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Our surplus seeds are now available at the assembly stall or the front office above the P&C boxes. Herbs available at the stall too.

IN THE KITCHEN...
...with Mrs Richards

Our red cabbage has made the most delicious Rainbow Coleslaw. The mustard dressing and sweet addition of pineapple and corn was amazing. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers from B2, we had a very relaxing lesson with 6 helpers.

The Italian broad bean dish was a big hit converting almost everybody into loving the unique vegetable. We are using our delicious home grown potatoes this week in an Indian dish, see you all soon.

A special thank you to our My Rostrata Kitchen Rules group, their fundraising was kindly used to purchase a fantastic induction fry pan for our kitchen. You are all wonderful and it is greatly appreciated.

What you can do to help!

Help out on the weekends or Christmas holidays looking after the chickens.

Buy Worm Wiz from outside the front office. $1 for 2 litres. Instructions for how to use it are on our webpage at http://rostratagarden.weebly.com/garden-hints.html

Kitchen/Gardening Timetable
http://rostratagarden.weebly.com/links.html
Do you know when your child is in the kitchen or garden?
Use the link above to help you work out which week is gardening or cooking so that you can help out.
UNIFORM SHOP

Leavers 2014 Shirts/Jackets

Please note that ordering and payment for Leavers Jackets and Shirts ends on Friday 8th of November. If you have not placed your order by this date then your child will unfortunately miss out.

I am available all day Friday at the school canteen should you wish for your child to come and try on a garment.

Melissa Giles
0408 022 112
giles1@iinet.net.au

UNIFORM SHOP

Please note that the Uniform Shop is now open again on both Wednesday and Friday mornings, from 8.00am to 10.30am.

SCHOOL BANKING

Term 4 Competition

The Commonwealth Bank has launched a new competition and are giving away 60 x Apple iPod touch 16GB and 100 Kid’s Adventure DVD Pack including Despicable Me 2 & Hop. For your chance to win, simply make two or more School Banking deposits from 21 October to 30 November and you will be automatically entered into the competition. For more information visit commbank.com.au/adventureisland.

It’s time to trade in your Dollarmite tokens for a reward.

If you have been saving this year with School Banking and collecting your silver Dollarmite tokens, then now is the time to redeem them for a reward before you miss out. You need to use your tokens before the end of Term 4 as you will not be able to use them next year. Once you have chosen the reward item(s) you would like to receive, complete the coupon on your rewards card and take it, along with your 10 tokens per reward, to school with your next School Banking deposit. Please note that next year the popular Dollarmite money boxes of Spen, Addy, Pat the Dog, Cred and Pru will not be available, so if you would like one, please make sure you redeem your tokens this year.

School Banking Team

FUNDRAISING

Just another reminder that the end-of-year disco will be on Friday 22nd November 2013.

Junior Session - Kindy to Year 3 Only - 5.30 to 7pm sharp
Senior Session - Years 4 to 7 Only – 7.30 to 9pm sharp

Our duty of care to the kids requires that we have enough supervision on the night, so if you’re willing to assist, even if it’s only for an hour, we’d love to have your extra pair of hands (and eyes). Please contact Kevin on 0434 000217 if you’d like to help out.
The Winners For This Year’s Lap-a-thon...

This year’s Lap-a-thon is over for another year. What a fabulous event it was! We had wonderful contributions from numerous sponsors, great displays of generosity from parents & families and great support from all at the school. In the end, the lucky winners were:

- Alex (B2) – Cricket bat signed by the 2009 touring Australian cricket team.
- Alex (A4) – Amazon Kindle
- Kate (Kindy Stars) - $50 Bunnings voucher
- Rowan (A10) - $50 Bunnings voucher
- Natasha (C3) – $50 Woolworths voucher
- Te’aro (A3) – Adventure World passes
- Eliza (D7) – Adventure World passes
- Tyler (B7) – Adventure World passes
- Hunter (B6) – Adventure World passes
- William (Kindy Diamonds) – Adventure World passes
- Zaydn (Kindy Stars) – Adventure World passes
- Declan (Kindy Diamonds) – Perth Zoo Family pass

APPLICATIONS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS NOW OPEN FOR YEAR 7 IN 2015

With Year 7 students moving to secondary school from 2015, Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance Programs will start a year earlier. This is an exciting opportunity for you, our parents, as you consider secondary school opportunities for your children.

Gifted and Talented academic, languages and arts programs provide a unique and challenging curriculum designed to bring out the very best in your child. These elite programs are available at 17 select public secondary schools, and you can apply no matter where you live in Western Australia.

If your child is in Year 5 now, you can apply for entry into Year 7 in 2015. The selection process will take place in 2014 when your child is in Year 6.

Limited places may also be available for children entering Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 in 2015.

Applications close **12.00noon on Monday 10 February 2014**. All applications must be made online.

For more information and to apply:
W: [det.wa.edu.au/giftedandtalented](http://det.wa.edu.au/giftedandtalented)
E: gate@education.wa.edu.au
T: 9264 4307
How to get started

before using our programs you must register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin: www.campaustralia.com.au

Once registered you can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day online. Keep in mind we are able to take bookings at short notice to help busy families.

Save on Care

You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible.

To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 Monday to Friday.

VacSwim Dec/Jan School Holiday programs

VacSwim enrolments for 2013 - 14 January programs are now open. Swimming pools and beaches are part of our Western Australian lifestyle. It is important for every child to learn to swim properly and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim’s school holiday swimming program is conducted by qualified instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water.

For further information and how to enrol, visit www.det.wa.edu.au/swimming.

A WORD from the SPEECH & LANGUAGE TEAM—DIMINISHED ATTENTION: some food for thought

Parents and educators often express concern about the ‘digital age’ and its impact on students’ spelling, speaking/listening and social skills. Barry Schwartz, a professor of psychology from Pennsylvania, has provided us with some ‘food for thought’ on its impact on ‘attention’ in students.

He claims that “diminished attention” is becoming more common in students today. Because we now live in an information-overloaded digital age, complex and subtle arguments don’t appear to hold the reader’s or viewer’s attention.

He believes that the ‘short attention’ phenomenon can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. First, we tell ourselves that people can’t maintain attention. Second, because of that belief we make less of an effort to nurture their ability to maintain attention and sure enough, we ‘discover’ that people can’t maintain attention!

Must we accept the short attention span generation as a ‘fait accompli’ and cater to it or can we reverse a powerful and possibly destructive trend?

Commercial sources are not about to force complexity on an unwilling public because ears, eyeballs and bottom lines are their priorities. But non-commercial institutions, especially educational ones, can help reverse the trend by demanding more of their audiences/students.

The key point for teachers and parents to realise is that maintaining attention is a skill. It has to be trained and it has to be practised.

If we cater to short attention spans by offering only materials that can be managed with short attention spans, the skill will not develop.

At Rostrata, incorporating HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills) into our whole school plan across all learning areas, is an effective way to develop this skill.

One of the Habits of Mind we try to encourage in children is perseverance. Some researchers have concluded that this is often a better predictor of academic success than IQ scores alone. A key part of perseverance is sustained attention. If people don’t keep paying attention to a task, they can hardly be expected to persevere with it!

We, as parents and teachers and important educators in children’s lives, need to nurture sustained attention in the same way a personal trainer builds up biceps – by gradually demanding more and more of their attention ‘muscles’.

“In our increasingly complex world, unless we create a population that is capable of thinking about complexity in complex ways, we will have difficulty finding adequate solutions that may also be complex. A population that demands simplicity will not support such solutions.”

If we accept, albeit reluctantly, that diminished attention in children’s and future generations is inevitable, we will be doing them and our community a grave disservice. The benefits provided by opportunities for ‘sustained attention’ in children’s language and other learning areas are clear and numerous.

“Attention must be paid to teaching that attention must be paid.”
The following items are mentioned as community news and are not school endorsed activities.

**Rossmoyne Swimming Club**
2013-2014 season opening soon.
Improve your swimming strokes and times with fully qualified teachers.
Lynwood Senior High School, 25 metre outdoor pool.
For more information, visit: rossmoyneswimming.myclub.org.au

**John Curtin College of the Arts**
**Gifted and Talented Arts Program**
Important information for students entering high school in Year 7 2015. Significant changes have been implemented to ensure your child is prepared for entry into Gifted and Talented Selective Entrance programs in high school from 2015.
The application, testing and placement process is open to all students in Year 6 2014.

**Key Events and Scheduled Dates**
- October 1 2013—Applications Open
- February 10 2014—Applications Close
- March 15 2014—Academic testing
- May 9 2014—Academic Performance Reports
- July 2014—Placements finalised

Register your interest NOW online at http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/giftedandtalented/detcms/portal/

**Willetton Stadium**
Did you know that Willetton Stadium runs a “Girls Only” PINK BALL training session every Friday afternoon during term time? Classes begin at 3:40pm and there is no need to book, just come along. Classes are for girls 9 years old and over and cost $7 a session. They run for 50 minutes. For further information please ring the stadium on 9310 3388.

**Curtin University Robo Fair**
**Date:** Sunday, 24th November
**Time:** 10am - 2pm
**Location:** Curtin University, Bentley, Building 215
For more information, visit http://engineering.curtin.edu.au/outreach/robofair/

The following items are mentioned as community news and are not school endorsed activities.

**Kids and Today’s Technology**
Thursday 21st and 28th November 6.30 - 9 @
15 Cambridge Street, West Leederville
This two week course is for parents of kids between ages 2 and 18 years. Technology is now being used by very young children and most teenagers are proficient users of many aspects of technology. Your knowledge of what’s out there, how it’s being used and how you manage it in your home will have a direct impact on your kids’ learning and safety. For further information and to enroll please phone 9489 6322 and to enrol please phone 9489 6322.

**WA Youth Jazz Orchestra**
It’s that exciting time of year again where we put the call-out to audition for the WA Youth Jazz Orchestra! All positions in each WAYJO band are vacated at the end of every year, with fifty-four places across the three bands up for grabs.
Auditions will be held at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) on the following dates:
- Vocals and Early Auditionees: Thursday 28 November
- Woodwind and Rhythm: Saturday 7 December
- Brass: Sunday 8 December

For more information please download the 2014 WAYJO membership and audition information pack.
To register, download and complete the audition registration form and email it to admin@wayjo.com.

Completed registration forms should be received by Tuesday 26 November for vocalists and early auditionees, or Wednesday 4 December for instrumentalists.

**City of Canning Art Competition**
Celebrate Christmas by drawing a picture of your favourite thing about Christmas and your drawing could be on the cover of the City of Canning Corporate Christmas cards for 2013! Prizes awarded for first, second and third places. To enter, draw a picture of your favourite thing about Christmas and tell us why this is your favourite thing about Christmas. Make sure your name, age and the Primary School you attend is on the back and drop off your entry to the City of Canning’s Administration Building located at 1317 Albany Highway, Cannington (enter from George St. West) or post your entry to City of Canning Art Competition, Locked Bag 80, Welshpool WA 6986.

Entries close 5pm 13th November 2013.
Enter is open to all Primary School children located within the City of Canning.