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17 September 2008

FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

There have been many comments by various people over the last few days on the release of the first NAP results in Literacy and Numeracy. This was the first time that every child in Australia in year 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat for the same test.

If your child sat for one of these tests then their report will be sent home today in an envelope. Please contact the school if you would like any issues explained.

While we have not received any aggregated results which show how our school performed, it has been possible to collate some information from the individual reports.

The tests were in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. Below is a brief summary of how we performed when compared to the National Average in each of these tests. We would appear to be very close to a normal bell curve of results but more will be published when I have the full information. I felt that in light of the much publicised poor performance of Territory schools you may rest easier knowing that we are doing fairly well here and the information we will receive from this testing over the next few months will help us to perform at an even higher standard in the future.

	Year 3		Year 5	
	Above National Average	Below National Average	Above National Average	Below National Average
Reading	24	33	26	31
Writing	30	27	30	26
Spelling	24	33	26	31
Grammar and Punctuation	27	30	35	22
Numeracy	22	35	28	29

Please note that these are not the official final figures but will be very close.

ATTENDANCE

We have been following up some attendance issues over the last few weeks and would like you to be aware that studies show that attendance is very closely linked to academic success. This may become more obvious when you see below just how much school some children miss over the time of their school life.

Days Absent	Total number of years missed
1 day per week	2 years missed
1.5 days per week	3 years missed
5 days per term	1 year missed

School days missed over the compulsory schooling period in the NT (6-15 years of age)

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

On Thursday last week letters were sent home regarding parent teacher interviews next week. If you did not receive your letter and want an interview time, please contact the school office.

You will be notified of your interview times in writing by the end of this week.

TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

Last Saturday 13th September SPPS students from Year 1 to Year 6 competed in the Tournament of Minds at Charles Darwin University. Students were asked to develop solutions over a six week period to an open ended challenge from one of three categories: Language and Literature, Maths/Engineering or Applied Technologies. Two of our teams chose to solve the Applied Technology challenge and the third selected to work on the Maths/Engineering challenge.

As a school community we should be very proud of the dedication and effort put into this competition by Will Fox, Finn Clark, Texta Smith, Dylan Norman, Madison Telfer, Ethan Pryce, Vimu Wijayarathe, Sebastian Babbini, Harrison Mu, Sari Wenck, Paris Hooper-Duffy, Cooper Wenck, Toby McCullagh, Lachlan Barker, Vamshi Madas and Arran Barker. They had great fun presenting their challenges and showed just how ingenious our students can be.

DREAM BEAT



After many months of rehearsals Stuart Park Primary School Choir performed last Friday night on the big stage at the Darwin Entertainment Centre. With 10 other school choirs and many dancers, musicians and soloists, Dream Beat was a fantastic show. The sense of joy and fun and the commitment to excellence in the Performing Arts was impressive.

Well done to all our choristers!! We hope to be part of the 30th Beat next year!

Mrs Raz de Jongh, Performing Arts Teacher and
Miss Lyndsay Sealey, NT Music School Choir teacher

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – Monday, 6th October, 2008

As you will be aware, the first day of term four will be a very important professional development day for teachers. The school will therefore re open for students on Tuesday, 7th October.

The school can supply day care to students if necessary. If you wish your child to be in day care for the Monday please fill in the form on the back of this newsletter.

DARWIN CITY COUNCIL – TOWARDS 2020 AND BEYOND

We have some copies of the DCC Strategic Directions discussion paper on the front counter if you would like to drop in and pick one up or phone and we'll send it to you.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSEMBLY

Our Assembly on Friday will be hosted by Year 2 McIntyre. Parents and friends are most welcome to join us.

CALENDAR

Date	Day	Event
18 th – 19 th September	Thursday and Friday	Year 3 camp at Lakes Resort
22 nd to 25 th September	Monday to Thursday	Parent – Teacher Interviews
26 th September	Friday	Last day of term 3
6 th October	Monday	Teacher Professional Development Day
7 th October	Tuesday	First day Term 4 for students.
12 th December	Friday	Last day of school year

School website: www.schools.nt.edu.au/stuartpk/

MERIT AWARDS

Our congratulations to the following students who recently received Merit awards :
Lakieta Hart, Sofia Stefanidakis, Kate Hinchcliffe, Hayden Percy, Yasmin Fiorani, Steffanie Bowling, Jennifer Kleftogiannis, Vasilias Mousellis, Darcy Lockhart, Nathan Lee, Julie Tran, Ashley Pike, Thomas Carr, Kyle Ellis, Madison Richards, Isabella Collins, Dylan Dureau, Saraya Mauboy-Hudson, Te Anahera Hall, Hayden Groth, Cameron Dobson, Rebecka Burkitt, Ella Nicholson, Sophie Cannon, Piper Walters, Edward Hudson, Reece Hogan, Lachlan Mitchell, Molly Gulliford, Jazmin Griffiths, Tyson McQuinn, Carter Cheng, Baylee Galbraith, Ruby Cramer, Charlotte Earle, Mitchell Van Heythuysen, Letichia Hoban, Brody Bursle, Texta Smith, Taylah Mu, Braydon Alexander, Megan Fraser, John Cagunan, Lewis Radonich, Andrew Noble, Bryce Pearson, Aurora Philpin, Courtney Murphy, Brian Youn, Georgios Mousellis, Jayden Park, Cailleb Connell, Sarah Brown, Molly Stirrup, Aleesha Lo, Tamara EE-Sullivan, Jaya Pastor-Elsegood, Hamzah Hidayat.

DEFENCE NEWS

A reminder that the fortnightly morning tea will be held this Friday 19th September in the After School Care room. It starts at 8.20am and everyone is welcome.

DCO have organised the first “Facing the Challenge of Deployment/Separation” afternoon. This is an informal afternoon for those interested in meeting others in a similar situation. This meeting will be held at Driver Primary School Tues 14th Oct at 3pm and children will be well looked after. Come along and share your experiences, it’s a great way to support each other. If you would like a copy of the flyer, let the office know and I will send one out to you.

Phillipa Cosgrove DSTA

ART ROOM NEEDS

For our Artist in Schools Project next term the artroom needs the following items. All donations would be gratefully received.

- Fishing accessories – lures, floats, fishing lines (NO HOOKS!!)
- Plastic bags
- Fishing nets

Please send donations to the school office.

The following advertisements are not necessarily endorsed by the school

ACTIVE FAMILY FUN DAY

Run by the Royal Life Saving Society on Sunday 21st September from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Parap Swimming Pool, Ross Smith Avenue, Parap. Free swim entry plus prizes, games and fun.

THE GOLDFISHBOWL SWIM SCHOOLS

Intensive block over the September/October school holidays. Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October. There will be **Junior squad training** at both venues in the afternoons and **Senior squad training** at Palmerston only from 3.00 – 5.00 pm. A great way to learn and advance skills in a fun filled, safe environment!! Bookings are now being taken for Term 4, 2008, commencing 6th October. All ages catered for – 6 months to Adults. Give your child a gift for life – enrol today! Palmerston 89 311000 or Coconut Grove 89 481000.

KIDS'BAZAAR and SHED CLEANOUT

A marketplace for second-hand kids' gear, toys, games, books, bikes, baby and kids clothes, maternity wear, baby gear, nursery furniture, second-hand handyman gear.

When? Saturday, 27th September 2008

Time? 8am – 12 noon

Where? Darwin Baptist Church
Ross Smith Ave, Parap
(cnr Stuart Highway, opposite Beaurepaires)

There will be entertainment for the kids, a sausage sizzle and coffee and cake.

How does it work?

- Sellers set up their own stall and sell their own items for profit.
- Stall fee is \$10, doors open at 7 am to set up.
- Buyers may come and peruse from 8am.

All proceeds will go to Support An Orphan – S.A.O. –(An international Christian aid organisation taking care of orphans and their communities in poor countries)

For more details please contact Anja on 89420506 or Lincoln on 0417410755

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TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – MONDAY, 6TH OCTOBER

I will require child care for my child on the teacher professional development day and understand that this care is offered from 8:00am to 2:30pm.

Children who are enrolled in After School Care can then attend that facility as per their usual arrangements.

Child name:

Time required (e.g. 8am-2:30pm)
