From the Principal’s Desk

It is always exciting to discover stories about past Park Avenue students or to uncover an interesting anecdote about relatives/ancestors of current students. The families of Park Avenue are a culturally diverse group with an enormous depth of history and experience between them. How do we capture that richness? How do we celebrate our heritage? Each newsletter this year we will be seeking to run an article that captures Park Avenue State School communities’ heritage. See the article on Eddie Mabo in this edition.

Great news – through a recent Curriculum Teaching, Learning and Discipline Audit conducted by an independent assessor Park Avenue school-wide practices in all areas were assessed as High & Outstanding! A huge congratulations to teachers, students and the wider community for making Park Avenue a great place to be!

What’s On?

NAIDOC
This year’s NAIDOC celebrations at Park Avenue are fast approaching. What’s on?
**Friday 20th June 8:45 am** – official opening of the Indigenous artwork that is currently being completed through-out the school. Take the opportunity to tour the school enjoying the artists’ description of each of these delightful works.

**Tuesday 24th June 9:00am** Weaving – Stanley and Saani Pierce will share with students the art of palm frond weaving.

1:15pm Kup Murrie – a big esso (thankyou) to Mario Mabo and Sharlene for putting this together. The school choir will open the Kup Murrie with the song Inanay Gupu Wana.

Open Classrooms
On Tuesday 24th June 12:15pm – 1:00pm you are welcome to visit your child’s classroom and take part in our celebration of all of their great learning achieved this semester.

Sports Day
Tuesday and Wednesday program inside this newsletter

Reporting
Report cards will go home on the last two days of term. Remember – a ‘C’ is good news and indicates your child is working AT the right level for their year level.
Did you know that two Park Avenue students are direct descendants of great land rights activist Eddie Mabo? This year, June 3 marked the 22nd anniversary of the Australian High Court’s landmark Mabo decision, which removed the myth of terra nullius from Australian law and recognised the unique rights that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to land and waters according to traditional laws and customs, paving the way for the legal recognition of land rights known as native title.

Meet... Eddie Koiki Mabo

Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo was born on 29 June 1936, in the community of Las on Mer, known as Murray Island in the Torres Strait. His birth name was Eddie Koiki Sambo; however he was raised by his Uncle Benny Mabo through a customary ‘Island adoption’. When Eddie was growing up, life for the people of the Torres Strait Islands was strictly regulated with laws made by the Queensland Government. However, the Meriam people strived to maintain continuity with the past and continued to live a traditional lifestyle based on fishing, gardening and customary laws of inheritance. At the age of 16, Eddie was exiled from Murray Island for breaking customary Island law, and he set off for the mainland where a new life was waiting for him. Eddie had many jobs throughout his life, including an assistant teacher; a deck hand on pearl lugger and tug boats; a fettler on the Queensland railway tracks; a cane cutter; and a grounds keeper. Eddie was also an artist and writer. Some of his art works and writings can be found at the National Library of Australia. It was during his time as a grounds keeper at James Cook University in Townsville that Eddie learned about Australian land ownership laws. He believed the land he grew up on, Murray Island, belonged to the Torres Strait Islander people who had lived there for thousands of years. But, Australian law stated that the Government owned the land. Eddie believed that these laws on land ownership were wrong and decided to fight to change them. In 1981, Eddie Mabo made a speech at James Cook University in Queensland, where he explained his people’s beliefs about the ownership and inheritance of land on Murray Island. A lawyer heard the speech and asked Eddie if he would like to challenge the Australian Government. Eddie did not live to see the final decision passed down from the High Court. Ten years after the case was first heard, at the age of 55, Eddie died from cancer. Five months later the High Court ruled in the plaintiff’s favour, expelling the notion of terra nullius from Australian law and paving the way for the creation of land rights legislation called Native Title. In 1992, Eddie was posthumously awarded the Australian Human Rights Medal by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and in 1993, the Australian newspaper named Eddie the Australian of the Year for 1992.

Three years after Eddie passed away, a traditional Torres Strait Islander memorial service known as a tombstone opening was conducted in Townsville. The very next day, his gravesite was vandalised with racist emblems and his tombstone partially destroyed. Due to this vandalism, Eddie was reburied on Murray Island, where he was given the traditional burial ceremony of a Meriam King, the first performed in over 80 years.

WORLD’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

A huge thankyou to everyone who sent along food for the morning tea! As dish after dish came in we were yet again reminded that Park Avenue is a great place to be. The Park Avenue Choir further sweetened the morning with beautiful a Capella renditions of Count on Me by Bruno Mars and Inanay Gupu Wana a song from the Torres Strait Islands.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations on your great work at being a learner, being responsible and being respectful.

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Happy Birthday!

Best wishes go to Brandee, Trinity, Bradley and Ezra
Come and join the fun!!!

SPORTS DAY

Tuesday June 24th
2:00-3:00pm will be the 200m and 800m races.

Wednesday June 25th
9:00-11:00am: Field events for the 9 years - 13 years
12:00-2:30pm: Ball games, sprints, relays, sack and three legged race
2:30-2:35pm: Gala Egg and Spoon race Students vs Teachers vs Parents
2:40-2:55pm: Presentations
Sporting Houses are Kangaroo (red) and Emu (yellow) - all families are invited to dress up for the event.

The Elephants

By Malina

“Wow!” shouted Jim. You won’t believe what happened when the elephants stood on three legs with people on it? It was unbelievably amazing! The crowd looked amazed when I turned and looked around. They were just so amazed. The elephants were magnificent standing on just three legs on a strong steel stool. Suddenly...

One of the elephants started to wobble a bit! I was thinking that the elephants were going to fall. I had a stomach full of butterflies. I was worried. Suddenly the elephant fell. The trainer was screaming “Help! Help!” BANG! The elephant fell. A whole heap of dust floated up and away. Everyone’s mouths dropped wide open with shock. As the dust started to fade away the elephant and the trainer disappeared. Everyone looked confused...

“Of course!” I said to myself, “They’re magicians.” We all suddenly heard the sound of an elephant. We turned around and there was the elephant and its trainer. Everyone was surprised and clapped and clapped. It was the best thing I had ever seen.

It all worked out well. Who knows what will happen next? Maybe the plan of the disappearing elephants might not go as planned and everything might go wrong...

Frenchville Junior Football

Frenchville Junior Football Club still have spaces available in our junior football teams for boys and girls born in the years from 2000 to 2004. Registration covers insurance and competition fees and includes training strip and socks. For more information please contact Sports Manager, Terry Kennedy on mobile number - 0418 794 161.

Crochet Library Bags

Lovely handmade library/whatnot bags are being made to order. If anyone wishes to purchase, small bags are $25 and large bags $35. Shanikqua in Prep has an example. Please contact, Mrs Rumpf on mobile number – 0439 619 598.
Where has the year gone? I can’t believe we are half way through! Welcome to our turn to fill you in on what has been happening in our class. As well as being Head of Special Education for both ECDP and the Primary Special Education Program, I am also privileged to be a class teacher for a small group of students from the ECDP. I am assisted by my team members, Robyn Butcher (Thursday) and Selena Tomkins (Friday). Both Teacher Aides have a passion for our students and ensure my program is run effectively. We are also joined by Laurina, our University student, who does a wonderful job motivating children to learn. This term we have been focusing on “Shapes and Colours”. The ECDP rules have also been a concept we have addressed.

One of the highlights this year was our Science session run by Robyn. Robyn demonstrated how to make a volcano in the sand pit using simple household ingredients. All the students (not to mention all the teachers) were enthralled and wanted her to make it again and again!

Learning is always an adventure in our class.
Dear Parents/Carers,

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

In 2013, 10% of Queensland state schools participated in the first year of implementation. In 2014, two thirds of Queensland schools will participate and all schools will be collect data from 2015. Our school will be involved in the nationally consistent collection of data from this year.

Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
- level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue to consult with you.

While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let me know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:


Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact me directly.

Helen Heery
0749311111
School Principal

The Treasure Chest

On a great big patch of brown grey sand there was a treasure chest. It was open and the gold and jewellery was absolutely stunning. It was like nothing you have ever seen before.

The gold and jewellery shone brighter than the stars at night. All of the things in the brown and grey treasure chest looked perfect. It all fitted in so well.

Dad was walking down by the beach looking at the heavy rushing waves and the drenched sand. I ran over to Dad and said “I’ve found a treasure chest!” I think Dad didn’t believe me. “Dad! Come with me!” Dad came to the treasure chest. He too saw lots of amazing things in the treasure chest. I knew that because his eyes shot up almost like his eyeballs were about to pop out! I had a laugh to myself.
“Bravo! Bravo!” Exclaimed the audience. It was Sunday night and I couldn’t believe that Mum and Dad had actually taken me to the circus. We had had a hot dog for dinner and fairy floss for dessert. I was having the best night ever!

I had gone to the toilet and Mum and Dad stayed at the canteen. But ... when I came back everyone and everything had turned into ... bunny rabbits. This was quite a coincidence really because I have a large phobia of rabbits. There was nowhere to go. It felt as though all the world was caving in on me. At this very moment I wished I was a turtle so I could just hide in my shell.

Suddenly ... the janitor was sweeping the floor. I ran up to him and asked “Where is everybody?” They’ve all left mate, you’re the only one here. You are ALL ALONE.” Suddenly his voice didn’t sound so friendly. I glance up at him. His eyes turned red and he hissed at me through razor sharp teeth. “Help!” I screamed. I had nowhere to go. “Help! Help!” I screamed again. I began to panic. What was I going to do?

I suddenly felt something ruffle me on the shoulder. I opened my eyes and was relieved to see that it had been just a bad dream. I went down stairs for breakfast and Mum asked “How would you like to go to the circus?”

“No!” I immediately replied.

The storm

Oh no!” said Sam. “You will not believe what happened when a really big storm was heading straight towards my house. It was so sad for my family.”

My family, Mum, Dad, Rachel and I live in a shed deep in the forest. On a Sunday there was big storm, every two hours it got heavier and heavier. It was so scary!

The storm had been going for three days straight. Rachel and I could not go to school because it was cancelled; the storm was that big! For the last three days Rachel and I were so bored.

My Mum and Dad were so scared. They thought we might run out of food. Rachel said “It’s so boring let’s get a board game out”.

“Okay” I said. We played Monopoly all afternoon.

We were playing a game when the storm became even heavier and the wind got stronger.

Mum said “Let’s go to Nan’s house? It is getting to windy!” We all got in the car as we went to go to Nan’s house.

We got out just in time! The house came down in the wind as we were driving away. From that day forward we stayed at Nan’s house. The storm stopped. It was so sad, we had lost our home.
SPORTS DAY
Sports day is almost here as one of the most exciting events in the calendar. Who will win out of the teachers and students? Will the eggs survive to cross the finish line? The suspense is all too much! Have you organised your colours to show your team spirit? What would you like to see available for purchase for Sports Day? We like to encourage ‘green’ food on the menu as well as snacks and drinks. This is our main fundraising opportunity for the term so let us know what you would like to eat and drink. Your ideas are important to us!!

OPEN CLASSROOMS
It is exciting to see that we are being offered to venture into the classrooms to see what our students have been up to all term. It was wonderful to see so many family members come in to see the fantastic work being completed. Please try your best to visit the classroom.

AGM
Don’t forget that our AGM is on! So come along Monday the 16 June at 6pm to learn all about what we do. You will only be given a job if you want it but we would appreciate your support and ideas that will benefit our school. We need to have enough people present to fulfil the quorum.

TREASURER
Again we need to stress that we are in great need of a Treasurer. If you have any experience with Quickbooks (or willing to learn) please talk with Tess. Remember that we are open to the idea of voting in a Treasurer who will be part of the executive committee and will seek out a professional book keeper to keep the accounts up to date. This however, may end up costing the P&C a considerable amount over a year. A Treasurer is needed for our P&C to operate.

VICE PRESIDENT
We want to vote in a Vice President who will be able to assist in extra fundraising opportunities and be a support for the executive committee. This position is only time intensive as you want it to be.

PROJECTS
We have so many ideas that we think will benefit our students but we want your input! We need to know what you want for our school. If you cannot make it to a P&C Meeting please contact Tess on the details below.

TUCKSHOP
As the cooler months are upon us we are reminded that the flu season has already arrived. If you have a desire to help out the school and would like to try your hand in the Tuckshop or perhaps at the Sports Day please let Tess know so we can organise a roster. We will need to have a few people on hand who we can call in should our volunteers call in sick. Another reminder is that everyone in the tuckshop are volunteers and we do not have any paid positions. Thank you again to David and Michelle for your continued effort in the tuckshop.

SLUSHIES
Thank you to everyone who bought a Slushie last week. We have been asked so many times if we will be having the milk based Slushies available. So for those of you who are interested, we will have them as well as our usual fruit based flavours from Tuesday 24 June ready to serve at the Canteen at the School Hall for Sports Days. Make sure you have $2 for a small fruit based slushie and $4 for a large. Milk based will be sold for $3 or a small and $5 for a large.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photos will be on the 18 July which is the first week back to school after the holidays. You have some time to think about what photo packages you would like to purchase.

Battery Drive
At Park Avenue we have been collecting old batteries to recycle and use as part of our Fundraising for our ongoing projects. If you have any old batteries (car, truck, boat, motorcycle, household) please support our cause. If you know of any businesses that may be able to support our school please contact Tess with details. You can leave batteries at 108 Glenmore Road Park Avenue or contact her at tesscarr@iprimus.com.au or phone 0416 606 669.