STUDENT GOVERNMENT SPECIAL EDITION:

LEADERS TRAINING DAY 2014:

“The leadership instinct you are born with is the backbone. You develop the funny bone and the wishbone that go with it.” Elaine Agather

This week our Student Government Representatives and school leaders spent the day participating in leadership training. This day involved a wide variety of skill development activities. Students discussed important qualities that they need to be a ‘GREAT’ leader. These included; being a role model, listening to others, sharing an opinion, making tough decisions, problem solving and be willing to have a go.

Students were given the problem; How can we improve the way we use our hard surfaces for ball games? and How can you communicate your solutions to the community? Students worked in teams to problem solve and suggest solutions. Their solutions are going to be discussed at our next meeting to decide what the next step is with ensuring this problem is solved within our school.

Students created a ‘leadership quilt’ of what leadership means to them and what they believe to be their greatest leadership strength. This is going to be displayed in our school hall next week for our students, teachers and the wider school community to see. Please come and have a look at their motivating work.

Students also discussed current and past leaders such as Tony Abbott, Nelson Mandela, Princess Diana, Martin Luther King, Oprah Winfrey, Amelia Earhart, Jess Watson and Bindi Irwin. Mr Sutherland and Mrs Gracie visited the leaders and shared some of their leadership wisdom!

Another focus for the day was student leadership at a school level. This provided our leaders with an understanding that their involvement in leadership activities at school allows them the opportunity to support other students as well as help to connect students with their school environment, which improves; student learning, student engagement, student participation and student wellbeing. Our leaders then realised that student leadership opportunities build interpersonal skills, self-confidence and empower them to have a say in decision-making processes.
As a leadership team, we discussed Term 2 projects. Some of these projects include; a jellybean competition, evaluating our passive play and picnic table area, school disco, charity fundraiser, mufti day and another sports house cake stall. We are going to be super busy next term!

One of the highlights of the day was, ‘The Marshmallow Challenge’. Students were given 30 minutes to create the tallest free standing tower with the following materials:
- 20 spaghetti sticks,
- masking tape,
- a piece of wool,
- one marshmallow, and
- scissors.

The marshmallow needed to be on top of the tower. Students were encouraged to set goals and plan ahead, work together as a team and handle failure and try again! Here are some highlights of the challenge:-

...and our winning team were Tom, Jake, Mason and Jack. Well done boys!!!
We finished the day with writing our vision as a Student Government. This will also be displayed alongside our leadership quilt.

Thank you to our wonderful Student Government Representatives and school leaders. We certainly had lots of fun and engaging discussions with you and we hope you now have greater knowledge and skills to be a ‘GREAT’ leader at Parklea Public School.

Mrs Cardwell, Mrs Marshall & Mrs Mutch
(Student Government Coordinators)

IN REFLECTION. . .
Below are three students’ written experiences about their time at our Leadership Training Day!

I learnt what a leader is about. Being a leader means you are responsible for things in the school and you make some decisions. I also did the marshmallow challenge. When you do the marshmallow challenge you make a tower using spaghetti, tape, a piece of wool and you put the marshmallow on top. Our team won and got to eat two marshmallows. The other teams lost because they made it too high and it fell down. One of the other teams did a big bottom, but a small top. Another team used the tape for the bottom, but it fell down too. I liked the marshmallow challenge because it made us work as a team. Then, at lunch I was handing out Parklea Pals at the disco.

TOM 2/3Purple

Tuesday 1\textsuperscript{st} April the Student Government had their Leaders Training Day. First, we learnt about great qualities of a good leader. After recess, we learnt about the vision of some good leaders around the world and then we made our own vision. Then, we did a teamwork activity. We made a marshmallow tower out of twenty spaghetti sticks, masking tape, wool and a marshmallow for the top. After the disco, we planned what we are going to do for Term 2. We all had a great day and would like to thank our teachers.

LUCY 4/5Purple

We liked the Marshmallow Challenge and the knots game we played at the end of the day. We learnt about teamwork, problem solving, making decisions, and having a go. We also enjoyed making the leadership quilt. We got to write what we think is a great leader and stuck the pieces of paper together to represent a quilt.

RACHEL and EADIE 6Green