Redwood Park Primary School

Students Take Steps in the Right Direction

An eat well be active -Primary Schools project school

Our thanks go to ACHPER for this article from ewba Newsletter 2010

Adapted from Advertiser article Tuesday May 4th 2010

As part of the curriculum at Redwood Park Primary School senior students have their own version of Dancing with the Stars in the form of an annual ballroom competition that has 90 students kicking up their heels to win a championships trophy. This has helped compliment the work the school has been doing in relation to the eat well be active – Primary Schools Project.

The competition is part of a social dancing program that teaches students the steps to the Military Two Step, Barn Dance, Progressive Jive as well as Latin styles, the Cha Cha, Rumba, Samba and Jive. Teacher Rhoda Emerson developed the program for all year 6 and 7 students with her secret weapon being the use of modern music to gain the students’ interest. It has taken her a few years to win over the boys but they are now enjoying the dancing sessions and dance is part of the curriculum like maths and English.
Later in the year, students will be taught more complicated steps in preparation for the big dance off in term 4. The competition reflects professional ballroom competition with boys wearing a number on their back, couples competing against each other in two heats and contestants working their way through semi-finals to the grand finale. What started as a small evening event held in the school hall now attracts 500 people, including parents and ex-students and has become a showcase with a cabaret atmosphere including social dancing, guest performers and floor shows.

The ticket sales assist the school fundraising program, with the event a highlight of the school calendar for senior students and their families.

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eat well be active - Primary Schools Project, a joint SA Health and Department for Education and Child Development project from 2008-2013.