Dear Parents

FOS [Friends of the School]
The next meeting of our new parent/community group will be on Wednesday at 9.00am. This is a very informal “gathering” with a cuppa and a chat. I will be there to answer any questions about the school. Please come and join in, it is a no pressure family friendly hour.

Swimming squad
Last Friday our swimming squad made the trip to Echuca to compete in our District Swimming Sports. Although we didn’t come away with a lot of “in pool” success Mr Rasmussen reported back that both the attitude and behaviour of our students was first class. Well done to all.

Clean Up Day
Tomorrow all of our students will be involved in the school version of Clean Up Australia. When we started this many years ago we collected enough rubbish that the Shire needed to bring a truck in to take it away. This was just in the streets in our local area. Now we collect very little. Rochester is a very tidy town and that reflects well on the community.

Student Action team
The first meeting of the Student Action Team for 2016 took place last week. I was impressed with the business like manner they approached their task and the quality of the questions and requests they have. A report from these meetings will be provided to School Council each meeting so that the student “voice” can be heard.

Assessment
Teachers are constantly assessing students as they teach. This assessment allows them to plan learning that is directed at each students needs. The formal part of this “testing” has been well underway over the last few weeks across all levels. I am very impressed with the overall results. We take pride in ensuring all of our students are learning to the best of their ability. Our school can be very pleased with the quality of work our students are demonstrating against other schools in Victoria.

School Council
Next Tuesday the School Council will meet with a double meeting. The first is the Annual Meeting of Council. This meeting will see the election of Office Bearers for 2016. This part of the meeting is open to the public. The second meeting will be the regular General Meeting.
On Friday the 18th March we will be holding a casual dress day. Students are asked to wear BRIGHT colours to symbolize our own stance against BULLYING. The Student Action Team is also holding an ANTI-BULLYING poster design competition. Students from any grade can enter by designing a colourful poster with pictures and messages that help promote the SAY NO to BULLYING message. Entries to Ms Ross By Tuesday 15th March.

Below are some useful Bullying Tips for Parents:

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they’ve told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child’s experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.

2. **Ask** your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.

3. **Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

4. **Contact** the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher and, if you need to, ask to talk with the principal. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child’s safety.

5. **Check in regularly** with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.
WHEN I GROW UP.....

....to be continued next week.

Canteen
Friday 4th  
Monday 7th  
Tuesday 8th  
Wednesday 9th  
Thursday 10th  
Friday 11th  
Monday 14th  
Tuesday 15th  
Wednesday 16th  
Thursday 17th  
Friday 18th  

Elizabeth Read  
CLOSED  
Caroline  
Vanessa Fitzgerald  
HELP WANTED  
Vanessa Moroney & Cath Moore  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
HELP WANTED  
Leesa Purdy  
Naomi Watson  
HELP WANTED

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP ON THE DAYS IN RED.

School Captains

Cameron, April, Charlee & Cody
**Reminder School Clean Up Day - Friday 4th March 2016.**

Tomorrow, all students from Prep to Gr. 6 will participate in a School Clean Up Day (9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.). Preps and students who did not return permission notes will clean up the school ground. Gr. 1 to Gr. 6 students will clean up neighbouring streets. Students will require plastic disposable gloves, a plastic bag and their school hat. All parents and friends are welcome to join in and lend a helping hand.

**Subject Contributions**

School Council has decided to set subject contributions in 2016 at $190.00 per child with a grounds maintenance levy of $20.00 per family. The grounds levy covers such things as lawn mowing, pruning of trees, sweeping paths etc. Families of three or more children attending the school would not be expected to pay more than $590.00 [including the grounds levy].

It is an expectation that all contributions will be paid as soon as possible after the commencement of the 2016 school year. In some cases arrangements may be made to pay in instalments. EFTPOS facilities are available at the office.

**ENGLISH AND MATHS COMPETITIONS.**

The opportunity for children in Grades 2 to 6 to take part in the English and Maths competitions next term is being offered again this year. These tests are an excellent preparation for Naplan testing and provide students in Grade 2 with an opportunity to experience external assessment prior to Grade 3. The competitions are run by the University of New South Wales and cover the individual’s general skills and knowledge in the areas of Mathematics and English. All students receive a certificate after completion of the tests.

Each competition costs $8.00. To participate the money and form below need to be returned to the school by Friday 4th of March. The dates that the students will sit the competitions are

English – Tuesday 2nd of August and Mathematics – Tuesday 16th of August. Further information PLEASE contact Graeme Hodgens

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Schools Competitions

I would like my child, ................................. in Grade ............. Room ........... to enter the Maths English competition. (Please circle). I have enclosed payment of $8.00 per competition.

Total Paid: .........................

______________________________________________________________________________________________

“I Dinosaur Science” Cultural Performance

Dear Parents,

Our school will be participating in a school cultural performance “Dinosaur Science” on Tuesday 15th March at 2p.m in our senior neighbourhood. The show involves lashings of humour, loads of audience participation and huge scale models. A budding palaeontologist sets about assembling the bones of two huge pre-historic creatures. Throughout the show, problems are solved and assumptions are made, some are dismissed while others are shown to be plausible, even probable. The amount has been partially subsidised by the school and therefore the cost of the performance is now only $4 per student. Please fill in the note below and return to school with the $4 by Monday 7th March 2016. Leanne Picone.

______________________________________________________________________________________________

I give permission for my child/children .......................................................... to participate in the cultural performance ‘Dinosaur Science’.

I have enclosed $4 per child for the cost of the performance.

Parent/Guardian signature .................................