Dear Parents

**Pic-Nic Lunch- Easter Bonnet Parade. Thursday 24th March**
On the last day of term our students will be working in mixed age groups to create their special Easter Bonnet. This will be followed by an Easter Parade from 12.30 – 1.00pm. The school will then eat their lunch as a whole school Picnic. Please bring along a rug and join us!

**FOS**
Friends of the School will be having their next meeting at 9.00am on Wednesday the 23rd of March. The theme for this meeting is school lunches. Anyone with ideas for school lunches [home made or commercial products] is encouraged to bring along their ideas to share. If you are simply frustrated with school lunches and would like some new ways to do these please come and join in. The meeting is very child friendly so please bring your under school age kids along.

**Preps first full week!**
Congratulations Preps on your first full week at school. This is a major milestone as our preps [Foundation] join the regular school attendees.

**Student Absences.**
Parents are reminded that if a student is away they are responsible for providing the school with a reason for their absence. All absences will be followed up. It is critical that students attend school.

**Shave for a Cure – Wednesday 23rd of March 12.30.**
On Wednesday [23rd March] Paddy Eeles will have his head shaved as part of Shave for a Cure. Paddy has been growing his hair since May 2015 with raising money for cancer research firmly in mind. He has managed to collect in excess of $2000 so far but would love to add more to this. We fully support Paddy in his quest and are proud to have students at our school with this attitude. Well done Paddy. Donations can be made at [www.worldsgreatestshave.com](http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com) Patterson Eeles.

**Access all Areas**
Our school information night – Access All Areas will be held on Monday 18th of April. This replaces our Prep information night and is for any future enrolments. Please encourage anyone who has a child of school age next year to attend.

No assembly next week due to the Thursday dismissal for the Easter break.
CURRICULUM NEWS

NAPLAN. National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (Yrs 3 & 5) will be held Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th May. All students in Grades 3 & 5 are expected to participate in these tests. If your child has a specific intellectual disability then they may be granted an exemption. Withdrawal from these tests is only by Parent request in consultation with the Principal. Please contact Mr Hodgens by the end of this term. These tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. These one off tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals and can be used to assist in planning to improve student achievement. This year a few schools in the state will be trialing this testing on computer/iPad. (Not us though). Hopefully we can then get results back quicker, which would make the information more relevant and up to date.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. This will describe your child’s particular skills in the areas tested. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. Over the past few weeks teachers have been working with students in preparation for these tests. They have analysed last year’s data, have worked with students with parts of previous practice tests and worked on grammar and spelling strategies. Other testing strategies have included problem solving strategies, reading the passage and answering questions and getting the big picture and drawing out the answer by questioning. Students have been working very closely on the structure of both narrative and persuasive writing.

If your child is going to be away from school over these days please let us know in advance if possible.

Literacy Support Program. A number of Grade 1 /2 students have been selected to participate in this program for ½ hr every morning. They have been selected through a variety of testing data information and work with Mrs Picone, Wendy Foott, Ali Holt and Bec Pearse on a daily basis. Wendy also works for short sessions in this area of the school to promote oral language & to assist in keeping students engaged and on task.

Engagement Program. 3-6. With guidance and planning by classroom teachers, Wendy assists with keeping students engaged in their learning in both literacy and numeracy areas. She also works with the students in Miss Ross’ welfare groups through cooking, woodwork, gardening and other exciting activities.

Professional Development for teachers has continued over the term. We have all participated in two sessions of the Children in Trauma Program and have one more to complete next term. Miss Wright and I attended a session in Bendigo working on response to intervention of students with varying learning needs. Ms Ross attended PD for Safe Minds, Mrs Ellis worked with other teachers on Literacy aspects. Staff have also willingly shared their own data and how they record and use the student information in class.

MULTIAGE learning session and Easter Hat parade. Staff & students will participate in this session on Thurs 24th March. Parents are welcome to attend at 12.30pm. This will be followed by a Neighbourhood natter lunch from 1pm. Please bring your own lunch and maybe a picnic blanket to sit on with your children.

ACCESS ALL AREAS. The Rochester Primary School Experience. Monday 18th April. 7pm. New/prospective parents of pre-schoolers and others coming to our school are invited to attend this session to hear what we have to offer. See the note further in the newsletter.

Reminder. Early Dismissal . Thursday 24th March. 2.30pm

Leanne Picone.
THE ROCHESTER PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Monday 18th April

7.00p.m. Senior Neighbourhood Building

Welcome by Principal ... Mr Graeme Hodgens. Overview of our great school
Access ... Curriculum – Leanne Picone. What will the children learn and how?
Access ... Welfare – Leesa Ross. How do we care for your children?
Access ... ICT/P.E. – Steve Rasmussen. Computers and iPad programs/sports
Access ... School Captains – What is it like to be a student at Rochester Primary School?
Access ... Prep Room – Mrs Collins. Explore the Prep learning environment.
Access ... Senior Neighbourhood building. Time for final questions and answers
Access ... Tea/coffee and chat
Access ... Explore our school environment

Canteen

Friday 18th Adie Foster
Monday 21st CLOSED
Tuesday 22nd Tara Harris
Wednesday 23rd Rachael Major
Thursday 24th CLOSED

Term 2
Monday 11th April CLOSED
Tuesday 12th Tara Harris
Wednesday 13th Sam Bywaters
Thursday 14th Dani Wells
Friday 15th Tanya Coghill

Uniform Shop

Over the next two years we will be phasing in a new uniform so we are selling our older stock on hand at a reduced price. Please note that we have limited sizes left in the short sleeve polo shirts.

Canteen Duty
Can you help with a Canteen duty? If so, please contact Janis at the office so we can add your name to the roster. Canteen is not difficult to do and help is always available. Days we cannot fill will mean the Canteen will be closed.

Available at the canteen now

Milo Yoghurts $1.50
Frozen Oranges (half) 50cents

Rochester Primary School Staff and Students invite
Parents and family members to attend our

Easter Hat Parade from 12.30 pm-1pm
Under the covered area

Thursday 24th March.

Children will make their hats at school. All materials/supplies will be provided at school but children are welcome to bring along a ‘special something’ to add to their hat if they so wish.

followed by a
Neighbourhood Natter Lunch. 1pm onwards on the oval or covered area.
(Parents will need to bring their own lunch and picnic rug.)
(Children will have their usual packed lunch.)
Although summer has officially finished the warmer weather continues and it is timely to remember:

To protect skin and eyes from ultraviolet (UV) radiation, Cancer Council Victoria recommends hats that protect the face, back of the neck, eyes and ears.

Broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats offer the best protection from UV radiation, providing the brim is wide enough. Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not recommended as they leave the ears and the back of the neck exposed.

UV levels are most intense during the middle of the day. Check the SunSmart UV Alert for daily sun protection times, available as a free SunSmart app, online at sunsmart.com.au

FOS (Friends of the School) Meeting
Wednesday 23rd March
9.00am – 10.00am

All Welcome to attend for a cuppa and talk. At this meeting we will be discussing/sharing healthy school lunches ideas. If you have any ideas, please bring them along to share (or just come along and listen).