Principal's Report

Final Assembly – CVCC – 12.30- December 15-12-16
Our Assembly will start slightly earlier to accommodate the Secondary College as both schools hold their Awards Ceremony on the same day. Please come and help our school celebrate another great year. All students will be performing on stage and we will farewell our class of 2016 Graduates. It will also be a final opportunity for parents to say goodbye to Mrs May prior to her returning to Canada.

No Assembly Tomorrow  -  Due to the swimming program there will be no assembly tomorrow.

Orientation Day—Tuesday 6th December
On Tuesday all students, including next year’s Preps, will spend time in their 2017 classroom with their 2017 teacher. This takes place from 9.00am until recess. [11.00am] Our Grade 6 students will be attending secondary school as they get their first taste of being a secondary school student.

Swimming
Our swimming program under the guidance of Ayla Pearson has run very smoothly. Please remember this is a water safety program that helps to develop swimming skills and provides some understanding of how to stay safe around water and how to help someone who is in difficulty. We encourage families to continue this development over the summer. We cannot do this without the swim “team” of staff and parent helpers. A magnificent effort from all concerned. [Special mention to Mr May who rode his bike from Echuca to Rochester in order to help out!}

Volunteers Cuppa and Muffin- Tuesday 13th December 8.00am 9.00am
Last year our special thankyou morning was held as a pancake breakfast. The “ before work” time slot seemed to suit most people and we had our best roll up for many years. This year we will be having a cuppa and muffin/fruit platter thankyou chat. Please come and share the year with us and be “thanked” by us for your contribution to our school.

Grade 2 Sleep Over  -
This will take place next Thursday and Friday. For many students it is the first time they have slept away from home without another family member. It is the first stage of the school camp program that runs through until Grade 6. Thanks to Mrs Wright and Mrs Ellis for organising this event.

School Uniform
Please remember that denim clothing is not a part of the school uniform. A number of students have been wearing denim shorts to school.

Graeme
Level 3/4 news

Recently some of the boys and girls from grade three and four had the opportunity to participate in a Milo cricket tournament at Jack Eddy Oval in Echuca. The boys were able to win two of their first three games to play off for seventh spot, doing so successfully. The girls weren’t as fortunate going down in some very close games.

It was a fantastic day with those students putting in a big effort the day after arriving home from camp.

A big thankyou to Rhys Irwin for helping out on the day. He was very impressed with some of the skills on display!

Dance-A-Thon

Winners of our Dance-a-thon are:
Most money raised: Cadence Major  Most sponsors: Bowen Meloury
Congratulations to all students for raising the terrific amount of $1,943.50. A wonderful effort.

Lost Property

The amount of lost property building up is overwhelming. Please ask your child/ren to check for items that may belong to them. At the end of term all unclaimed items will be given to the Salvation Army. The number of unnamed items is also very high…..if you name items they can be easily returned to you.

Volunteers—Working with Children Checks

To obtain a working with children check you will need to go online at: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au. After filling out the form it will need to be presented at the post office with proof of identify. These checks are valid for 5 years . There is no fee charged for a volunteer.

Asthma

If you child suffers from asthma you will have received a letter and a new medical form to be completed. We have several student who, according to our records, suffer from asthma but we do not have puffers or spacers for them. If you receive a letter regarding this matter, it would be appreciated if you would take the appropriate action.
The Teacher Exchange Program

This is a picture of Ms. Trickey and I after I picked her up at the airport and brought her to my house on Vancouver Island. When I look at this picture, it feels like it was forever ago, and also like it was just yesterday. Exchange teachers exchange lives - they exchange homes, jobs, friends, hairdressers, everything! However, many of them don’t get a chance to even meet each other. I felt lucky that Ms. Trickey landed on Vancouver Island a couple of days before we departed. Over the two days that we were getting ourselves organized to leave, we also got to help Ms. Trickey get a bit settled. We got her a cell phone, some groceries, a good winter coat, introduced her to my family, showed her the new classroom at Arden Elementary School, and then we said goodbye. It felt wonderful to know that I was swapping lives with a very lovely lady who was going to take great care of our house, but more importantly be a great teacher to the beloved students I was leaving behind.

And then we were off into the unknown….with WAY too much luggage (how do you pack for a year??) flying to a country we had never been to. I had met and grown fond of many Australians that I had met in Canada or on my travels, but I had never set foot in the country and I had somehow talked myself, my three daughters and my husband into living there for a year! I couldn’t help but wonder….what if it is a bad idea? What if we get attacked by sharks or bitten by poisonous snakes? What if my new boss is mean? What if the students are naughty? What if the schoolwork is difficult and our children don’t make friends? What if they think we talk funny? What if we can’t find peanut butter or maple syrup!?!?!?

As it turns out, we haven’t been attacked by sharks, or bitten by snakes. The Rochester Primary students are wonderful to teach and have been fantastic friends to my children. My boss is the nicest boss I’ve ever had, the school work is the perfect amount of challenge for my children, and we could find peanut butter AND maple syrup. Phew!

My experience here as a teacher has been the best professional development I could ever ask for. My positive experience has everything to do with the community I landed in and the school I’ve been blessed to teach at. The dedicated staff of Rochester Primary have been welcoming and supportive. They have taught me about effective teaching and assessment strategies as well as how to really care for students. The students I have taught have been incredible examples of compassion, industriousness, enthusiasm and confidence.

I have also been embraced by the wonderful parents and community of Rochester. I will be talking about the little town of Rochester and RPS and the special place they hold in my heart for the rest of my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you. From Mrs. May, Mr. May, Georgia, Rosie, and Willow
Canteen 2017

Please mark on your calendar for next year that the Canteen will not be open until TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY. If the weather if extremely hot the canteen will open at lunch time for students to purchase icy bites only.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Volunteers Cuppa and Muffin-Tuesday 13th December 8.00am to 9.00am

A special thankyou morning to all our parent/grandparent/ community member helpers.

This year we will be having a cuppa and muffin/fruit platter thankyou chat.

Please come and share the year with us and be “thanked” by us for your contribution to our school.