Principal’s Report

Interviews and School Expo

We will be conducting our “Getting to know you interviews” on the afternoon of Thursday the 23rd of February. These are a great opportunity to sit down with your child’s teacher and share information that can help all of us to work as a team to provide the best program we can. Teachers have always been keen to develop the relationship they have with their students, however this will also be a school goal in our new four-year Strategic Plan. So please take the opportunity to come in and have a chat, ask questions and share with us anything that might help us to strengthen the school – home partnership. I am also available on the night for a chat and encourage parents to contact me for either a phone chat or preferably to come in and talk to me at school.

School Captains

We provide as many opportunities as we can for students to be leaders within the school. This commences with our school captains. We run four school captains for first semester and then elect another four for the second semester. Our Grade 6 students voted for their captains on Monday and the names of the successful candidates were then passed on to me and shared with Staff. [Sometimes families have informed us that they are moving but have not informed their children yet.] The school captains will be announced and presented with their badges at this Friday’s assembly, 3.00pm in the BER.

Electronic Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please let Janis know. It is one way to ensure that you get it on the day it is sent out!

Hot weather

On days that the temperature reaches 36 degrees we enforce a “hot day” timetable. Students remain in their rooms with the airconditioner running. We encourage students to have a water bottle on their tables [water only] throughout the year but on hot days reinforce the need to hydrate.

Curriculum Day- Tuesday 14th of March

Subject to School Council approval, we intend to hold a curriculum day to work as a whole staff on the new Victorian Curriculum. We have been using the Aus/Vels curriculum [Australian/ Victorian] for a number of years, however this has been revised and as a state we are all now using the new curriculum. It is unlikely that the students will notice any significant difference. No students are to come to school on this day.

NBN Rollout

There will be some traffic disruption in Edward St next Tuesday and probably Wednesday as work is completed on the NBN Rollout. This will not affect the school but it will be similar to the road works completed last year. Traffic management will be supplied as part of this program.

Graeme

WHAT'S COMING UP!
Prep Students do not attend Wednesday 15th, 22nd February & Wednesday 1st, 8th March
Friday—School Assembly 3pm in BER
School Nurse visit week of 27th February

PH: 5484 1072 - FAX: 5484 2426 - EMAIL: rochester.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au - WEB: www.rochps.vic.edu.au
PRINCIPAL: Graeme Hodgens
Welcome back to a great start in our school year. All students and teachers are settling into classroom routine very well. A calm and caring atmosphere radiates from all classrooms as we move from classroom to classroom.

Grades. This year we have Mrs Collins & Miss Trickey in Grade Prep and Grade One, Mr Irwin in Grade Two, Miss Wright, Mrs Ellis and Mrs Picone in Grade 3/4, Mr Rasmussen, Mrs Pascoe and Miss Ross in Grades 5/6. The specialist program this year will be ART with Mrs McPhee (all year levels) & Mrs Picone will take Science (all year levels)

New Preps…. are settling in beautifully. They have lots of enthusiasm and energy. The Grade 6 buddies are also doing a fantastic job looking out for their Prep buddy.

Getting to Know You Parent Teacher Interviews and Expo…. The date for these first interviews will be Thursday 23rd February. Please look out for the interview time note sent home with the newsletter today.

Testing…. Grade Prep. One teachers have begun working through the English Online Testing for each student in these grades. This test is a requirement of the Department of Education for all prep students. We also test grades 1 students as it supplies us with very useful information. Grades 3 – 6 are about to begin the On Demand tests. Students will work through these on their computers over the next few weeks.

Cultural Presentation…. Please keep your eyes open for a note which will be sent home in the next few weeks in regards to a school cultural performance ‘Cyberwise’ on 6th March.

Victorian Curriculum. Teachers are now expected to work from our new state Curriculum from the beginning of 2017. Some time will be spent on professional learning, staff meetings and curriculum days to ensure we audit and update all of our programs and upskill staff in new areas presented.

School Captain speeches…. Students in Gr 5/6 have participated in speeches. School captains will be announced at Assembly tomorrow.

We are looking forward to a great year. Feel free to pop in to see the students at work. You are most welcome to assist in any way possible… reading, camps, excursions, spelling groups, maths, fundraising. You may need a working with children’s check to attend some of these events. Contact your classroom teacher if you have any spare time to assist. We’d love to see more parents in our school. Leanne Picone.

Internet Safety Day
On Tuesday the 7th of February, students from Grades 3 – 6 participated in a Webinar celebrating Internet Safety Day. The webinar had 128 schools from around the world and over 18,000 students participating in the program. It was an interactive session where children contributed to discussions and answered questions about how they can keep themselves safe on the internet. Children gained some great advice and tips that they can apply to their own internet use.
CAMPS & EXCURSION APPLICATION – DO YOU HAVE A HEALTH CARE CARD?

Criteria 1 - Eligibility
To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Payment amounts
The amount payable for eligible primary and secondary students is:

- $125 for Primary school students.
- $225 for Secondary school students.

Please see Janis at the office if you are unsure if you are eligible. Applications to be in by 10 March.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS
Parents/family members are required to have a Working with Children Check. Please call in at the office for information on how to go about applying. Applications are done online and are free for volunteers.

ENROLMENT INFORMATION
Is your information current? Many families forget to update their contact details (including emergency telephone numbers). Please notify us of any changes to your situation. Newsletters can be sent to your email address if you would prefer rather than a hard copy.

BUS TRAVEL
As per previous years students will not be given permission to travel on a country bus that they do not normally travel on eg. For party invitations, sports etc. Most of the buses are running at full capacity, so you will need to make alternative arrangements.

LATE TELEPHONE CALLS
Please be mindful that the office is extremely busy between 3.00pm and 3.30pm. It is not always possible to get late messages to students. If a message is needed, please ring as early in the day as possible. Please note that the telephone is diverted to message bank every morning until 8.30am. If you wish, you can leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE
Parents are reminded that Rochester Primary School does not provide personal accident insurance for students. There are some companies that provide this service if parents wish to take out a policy. Below is the contact details of one such company. All contact regarding these matters must be done through the company and not the school. The school does not endorse any particular company but provides a service by passing on contact information to parents.

Canteen 2017

We are always seeking helpers in the Canteen. Your children love to see you at school and Canteen is a great way to help out. The job is not hard to do and I am always on hand to answer your questions. Canteen duty is from 10am to 2pm and involves collating orders and preparing the food. If you would like to help us and support the school, please complete the slip below and return to office.

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CANTEEN HELPERS

Name ……………………………………………………………………….             Phone ………………………………………….

☐ I would like to help out in the canteen in 2017
☐ I have not done canteen duty before

I can help on the following days:

☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday

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Canteen Roster

Friday 10th  Leesa Purdy

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<td>Friday 17th</td>
<td>Carli &amp; Shae</td>
<td>Friday 24th</td>
<td>Adie Foster</td>
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PARENT PAYMENT FEES

School fees to cover essential education items have been set by School Council at $190.00 per student. A voluntary levy for assistance in the maintenance of school buildings and grounds is $20 per family. A reminder that if you have chosen to pay your fees by instalment, the first payment is due now.

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SCHOOL ATHLETICS DAY

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately our idea of running a whole school athletics day later this term is not going to be possible. Little Athletics is only running until the 17th of February, and it would not be possible to organize our sports day in such a short period of time. We are still keen on the idea of having a joint sports day, but we will be aiming to do this in Term 4. We will keep you updated with our plans for this day, hopefully you will be able to support this day.

Thanks,  Steve

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SHOES

We still have a small number of shoes (new) at the office. If you would like a pair, please see Janis.

Sizes 12—13.