Dear Parents

...and so another year comes to a close. School life appears to get busier each year (along with life in general)! Our students, school council, fundraisers and staff have all made magnificent contributions to the running of our school and for our students.

Next Year – Students Resume on Friday 29th of January. Schools will have a variety of start up dates depending on when they hold curriculum days. Our school will have the first two days as pupil free and two days later in the year. The general staff will return to work on the 28th of January with Principal and Office Staff back at work on Wednesday the 20th of January.

Janine Trickey
At the end of this year we will say farewell to Ms Trickey as she heads off on her adventure to teach in Canada for a year. This will be an amazing and most likely a life changing experience. We will wait for news on her adventures as the year progresses. Mrs May and her family will arrive in Australia from a Canadian winter in early January! Good Luck Ms Trickey!

Families leaving
This year we say farewell to the following families as their children move on to secondary college; Allman, Barkby, Berryman, Bloomfield, Blow, Budge, Cairns, Campbell, Cannard, Chugg, Evans, Holmberg, Honey, Horkings, McKean, McLeod, McWhinney, Mirasol and Trewick. Many of these families have had an association with the school going back many years. We thank them for their support and wish them well in the future.

Thank you to all of our students
I am very proud and privileged to work in a school that has the quality of students that we have here. Walking in the yard or visiting classrooms I am constantly asked to “see this” or “watch me do this”. A highlight this year has been the inclusion by the older students of the younger into their recess and lunch break activities. They are very inclusive of staff and students across the different levels. A pleasure to work with. I am very proud of them. Thanks to Staff.

Only colleagues who work in any work place understand the sacrifices and extra work that is done by colleagues. Our school is lucky to have such a dedicated team that always do the extra things that help make the quality of daily school life so much richer. Thank you to all our staff for all of those things you have done. A special thank you to the leadership team, Leanne Picone and Janine Trickey for supporting me and being a sounding board; both your professionalism and empathy have been greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Janis Povey for a thousand little things that just get done across the year, your support is highly valued.

Merry Christmas.
I hope everyone can take a break and enjoy the Christmas period. I look forward to our return next year.

Graeme
Student of the Week
Prep Collins  Johnny Roudis
Gr 1/2 Ellis  Tameika Wild
Gr 1/2 Wright  Brock Keenan
Gr 3/4 Picone  Shanae Banfield
Gr 4/5 Trickey  Dana Mussared
Gr 5/6 Ross  Tahlia Pain
Gr 5/6 Rasmussen  Zac Oaff

Curriculum News

Reports. These will go home to parents tomorrow... Thursday 17th. Be sure to ask your child for them out of their bag.

Swimming sports. Grade 3-6 swimming sports were today. Special thanks to Mr Rasmussen and all of the wonderful staff and parent helpers for making it such a great success.

Other Special events: over these past few weeks included... Grade 2 Sleepover, Orientation day/Transition Day, Grade 6 Celebration Day, Grade 6 Graduation, End of Year Whole School Assembly, water fun day, water familiarisation and swimming sessions, Christmas rotations and end of year celebrations. Thank you to teachers for organising these great events and to parent helpers.

We now reflect upon our teaching and learning achievements this year. Firstly a huge thank you to our staff who have continued to work tirelessly in developing an engaging and stimulating curriculum for our students. We continue to refine our curriculum topics as we work with the Australian Curriculum in English, Maths, History and Science. This will continue into 2016 as we begin to work with the new Victorian Curriculum as well.

P-2 Area saw some staff changes as Ms Wright moved into the area. Mrs Collins, Mrs Coughlin, Mrs Ellis and Mrs McPhee continued to foster a love of learning in our Junior Neighbourhood and gave our students a strong foundation for their future education. We were also lucky to have our wonderful ‘Nanas’, Lorraine, Raylee and Jessie continue to assist in so many ways. Thank you to Sam for helping out with reading as well.

3/4 Area saw Miss Trickey, and I continue to work with Grade 3/4 and some Grade 5’s. We were capably supported by Mr Irwin who took my class on a Wednesday. We were very happy to have our wonderful helper Leah on board to assist with reading and everything else thrown at her.

5/6 Area saw Mrs McPhee and Mr Hodgens teaching alongside Miss Ross and Mr Rasmussen. These teachers once again supported our knowledge of the iPad program and continued to fine tune the program as we are all active learners in this process. It was great to see Mr Irwin introduce new skills and activities in the ICT area and also give students the opportunity to extend their sporting skills in PE.

Thank You to Janis & Caroline in the office for keeping us all on track, to Wendy for assisting both teachers and students in the classroom.

A big thank you to Mr Hodgens for his wonderful leadership of the school, staff and students and his support and guidance for so many of us in so many ways.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school programs in so many ways e.g. reading, spelling, maths, excursions, camps, sport, etc. The school/parent partnership can only strengthen your students learning. We look forward to seeing even more parents in our school in 2016. If you can help in any small way please pop in with your suggestions or give us a call. Merry Christmas to all and Happy Holidays.

Leanne Picone

Canteen
Friday 29th January  CLOSED
Monday 1st February  CLOSED
Tuesday 2nd February  CLOSED
Wednesday 3rd February  CLOSED
Thursday 4th February  Dani Wells
Friday 5th February  Leesa Purdy
Monday 8th February  CLOSED
Tuesday 9th February  CAN YOU HELP?
Wednesday 10th February  Caroline
Thursday 11th February  A roster will be sent home with the first newsletter for further help.
UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform shop is closed for the remainder of the year. It will re-open when school resumes on Friday 29th January. Orders may be left at the office prior to this but they will not be filled until January.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Where is Santa and his elves?
The Rochester District Planning Group and the Rochester Business Network has hidden around the town of Rochester a number of Santas and Elves for the children to find. They could be hiding anywhere, in shops, in businesses or just on the street.

A competition challenging children to find as many of these little creatures as they can is to start on the 1st December and prizes will be given to the three children who find the most of these little folk.

Children need to write their name, age and address on a piece of paper, along with the locations they have found Santas or elves – any they must specify which one they have found.

When you think you have found all that is possible, put your entry in a box on the bench at the front of Majors IGA Store. Entries closed Sunday 20th December, and the winner will be announced on Tuesday 22nd December in the Campaspe News so that you can collect your prize before Christmas.

SHIRE OF CAMPASPE – ROCHESTER LIBRARY SUMMER ACTIVITIES
Bookings essential and more information at 54812868 or at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library
Our Summer Reading Club program is also running, to encourage children to read over the holidays, lots of prizes to win—join at the Rochester Library.

**Bookings are ESSENTIAL**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th January 2016</td>
<td>2.30pm to 3.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Lost Worlds Rock Painting</strong> CRAFT</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th January</td>
<td>10.30a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Jim the Magician</strong> A Magic show the whole family will enjoy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th January</td>
<td>2.30pm to 4.00pm</td>
<td><strong>ART with Shelley</strong> Make your own Tote bag. You will need to bring a 4 litre ice cream container. The tote bag is supplied.</td>
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<td>21st January</td>
<td>2.00pm to 3.00pm</td>
<td><strong>National Gallery of Victoria Activity</strong> Free craft</td>
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<td>22nd January</td>
<td>10.30 am. To 12 noon</td>
<td><strong>Kebab the Clown.</strong> For some clowning around fun with balloon animals, dress ups &amp; photo booth. Age 7 plus Cost $2 per child. Please bring your own camera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 23 January</td>
<td>10.00am to 11.00am</td>
<td><strong>Celebrating Summer Reading Club Party</strong> Golden ticket holders only.</td>
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Graduation Class of 2015