Dear Parents

Parents Group
On Wednesday the 24th at 9.00am we will be holding our first family friendly Parents Group meeting. We encourage anyone who wishes to be a part of the school but is unable to commit to regular meetings to come along and join in. Children below school age are very welcome. This is a chance to have a social chat, a cuppa and let the kids play. I will be there to answer any questions about the school. We hope to make some decisions as to how this group can operate in the future so please come and have your say! [Contact me if you want some more information or have any suggestions.]

Rochy Rascals
Rochy Rascals is up and running with Tracy Woods back and ready to go! This is a community play group based at our school and operates on Monday mornings from 9.00 until 11.00. Anyone in the community with children below school age is encouraged to attend.

Grade 5 and 6 Camp
Yesterday our intrepid Grade 5 and 6 students headed off to Melbourne for the Urban Camp. Main highlight was the Zoo and some interesting photos from the butterfly house have come back. They have a very busy time ahead of them and I am sure we will be told some stories when they return. [Possibly a little bit tired.]

Shade Shelter
Our Shade Shelter over the sandpit has proven a massive hit. The solid roof provides a strong shade coverage and students of all ages are playing together. Over the last year there has been a noticeable change in the mixing of all ages in the yard. A great “family” feel to it.

Getting to Know You Interviews
Notes have gone out for interview times. We value these opportunities to share information that will help your child. Staff give their time to run these, please take the opportunity to come in.

Pancake Tuesday
There were a lot of sticky smiles in our younger classes on Tuesday. Thank you to our Staff and their helpers for providing a special pancake treat for their students.

Graeme
Curriculum News

Foundation news

The children in the Prep grade have made a wonderful transition to Primary school and are settling into school life. They have been very busy already with Mrs Borger commencing lessons in Indonesian, going to their first school Assembly, having their first Art lesson with Mrs Pascoe and getting to know their buddies. They also had a special visitor to the classroom – ‘Arley’ the puppy dog, cooked and ate pancakes for Pancake Tuesday and are becoming familiar with the school environment and classroom routine.

Maria Collins.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Collins</th>
<th>Atticus Bywaters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1/2 Ellis</td>
<td>Charlie Godden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1/2 Wright</td>
<td>Eden Beaumont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3/4 Irwin</td>
<td>Brooklyn Sparkes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3/4 May</td>
<td>Brodie Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5/6 Rasmussen</td>
<td>Yasmin Baullo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 5/6 Ross</td>
<td>Bowen Meloury</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Our new sandpit cover is a wonderful and long awaited addition to our playground that will be appreciated by many students for a long time to come. Students of all ages enjoy this area and teachers observe it as a place where children socialise and play together in a really imaginative, happy and friendly manner.

Within the classroom our students have settled in well to their new environment. The focus is on ‘Getting to knowYou’ where we participate in many socialising and oral language activities, to encourage each person to get to know their class and their teacher and feel happy, safe and comfortable. Classroom rules, expectations and regular timetable events are explained and displayed. It has been wonderful to see the support from parents in responding quickly to the many notes that have already been communicated to parents.

This week as a special ‘beginning of the year’ event we made pancakes for Pancake Tuesday. It was wonderful to watch children show the ability to take turns, show some patience, use their manners and be involved in gathering a great list of words and descriptions.

**Canteen**
- Friday 12th February: Carlie-Maree Honey & Shae Locke
- Monday 15th: CLOSED
- Tuesday 16th: Sam Bywaters
- Wednesday 17th: Tara Harris
- Thursday 18th: Dani Wells
- Friday 19th: Tanya Coghill
- Monday 22nd: CLOSED
- Tuesday 23rd: Naomi Watson
- Wednesday 24th: HELP WANTED
- Thursday 25th: Tracey Harris Cardilini
- Friday 26th: Elizabeth Read

**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.

*Parent applications CLOSE 29th February. No late applications will be taken.*
**ENROLMENT INFORMATION** - Don’t forget to send your form back (even if there are no alterations).

**UNIFORM SHOP**
The Uniform shop will be open from 8.30am to 9.15am on a Thursday. Orders may be left at the office and will be filled as soon as possible.

**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.

**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.


**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.

**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 8.30a.m. If you wish, you can leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.**

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**
- Closing date for nominations – Friday 19th February
- Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted – Tuesday 23rd February
- Date by which ballot papers will be distributed (if needed) – Friday 23rd February
- Close of ballot – Tuesday 8th March

**CANTEEN**
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.

---

**CANTEEN HELPERS**

Name ........................................................................................................

Phone .................................................................

☑️ I would like to help out in the canteen in 2016
☑️ I have not done canteen duty before

I can help on the following days:

☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ITEMS

ROCHESTER JUNIOR FOOTBALL Club
REGISTRATION NIGHT - WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY, 2016 4.00pm – 6.00pm
WINDRIDGE OVAL PAVILION. FEES TO PAID ON THE NIGHT. 1 Child $95.00, 2 Children $170.00, 3 Children $230.00
For further information please contact Leisa Evans

Do you want to get fit? Improve core strength for football / netball?
Do you want to improve your discipline and stamina?
Are you looking for a challenge?

Try Kyokushin Karate

Free Introductory lesson
Rochester Dojo
(Affiliated with the Bendigo & Central Victorian Kyokushin Karate Centre)
Kyokushin Karate follows traditional Japanese teaching & philosophies

All ages welcome, including families
Instructors – Sensei Colin McHardy 3rd Dan Black Belt
Dojo – Rochester Shire Hall
45 Mackay St
Training – Wednesday’s 6.30 to 8.00pm

For further information contact Sensei Colin on 0438414075

We are holding a Fundraising Party for Kelly Varcoe. If you would like to help by purchasing something for Kelly and her family or just donating some money for her to buy something please call in.
There is also a donation box located at Community House, should you prefer to donate cash for her to use for purchases.
When: Wednesday 24th Feb
Where: Rochester Community House.
Time: From 4pm - 7pm.

Fundraiser

The Rochybald Prize
The Faces and Places of Rochester

You’re invited to draw or paint the faces or places of Rochester and district
Prizes !! Prizes !! Prizes !!
$200 each
- Open age
- Secondary student
- Pre-school/Primary

Enter by purchasing a canvas for $5 from Reception at REDHS in Pascoe Street

All works will be exhibited in the Rochester Fine Art Exhibition at the Shire Hall on ANZAC Day long weekend.
Works will be offered for sale for $20 each with all proceeds to REDHS