Dear Parents

A Family Friendly School
We have been working very hard over the last few years to make our school a family friendly place. We have our Rochy Rascals play group running and our new Parents Club about to start. In the local paper this week there was an article on our resident Grannies and the role they play. When I popped into school on Saturday morning two separate families had noticed some “jobs” that needed doing and had come in to do them. Anyone visiting the school would see a wide range of students all playing in the sandpit together. Our student welfare programs are increasingly focused on helping parents as well as children. That family “feel” is definitely taking shape.

Volunteers
Thank you to Alan James for cutting down and removing the dead tree at our front gate last Saturday and to Tanya and Trevor Coghill who cleaned up the area around our vegie patch and whipper snipped around the school. Both of these efforts have made our school a much more attractive place for our students. We appreciate the time and effort you have given.

School Expo and Interviews
Our School Expo and Interviews will take place next week on Tuesday the 23rd from 3.40 pm. Displays will be set up in the Senior Neighbourhood from all Grades and some of our specialist areas. Please come in have a look. I will be there to have a chat to and answer questions.

Parents “Club” – Next Wednesday at 9.00am
This will be our first meeting as we set up how our new “club” might look. It is open to anyone who has an interest in the school, parents, grandparents and under school age children. We will have a cuppa and a chat. This will be a very informal meeting and a great way to be involved in your child’s school. Come along.

Brekky Club
Our Brekky Club is warming up the toaster! We will be back in business in March as the mornings start to get a little cooler. Two breakfasts in one day, can’t wait!

School Logo
School Council have been working on the new logo and it is currently in the hands of a graphic designer who will bring it up to a professional standard. We expect to be able to unveil this in a few weeks time.

School Crossing [Edward St]
Our crossing supervisor has alerted me to the some of the dangerous practices that are being used to drop off and pick up students from school. I have discussed this with the Police and they are making regular checks to see that our kids are safe. My understanding is that they are unlikely to offer warnings but go straight to fines. Please help keep all of our kids safe.

Graeme
Curriculum News

Our first sessions in the Art room have seen students making a whole school mural focusing on the topic ‘What we love about our school’. I’m pleased to report a vast majority of the illustrations featured our beautiful outside areas, while a few included the art room! The mural can be viewed in the Art/Library building, the photos don’t do it justice!

Melbourne Camp

On Wednesday the 10th of February 49 kids in grade 5/6 went to camp in Melbourne. We spent three days exploring some of Melbourne’s tourist attractions. On the first day we went to the Melbourne Zoo and the Sports and Aquatic Centre. At the Zoo, it was an experience of a lifetime to see all the wonderful animals. When we were at the Aquatic Centre we got to go in the wave pool, diving boards, inflatable obstacle course and a giant water slide. On Thursday, we started off the day by going to the Queen Victoria Market to spend ten dollars each. In the afternoon we went to the Melbourne Aquarium, the Immigration Museum and the MCG. Later on at night we went out for a delicious meal at Universal Pizza. It was fantastic when we went to the Eureka Sky Deck. As we were going back to camp Mr Rass got us off the tram at the wrong stop so we ended up getting home at 11:30pm. Day three we went to Science Works and watched the amazing lightning show. Grade 5/6 then sadly hopped on the bus and left Melbourne, but we were all occupied by being able to watch Despicable Me 2.

A special thanks to Judd McDonald for making this camp a great experience for all of us at the pizza place.

By April, Poppy, Alannah
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP ON THE DAYS IN RED. IF WE CANNOT FILL THESE PLACES THE CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE DAYS.

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.

School Clean Up Day Friday 4th March 2016.

All grades will be participating in the School Clean Up Day on Friday the 4th of March (9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.). A permission note will be sent home with each student next Monday 22nd Feb., and it would be greatly appreciated if it could be returned to school by Monday 29th Feb. Students must have their hat, disposable gloves and a plastic bag on the day of the clean up. All parents and friends are welcome to join us and assist in cleaning up our local community. If you require further information, please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

Many thanks, Helen Coughlin.

REQUEST FROM THE ART ROOM
The Art Room is after newspapers and empty clear plastic sauce bottles. If you can help, please send these via your child’s classroom. Thank you Mrs Pascoe

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.

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

Please note: Items will only be accepted when space is available.

Kids Club Returns!
Kids club is on again, commencing on 25th February from 4.00pm until 5.30pm. Venue: Uniting Church Hall. All welcome to attend. Contact Vicki Dow for further information.

ROCHESTER JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB - REGISTRATION NIGHT
WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY, 2016 4.00pm – 6.00pm
WINDRIGE OVAL PAVILION. FEES TO PAID ON THE NIGHT 1 Child $95.00, 2 Children $170.00, 3 Children $230.00

Rochester Basketball Association - 2016 Season – Competition 1
Comp 1 Registration and Start Dates for U10, U14 and U18.
Season commences – Tuesday 15 March, 2016 at 4:15pm. Comp 1 Registration Forms (Available at School Office or Rochester Sportspower). Registration Forms need to be returned to Rochester Sportspower by Tuesday, 1 March, 2016. Registration Night – Monday, 7 March, 2016 at CVCC from 5 -6:30pm.
Team Managers Meeting – Monday, 7 March, 2016 @ 6:30pm at CVCC.

Rochester Netball Association
Registration evenings – Friday 19th February 6.30pm to 7.30pm & Friday 4th March 4pm to 6pm.
Sections – Net Set Go $55 Primary & Secondary $99 Open/Mixed (6 week Comp) $125
Registration forms available from office or team sheets & information available from: rochesternetball@gmail.com
EFTPOS available on Friday 4th March. Commencement of season Friday 11th March. Further information – Cathy 0438138304, Tearni 0467617816

Kyokushin Karate
All ages welcome, including families. Instructors – Sensei Colin McHardy 3rd Dan Black Belt. Held in Rochester Shire Hall. Training Wednesdays 6.30 to 8.00pm. For further information Sensei Colin on 0438414075.