Dear Parents

Interviews
Thank you for the wonderful turnout at the interviews this week on a very hot night. These meetings are completely voluntary with both parents and staff giving their own time to run them. Special thanks to staff for the time and effort they give to these.

School Council
Congratulations to the following people who have been elected to School Council for a 2 year term – Rebecca Moon, Shayne Eeles, Virginia Toohill, Rachael Major, Alana Godden, Rebecca Pearse, Stephen Rasmussen, Peta Ellis. Current members Casey James, Carolyn Stewart, Carmen Moon, Darren Pain and Rebecca Crawford complete our School Council. Thank you to retiring members Carli Maree Honey, Shae Locke and David Allman.

FOS [Friends of the School]
Our new parents / community group had its first meeting on Wednesday. It was decided to call itself FOS and to meet every second Wednesday at 9.00 for an hour. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9th of March. More information about this group will be in next week’s newsletter.

School Captains
It was with great pride that I was able to announce our School Captains for the first semester of 2016. A large contingent of grade six pupils gave election speeches before their peers and then waited on the voting. Over the last few years I have been very impressed with the quality of the speeches. Gone are the days when promises of lemonade coming out of the bubble taps or a school swimming pool were promised. Themes now include being there to help all students in the yard and taking student issues to the Student Action team or straight to the Principal. We are lucky to have a large pool of students that could all perform this task.
Charlee Roulston, April Eeles, Cameron Keenan and Cody Thompson were the students elected and I look forward to working with them as student leaders.

House Captains
Once the School Captains were decided we were able to move onto the next level of student leadership – House Captains. The following were elected to lead their Houses this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Vice Captains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apollo</td>
<td>Teal Hocking and Ben Morris</td>
<td>Alannah Weeks and Reed Hocking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturn</td>
<td>Sam Felmingham and Ella Johns</td>
<td>Angus Harding and Rosie May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemini</td>
<td>Hayley Ferrinda and Dane Purdy</td>
<td>Josh Murray and Giselle Crawford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Action Team
The Student Action Team will now be able to start its work. This group of students under the guidance of Miss Ross provide the main student “voice” in the school and are involved in running the school disco, our own students survey and raising funds for charities. They also discuss any significant events within the school. Two representatives of the SAT brief me on the outcomes of their meetings. This provides a significant avenue for students to be heard in our school.

Leadership
We believe that leadership needs to be experienced as well as taught. We provide as many opportunities as we can give students the chance to be a leader.

Graeme
Prep Collins          Jett Trist
Grade 1&2 Ellis      Cadence Major
Grade 1&2 Wright     Rylan Chamberlin
Grade 3&4 Irwin      Willow May
Grade 3&4 May        Blake Roulston
Grade 5&6 Rasmussen  Poppy Read
Grade 5&6 Ross       Rosie May

Curriculum News

This term in the grade 3/4 area we have been running our own specialist program on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon. These hour and a half time slots consist of two forty minute rotations between the two grade 3/4 classes with Ms May teaching Drama and Music and Mr Irwin taking ICT. In ICT the students have been looking at surveying and graphing results using the app ‘Numbers’ and presenting their information in Keynote, which is similar to PowerPoint on a computer. At the moment, the students are working on a ‘Survey the Class’ assignment which involves the two iPad apps and have shown great enthusiasm and team work already!

In Drama/Music we have been exploring expression using just our bodies, or just our voices. Students are discovering that characterization has less to do with what you say, and more to do with what your face and body are doing. Students are exploring what it takes to be an effective group member when creating a dramatic scene. It is harder than you’d think! Mrs. May has been impressed with the positive attitudes and the level of dramatic talent among the students in years 3 and 4.
Canteen

Friday 26th  Rita Haisman
Monday 29th  CLOSED
Tuesday 1st March  Sharon Weeks
Wednesday 2nd  Korrie Watts
Thursday 3rd  Sam Bywaters
Friday 4th  Elizabeth Read
Monday 7th  CLOSED
Tuesday 8th  Rachael Major
Wednesday 9th  Vanessa Fitzgerald
Thursday 10th  HELP WANTED
Friday 11th  Vanessa Moroney & Cath Moore

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 NEXT MONDAY - 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).

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. EMI8 Insurance Brokers – www.studentcover.com.au

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.
MATHS, ENGLISH COMPETITIONS

ENGLISH AND MATHS COMPETITIONS.

The opportunity for children in Grades 2 to 6 to take part in the English and Maths competitions next term is being offered again this year. These tests are an excellent preparation for Naplan testing and provide students in Grade 2 with an opportunity to experience external assessment prior to Grade 3. The competitions are run by the University of New South Wales and cover the individual’s general skills and knowledge in the areas of Mathematics and English. All students receive a certificate after completion of the tests.

Each competition costs $8.00. To participate the money and form below need to be returned to the school by Friday 4th of March. The dates that the students will sit the competitions are

English – Tuesday 2nd of August and Mathematics – Tuesday 16th of August. Further information PLEASE contact Graeme Hodgens

Schools Competitions

I would like my child, .................................. in Grade ............. Room ............... to enter the Maths English competition. (Please circle). I have enclosed payment of $8.00 per competition.

Total Paid: ......................

“Dinosaur Science” Cultural Performance

Dear Parents.
Our school will be participating in a school cultural performance ‘Dinosaur Science’ on Tuesday 15th March at 2p.m in our senior neighbourhood. The show involves lashings of humour, loads of audience participation and huge scale models. A budding palaeontologist sets about assembling the bones of two huge pre-historic creatures. Throughout the show, problems are solved and assumptions are made, some are dismissed while others are shown to be plausible, even probable. The amount has been partially subsidised by the school and therefore the cost of the performance is now only $4 per student. Please fill in the note below and return to school with the $4 by Monday 7th March 2016. Leanne Picone.

I give permission for my child/children.............................................................. to participate in the cultural performance ‘Dinosaur Science’.

I have enclosed $4 per child for the cost of the performance.

Parent/Guardian signature..............................................................

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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 - Free Training Clinic Prep to Grade 6 (Primary). Friday 4th March from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. All welcome to join in a training and skills session provided by Rochester Tigerettes