Dear Parents

NAPLAN
Our grade 3 and 5 students have been completing the annual NAPLAN tests this week. Whilst we won’t know the results for some time what we can say is that the attitude of the students was first class. For most people any time we are assessed on anything it is a daunting experience. For our grade 3 students it was their first taste of what is a very formal assessment.

Cold weather – jumpers please!
It would seem that it is “cool to be cold”! Many students are coming to school still in summer uniform, shorts and short sleeved polo. When I ask many of these students if they are cold they say “yes”. In most cases they have jumpers but are opting not to wear them. Please encourage your child to dress sensibly for the changing conditions.

Talk to me
Whilst I am encouraging parents to talk to me about the school generally as we go through our school review I also urge parents to talk to me about issues specific to their child/ren. We cannot solve all problems however there a lot we can and a team approach is much more powerful.

Freaky Friday
Learning is a serious business but school should be fun as much as possible. Tomorrow is Freaky Friday and although it might make a small amount of money for the school it is really about having some fun. Thanks to Janis and her team for organising this.

… and there is more fun!
Our Student Action Team have organised a bear hunt for the younger students. This is a fun activity to held at lunch-time today. It is fantastic to see our senior students running these types of activities for the younger ones. The Student Action Team have more planned.

Social Media
Are they old enough?
A number of parents have spoken to me about issues relating to social media outside of school. Generally the common forms of social media are not designed for people at primary school age and most have “rules” about the age members need to be. Ultimately each family makes a decision about their children’s access. Some hints to help keep kids safe include monitoring what they are on and ensuring they only use these sites under supervision. [That means where you can see the screen.] If you would like more support with this issue please contact the school.

Cam Keenan
Great to see Cam Keenan featured in the Bendigo Advertiser today. We have celebrated Cam’s success in lawn bowls in the past however this time the underage group he is competing in is the 35 and under invitational pairs at Bendigo [limited to just 42 pairs of elite lawn bowlers]. His partner will be Barrie Lester a long time Australian representative. Not bad for an eleven year old boy! Well done Cam.

Graeme
**Star of the Week**

- Prep C: Nate Mussared
- Gr 1/2 Ellis: Kylah Chamberlin
- Gr 1/2 W: Rylee Harris
- Gr 3/4 I: Ethan Bird
- Gr 3/4 M: Erin Haisman
- Gr 5/6 Ross: Patrick McDonald
- Gr 5/6 Ras: Alannah Weeks

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**FOUNDATION LEVEL**

The Foundation classroom is filled with eager students, learning to read and write. Daily, they engage in tasks that develop their letter-sound knowledge in order to read and spell words. Their recognition of words continues to grow as they enthusiastically read books and currently share fairy tales. The nurturing of oral language is an important part of the curriculum as it supports the understanding of content across the curriculum; understanding what they read, understanding words used in Mathematics, etc. Extending oral language use also allows students to express their thoughts in numerous ways. During the Preps’ library time each week, parents have been invited to participate and read to groups of students. The aim is to increase students’ engagement in ‘thinking, talking and questioning’.

The Preps have continued to consolidate their understanding and use of numbers to ten. They recently explored the area of length, understanding the concept, comparing two or more objects and using the correct language to express their ideas: long, longer, longest, short, shorter, shortest. Students also learned that objects require the same base line when comparing their length. One task involved the students measuring the length of their jump with a streamer. They then had to find a classmate who had a streamer longer or shorter than they had. Finally, small groups compared their streamers and placed them in order from shortest to longest (as seen in the photo to the left). The Foundation room is certainly a busy place to be and a great place to learn.

**SPORTS AFTERNOON**

Last Monday, students in Grades 4 – 6 participated in a sports afternoon with children from St Josephs Primary School. The afternoon was an opportunity for children to represent the school and get to know children from neighbouring schools. Children participated in Soccer, Netball and Football. The attitude and behaviour of the children was outstanding, with children participating with great enthusiasm and wonderful sportsmanship. The children had a great time and loved having the opportunity to represent the school.

Boys from both schools mixing after the game of football
EDUCATION WEEK… is next week although we believe it is EVERY week. One special event is that Grade’s Prep -2 are having a Grandparents Day on Thursday morning and they will be dressing up in olden day clothes. Grade 1/2E will be attending Adult Day Care Centre on Friday. Tomorrow Grade 5/6 will be attending a Soccer Tournament in Echuca. We will also be having Freaky Friday Food available at recess tomorrow. We are holding a sausage sizzle for lunch on Friday next week.

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE… Our school will be participating in a school cultural performance “G’Day Asia” on Monday 30th May at 2p.m in our senior neighbourhood. The show is an engaging, vivid, colourful and hands on introduction to Asia. Students are encouraged to get up and participate in both traditional cultural ceremonies and colourful contemporary celebrations using masks. Asian puppet animals also make an appearance. The performance has been partially subsidised by the school and therefore the cost will be $4 per student. The permission note will be sent home with the newsletter today and needs to be returned to school with the $4 by Tuesday 24th May 2016.

NAPLAN… Congratulations to all the Grade 3 & 5 students and our teachers for such a fantastic effort with the National testing. Students completed the Language Conventions (Spelling and Grammar), Writing, Reading and Numeracy tests this week. All were very focused in their attempts and approached them with confidence. We will look forward to receiving the results later at the end of term 3/beginning of term 4.

REPORT WRITING DAY MONDAY 23RD MAY… Reminder to pop this date onto your calendar as students are not required at school on this day.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING… We were recently lucky enough to have 5 of the smaller schools in the Campaspe Small Schools Cluster visit our school to participate in professional learning on peer observation. Firstly they worked with me and then visited our teachers in their classrooms to practice a peer observation on working with small groups. This was followed up with a debrief session. Feedback was passed back to our staff. I was very proud of the feedback given as this is something we have been working on for a number of years. All Rochy PS staff continue to participate in peer observations in other classrooms and teaching coaching goal sessions with me on a regular basis.

WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS… Last week we were lucky to have Tyler Sinclair and Karlee Newman from Rochester Secondary College to observe and assist in our classrooms. The children enjoyed the extra attention and teachers enjoyed the extra help.

SPORTS PROGRAM… I am continuing to work with Grades P, 1 & 2 as they enjoy the fundamental motor skills Phys Ed lessons. Students have recently participated in the school cross country, zone cross country in Echuca and some will continue on to the Regional Cross Country in St Arnaud in June. Grade 5/6 students have had the opportunities to try out for the Soccer team (Mr Ras…Echuca tournament) and will soon have the opportunity to try out for the Netball team (Echuca tournament). Reminder… June 13th is a student free day as it is the Queen’s Birthday Holiday. Leanne Picone

CAMPASPE CROSS COUNTRY
Last Friday the 6th of May, 17 students from Grades 3 – 6 represented Rochester Primary School at the Campaspe Cross Country. This was conducted at Vic Park in Echuca and involved students from Echuca, Lockington, Elmore, Kyabram and surrounding areas. Our children produced some brilliant efforts, with the highlight being an incredible run from Charlee Roulston to easily win the Under 12 / 13 girls race, with Ella Johns just missing out on third with a sprint to the finish. From here, three children have qualified to compete in the Regional Finals in St Arnauds on the 31st of May. They are Charlee Roulston (1st), Ella Johns (4th) and Nate Rasmussen (6th). We wish these children all the best at their next stage of running. Thanks for the wonderful support the children had from all the parents that cheered the kids on.

Charlee Roulston charging to the finish line, nobody else in sight!!

Ella Johns in the sprint for the third position.

Nate Rasmussen powering to the finish line.
Canteen
Friday 13th - Freaky Friday
Snacks (limited). Available recess and lunchtime
Fingers (cheese stick) $1.00
Slimy pond (grapes in green jelly) $1.00
Snakey Apple $1.00 (buy an apple & slink your own)

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Don’t forget your sausage sizzle meal deal is due back by next Tuesday 17th May. No other lunch orders will be filled on the sausage day (Friday 20th).

FOUND 2 rings (one gold and one silver). Please contact the office with a description of the rings if you think they belong to you.

Paddy says “THANK YOU”
Paddy Eeles would like to thank everyone for their support of his recent ‘shave for a cure’. Paddy raised the substantial amount of $6241.

STUDENT BANKING
Any bank books need to be left at the school office on a Wednesday by 9.30a.m. Bank books will be returned on Thursday. Alternatively you can visit the Bank in person.

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE
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Please fill in the note below and return to school with the $4 by Tuesday 24th May 2016.

Leanne Picone.

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE – G’DAY ASIA – MONDAY 30TH MAY

I give permission for my child/children................................................................. to participate in the cultural performance “G’Day Asia”.

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

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