

Term 1 Week 3

February 12th 2009

WELCOME TO 2009.

Thank you to our students and staff who have made the beginning of the school year such a smooth one. 2009 has got off to a great start and we look forward to an exciting, challenging, engaging and fun year of learning. I extend a very warm welcome to our new students and families. We know you will very soon feel a part of the extended Roxburgh Homestead P.S. family. To our existing families it is wonderful to see you all again and for your offers to help the school in a variety of ways.

To our new Preps and their families a very special welcome as we begin the partnership between school and home that will last for many years to come. Congratulations to all parents who have obviously prepared their children extremely well to ensure such a smooth school transition.

In fact, the year has had such a happy start and I am so pleased to report that during the long Christmas break the school suffered no graffiti attacks, break ins or damage of any kind. This was a great relief to our staff, school council and families.

A warm welcome to our new staff, Kate Cugnetto – Numeracy Coordinator, Marisa Licciardello- Grade 5, Suzie Hicks- Grade 3, Gulsen Vavala- Grade 3 and Jacqui Healy, Amy Mullins and Aphrodite Perakis who are supporting our students on the Integration Program. We are also happy to welcome back to the fold, Lyn McGough – Grade 6, Bev Plowman - Art/ Community Liaison Coordinator, Elissa Trathen and Kellie Olarens Shaw who are sharing the Literacy Support role.

There is a real sense of community spirit amongst our families and this year one of our focuses is to make stronger links with our community. The recent devastation of the bushfires has touched so many. Our students, staff and families have been so generous with their time, support and concern for those who have lost everything in the fires.

We should be so proud of our beautiful children who have wanted to help in any way they can. Teams of students will be working on fundraising activities throughout the year as the rebuilding of the bushfires victims lives will take a very long time. In the short term students have worked as volunteers to work alongside their parents to make sandwiches for bushfire affected families, donated their toys, handed in loose change and money boxes and one little fellow happily donated his birthday money which was a considerable amount. I know their parents are proud of their sense of community and wanting to help others. I know I could not be more proud of their selfless efforts. We have such fantastic students. They are our future and it gladdens my heart knowing that our students show compassion and empathy for others.

Thank you to our staff who have raised quite a sum of money in a short time so Johnny could buy toiletries and the essentials that people require and take those items to Whittlesea today. I must admit I was overwhelmed and a little teary by the generosity of our families. Kellie Jeffries one of our parents is most grateful for your contributions. Kellie will also be taking goods on Thursday as well. The Bushfire Relief teams are also most grateful but ask that **no more clothes** be sent as they have more than enough now. What they do need are: toiletries, toilet paper, deodorant, new underwear and socks, tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap, shampoo etc. as well as non perishable foodstuff in ring pull tins. Baby items are also needed. We are also in need of clean sheets and towels for the injured wildlife and animals.

Thank you to those who have donated so much and have given from the heart. Our school collection of donations of money will continue until Friday February 20th. Fundraising will continue throughout the year. On behalf of our staff, a most sincere thank you to all. *Barb*

To provide support for this fund, all schools are asked to participate in a casual dress day on Friday 13 February 2009.

In exchange for a gold coin donation, all students should be encouraged to wear casual dress on this day. All students should also be made aware that the casual dress day is occurring in order to raise money for those families affected by the bushfire. (please refer to end of bulletin for more information) *Barb*

SCHOOL TIMES

9.00 – 11.00

11.00 – 11.30 Recess

11.30 – 1.25

1.25 – 2.10 Lunch

2.10 – 3.15

Please note school finishes at 3.15. Children need to be picked up on time.

ABSENCE NOTES

If your child is absent from school a written note is required to be given to the class teacher on their return to school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children look terrific in their school uniforms but there are some concerns about the footwear being worn by some students. Thongs, slip on scuffs and loose fitting sandals are not appropriate for school as they can be the cause of accidents. The students need to wear footwear that will allow them to play safely and participate in all school activities especially physical education.

It has also been noticed that there are still quite a few students without hats at school. Due to our Sunsmart Policy, students who are not wearing hats during their outdoor Physical Education lesson will be asked to sit in the shade and not participate.

The uniform shop is located at:

Primary School Wear
Unit 2/283 Rex Road,
Campbellfield. Ph 9303 9953

SCHOOL CROSSING

Parents are reminded to "Do the Right Thing" and use the school crossing. Our crossing supervisors do a wonderful job in trying to ensure that our children are safe. There is little they can do if parents choose to ignore the crossing and put their children at risk.

We are all very much aware of the difficulties faced by parents after school when trying to find parking to collect their children. This problem is not unique to our school although because of our numbers the effect is a little greater. We can all do our bit to ensure that there are no accidents involving our students by parking in the appropriate areas, not double parking, traveling slowly, making sure that children leave vehicles from the passenger side doors remaining aware of potential dangers. If everyone co-operates then there should be no concerns for the safety of our children.

CAR PARK

Just a reminder that the school car park is for deliveries and staff parking only. The only parents who are permitted to enter the car park to drop off or pick up students are those with a disabled sticker clearly visible on the dashboard of the car.

Parents are also reminded that they are not to walk through the car park at any time.

SMOKING IN THE SCHOOL

Smoking in the school grounds in the view of students is not permitted. Smoking in school buildings is strictly prohibited at all times.

MESSAGES FOR CHILDREN

Messages given out to children at the end of the day are for **emergencies** only. Please make sure your children are aware who they are going home with **IN THE MORNING**, before school.

PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2010

Enrolments for Prep next year will be taken in May 2009. Please come to the Office and collect an enrolment form.

COURT ORDERS AND CUSTODY RESTRICTIONS

We are currently reviewing student confidential files and wish to make these as up to date as possible. If you have any medical reports or court orders relevant to your child/children could you please provide the school with a copy so as to ensure their safety while in the school's care. You can also discuss this with the school's Welfare Coordinator, Michele Middenway

ENROLMENT INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

Is all the general and emergency information you have given to school up to date? If not could you please notify the Office ASAP. This information is very important in case we need to contact you at any time.

EMA – Education Maintenance Allowance

Parents who hold a current Centrelink Pensioner Concession or Health Care Benefit Card or a Veterans Affairs Pension Card (valid 28th January 2009) are required to come to the Office to apply for the first instalment (if they have not already done so when purchasing the book packs) by Friday, 27th February 2009. **We can not accept late claims due to the Government deadline.**

PAYMENTS MADE TO SCHOOL

When making payments for your child/children for school excursions and school activities we would appreciate if these payments are made to the school in our specially printed 'Payment Envelopes', available from the Office or the classroom teacher. **Permission forms should be stapled or attached to the outside of the envelope.** To assist with data entry, it is imperative that all details are completed on the envelope.

Children will be issued with receipts when payments are made through their classroom. Please keep the receipts for your own records.

ALL PAYMENTS MUST GO THROUGH THE CLASSROOM VIA YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER NOT THE GENERAL OFFICE.

If the 'payment' envelopes are not completed correctly with money enclosed, they will be sent back to be correctly labeled. We also ask that you enclose the correct money as processing change is a very time consuming task.

*Please note, receipts will not be issued to families for Interschool sport, Social Service Donations, Book Club, Uniform, most Fundraising events and payments under \$5. These receipts are processed as a group receipt and will be kept at school.

We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

MEDICATION

If your child requires medication to be administered during the day, please give it to the Office staff with a note stating child's name, grade, medicine and dosage.

HEAD LICE

Every parent must take responsibility for checking and treating their children's hair if we are to get on top of the head lice problem.

GET INTO THE HABIT!

CHECK

TREAT

CHECK AGAIN

Head Lice Can Be Controlled - It's Up To You!!!

EXTENDED ABSENCES

The school continues to monitor student absences closely. All students are required to be at school everyday unless they are too ill to attend. As part of this monitoring process the school has also included a specific process for recording and tracking Extended Absences eg any absence of more than 2 weeks. Many of our families regularly go overseas and we as a school although appreciating the importance of this experience also have a responsibility for student learning. To ensure that we as a school do all we can to support student learning we are requesting that families please read and use the following process if intending to take a vacation during school time.

DISCOUNTS FOR YOU AND FREE SPORTS EQUIPMENT FOR US

Thanks to Rebel Sports "MVP Program" the Roxburgh Homestead community can help our school receive free sports equipment. Every time you make a purchase from Rebel Sport YOU will receive a 5% discount off the item price and our school will receive a 5% rebate credit for future purchases.

The program details are attached to this newsletter along with the schools MVP code (#035965).

Take this form into your nearest Rebel Store to save on your next purchase and help our school to receive sports equipment for free!!!

Roxburgh Homestead Community Garden Coming soon!!!!



Construction of a community garden will take place this year. The garden will be built at the back of the oval behind the football goals. We are seeking parents, friends and family who would like to contribute to this brilliant opportunity to develop community relationships. If you would like to assist could you please leave a contact name and telephone number at the school office.

Thank you Anthony Simone, Assistant Principal.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Victoria

For all schools, principals and school council presidents

Casual Dress Day Appeal to Raise Funds for the 2009 Victorian Bushfire Tragedy

- We have all been shocked and saddened by the scale of the Victorian Bushfire tragedy that has claimed so many lives and touched so many Victorians. All our thoughts are with all those affected at this difficult time.
- Three schools have been destroyed and many others continue to be closed due to fire related circumstances.
- The Department has arranged for counsellors to be available to provide support for those students and families affected by the bushfires.
- In response to this tragedy, the Victorian Government has established the 2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, in partnership with the Australian Government and Red Cross, to provide vital support to those parents and students affected by the bushfires.
- To provide support for this fund, all schools are asked to participate in a casual dress day on Friday 13 February 2009.
- In exchange for a gold coin donation, all students should be encouraged to wear casual dress on this day. All students should also be made aware that the casual dress day is occurring in order to raise money for those families affected by the bushfire.
- The Department has established a bank account for schools to deposit the funds raised by the casual dress day.