

## DIARY DATES

### MAY

Fri 10	Cross Country
Mon 13	Grade 6 Camp—overnight
Tues 14—Thurs 16	NAPLAN
Fri 17	Interschool sport at home V Good Samaritan
Mon 20 - Fri 24	Education Week
Tues 21—Tues 28	Scholastic Book Fair
Wed 22	Prospective prep parents Info Night
Fri 24	Interschool sport at Meadow Heights PS

The month of May is proving to be a busy one with activities that go beyond a normal school day, although the notion of what constitutes a school day is far removed from what most of the community perceive. The Australian Education Bans that have impacted upon teachers work have been lifted but the agreement with the state government has not been ratified as yet. However, at our school, staff have been working with and supporting students to prepare for Student Led Conferences, where your child is given an opportunity to share their learning and collaborate with their teachers in setting new learning goals. Student Voice is pivotal to our school's culture and Student Led conferences are one of the means we use to allow students to track their learning and harness and develop their curiosity. Learning is an active process in which learners connect new knowledge and skills to existing ones to construct new ideas and theories. This is essential in preparing our children for living, learning and being problem solvers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Research tells us there are 5 dimensions to student involvement. 1. Student involvement in school and community activities. 2. Students as researchers and co enquirers. 3. Student feedback on teaching and learning. 4. Students as peer tutors. 5. Student involvement as an inquiry of their learning environment. *Department of Education, April, 2007.* I would add students feel more engaged at school when programs foster connectivity and a sense of belonging. If you are unable to attend your child's conference, please contact your child's teacher to make a new time. It is important your child sees the home/ school partnership in action. Together, we can make a positive difference to your child's learning outcomes.

For those children in years 3 and 5 who are sitting the NAPLAN assessment next week, our staff and in particular their classroom teachers have supported students to ensure they feel comfortable and have a sense of working within test conditions. NAPLAN tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time. These tests are just one part of the school program and a snap shot of the child's learning on that day. Ongoing assessment which informs teaching and learning, of course, happens every day of the school year.

From time to time, as a system leader and senior principal within our network, I need to work beyond our school. Anthony, Liz and I have just returned from a Principal class conference which ran from Sunday to Tuesday. The theme of the conference was *creating positivity in schools*. The implications for our work with our students' links with our work during term one, as we reflected upon, reviewed and developed our student behaviour management process. As always, authentic relationships remain at the core of our work.

The selection of a principal for a school community is one of the most important responsibilities a school community can undertake. I have been asked to lead a panel for a school undertaking that process in another network. This is a win/ win situation for our school and region. I am able to bring my learning back into our school and take the work and learning we do beyond our school gate. It is not individual leaders who make for success but a critical mass of leadership. At Roxburgh Homestead, we have worked hard over the years to build distributive leadership and a strong succession plan. Our wonderful Assistant Principals, Leading Teachers, Team Leaders, Classroom Teachers and Student Leaders are testimony to the importance of building capacity and processes to ensure our school remains a school of high expectations.

**Barb**

## After School Announcements

Communication between parents and students is extremely important. This can be via phone, email, or social media. We strongly encourage that students who are bringing mobile phones to school “*check in*” their digital device to their teachers outlined in the acceptable use policy. If parents need to contact their child in an emergency please notify our friendly office staff who will kindly pass on the message. If there has been a change in plans please make sure the office is aware of the change.

## STUDENT INFORMATION DETAILS

Two weeks ago your child should have bought home a page of *Student Information*. Please check the details, amend if necessary and return to the school to enable the details to be updated on the school's system. It is very important to have up to date information for your child/children in case of an emergency. Thank you to those parents who have already returned the sheet.



## PREP SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM—2013

If you have not already done so, could you please return the *School Nursing Program* envelopes to school TOMORROW. The School Nurse will be coming on Friday to pick up the questionnaires.



A big thankyou to our wonderful parents who bought the gifts, wrapped the gifts, set up to sell the gifts and then on Wednesday and today sold all the gifts to the children for our Mother's Day Stall. We hope everyone who receives a gift enjoys it. Thanks to Meghann Brogden, Fiona Tapani, Frances Green, Heyam Masri, Sue Arslan, Kristy Burrows, Belinda and Scott Howson, Terri Adorna, Leanne Warren, Melanie Gay and Julie Sirim.

## Academic Vocabulary

Building students' academic vocabulary is essential in their development as a learner. Over the last few years teachers have been building strategies to ensure that all student at Roxburgh Homestead are provided with all the tools required to build on or extend their vocabulary. Below we have listed five steps that you can use at home to ensure these skills become embedded in your child's vocabulary.

### Step 1: Parent/Guardian presents the term in "student friendly" language:

- Describe the term
- Explain the term
- Give an example of the term

### Step 2: Students restate term in their own words:

- Rely on background knowledge and experience
- Use description, example, explanation of their own
- Form links between new term and those already known

### Step 3: Students represent term using a graphic, picture, or pictographic form:

- Allows processing of information in new modality
- Provides second processing of the information to reinforce and deepen meaning

### Step 4: Students use the term in other contexts to build a deeper meaning

- An academic vocabulary notebook encourages students to write their continuing impressions and understandings of the word
- Encourage students to use the new term in writings and conversation to make term familiar to student

### Step 5: Vocabulary games give students more exposure to the term:

- Various games will provide further exposure to the new term
- Students will gain a deeper integration of the word by its continued review

At Roxburgh Homestead Primary School we provide opportunities through the year for parents to engage in learning and developing these strategies, so that you can support your child at home. This week our team of Prep teachers hosted the Prep Reading Information session. This provided parents with an opportunity to learn about a variety of reading and vocabulary strategies that will help build your child's confidence and fluency with reading. Coming soon is our whole school celebration of learning through Education Week, and part of this is our school Scholastic Book Fair. This is a great opportunity for families to purchase a variety of book titles to inspire your children to read and use their strategies at home.

## CHALLENGE

Wordless books inspire, promote and further develop vocabulary and can be used from prep to six. We challenge you to research wordless books and create one to share with us. We look forward to seeing what you can produce.

**Anthony Simone and Liz Eastwood**

Don't forget to ask for the stickers when you shop at Woolworths!

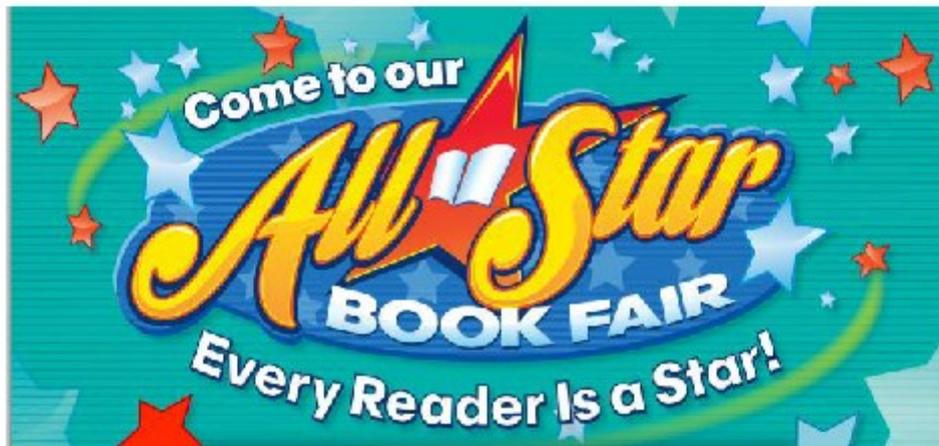


Get ready to  
**Earn & Learn**

Check your school is registered today

# BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

Celebrating with our community the fantastic  
learning at Roxburgh Homestead Primary School



**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May**  
**During Education Week in our Library**

“LANGUAGES  
LINK LANDS!”