

**DIARY DATES**

**NOVEMBER**

Mon 4	<b>CURRICULUM DAY—NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL</b>
Tues 5	Cup Day—Public Holiday
Thurs 7	Prep Transition A-K
Fri 8	Milo T20 5/6 Comp
Thurs 14	Prep Transition L-Z
Fri 15	Girls Football Day
Thurs 21	Prep Transition A-K
Thurs 28	Prep Transition L-Z

Thank you to Anthony, Rachele, our leadership team and all staff who ensured this term got off to a smooth and productive start. Term 4 is an exceptionally busy term but one filled with many opportunities for the school community to come together. Our work continues not only for term 4 but also preparation for the 2014 school year is well underway. We have exceeded our indicative numbers for Prep and depending on confirmed numbers may need to establish an extra Prep class. If you know of any families intending to enrol students at our school who have not yet done so, please let them know that time is running out. Employment of staff is a lengthy process. Confirmed student enrolments are crucial in order to best support the needs of the school through ensuring we have suitable staffing.

Well done to Jess Walta and Alex Mowat who have been chosen to lead an action research project in 2014. This project is funded by the education department and will allow Jess and Alex the opportunity to have the time to look at how technology supports student learning. This funded grant was highly sought after and those who applied went through a rigorous process. Our school and our students will be the happy beneficiaries of Jess and Alex’s findings.

Congratulations to Jacquie Horvart one of our Art Teachers who is taking leave to prepare for her wedding on Friday. If you visited our Community Art Show you would have appreciated the melodic strumming of Sam, a talented musician and the husband to be of Jac. I know you will join me in wishing them all the best for the future. Jacquie like all our RHPS brides will look absolutely beautiful!

***Barb***

**BOOKLISTS**

The 2014 booklists have been distributed to the children. Payment by cash, cheque or eftpos before Tuesday, Dec 10 and you can collect your book on Thurs, Dec 12.

**ENROLMENTS**

If you, or any of your friends or neighbours are intending to enrol at Roxburgh Homestead please do so ASAP as we are about to organise staffing for 2014.

**Are you leaving Roxburgh Homestead Primary School at the end of 2013? If so please notify the Office ASAP.**

**Name.....Grade.....School in 2014.....**

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## Feedback

How often do you pick up your children from school and ask the question

**"How was school today?"**

We are sure the response would be..."**Good**"

and

**"What did you learn?"**

**"Nothing"**

You're not the only parent to get these responses.

Staff have been working very hard on some of the latest research from Professor John Hattie and the effect size for feedback on school improvement has been astonishing. Explicit feedback enables every student to work on their goals and strategies achieve success. Feedback is very different to praise. An example that we often use is '**Great Work John**', although this might be seen to be effective, it doesn't assist with improving outcomes. The response needs to be real and not superficial. In the case of the example a more explicit response is '**That was a useful question to ask whilst reading John. It helped us to see what the author was trying to tell us.**'

A challenge for all of us is to ensure that feedback is given at every opportunity and more importantly at the right time. We usually put in a challenge for students. This fortnight we are going to put in a challenge for parents. Instead of asking your child **"What did you learn at school today?"** Ask them – **"What feedback did you receive today?"** It will be a great challenge. Good luck and please feel free to come and see us if you would like some further information about explicit feedback.

Kind regards,

Anthony Simone and Rachelle Hedger

### **LEARNING AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL:**

At this time of year, as always, we should be working hard to build our knowledge.

Here are some of the things happening at Roxburgh Homestead Primary School at the moment:

**Literacy:** retelling fairytales using details about characters and settings, experiencing the Eureka Tower, participating in an in-house Camp experience, using the QAR (Question/Answer Relationship) model for improved comprehension levels, analysing the features of explanation texts, developing research skills and composing biographies and autobiographies.



**Numeracy:** working with numbers understanding the place value of digits, solving problems involving subtraction, learning about and understanding how to represent and use fractions, understanding maps and being able to give and follow directions, working with clocks, reading calendars and time tables and finding the chance of different events occurring.



Have a conversation with your child about the learning taking place in the classroom and continue the discussion at home. You might like to undertake a writing activity based on your conversation.

It is still important to keep up with your reading, writing and numeracy skills even after the school day has finished.

Here are some simple things your child can do at home:

- **Write a journal entry about their day**
- **Create a shopping list and use a supermarket catalogue to add up the total**
- **Compose a story based on a topic covered in class**
- **Show you a maths problem and how to solve it**
- **Act out a role-play (you could give them a scenario, or let them have free choice)**

## HELP US SAVE THE EASTERN BARRED BANDICOOT

Grade 4 Lisa is having a fundraiser for the Eastern Barred Bandicoot. The Eastern Barred Bandicoot is an endangered animal. We are having a jelly bean guessing competition to help us save these cute little animals.

It is 5c per guess. We will be at the Canteen every lunch. You can guess as many times as you like. It would be great if everyone could guess so we can raise as much money as possible. The person with the closest guess without going over will win the jar of jelly beans to eat YUM!!!

Thankyou ☺

Melisa, Aaliyah, Abbie, Habib, Brandon, Nikita, Sam & Anthony.



## SAVE THE GORILLAS

Grade 4 Lisa/Deb are collecting old mobile phones to help the gorillas. Miners are mining the gorilla's habitat to gather a material called *Colton*. Colton is used in mobile phones. As a result the gorillas are losing the habitat and being killed.

Grade 4 Lisa/Deb are collecting as many old mobile phones to give to the Melbourne Zoo so we can reduce the amount of Colton needed. The class with the most mobile phones will win a prize.

Please donate your old phone today to help save the gorillas.

Thankyou

Henry, Janer, Joseph, Yasemin, James, Malek and Kynan



## Roxburgh Park Hubs

### Free Fruit in the Hubs!

Each of the 3 Roxburgh Park schools will receive a small supply of fruit courtesy of the Salvation Army. The fruit will be used across community hub programs where students, parents and children can access a variety of fruit at the playgroups, breakfast clubs and parent groups.

### Coming soon: Roxburgh Homestead Playgroup

Families with children under the age of 5 years are invited to take part in the FREE playgroup!

Playgroups provide a time for parents and guardians to play with their child/children and show them how. The group will get together for structured play, story time, songs and games. We are seeking donations of good quality toys that are age appropriate and not broken. Free early childhood training will be offered to people interested in leading the playgroup.

Contact Kate Thomas, Community Hub Worker or return the expression of interest slip to the office.

[thomas.kate.11@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:thomas.kate.11@edumail.vic.gov.au)

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### Expression of interest:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE TICK: I am interested in attending the playgroup

Tuesdays 9:15am – 10:30am suits best

Thursday 9:15am – 10:30am suits best