DATES TO REMEMBER:

MARCH
Thurs 27  Year 1 Community Helpers Day
          Parent Helper Workshop

APRIL
Wed 2    Year 5 excursion to CERES
FRI 4    EARLY FINISH 2.30PM LAST DAY OF TERM 1
TUES 22  TERM 2 commences.

MESSAGE FROM BARB.

Cultural Diversity Week

“Cultural differences should not separate us from each other but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity. Intercultural dialogue is the best guarantee of a peaceful, more just and sustainable world”

Robert Alan (American writer, artist and social activist)

It has been an exciting week at RPHS, as we celebrate the many different cultures that enrich our school community. We are privileged and proud to be a part of such a rich tapestry of cultures, all of which bring something unique and special to our school. This week we began the week with a whole school assembly to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land with a Welcome to Country. A huge thank you to one of our parents, Janine Brown and her son Patrick who stepped in at the last moment to give a traditional start to such an auspicious and exciting week.

Thank you also to Melek Beydilli and her daughter Selin who lead a band of keen students, eager to learn Turkish dancing. Melek and Selin made it look so easy with their graceful movements.

Wednesday was a very energetic day with grade 2 Kellie enjoying Indigenous games with Anthony Tipungwuti and Amel Davis, footballers from the Essendon football club. We also were lucky enough to have African drumming and dancing instruction throughout Wednesday morning and a combined whole school session in the afternoon. I’m sure you could hear the drums as far away as Craigieburn! The students, teachers and parents who joined in the afternoon session had a fantastic time. I think there were a few aching muscles the next day after the vigorous workout.

The wafting aromas from an array of delicious food from various countries sent the taste buds into overload on Thursday, as students brought in plates of food to share from their particular cultural background. We have some very talented parents who are a dab hand at producing culinary delights. I think we need to produce an updated edition of our school community cookbook!

On Friday we end our Cultural Diversity Week with a grand parade of students dressed in the colours of the country they have been designated to study this week. Our choir will also be performing on Friday. I know they have been busy practising, so it is an event not to be missed.

Thank you to staff who gave their time to support students by running lunchtime activities throughout the week. I would also like to extend a warm thank you to our parents who contributed and celebrated with us throughout the week.

Not only did we celebrate our ethnic diversity this week but we also celebrated the learning that has taken place during this term, as children proudly reflected upon their learning goals and shared milestones with family members during Student Lead Conferences. A busy, colourful joyous week of learning!
HANDY HINTS FOR MATHS—SHAPE

Under the heading of shape we talk about 3D objects and 2D shapes. Early in the school year, students focus on naming, describing and sorting various shapes and objects. We begin with simple shapes and objects such as circles, squares, triangles, cylinders, cubes and spheres. As students move through school we introduce and discuss the properties of 2D shapes such as trapeziums, hexagons, parallelograms and 3D objects such as prisms and pyramids.

Things you can do at home:

Go on a shape hunt with your child at home. For example, see if you can find 5 objects or shapes in the kitchen. Write them down.

Have your child bring their list to school to share.

A great user friendly website for online shape activities is the ‘National Library of Virtual Manipulatives’ or NLVM.

This website can be found at http://nlvm.usu.edu/.

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Mathletics /Spelldrome

This is a reminder for any parents who have not sent back the $10 for Mathletics / Spelldrome.

These fantastic programs are used at school and at home by the children.

The programs are expensive, so to be able to continue providing this valuable resource we are asking parents to help subsidise the cost.

Reminder notes will be sent home shortly.

PARENT HELPERS TRAINING DAY

Please note that this year’s Parent Helpers course will be on Thursday the 27th of March. The day will run from 9am until 3pm and is designed for any parents or guardians wanting to assist in the classroom.

If you would like to learn more about helping children (both at home and at school) you are more than welcome to attend.

Unfortunately, child minding is not available. Alternative arrangements will need to be made.

If you would like to participate, please fill in the note that was sent home and return to your child’s teacher.

Any queries, please see Holly.

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DEECD DATA COLLECTION FORM

Next week your eldest child will bring home a form to be filled out for a data collection requested by the Department. Please fill out the form and return to the office.

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ANZAC DAY

The Epping RSL Sub-Branch is holding a commemorative Service at the headquarters of the Craigieburn Unit of the SES on Anzac Day at 10.00am. If any pupil would like to represent the school at the service please see Sebastian.

The service will provide the opportunity for the local community to remember those Australian men and women who served their country during time of conflict and to especially honour those who made the supreme sacrifice.
FUNDRAISING
Chocolate Drive
A big thank you to all our parents who sold chocolates for our major fundraising for 2014. At the moment we have made a profit of approx. $6000 which will be used in the near future for the children.
Another thankyou must go to the 3 parents who organised the chocolate drive Kristy Burrows, Mel Gay and Terri Adorna.
The ladies are now working on the Mother’s Day stall. If anyone is interested in helping with the wrapping of gifts or any other way please leave your name and phone number at the office and we will forward it on.

Easter raffle
There will be an Easter raffle running for the last 2 weeks of term — from Monday 24/3 to Thursday 3/4. It will be drawn at the last assembly for the term on Friday 4/4. There will be 3 hamper prizes: 1st prize worth $100, 2nd prize worth $50 and 3rd prize worth $30. Tickets are $1 each or 3 for $2.
Tickets will be on sale at eating time (1.15) in the courtyard from Monday 24th March.

THANKYOU
Thankyou to the companies who supported our 2014 Year 6 Leadership Conference held earlier this term.

OPEN DAYS for Year 7—2015
We have received information regarding Open Days from the following secondary colleges.

ESSENDON KEILOR COLLEGE
East Keilor Campus—Quinn Grove East Keilor PH 8331 0109
Open Day—Thursday, 27 March at 9.30am, 11.30am, 1.45pm & 6.00pm. Presentation at 7.00pm

Niddrie Campus—Peters Street, Airport West PH 9375 8400—
Open Day—Wednesday 7 May at 9.30am, 11.30am, 1.45pm & 6.00pm. Presentation at 7.00pm

Tours at both campuses - Wednesday and Friday at 9.20am by appointment.

PASCOE VALE GIRLS COLLEGE
Lake Avenue Pascoe Vale 9306 2544
Information sessions—Tuesday 29 April and Thursday 1 May @ 11.00am. Evening session on Wednesday 30 April @ 7pm.
Bookings are essential. Please phone the college to reserve a place.

THE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL
The University High School—77 Story Street Parkville 9347 2022
Open day—Wednesday, 30 April. Session 1: 2pm—3pm or Session 2: 7pm—8pm. No booking required.