

McPherson Boulevard, Roxburgh Park, 3064 Ph: 9305-1688 Fax: 9305-2987 Email: roxburgh.homestead.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Respect Honesty Pride Success

DIARY DATES:

OCTOBER

Wednesday 22	Prep Swimming continues
Wed22—Fri 24	Year 4 Camp
Thursday 23	Year 1 excursion to Yarrabee Yesterday's World
Thursday 23	2015 Preps Teddy Bears Picnic
Wednesday 29	Prep Swimming continues



NOVEMBER

Monday 3	Curriculum Day—no school
Tuesday 4	Melbourne Cup Day
Wednesday	Prep Swimming continues



ARE YOU LEAVING?

Are you leaving Roxburgh Homestead Primary School at the end of this year?
If so, please let us know asap to assist with our planning for 2015.

Name _____ Year _____ School in 2015 _____

Name _____ Year _____ School in 2015 _____

Name _____ Year _____ School in 2015 _____

NEW CANTEEN LIST OUT TOMORROW. NEW PRODUCTS, NEW PACKS SO POP ON THE FRIDGE.

Welcome to term 4

Anthony and I would like to offer a warm welcome back to staff, students and their families. We would particularly like to welcome our new families to our school community. We look forward to a long and fulfilling partnership between your family and our school. We trust everyone has had a wonderfully relaxing break as term 4 is notoriously busy as we gear up preparations in readiness for 2015. It is also a time when we finalise our workforce plan.

2015 Preps

At this stage our 2015 Prep numbers indicate we will run with 4 Prep classes. If you know of any families, friends or neighbours who have indicated they are intending to send their child to our school next year as a new Prep or in other grade levels and haven't yet enrolled, please ask them to contact the school immediately. Our student enrolments have a direct correlation to school funding. If we know how many students we have then we know how many teachers are required.

Family holidays

We have had a number of families who have taken extended family holidays overseas this year. This is an opportunity to learn while living in another country by having a deeper understanding of other cultures. It is an opportunity to become more proficient in another language and develop a more global outlook on life. We ask that you use this time to immerse your child in the culture of the country you are visiting and ensure that it is a wonderful learning opportunity. Please check with your child's teacher prior to leaving as to how you may best support your child and maximise learning during your time away. For students who have been away for 6 weeks or more, a process will be put in place at school on their return to ensure your child has continued to learn and develop whilst away. We have noticed some students are finding it difficult to transition back into school life and adhere to school processes after they have been away for a considerable amount of time.

Parent Opinion Survey

Thank you to those parents who were randomly selected to respond to the recent parent opinion survey. Unfortunately, the department only received 19 surveys back from the 105 that were sent out. This is deemed to be an invalid sample. The comments that we did get back were insightful and constructive. We certainly do listen to your feedback and act upon feedback where appropriate. The parent opinion survey along with the staff and student attitude to school surveys are crucial in assisting us to ensure our school is the best it can be by helping us to measure the health of our organisational climate. It also helps us to identify trends across the life of our 4 year strategic plan. We are currently self- assessing our school prior to our school review on October 27th. All information is crucial and will be used to help form our new strategic plan.

Barb and Anthony
Principal Class Team

CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The following information has been provided to the school by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria's neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools' core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to Barb.

2015 BOOKLISTS

Last week your child/children would have bought home their 2015 booklists. You can pay in full (cash, cheque or eftpos) before Tuesday, December 9th. You can also make weekly or fortnightly payments up until that date. Those making payments this year may collect their book packs on Thursday, December 11th.

Those parents paying in full by cash, cheque or eftpos before December 9th will be placed in a draw to win a gift voucher to the value of \$100.

Greenvale and Craigieburn
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CARDIO TENNIS: fitness
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More Information call: **9333-6525**
www.completetennis.com.au

OUT OF SCHOOL HOUR CARE PROGRAM. VACATION CARE.

Danielle ran a very successful and busy program over the September/October break; to avoid missing out during the January Program, book as early as you can during the booking period as places are limited.

CURRICULUM DAY NOVEMBER 3.

As in previous years, we will NOT be running a program on the Monday before Cup Day.

How you can help at home: Support your child with these writing strategies.

Provide a place for your child to write.

The area should be somewhere that is quiet and well lit. Create a 'writing box' with supplies such as paper, pencils and crayons. You can also collect family photos and magazines that can be used as story starters.

Read, read, read! Talk, talk, talk!

The best activity to improve writing is reading and talking about the book. Discuss and ask relevant questions to help develop ideas to link into their writing. If your child reads good books, he/she will be a more confident speaker and writer. Reading exposes students to new and interesting vocabulary that they can use in their writing. Through reading, students are exposed to a variety of authors' techniques that they can use in their own writing.

Encourage your child to keep a *reflective journal*.

This is excellent writing practice, as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school. This reflective journal can be used to develop the 'senses' of writing. Have your child write about what he/she saw, heard or felt on a trip or adventure. Provide experiences in your community that will interest your child and spark his/her writing. Especially encourage your child to write about personal feelings – good or bad. When reading your child's journal (only if your child invites you to, of course), share your own feelings and ideas with positive feedback about their writing.



Provide authentic writing opportunities for your child.

Have your child write his own thank you notes, party invitations and letters to family. Let your child make the grocery list. Writing an email to a friend or relative makes writing 'real'. Helping children make the connection between writing and the 'real' world will increase an interest in writing.



Be a writing role model.

Make sure your child sees you as a writer. Point out times that you use writing to communicate with others. Discuss authentic writing in the community such as articles and letters in the newspaper, on signs/posters or in written advertisements. Discuss the purpose of the writing and the target audience. When your child writes, you should write. You can schedule a day and time of the week that you will turn off the television and spend time writing and share your writing with one another.



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