

Respect Honesty Pride Success

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

Thursday 5	School Photo Day
Monday 9	Public Holiday—NO SCHOOL
Wednesday 11	Year 4 excursion to Scienceworks
Tuesday 17	Student Lead Conferences
Wednesday 18	Student Lead Conferences

Term Dates 2015

Term 1	30 Jan to 27 March
Term 2	13 April to 26 June
Term 3	13 July to 18 September
Term 4	5 October to 18 December

- During the week the children should have bought home a whole year calendar. There are plenty of important dates on the calendar so please keep it in a safe place so you don't miss out on anything important.
- The newsletter also has important information so please read it each fortnight and if any questions please ask.
- The electronic sign (at the front of the school) on the gym is also a great place for information.

What a **great start** we have had to the 2015 school year! The children have settled in really well and the transition from holidays to school has been seamless. Our newest members of our school community, the 2015 Preps (Foundation) have taken to school life like little ducks to water. All parents should be congratulated in preparing their children so well. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new families who have started with us. We are delighted to have you join the RHPS community and we thank you for entrusting us with the education of your child. It is also wonderful to be able to welcome back some staff members, Liz Eastwood, Jacque Horvart and Marisa Licciardello who have returned from Family Leave. We also welcome Sandra James who comes to us from Roxburgh College and is our new Assistant Principal and Zena Farache who was a trainee teacher with us and is now in her first year of teaching. Please make sure you introduce yourself to our latest team members.

Staff have been busily preparing whilst the children were still on holiday to ensure no learning time was wasted. **Our mantra** for this year is:



This will guide how we go about work for the year. What does it mean to be “present” as a student, staff member, parent or guardian? What behaviours could we expect to see demonstrated? Being present doesn't mean just showing up at school, although research tells us absenteeism has a profound impact upon student learning outcomes. Ask your child what it means to be “present”, as this has been a major focus of our school start up program. It will also feature prominently at school assemblies.

Part of being present is being at school on time. **School begins at 8:50am** with our soft start. This time allows children to get organised for the school day as lessons begin at 9:00am sharp. It is also an important bonding time between teacher and student as relationships are formed and strengthened during this time.

Unfortunately during the latter part of the holidays, last weekend and during the week we have had a spate of **vandalism**. The police fortunately were able to apprehend one of the offenders. I would like to acknowledge the work of John, our facilities person who ensured our school was looking its best for the start of the 2015 school year and for the repair work he has done after each vandalism incident. This has added hours to John's workload but he has gone over and beyond to ensure the learning momentum of the school was not interrupted.

Census Day is the 27th February. This is such an important day in the school calendar, as the number of students who are enrolled by this day determines our confirmed budget for the year. At this point in time we have 663 students.

Firstly I would like to say a big hello to all our families and friends of Roxburgh Homestead Primary. I would also like to welcome our new students and their families to this wonderful school.

Our school mantra for 2015 is 'Being Present' and this relates both to our physical presence as well as our emotional and mental presence. As a school we have made a strong belief that it is not what you do but how you do it.

As teachers we are always reflecting on how we teach and how we can continue to improve what we do for the benefit of all our children.

In 'Being Present' I am so pleased to have this opportunity to work with your wonderful children in their learning journey through their Primary years of schooling.

In my previous working life before joining you, I have taught Prep to grade 6 and also worked from the Northern Regional Office as a Literacy and Numeracy coach across many primary and secondary schools. I have had the pleasure of working with teachers in 12 different Primary schools across Broadmeadows, Roxburgh Park and Craigieburn both in their classrooms and in their schools.

In the last 3 years I have had the fantastic opportunity to lead and teach Year 7 to 9 at Roxburgh Secondary College and be a member of their school community. This was very rewarding and has given me a very clear picture of where our students are heading in the second half of their education.

In my life outside of school, I am married and have 2 children aged 25 and 19 years of age.

Teaching and Learning are my passion. Building strong, productive relationships with all my students and their families to achieve the best possible outcomes for every child in our care is my goal.

I believe all children are born to succeed and together with Barb, the fantastic teaching staff at RHPS and your help we can make this happen.

I look forward to meeting you all and a great 2015 with success for all!

Cheers. Sandra James. Assistant Principal



BOOKS There are a few students who still haven't purchased their books. Please make sure you pay next week so the children can start using their books.

SICK BAY Parents are reminded that if your child needs to be medicated during the school day, you will need to bring the medication to the Office in the morning and complete a form giving us permission to medicate your child. At the end of the day the medication must be collected by an adult and signed out.

SCHOOL CROSSING Staff on yard duty at both the front and back of the school have noticed that parents are not always using the pedestrian crossing points provided. Parents, as a school community, we are asking you to please set the right example and use the crossing points when crossing the streets around our school. The safety of our parents and children is of paramount importance.

SCHOOL CAR PARK Parents, as a reminder please be aware that the staff car park is for **staff vehicles only**. We have 2 car parks out the front of the school for vehicles displaying a **council endorsed disability tag/sticker**.

Please note that NO pedestrians are allowed to walk through the staff car park at anytime, for safety reasons. We have staff cars coming and going on a regular basis and we want to avoid any accidental injuries to our school community.

MESSAGES 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 they come to school. School finishes at 3.15—please pick up the children on time. It is a good idea also to have a meeting spot so the children know where to meet after school.

COURT ORDERS/MEDICAL REPORTS if you have any medical reports or court orders relevant to your child could you please provide the school with a copy as as to ensure their safety while in the school's care. You can also discuss this with the school's Welfare Coordinator Stacey.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION Is all the general and emergency information you have given the 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.

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

PREP 2016 Enrolments for Prep next year will be taken in 2nd term. Please come to the office at the end of April/early May to collect an enrolment form.

CANTEEN 2015 canteen lists were handed out earlier this week—if you did not receive one please collect one from the Office. **Please note: when ordering please indicate Halal if ordering from the Halal menu. Please put child's name, room number on the brown paper bag.**

NO SMOKING Smoking in the school grounds and buildings is not permitted.

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL When making payments for your child for school excursion and school activities we would appreciate if these payments are made in our specially printed "Payment Envelopes" available from the Office or the classroom teacher. Receipts will be sent home with the children—please keep them for your records. **All payments must go through the classroom via your child's teacher not the general office (unless paying by EFTPOS).**

PHOTO DAY Our school photos will be taken on Thursday 5th March.. Every child will; be given an envelope which must contain the exact amount of cash (no change will be given). Cheques payable to Advancedlife Photography and you can also pay on-line www.advancedlife.com.au with your credit card but you must return the envelope before photo day if paying online. Sibling photo order envelopes can be collected from the Office. Envelopes will be sent home in a couple of weeks.

SCHOOL COUNCIL At Roxburgh Homestead Primary School positive community relations are important to us. Forming strong community relationships is a component of our current strategic plan. We will hold parent forums and learning opportunities for parents throughout the year. Another way parents can become involved in school life is to nominate for school council. Each year half of the school council retire from their positions. Some councillors may wish to re nominate or retire from school council. This gives other interested parents an opportunity to nominate to sit on council. If you are elected to sit on school council you will be expected to serve for 2 years. Our school council meetings have historically been held on a Monday evening, start at 7pm. The duration of the meetings is between 1 hour and 1 hour 30 minutes. We are expected to hold a minimum of 2 meetings a term. If a school councillor misses 3 meetings in succession they may be asked to retire their position. It is essential we have a quorum for each meeting. This means we must have more non education department representation for each meeting. Our school council makeup consists of 14 members - 8 parents, 4 staff and 2 community members. We have 4 parent positions available—2 positions (two year tenure) and 2 positions (one year tenure).

Nominations for School Council will be available at the office from 16th February.

Closing date for nominations will be 23rd February at 4pm.

Display list of candidates

26th February—distribute ballot papers if required

10th March—close of ballot

11th March—count votes and declare ballot

The 2015 School Council will meet in the last week of term. If you have any queries regarding school council, please don't hesitate to contact us



Book School Interviews Online

Student Led Conferences 1 - 6 will be held

TUESDAY 17th February 2015

3:30pm to 8:00pm

And

WEDNESDAY 18th February 2015

3:30PM to 6:00pm

Bookings will open Monday 9th February at 9:00am

Bookings will close Monday 16th February at 4:00pm

Meet, Greet and Goals will be the purpose of this term's Student Led Conferences.

This will give your child's teacher the opportunity to continue to affirm those authentic relationships with their student and their families, and start to work on specific learning goals.

Booking information to be sent home soon.

PARENT BULLETIN The Parent Bulletin will be distributed to the eldest in the family each fortnight on a Friday. From second term it will be available on the school app and the school internet. If you do not have the school app you can pick up a paper copy of the bulletin from the Office. School App information is available at the Office and in the next bulletin.



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