We’re all in this together!

I’d like to officially welcome everyone to the 2016 school year. A very warm welcome to our new staff, Prep Michael, Prep Lauren, 1 Jennifer, 4 Evie, 4 Age and 6 Demi. We also welcome our new families to the school and of course our gorgeous new preps!!!!

What a great start we have had to the 2016 school year! The children have settled in really well and our preps (Foundation) have come well prepared for school and have taken to school life like little ducks to water! There is such a positive buzz and energy about the school. Our 2016 school mantra is: We’re all in this together, which encapsulates the direction in which we are heading. We want to further strengthen the relationship between home and school and we have planned a series of events throughout this school year to promote a Positive Climate for Learning by working on projects together!

The first planned event is a Meet Greet on February 24th and 25th. We listened to your feedback last year and have decided this first meeting with families is an opportunity to share information. We as a school want to know your hopes and dreams for your child. This is a very important meeting as the more we know about your child, the better informed we are to support them throughout the year. You will be sent information on how to arrange an interview time with your child’s teacher next week. We look forward to catching up with you over these two nights.

Hoax calls to Victorian Schools.

I would like to reassure all families that in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls made to some Victorian Schools in the last few days that our school has not received such a call. I assure you all staff have been briefed on the action to take if required and our school has an emergency management plan for situations like this. We have emergency management practice drills throughout the school year and the safety of our students is always our number one priority. We would contact families via the SkoolBag app if an evacuation was required. This app is a quick way to send vital information to families and to keep you up to date with events at the school. There are instructions on page 2 but if you are unsure how to apply this app to your Smartphone, please contact Sebastian Naselli, our ICT Coordinator at the school. If you have any questions please contact me or Sandra James, our Assistant Principal.

Keeping Students Safe Online.

It is of serious concern to the school that a number of students have been using online social media sites out of school hours. Most of these sites require children to be 13 years of age or older. We will be conducting forums at various times during the nights of the Meet and Greet to raise parent awareness in ways to keep our children safe and promote responsible digital citizenship.

Barb
Welcome back everyone,

2016 is here already and I know our students, staff and community are all very excited. New relationships with teachers and friends are forming and there is a definite buzz around the school.

Our Preps have had a wonderful start to the year and are currently having Wednesday’s off school to attend their one on one interview. Our New Readers Information Night for Prep parents will be on Wednesday 17th February @6.30pm in the Prep building.

Facilities

Our new classrooms are finally in use and hopefully by the end of next week, the cleaning up of the old site will be complete and our new back fence and gate leading to the shops will be in and we will once again be able to use this as an entry and exit. Our students are showing respect for our school yard environment by not dropping rubbish and eating in the courtyard and canteen areas only. The children are taking a lot of Pride in how clean they have been able to keep their school this week. Our Grade 6 students have demonstrated such Respect and Leadership on Monday by actively going out to the oval and cross checking that it was safe for all students. Well Done! Each grade 6 student will receive a certificate to thank them. These will be presented to their grade teachers at Assembly next week.

School Assemblies

Our first school assembly will be held next Friday 12th February at 2.30pm in the new gym. Parents, carers and friends are most welcome. We will also be welcoming our new Preps for 2016. Other dates for this term are: Friday 4th March and the last day of school Thursday 24th March (the next day is Good Friday).

Term 1 Dates are: Friday 29th January – Thursday 24th March

School Newsletters

Our school newsletter will come out every 2 weeks and it will be available both on our School Website and School App and hard copies will be available at the office.

School Council

We will have 4 parent vacancies for School Council Membership in 2016. Calls for nominations will be coming out next Friday 12th February and close Friday 19th Feb.

Parent Teacher Interviews – Meet and Greet Nights Wednesday 24th February and Thursday 25th February. These interviews will have a focus on a conversation between parents and teachers around your hopes and dreams for your child and how we can work in partnership with you in the education of your child.

Have a great week everyone
Sandra James (Acting Assistant Principal)
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 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, 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 give to the class teacher on their return to school.

PREP 2017  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  2016 canteen lists were handed out earlier this week on yellow paper—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 your child’s name, room number on the brown paper bag.

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

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL  When making payments for your child for school excursions and school activities we would appreciate if these payments are made in our specially printed “Payment Envelopes” available from the Office or the class room 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 office (unless paying by EFTPOS or CSEF)

PHOTO DAY  Our school photos will be taken on Thursday 3 March. More information in the next newsletter.
This year at Roxburgh Homestead Primary School we are looking forward to working with not only our students, but also our parents and wider community to unpack and really understand our school values of Respect, Honesty, Pride and Success.

During term 1 the school will be focusing on Respect. We will be producing work that will demonstrate what Respect looks like, feels like and sounds like at RHPS. Students will be working in classrooms and in specialist classes to create writing pieces, performances and visual representations to demonstrate their understanding of Respect and presenting these in assemblies later in the term.

We welcome parents, carers and the wider school community to come along to assemblies to share in this learning experience and help shape our values throughout the year. Our first assembly is on Friday, 12 February at 2.20pm. We hope to build a common language and understanding of how we do things at Roxburgh Homestead PS.

We look forward to working with you on this throughout the year.

“We are all in this together”

This week’s KidsMatter topic is about cyberbullying. Please click the following link to read-


CLASSROOM CALENDARS

Next week the children will bring home our yearly classroom calendar. There are some important dates throughout the year on the calendar so pop it on the fridge for easy access.
Welcome to 2016 from the Specialist Team!

The Specialist program at R.H.P.S. offers students from Prep to Grade Six the opportunity to experience and shine in a variety of areas outside the normal classroom environment. Over the past several years, our team of specialist teachers have been refining our teaching and classroom practices to produce a number of behavioural and organisational guidelines for our students to follow. These guidelines are in place to ensure that our students and teachers can feel safe and respected in a structured and organised environment. Our students have their greatest opportunity to learn when they come to class prepared and behave in a respectful and safe manner. For these reasons R.H.P.S. has a high expectation that each student will follow the guidelines that have been set by the Specialist teachers. ‘At R.H.P.S. students and teachers all have the right to do as much work as possible’.

Organisation

Students are required to arrive at Specialist classes on time with all the items needed for the class and wearing the appropriate clothing. It is expected that each student attending a Specialist class in sessions one, three and five arrive having recently had a drink and used the toilet during their break. It is hoped that any student that needs to use the toilet during class time is genuine because stops during the session reduce learning time and can cause major disruptions to our already limited class time.

Drink bottles are an item that must be brought to every Specialist session. Art smocks are required for every Art session. A school hat and appropriate footwear/attire are required in P.E.

Behaviour Management

The Specialist program runs in accordance with the whole school behaviour management approach. This is a process where a student’s name may be moved on the behaviour chart through the steps of ‘Reminder’, ‘Relocation’, ‘Removal’ and then ‘Reconnection’. This system is used across the entire school so please refer to your child’s classroom teacher for further details. Great communication is the key to developing great relationships. Throughout 2016 the Specialist Team will continue to offer an open door to parents and students. Please make a time to meet with us if you have any questions, concerns or simply would like to chat about your child’s development.

Classes also work towards ‘Reward Points’ on an accumulative weekly basis. The year level that receives the most points for positive behaviours and upholding the school’s values of Respect, Honesty, Pride and Success, whilst in Specialist classes, will be awarded the ‘Specialist Trophy’ - a very exciting end to the week!

Encouraging organised, respectful and safe behaviour during specialist classes will help your child develop the necessary social and independent thinking skills needed to grow as an individual. It is for these reasons that the Specialist team of R.H.P.S. will continue to have high expectations of our students and provide safe environments for these skills to flourish.

Thank you for your support,

R.H.P.S. Specialist Team
The staff at the Out of School Hours Care Program would like to take this opportunity to welcome any new Prep children to the program and welcome back all the other children and their families who have returned this year. We look forward to spending time with you and your families.

The following is some information for our new families and a little reminder for our existing families.

**Enrolments for 2016.**

Each year we require a new enrolment; new enrolments are the only way that we can be kept up to date with any small changes that you may have had over the past 12 months. This year’s enrolment is pink, so if you don’t remember filling out a pink enrolment at the end of last year, please come and get one and return it asap. Bookings for this year will not be acknowledged until we receive the new enrolment; therefore if your children turn up without being enrolled, you will be charged the casual fee until we receive it.

We have had to overhaul our enrolment format after our accreditation visit over the holidays; some information required by the government was excluded, if you have returned the new enrolment, we will be asking you to fill in an additional page to be added to the original, sorry for any inconvenience.

**Direct Debit.**

There have been two minor changes to the procedures; firstly the dishonour fee has risen from $9.90 to $11.90. To avoid this additional fee, please ensure that you have sufficient funds available before your next Direct Debit is taken from your account.

Secondly, the Billing Schedule has been changed from Balance on Sunday before Billing Date to Balance at the end of the Billing Week; this means that you will be charged for the current week, we can no longer charge in arrears because it does not work out over the holiday periods.

**Cash Payments.**

If families are insistent on paying cash for their care, we are expecting fees to be kept in advance. If we find that we are chasing the cash paying families for fees we will insist that these families use the direct debit system.

**Star Pupil for February.**

Samuel Burgers is our star pupil for February. Samuel is a reliable, dependable and extremely friendly young man who is always willing to help us out whenever asked.

We love having him here!!

**A few reminders!! Please remember to –**

- Come into the Multi-purpose room to collect your child; we will not sign children out if you ring from the car.
- Advise us via text ASAP if your child will not be attending care, especially in the afternoon.
- Ensure that your child has a proper sun-smart hat during term one.
- Sign your child out when you collect them in the afternoon and sign them in when arriving in the morning.

Take care.
Roxburgh Park Football Club are holding our registration day this Sunday and that we would like to invite any potential new recruits down to the club this weekend for a Sausage Sizzle and a chance to meet the coaches.

When: Sunday 7th February 2016 11:00am – 2:00pm
Where: Roxburgh Park Football Club – Lakeside Drive Roxburgh Park

Looking for:
Boys and girls - under 8’s and under 10’s,
Boys - under 12’s, under 14’s, under 16’s, and under 18’s
Girls – Under 15’s and under 18’s

More details are available at www.roxburghparkfc.com.au

Hume Tennis and Community Centre
TENNIS OPEN DAY SUNDAY 14TH FEB
10am – 2pm
Activities for the whole family including:
Tennis Hot Shots, Cardio Tennis, Face Painting, Jumping Castles, Sausage Sizzle, Ballooning and lots more....
More info: call 1300 486 382 or www.humetennis.com.au
Instrumental Music Lessons
– Small Group And Private Lessons
Keyboard And Guitar Lessons At Your School
Enrol TODAY – via PMI’s website OR enrolment forms available from the school front office
Lessons are held once per week on school campus – typically during the school day
Only $14.50 per child per small group lesson (typically 3-5 students for 30 minutes)
Our small group lessons provide a fun and affordable opportunity to learn instrumental music
Private lessons also available ($32.50 per child for 30 minutes)
Learning plan for all students via “PMI Stars” program – structured objectives with progress visibility

P: 1300 362 824   E: admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au