RETURN TO SCHOOL

It was wonderful to see the students keen to get back to school, catching up with friends, sharing their holiday adventures, excited about the new school year and keen to get back into their learning. Our new Preps have settled in well and the older students have gotten to know their new teachers and for our grade 5s, their new Prep ‘buddy’. With our grade numbers in the senior classes we have been able to maintain the ‘expanded’ learning areas, giving classes once again some great learning spaces.

Term Planners will be coming home shortly for all children. Term Planners outline the costs and the activities and programs coming up during the term and some of our across the year activities for all children in the class. Activities only some children attend, such as the swimming sports, are invoiced separately. The Term Planners cover items, activities, excursions and programs not funded by the State Government, but which we believe are valuable additions to the overall running of the school and learning for the children. Schools can often negotiate very good prices for items and that helps pass on the benefits to our school families.

We have continued our subscriptions to Reading Eggs and Mathletics for certain grade levels, both of which are able to be used from home, as well as a child’s individual Grammar book for grades 3-6. We have also included this term a family contribution for Compass, the school and parent web-based management and home-school communication program we are starting this year and which many of you will be familiar with if you have older children in some of our local secondary schools.

Schools such as RPS are funded at the ‘minimum’, or base-level, of funding by the State Government, as are many schools throughout the Diamond Valley area, so we do have to watch our expenses very closely as we are keen to continue providing the variety of learning opportunities for all our students. Thank you to all the families who have paid their parent payments, it certainly allows a nice smooth start for the children and their classes. Please always contact the Office if for any reason you may need longer to pay or would like to set up a payment plan.

Research PS is a small-medium, outer suburban school, extremely proud of its 127 year history serving the local community. We are delighted to have the children we have, the ‘have a go and try your best’ type of kids who work well with students right across the school. Also we are always impressed with our terrific school families and our wonderful wider school community who help make RPS the unique community based school it is today.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our 2016 School Council meets for the last time next Monday night at 7.30pm, with Finance at 6.30pm. Nominations for the new 2017 School Council will soon be called for via the newsletter.

GRAFFITI

Disappointingly we were hit (very unusually for RPS) with a high number of graffiti ‘tags’ the weekend before last. Much of it mindless tagging and written/scribbled names, letters and what could be some initials. The cleaners reported items such as ‘RPAG’, ‘RM’, ‘ROM’, ‘TS’, ‘PAC’ and so on. If you know any of these taggers could you please ask them not to use the school as their target. There were probably 50 or more ‘tags’ around the school, some we are still working to clean off, and many of which will require re-painting, sadly many of them on our newly painted ‘red-corridor’ building.
WALTER’S NEWS
Jess and Evan have passed on their thanks to all the families who are thinking of them and for the support of the RPS community. Walter is doing very well after his medical intervention was successful, and Jess passes on her thanks and regards.

FREE DRESS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY
‘Free Dress Day on Your Birthday’ is continuing this year. This is where, if children choose to and parents agree, the child can come out of uniform on their birthday as a special treat and a bit of fun (SunSmart of course). If the birthday has already passed, or it falls in holidays or on a weekend, the family can choose an alternative day.

CAR PARKING
The school has a few options for parking when children travel to or from school by car:
* KANANDAH COURT - Please drive carefully into Kanandah Court and proceed around the top of the court and park on the western side of the roadway. Children can then cross Kanandah Court and enter the school via the back gate. Please do not ‘stop and drop / pick up’ at or across the rear driveway and please do not block private driveways in the street.
* MAIN ROAD BUS BAY - The bus bay is available for parents to use as a pick-up and drop-off point.
* GYM CAR PARK - If dropping off children in the gym car park please travel slowly. Please use the ‘overflow’ car park if spaces are limited. Reverse parking is encouraged in these car parks.
* PARENT CAR PARK - Please observe parking signs, entry and exit signs and the angle parking in the front parent car park. Please do not use the Staff car park for pick up or drop off.

If the car parks are full, and folk must park ‘above’ the overflow car park, please park back towards the houses and not near to the basketball courts. And please, do not drive on or park on the basketball courts when dropping off or picking up.

Please try to use the school parking areas for pick up and drop off, or the local streets. Please do not park in Little Scooters, as it is a private car park and does not cater for school parents use.

Please only use our two disabled parking bays if you need to. One bay is in the staff car park, closest to the OSHC building, and the other is directly behind the canteen.

Entry and exit to the car parks should be from the ‘correct’ driveways. Please do not exit from the ‘in’ gate and vice versa.

Geoff Whyte, Principal

PREPS FIRST ART LESSON
Our prep students enjoying their first art lesson today 😊
GRADE INFORMATION EVENING
LAUNCH INTO LEARNING
Our Meet the Teacher, grade information evening ‘Launch into Learning’ will take place on Thursday 16 February.

Students are also invited along to the evening and will introduce you to their new teacher, chat about their class routines and the class teacher will outline the year ahead.

The times are staggered trying to allow families to attend meetings for all their children.
6pm – 56K, 56W, 2S 6.30pm – PrepB, 1S 7pm – 34H, 34K

Also during the evening we will be running a complimentary sausage sizzle and soft drink stand, so drop by for a snag and a chat. The BBQ will run from 6.15pm – 7.45pm.

CAMP, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND 2017

The CSEF is an annual payment to schools to help towards camps, sports and/or excursions expenses for eligible students, the Primary School student rate is $125 per year. To be eligible to receive this funding certain criteria must be met: The student must be attending a government / non-government school on the first day of term 1; the parent / guardian must be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or hold a Centrelink Health Care Card or hold a Pensioner Concession Card. Please collect an application form from the school office and completed application forms need to be returned to the school office as soon as possible to allow payments to start in March.

Jackie & Carol

SPORT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

RPS SWIM TRIALS GRADES 3-6
The RPS Swim Trials will be held on Thursday 16th February at Aquarena Swim Centre, Doncaster. Please note that students must be able to swim 50m in at least one of the following strokes: Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke or Butterfly. Parent helpers are required to assist with travelling on the bus and at the pool. The Eltham District Swim Sports are on Wednesday 22nd February at WaterMarc, Greensborough. Please return permission notes and payment as soon as possible. Happy swimming.

Jocelyn Watts

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK CLUB
The first book club catalogue of the year has been sent home. Please remember to order online using the Book Club’s LOOP ordering system. You simply go to the website www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP register then enter your orders against your child's grade and pay with credit card. All instructions are in the catalogue. Orders need to be completed by Friday 10 February.

PARENTS GROUP NEWS

Welcome back everyone and welcome to all our new families. Our first meeting of the year will be next Monday, 13 February at 9.10am in the school staffroom. We will discuss plans for the year and set our date for the AGM. Parents Group is a great way to meet fellow parents and becoming part of our amazing community. Everyone welcome and if you have any questions please contact either Rachel Brown, Parents Group President 0400 836 699 or Michelle Walker-Fox Vice President 0488 660 607

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our initial Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on Monday 20 February from 1pm and at other times during that week. Times available will be via the online registration which will be ‘live’ from 7pm on Friday 10 February; closing Friday 17 February at 4pm. Details of how to register and the school password are included in this Newsletter.

These initial interviews are designed for the parents to inform the teacher about their child, so children are not required to be at the interview. Parent interviews for Prep parents take place during their Wednesday visits.
FETE MEETING – 14 February
Our fete is an amazing community event and a great way to get to know other parents. This year’s fete is on Saturday May 6th. Our first meeting this year will be held in the school staffroom at 7pm on Tuesday 14 February. We still have number positions to fill and require lots of help. Please come along to our meeting with your ideas and enthusiasm. If you are unable to attend but wish to participate or help in some way (no matter how small it may be) please speak to one of us in the playground, call on our mobiles or leave your name at the school office. Carolyn Sternberg 0412 817 305 & Michelle Walker-Fox 0488 660 607

WHITE ELEPHANT STALL
There will be a collection morning for the Fete White Elephant Stall this Friday, 10 February between 9am – 10am. Donations of unwanted goods can be brought to the gates under the Grade 5/6 classroom. We will accept homewares, cookware, ceramic & glass items, soft furnishings, cushions, bikes, scooters, prams, toys, games & puzzles (labelled as complete in bags), small furniture, artwork, jewellery, unused toiletries, clean children’s clothing and footwear (no holes or stains), hats & bags. We cannot accept electrical goods, adult clothing or any damaged, incomplete or soiled items. Jacqui Robinson

BOOK STALL FETE
I have started collecting books for the book stall at next year’s Fete. If you have books you no longer need please leave them in the reading area of the Prep / 1 Building (left of the entrance door). We DO NOT need magazines, encyclopedias, school text books or Reader Digest condensed books. Thank you. Joy Pagon

CANTEEN ROSTER & NEWS

CANTEEN HELP
A canteen roster request for this term has been sent home today. If you are able to help out with any shifts in the canteen please contact Jacqui Robinson or the school office as soon as possible.

Have you considered working with a friend? Or maybe a grandparent would like to help out, children love seeing family members at school. Thank you. Jacqui Robinson 0414 362 275

CANTEEN ROSTER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Person</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13 February</td>
<td>9-11.30</td>
<td>Afterschool Sales</td>
<td>Pauline M</td>
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<td>12.30 – 1.30pm</td>
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<td>Afterschool Sales</td>
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<td>Olivia G</td>
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<td>Tuesday 14 February</td>
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<td>Afterschool Sales</td>
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<td>Friday 24 February</td>
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SCHOOL BANKING NEWS

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL BANKING FOR 2017
Our School Banking day is Friday and School banking will resume this Friday, 10 February.

If your child would like to join the program and open their very own bank account please go online to: https://www.commbank.com.au/personal/accounts/savings-accounts/youthsaver/apply-online.html

Please ensure all yellow wallets are placed into your child’s classroom bank bag first thing in the morning to ensure their deposit is processed. All money should be securely enclosed in the Velcro pocket and deposit slips must be completed. Save from as little as 5c per week.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.

Research Primary School takes part in the School Banking Reward Program, when a deposit is made your child receives a token and once 10 tokens are collected they can be exchanged for a reward.

Rebecca 0433 439 962
We would like to say a huge welcome back to everyone for 2017! We hope that you all had a fantastic break filled with lots of fun activities. We are very excited for what this year has to bring for us at the program. As a team we have developed a range of fun, engaging and exciting activities to run with the children. It is an OSHClub policy that children are to wear suncream and hats when they play outside. If you could please ensure that your child/children have a spare hat in their bag when they come that would be fantastic! We provide suncream at the program, although there are limited spare hats.

Our numbers are now rising at the program which is very exciting. It is so great to see the children welcoming new faces into our OSH room. If you have any questions about the program and how it runs please don’t hesitate to call, or pop down and visit us. We are more than happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Have a wonderful week, looking forward to seeing you at the program!

Warm regards, Serren & Emily

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<th>This week’s program</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Before School Activities</td>
<td>Silent ball &amp; All about me</td>
<td>All about me poster &amp; Wink murder</td>
<td>My favourite things &amp; Musical statues</td>
<td>Height chart &amp; heads down thumbs up</td>
<td>Sensory poster &amp; musical chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>After School Activities</td>
<td>Lego building contest &amp; Basketball</td>
<td>Uno tournament &amp; 4 square</td>
<td>Beading &amp; tricky tiggy</td>
<td>Tennis &amp; harma bead bracelets</td>
<td>Paper chains &amp; Numbers basketball</td>
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Families can apply for Child Care Benefit and the 50% Child Care Rebate. The CCR is not means tested which means just about all working or studying parents are eligible to receive it. Call 13 61 50 to register. Enrol and book sessions through our website www.oshclub.com.au

The program fees are as follows:
Before School Care: Fee $6.28 to $10.15 (Full fee $20.30) 7.00am to 9.00pm
After School Care: Fee $7.31 to $13.13 (Full fee $26.25) 3:30pm to 6:30pm

For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

OSHC program phone: 0427 793 936 OSHClub Head Office: 03 8564 9000
OSHC Coordinator: Serren OSHC Assistant: Emily

COMMUNITY NEWS

SINGING CLASSES AT RESEARCH PRIMARY
Times are available on Thursdays for private, duo and trio classes; if you would like more information please contact Michelle by email Myo69411@bigpond.net.au

RESEARCH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB OPEN DAY – 12TH FEBRUARY
As well as offering the fastest growing Auskick program in the region, RJFC is a fun, competitive, family orientated and award winning football club for under 9’s to under 17’s (including Girls only teams for Under 12’s, 14’s and 16’s). Come along to our Open Day on Sunday 12th February from 10am – 12noon at Research Park, Main Road, Research. We will be running skills sessions for boys and girls from 11.00am to 12.00pm (please wear runners only). Meet the coaches, Sausage sizzle, Merchandise stall, Mouth guard fittings and more. Online registration assistance for all players (new players please bring along a birth certificate). 2017 online Registrations are now open for ALL age groups - further info at researchjuniorfc.com.au or email: registrations@researchjuniorfc.com.au

Research Junior Football Club

1ST RESEARCH SCOUT GROUP HAS VACANCIES NOW!
Cubs (age 7½ - 11) Mondays 7.00 - 8.30pm Scouts (age 11 – 14½) Thursdays 7.15 - 9.15pm Research Park, Main Rd Research, opposite Eltham Motor Inn.

Recent Cub and Scout activities include surfing, abseiling, hiking, bike riding, geocaching, rock climbing, raft races on the Yarra, scavenger hunts, weekend camps, day trips… AND MORE! No iPhones, no iPads and no sitting on the couch! For details, call Group Leader Belinda Dowel on 0408 949 207 or send us an email at researchscoutgroup@gmail.com

Research Scout Group 0408 949 207
ELTHAM REDBACKS 2017
Play football in 2017 – boys and girls. Eltham Redbacks invite all junior players for their 2017 season. Spiderlings Program ages 3 – 4, Saturday Skills Program U5-U9, Small Sided Football U8 – U11 and Junior football to U18. Play at a family friendly club with the best football facilities, coaches and curriculum. For enquiries please contact secretary@elthamredbacksfc.org.au or visit our website www.elthamredbacksfc.org.au

2nd ELTHAM SEA SCOUT, JOEY SCOUT MOB PREPARE FOR ADVENTURE IN 2017
Do you know how to cook chocolate spiders? Can you build monsters from scrap recyclable items? Where else can you explore out about nature and grow plants? You need to join Joey Scouts.

A recent parent testimonial stated ‘Being part of the Joey community has been a wonderful experience. My children have really grown with their own confidence, built wonderful friendships and found sensible independence. The activities are very broad and anyone can enjoy them. It's lovely to be part of the community and see the kids learning new things all the time in real life situations. There is a lot of learning without them even realising they are learning’

We welcome boys and girls to join us at 2nd Eltham Sea Scouts on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm-6.30pm. Joey Scouts are aged 6 - 7½. All enquiries welcome. Talk to Kelpie (Simone) on 0409 950 250 or email 2ndelthamgroup@gmail.com

DIAMOND CREEK JUNIOR BLUE LIGHT
Come along to the Diamond Creek Junior Blue Light Disco will be held on Friday 17 February at the Community Bank Stadium, Diamond Creek between 7.00pm ~ 10.00pm. Admission ~ $8.00 with No Pass-Outs – ages: 8 to 13. Soft shoes only, no heels please. For further information please contact Senior Sergeant Wayne Spence 9438 8300

WANTED – JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS PANTON HILL REDBACKS
Panton Hill Redbacks are looking for boys and girls for our 2017 season. Beginners welcome. We have experienced accredited coaches. Auskick 5 – 7 yrs old, Under 9s to Under 17. Come and play at our small friendly club. We pride ourselves on our great family atmosphere. Bring a friend. Registration now open. All registrations for the 2017 season will receive a free family social membership valued at $120. Registration and enquiries please call Mel Barlett 0425 802 302.
Rosanna Golf Links Primary School

ANNIVERSARY SCHOOL FAIR
February 26, 2017. 10-4pm

Reunion Hall
Live Music
All Age Rides
Stalls
Food
Activities
Sideshows

60TH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY
21ST BIRTHDAY
DEAF FACILITY
CELEBRATIONS

Interlaken Pde, Rosanna www.rosanna-golflinks-ps.vic.edu.au

2018 YEAR 7 ENROLMENTS CLOSE 17 FEBRUARY 2017

Catholic Schools
TOP 12
Best VCE Results

Congratulations
Class of 2016
on outstanding results

Twilight Tour
Thursday, 9 February
4.45pm-7.00pm
Last tour leaves at 6.15pm
Principal's address at 4.45pm, 6.00pm and 7.00pm
REGISTER AT WWW.CLC.VIC.EDU.AU/TOURS

19 Diamond Street Eltham Victoria 3095
E: register@clc.vic.edu.au T: 03 9439 4097

Eltham Calisthenic College

2 Free Classes

Petrie Park Mountain View Road Montmorency
Please call Carolyn Milburn on 0417 599 623
www.elthamcalistheniccollege.com.au