

ROCHEDALE STATE SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER



No. 01 – 27 January, 2009

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2	Prep 2010 enrolments open
6	Rochedale S.H.S. Swimming Carnival (No School Parade)
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Thoughts for the Week

'If you want a place in the sun, prepare to put up with a few blisters.' - Abigail Van Buren

'To turn one's obstacle to one's advantage is a great step towards victory.' - French Proverb

Welcome & Welcome Back

Two slightly different expressions, but both most sincere! The Summer Holidays have now drawn to an end. Six weeks have passed at, some would say, break neck speed. Rochedale State School is once again open for business! I take this opportunity to welcome many new students to our school. Some are enrolled in our Prep year, others have arrived from different areas and other schools. I extend, not only to all these new students, but to their parents and caregivers, a most heartfelt welcome. You have arrived at a unique learning centre which prides itself on inclusivity in the attainment of knowledge. To the many hundreds of returning Rochedale students I also extend a warm welcome back. Your progression to a higher grade, most likely with a different teacher, is the

natural progression and I feel certain that you are excited about this journey. This particularly applies to our Year 7 Students who will be our senior cohort throughout 2009. Finally, I extend a warm welcome to my entire Staff and new members, Mr. Kent Frederikson and Mrs Leigh Kilah. Mr. Frederikson hails from New Zealand and has taught for a number of years in Queensland. Mrs Kilah, a very experienced and talented teacher, has transferred from Carina State School, and like Mr. Frederikson, will teach Year 5 this year.

Literacy and Numeracy

You are doubtless aware of the media's exposure of Literacy and Numeracy results towards the end of 2008. What emerged was a wake-up call for several State Governments. Literacy and Numeracy results were broken down State by State creating a table of highest and lowest standards in the nation. Trumpeted the *Courier-Mail's* Craig Johnstone recently... "Figures show that almost one in five of the state's 10-year-olds fail to achieve minimum standards in reading. A top-level report into literacy and numeracy warned that these children were falling short of national benchmarks and would find it 'difficult to progress satisfactorily at school'. The figures are revealed in the latest national results of literacy and numeracy tests given each year to Australian children in Years 3, 5 and 7. While Queensland Year 5 students recorded improved results from the previous year, only 81.2 per cent of them achieved the national benchmark for reading, while 85.4 per cent achieved the numeracy benchmark. By contrast, 90 per cent of NSW Year 5 students and 89.9 per cent of Victorian students cleared the national reading benchmark. Only the Northern Territory recorded a worse result than Queensland." So what are we to make of this statistic? For a start, may I assure you that Rochedale State School results were demonstrably higher than the Queensland average! Our students, across the board, performed well above the Queensland mean average. However, this is no reason to adopt complacency. On the contrary, my aim is not to aspire for Rochedale students to outperform nearby schools in the district, rather to be on par [or ahead] of the top schools in NSW and Victoria. The maximum achievement by ALL students is our 2009 top priority and that is why I flag this target already in my first editorial for the year.

How do we get there?

I endeavour to reach these desirable goals with your help. When President Obama was sworn in last week we all heard his stirring and powerful 'call to arms' speech. No, it was not with reference to the military, armament or the likes. Rather, it was a plea to the American people, and by default, the world, to work harder, be more committed and together conquer the obstacles and barriers that now confront us. Borrowing from the memorable inauguration speech, "we can all contribute to a common good." At this point I hear you say, "How can we help our kids?" "Don't we send our kids to school to be taught by professionals?" Of course you do! However, teachers can only do so much. Parents and Grandparents are needed. Teachers have your children for approximately six hours a day. Parents have them for the remaining eighteen hours. Inside these precious eighteen hours I solicit your help. Reading is the most important task you can do with your children. I am not referring to an occasional story read to a child because he/she 'has been good' today. No, the reading I hope you will take onboard is a daily commitment, a daily occurrence as common as dinner, washing up, making our bed etc. Home Reading at Rochedale State School will take on a new significance throughout 2009. The content is not as important as the regularity! Should your child wish to read J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter books, or Roald Dahl classics, or even comic books for their standard fare, so be it. The importance is that *they read, you listen*, encourage, explain and correct. Do not always give your child the answer. Rather ask your child "how can we find out?" A few years ago we sought answers in encyclopaedias, now we tend to "Google" an unknown word or access Wikipedia which is only a key stroke away. I have purposely drawn your attention to Home Reading in this first Newsletter of 2009. Do seek the help of grandparents. You will be surprised, they may indeed be excited about the prospect of assisting your children with reading in the home. Together with my dedicated teaching staff I entertain no doubt that 2009 will be a tremendous year where our Literacy and Numeracy standards will not only exceed the State average but compete with the very best other Australian states and territories. We have no time to waste. The starting pistol has been fired and the race is on.

At a slightly slower, but no less energetic pace is our 2009 Playgroup *The Rochedale Raindrops*. Under the leadership of Mrs. Trish Ireland and her trusty offsider, Mrs Sandy Davidson, toddlers 18 months to 4 years will descend on X block every Friday between 09.00-10.30 a.m. This is the 'home' for future Rochedale State School scholars of renown! Mrs. Ireland's exciting indoor and outdoor program continues with its proven formula of learning through play. It is a wonderful opportunity for our little people to meet other children, learn sharing, turn-taking and most of the social protocol which prepares them for Prep Year and the long journey beyond. Playgroup resumes on Friday, 6th February.

Once again, welcome to Rochedale State School! I shall try to meet/greet new parents already in this first, busy week. As before, my door is always open! You and I have the same goals... the best possible education for your child.

Liam Smith
Principal

TUCKSHOP NEWS

If for any reason you are unable to work on your rostered day, please give Norma a call on 0400 701 051.

Wed

28/01 Tuckshop Open

Thurs

29/01 Tuckshop Open

Fri

30/01 Kylie P Kath R

Mon

02/02 **Volunteer Needed**

Tues

03/02 Michelle D

Wed

04/02 Cathy O

Thurs

05/02 **Volunteer Needed**

Fri Kylie S

06/02 Kylie P Amanda G

Mon

09/02 **Volunteer Needed**

Tues

10/02 **Volunteer Needed**

Wed

11/02 Tracy S

Thurs

12/02 **Volunteer Needed**

Fri Sylvia B

13/02 Kylie P Kath R

Mon

16/02 Kaye S

Welcome everyone!

New Price List

Going home with today's newsletter is our new price list for 2009. This takes effect on Wednesday.

Lycra Bathing Caps

The tuckshop sells these caps for \$6.80 and are only available in blue.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help serve the children and make sandwiches etc. If you are interested, please phone Norma on 0400 701 051.

ROSHCA Program

Monday

Afternoon Tea

Craft

Outside Activity

Public Holiday

Tuesday

Afternoon Tea

Craft

Outside Activity

Dip, Crackers & Fruit

3D Drawings

Oval Tiggy

Wednesday

Afternoon Tea

Craft

Outside Activity

Fruit Platter

Masks

Jungle Obstacle

Thursday

Afternoon Tea

Craft

Outside Activity

Cooking

Dip, Crackers & Fruit

Hanging Monkeys

Fly

Pinwheels

Friday

Afternoon Tea

Craft

Outside Activity

Pinwheels & Fruit

Mural

Touch Football

Also available every day – Board games, pool tables, Sony, colouring, self-selection from collage trolley, reading, computers, quiet area in Library, self-selection sporting equipment, homework.

Please note ROSHCA can now take payments by EFTPOS.

School Banking – Receipts

When paying for excursions or school fees **please keep all receipts.** We are unable to give refunds without a receipt.

Students Leaving Early

Please try to let your child/ren know how they are going home or if they are being picked up early before they come to school. It is very difficult to get messages to children 10 minutes before the bell goes, especially if they are not in their classrooms.

Also, if picking your child/ren up early, they must be signed out by yourself at the front office. Children cannot be waiting at the drop off zone to be picked up early.

Library News -Week 1

Welcome back to another busy year of reading in the library. One of our focuses for this term will be the genre "humour" so please start looking for funny pictures, stories or poems to share on our humour board.

Borrowing will start week 3. Preps to Grade 3 must have a library bag to borrow and we strongly encourage Grades 4-7 to use a library bag.

Lunch time activities- will commence week 2 as we will be training our library monitors in the first week.

Library lessons will begin this week and Grades 1-7 will have a library exercise book to bring with them each week to library.

Have fun reading

Ms Cooney

Instrumental Music & Band

Instrumental Music and band lessons will resume with Mr Pearson in Week 2.

P&C News

Next meeting: Tuesday 24th February 7pm – AGM. Election of new committee for 2009. Happy New Year everyone, I hope everyone had Wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the long break.

Fundraiser: Rochedale State School is registered with *You Name It Labels* and for each order placed with them we receive a percentage. What a convenient and great way to help your school!

Just visit www.younameitlabels.com, check out the great products available and when you place your order, use our unique code: rss0907. It couldn't be easier!

ROCHEDALE STATE SCHOOL NETBALL:

The Netball season is about to begin and we are seeking a coach for our Grade 9 team. These girls performed very well last season, making the semi finals. Their coach from last year is awaiting the imminent arrival of her baby and therefore unable to continue. Our girls are very eager to play, but need a coach. Can you help? Games are held on Saturdays at Underwood Park and normally the girls train once a week. If you think you can help, please call me, Anne Dee on 0402 114 544.

Anne Dee, P&C President. Tel: 0402114544

Rochedale State School Amateur Swimming Club starts back this Friday.

We look forward to seeing all our existing families again this Friday, no doubt with plenty of holiday stories to exchange, as well as some new comers to add to the great atmosphere.

For those who are not yet members but want to get in on the action, it's never too late to join! Club nights are held each Friday from 6:15pm during the summer school terms so make your way to the School Activity Building this Friday between 6:15pm and 7:00pm to sign up.

For more information contact Al Dee on 3342 5253 or Louise Brier on 3841 0278.

SWIMMING NEWS

The P & C runs Learn to Swim and Squad training in the school pool. Access to this service is open to everyone, not only RSS families.

SQUAD

Training starts again this term with Mr Mat back by the pool on Wednesday, 28th (yes that's tomorrow). Times are the same as last term. Every existing squad family will be able to find a record of where they are with their squad money (as at the end of last term) with the money tin. These notes will show how many swims have been paid for, swims used and remaining credit / amount due.

LEARN TO SWIM

Kobie will once again be conducting lessons for the P & C's Learn to Swim Program this term. Lessons will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays after school and on Saturday mornings. Lessons will cater for children with a range of swimming abilities from bronze level (beginners), silver (progressing to all strokes) and gold (all strokes and preparation for squad). If your child attended lessons last term, they will not need another assessment however all new enrollments will need to be assessed by Kobie to determine their swimming level. Enrollments and assessments will take place from 3.00pm on Tuesday, 3rd February at the pool. Lessons will commence the following week from Monday, 9th February for an eight week block finishing on Saturday, 4th April. Cost is \$72 for the eight lessons.

PLEASE NOTE

Enrolments are for the full block of eight lessons. All fees are due in full on or before the day of your child's first lesson. There will be no exceptions to this. No payment, no lessons. For more information, phone Bronwyn King on 0409 727 557.

UNIFORM SHOP

Welcome back! The Uniform Shop will resume its usual hours:

Thursday, 2:00 - 3.15pm and Friday, 8:00 - 9:00am. If you are unable to come during these hours, please visit our website and complete an order form and submit it to the office enclosing your payment. Once processed, we will give you a call for you to pick it up.

Due to the busy period last week, most uniforms are sold out. These uniforms have been ordered and should arrive in 6 weeks. To avoid disappointment and frustration, please place your order with payment. I will put a notice of its arrival for your convenience. Thank you for your patience.

EFTPOS NOW AVAILABLE!

For your convenience, the Uniform Shop now has EFTPOS. For every transaction there is a fee of 1.25% of the purchase price. We accept Mastercard and Visa. No cash out available!

SCHOOL & HOUSE CAPTAINS Uniforms have arrived. Please see me this Friday at 8:00am. Cost to be advised.

Thank you to Karen E. Shirley L, and Inga W.
for all your help last week. It has been
appreciated.

Please note that the Uniform Shop is run on a
voluntary basis. We are looking for parents to
assist us in the Uniform Shop, it will be on a
roster basis so if you are able to spare a few
hours a week, please come and see me.

Have a great first week!
Mari-shell Scott
Uniform Shop Convenor