

ROCHEDALE STATE SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER



No. 10 – 30th March, 2009

Apr	1	Pizza Day
	3	Student of the Month – Parade 9am
	9	End of Term 1
	10	Good Friday
	20	Pupil Free Day
	21	Term 2 Commences
	23	School Leaders ANZAC Day Ceremony – ANZAC Square
	24	School ANZAC Day Ceremony 9am Parade
	29	Brisbane City Council Rochedale Development Information Evening
May	7 & 8	Year 4 Maranatha Camp

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Thoughts for the Week

'To be upset over what you don't have, is to waste what you do have.' - Ken Keyes Jr.

'To find yourself, think for yourself.' - Socrates

The Nobel Prize in Literature

is usually awarded to men and women in the autumn years of their distinguished writing careers. Doris Lessing was 88 when awarded her prize in 2007 with the citation "that epicist of the female experience, who with skepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilisation to scrutiny." Harold Pinter was in his late 70's when achieving his prize in 2005 with the citation "who in his plays uncovers the precipice under everyday prattle and forces

entry into oppression's closed rooms." Both authors started writing at an early age. Their biographers talk about a 'perceived need for expression,' coupled with a strong need to interpret, to explain and seek to understand the human condition in which they found themselves. Sadly, we live in an age where immediate gratification has displaced considered reflection; a time where contemplation is almost discouraged. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel, dear friends. At Rochedale State School our Year 3, 5 and 7 students do reflect, evaluate and consider the world and their unique place within it. Our *Young Authors Program* is an initiative that we strongly encourage. The narrative genre is alive and well across the school. The apparent uniformity of a sea of students smartly dressed in blue and yellow uniforms on Friday Assembly in Hall, taking in the various announcements, proclamations, news items, praise etc., morph into gifted individuals when clutching their pencils to write down their thoughts on a host of subjects. Our Year 3, 5 and 7 teachers are mere 'tour guides' who - metaphorically speaking - transport their students to a far-away setting and leave them there. This is the point where the miracle of narrative writing takes place. Classroom voices are replaced with eerie silence as each student engages his/her cerebral faculties, transmitting original thought through the central nervous system to the extremities of their fingers... a point in time when words pour out onto the blank page, creating a beginning without perhaps knowing the end. In no other academic subject do students experience this thrill. They are truly in charge from the start. Then, as they proudly marvel over their achievements, the Tour Guides, e.g. their Teachers, return with constructive critique. Not tearing down the students' creations; not questioning the reasons for their narrative, but rather to show how a comma, a shorter sentence or a longer description of a scene may enhance the original draft. The finished work (is there ever such thing?) is later peer reviewed in class, polished to perfection and ENJOYED by parents, siblings and the most grateful and benevolent critics in the world – Grandparents. Are we happy with our Young Authors' Program, an

integral part of our English program? You bet we are! It does not come any better and another reason why you should insist on your children's daily reading at home. Remember, most prolific writers are also prolific readers.

K-Mart Employee of the Month

We are all greeted with a smiling face of a shop assistant, storeman or junior manager as we enter not only K-Mart, but Coles, Woolworths and most of the fast food chains. The practice began in the USA a few decades ago. I don't believe it carried any financial rewards or bonuses, but was intended to reward effort and display such effort to the general public. In some schools we have the practice of Student-Of-The-Month award. Not dissimilar to the aforementioned K-Mart example, Student-Of-The-Month awards are intended as a recognition of students who 'go the extra mile' for their school, their class and themselves. With the high standard, which I perennially return to, of our school, we would ideally need 850 months in the year! However, we are stuck with 42 teaching weeks and make the best of those 42. Some critics may hold that the procedure is anti-egalitarian and at odds with the ethos of public education, to which I simply assign Ebenezer Scrooge's "Bah Humbug". The criterion for the award is broad. The winners are not necessarily chosen on account of academic endeavour and/or achievement. A helpful student who treated a new child to the school with friendship and kindness is as likely a candidate as the boy who scored a try for Rochedale inside the last minute of the game. Student-Of-The-Month is almost akin to the Queensland Heroes award, where ordinary Queenslanders, faced with extraordinary circumstances rise above themselves to perform great life saving deeds for their fellow citizens. One good deed begets another...

Last full week before Easter

is in full swing. Trish Ireland's popular Raindrops Playgroup has their last meeting before Easter at week's end, as the following week's get-together falls on Good Friday. Next door, our little Prep-Year students are also looking forward to their "First School Holiday!"... hmm, got a nice ring to it, hasn't

it? Yes, Easter bunnies, bilbies and other critters may visit our resident peacocks Andrew and Bill over the next week as Rochedale prepares for the Easter exodus. Meanwhile, have a wonderful and productive autumn week!

Liam Smith

Principal

CURRICULUM CORNER

Last Friday I had the pleasure of accompanying 11 Year 6 and 7 students to the Ideas Festival at South Bank. Not only were the students such great ambassadors for Rochedale State School, they were also exposed to some interesting and inspiring sessions.

The first session was the launch of the Indigenous Literacy Project, where we saw Ernie Dingo talk about some of the issues which some indigenous students face when learning to read and write English.

The next session gave the students the opportunity to listen to two authors. JC Burke is an author who writes for teenagers. She shared with us where she gets her inspiration from for her stories and some of the processes she goes through when she is writing. Please see her website: <http://www.jcburke.com.au/index.html> if you would like more information.

The other author we heard was 16 year old Skye Bortoli. Skye is passionate about saving whales and has written and published a book about the journey she has taken in her endeavour to save whales. Both authors have inspired the students to keep writing.

The final sessions' focus was on thinking creatively and positively. After asking the group what each of us is "Unashamedly Excellent" at, the group was given a problem to solve. The problem involved passing a ball around a room and each person saying what they are "Unashamedly Excellent" at. When we got 2/3 of the way around the group in 4 mins and 23 sec, the problem was stopped. When the instructors informed us that they had a group of 400 complete the problem in 0.3 seconds, we were amazed and went back to the problem. After much discussion, our group of 90 students was also able to complete the problem in 0.3 seconds!

Thank you Mrs Slater who accompanied me on Friday and to Mrs Elwood who went to the festival with Mrs Webster and different students on Thursday.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gayle Healey
Curriculum Coordinator

TUCKSHOP NEWS

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

Tues

31/3 Michelle D

Wed

1/4 Cathy O **Pizza Day**

Thurs

2/4 Anne W

Fri Volunteer Needed

3/4 Kylie S **Interschool Sport**

Mon

6/4

Tues

7/4

Wed

8/4 Tracey S

Thurs Kylie P

9/4 **Volunteer Needed**

Fri

10/4 **Good Friday**

Mon

13/4 **Easter Monday**

Tues 14/4 – Fri 17/4 Holidays

Mon

20/4 **Pupil Free Day**

Tues

21/4 Shirley L

Wed

22/4 Suzanne U

Thurs

23/4 Douglas K Amanda C

Fri Interschool Sport

24/4 Kath R Georgina F

Mon

27/4 Amanda R

Tue

28/4 Michelle D

Wed

29/4 Cathy O

Thurs

30/4 Anne W

Fri Interschool Sport

1/5 Kylie S **Volunteer Needed**

Mon

4/5 **Labor Day Holiday**

Thank you Michelle, Sylvia & my Year 7 helpers for your help last week.

Pizza Day

Collection point for Pizza Day is the Activity Hall Building. Grades 4-7 will collect their pizzas at big lunch bell or prior. Grades 1-3 will collect theirs at 12.30pm and will be accompanied to the hall by their teachers. Prep orders will be collected by their teacher aides. The 3 choices of pizza fit into the Amber category for Healthy Foods. Enjoy! Make sure your rubbish goes in the bin! All other hot food is still available on Pizza Day. If two parents could spare 30 mins on this day from 12.30pm please see me at the tuckshop. Thank you.

IOU's

As we are nearing end of term, could IOU's please be finalised ASAP please.

ROSHCA Program

Monday

Afternoon Tea	Fruit Platter
Craft	Pet Rocks
Outside Activity	Skipping Competition
Cooking	Choc Chip Slice

Tuesday

Afternoon Tea	Choc Chip Slice & Fruit
Craft	Ribbon Bookmarks
Outside Activity	Oval Tiggy

Wednesday

Afternoon Tea	Sandwiches & Fruit
Craft	Easter Egg Placemat
Outside Activity	Dancing

Thursday

Afternoon Tea	Dip, Fruit & Crackers
Craft	Easter Basket
Outside Activity	Cat & Mouse
Cooking	Banana Cake

Friday

Afternoon Tea	Banana Cake & Fruit
Craft	Friendship Bracelet & Colouring-in

Outside Activity Dodgeball

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.

Due to the fee increase for 2009 we are now charging over the maximum rate of Child Care Benefit. **ALL FAMILIES PLEASE CHECK THE A-Z ACCOUNTS BOX LOCATED BESIDE THE PARENT COMMUNICATION BOOK FOR YOUR ACCOUNTS.** Accounts are generated weekly (Monday) for that week of care.

Maximum rate for non-school child - \$3.47 -
Maximum rate for a school aged child is 85 per cent of the maximum non-school child rate.

Also just a reminder to the families using direct deposit, we now have a new bank account number, please see ROSHCA staff for new details. Vacation care bookings are now being taken for the Easter Holidays from Tuesday, 14 April to Friday, 17 April. All bookings must be made prior to 8 April with a \$20 deposit per family.

Vacation Care

Vacation Care programs are now available from the ROSHCA room. Please ensure the forms and \$20 deposit are back **before** 8/4/09. Also, please return Quality Assurance Surveys by Wednesday 28/3/09.

School Banking Days

All money for levies, excursions, sport etc. is to be brought to the school office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday only please. Also, the school office does not accept Credit Card payment and are unable to take EFTPOS. Please only send in cash or cheque. Thank you for your co-operation.

Library News – Week 10

Borrowing- Prep to Grade 3 please remember to bring your library bags. Grades 4-7 – it would be appreciated if you could use a library bag too.

Library award – Library Awards went to Liam H (1A) and William H (3C)

End of Term- As it is getting to the end of term, please check when library books are due to be returned. We have sent out quite a few overdue notices in the last week and we would really like to clear these up before the Easter Holidays.

Thank You – A big thank you to Stuart and Pam Watson who recently donated a substantial

amount of reading resources to the library. These were very much appreciated.

Happy Reading
Library Staff

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I'm sure that everyone is excited about how close the Easter holidays are. I'm guessing that there are a lot of people like me and if you are, your mind is already racing to figure out what to do with your time over the long weekend and maybe even the week after. If you are at all interested, all of the local churches have at least two and sometimes even more Worship Services over the long weekend to celebrate the real meaning of Easter. I would love to encourage you to check out a local church that interests you to find out when their service times are, but they will usually be on Good Friday and Easter Sunday mornings and occasionally there may even be a Thursday night service. Feel free to contact me through the School Office to ask me for more info.

Don't forget that I am in the school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, and that I am never too busy to talk to. If something's on your mind and you don't know who to talk to, come find me and bend my ear for a while. You never know, it might help!

Keep reading, and have a great week!

ON THE RADAR

Triple P Parenting Courses: This program is a practical course looking at Positive Parenting, good relationships, behaviour issues, routines family survival tips, etc. Courses are 8 weeks or the special one day course. Next courses for parents of teenagers (12 years & over):

8 Week Course – Mondays, April 27th-June 15th 7:00-9:00pm

Both courses held at Logan Uniting Church, 129 Dennis Road, Springwood.

(\$25 donation per family. Bookings can be made with the church office: 3290 1277.)

Games Rangers: Your training sessions have been locked in! You will need to report to the hall at the end of Morning Tea TOMORROW (Tuesday). You will need your hats, drink bottles, something to write with and the best co-operative attitude you can muster. It is going to be a lot of fun!

B Strong: B Strong has finished for Term 1, and I am looking out for interested participants for Term 2! Term 2 will be your last chance to participate in this fantastic program for 2009 as it will be the girls' turn in Term 3 & 4 when the Rochedale South SS Chaplain runs her "Sparkle" program. Don't miss out – let me know if you are interested.

Chappy Cafe: This lunchtime activity program gives interested participants the chance to hang out with friends, read the bible, ask questions and hopefully find some answers. Come and grab a permission form from the Chaplain!

RPC: Rochedale Prayer Crew meets in the Chaplain's Room at Morning Tea on Mondays. Everyone is welcome, and it would be great to see you there!

**Mr James
School Chaplain**

Thought for the day: "Winners never quit – and quitters never win."

P&C News

Our next meeting will be held in the staffroom - 7pm, 28th April.

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!

SWIMMING NEWS

This is the last full week for squad this season so let's finish off on a high! There will be no training next week but our Break-up Party will happen from 3.15 to around 5.00pm on Tuesday, 7th April. We will be having a sausage sizzle and heaps of fun in the pool. All squad swimmers are invited. Adults will have their last chance to train for this season on Tuesday 7th at the usual time.

Please be aware that at the end of this swimming season, all accounts for both Squad and Learn to Swim will need to be finalized. If your family is in credit, you will be entitled to a refund. So if you think you may be in credit, please check with me and I will ask the treasurer to organise a cheque for you. Conversely, if you owe money, please pay.

Thank you to those who have finalised their accounts already however, **41 families still owe money for Squad or Learn to Swim!** Most of these debts are for less than 5 swims. Even if you have only missed paying for one or two swims, those one or two swims multiplied by several families will make all the difference to helping us cover our costs. Both Mr Mat and Bronwyn are able to let you know where you are up to as far as fees are concerned.
Bronwyn, 0409 727 557
Squad and Learn to Swim Co-ordinator

SWIM CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT

Presentation night will be held this Saturday evening from 5.00pm. Dinner and presentation of trophies and awards will be followed by a disco while parents can relax with BYO drinks.

Marching into Africa

Radio Brisbane ABC 612 is running an appeal to collect second hand shoes for an orphanage in Zambia, Africa. 3C & 3M are joining them with this collection. We are collecting old wearable lace up shoes for the next two weeks. If you can help us, please tie the laces together and place in a plastic bag with the size clearly marked on the outside. All shoes may be left in 3C & 3M classroom and we will deliver them to the pick up points. The last day for donations is Wednesday, 8th April. Thank you for your support, 3C & 3M.