

# ROCHEDALE STATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



New Phone No: 3340 8333  
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*No. 35 - 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2008*

## October

- 28 P & C Meeting  
2I & 2M Lilydale Farm Excursion
- 29 2S & 2W Lilydale Farm Excursion
- 30 Rhapsody 4 Combined Band Tour
- 31 World Teacher's Day

## November

- 1 Swimming Club Carnival
- 4 Melbourne Cup Day
- 7 Interschool Sport Finishes
- 8 School Disco
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 27 Instrumental Music Evening

## December

- 2 Year 1 Swimming Carnival
- 3 Year 2 Swimming Carnival
- 4 Year 3 Swimming Carnival  
Christmas Carols 6.30pm
- 5 Orientation Rochedale S.H.S.  
Year 3 Bush Christmas Theatre
- 2, 3, 4 Year 7 Activity Week
- 8 Year 4-7 Swimming Carnival
- 9 Year 7 Graduation
- 12 Final Day Term 4

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### Thoughts for the Week

'A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.'

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'Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.'

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## How lucky are we?

We live in an age where Libraries have morphed into virtual research centres. No longer are we greeted by bespectacled spinster librarians, hair in a bun, and cameo broche on starched high-collared blouses pointing towards signs on the walls "Silence". Visit any library, from the Queensland State Library, to the many suburban facilities and you will find vibrant centres of not only reading, but computer-based research, children's play areas, support groups, interest groups and the list goes on ad infinitum. So how does this progress translate to the local scene at State School levels? Clearly, there is great variance between schools. I can only speak about the positive aspects of Rochedale State School's Library. It is here, with the morning sun shining through its entrance, that you encounter Teacher-Librarian Rhonda Cooney, our welcoming host in this important part of our school. Centrally located, not by chance, but by design, the Library is a focus of much learning. It is here that busy Rhonda Cooney is currently staging the Annual Book Fair. This fair is designed to encourage purchase of books for children. An additional bonus, apart from the main reason of encouraging home reading and literacy, are donations from the publishers of new books to our Library. These donations are in proportion to money spent during Book Fair. T/L Rhonda Cooney has brought "energy" into our Library. No amount of books, props and gadgets work in isolation. It is, when in the hands of someone totally motivated and innovative, that the results become encouraging. Multi-talented Rhonda Cooney is also heading Student Council, giving instructive advice on a range of issues and being on hand for our young ambassadors as they represent our school on and off campus. If you have not visited our Library for some time, I recommend a B-line to this building next time you visit our school. I dare say you will be pleasantly surprised at what you see – a vibrant, constantly evolving, first class learning facility.

## Band music stirs the soul

As we go to press today, our gifted Rochedale School Band is taking part in a Music Fest at Iona College. Anyone present at last Friday's Assembly would testify to the quality of our band. Its stirring renditions throughout Assembly concluded with Waltzing Matilda where our classes marched back to class, stomping their feet as if using the Parade

Ground at Duntroon College! Yes, band music is an integral part of our curriculum. Those who choose to join Band are committed youngsters who are aware of the fact that after-school practice is essential to success. With 2009 looming large there will be openings in our band. It is essential that those students attracted to band music and all the rewards it yields to its practitioners, understand the expected commitment. It is also essential that parents/care givers understand our school's expectations. I applaud the talents of Band Master Mr Pearson, our talented, if sometimes unpredictable twirler of the baton. His enthusiasm and expertise have forged a strong bond between band members and their successes in competitions, eisteddfods and general performances such as Assembly in Hall. I am sure today's competition will broaden our band's horizon and extend their off campus confidence.

**And now for something completely**

**different...** I promised, in an earlier editorial, to share the academic results of Rochedale State School from the Year 3/5/7 Tests. So where do we stand at the moment as a school amongst schools? For a start, I am happy to announce that we are right up there with the best performing schools in Queensland. Starting with our State's mean statistics; Rochedale State School performs ABOVE the State mean in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation and Numeracy. This is to say that our school is ABOVE the State standards in all five areas in all year levels. Some may argue that it is flawed to compare academic results of schools such as ours with remote, outback schools with challenges not presented in our environment. However, such are the E.Q. tables that it is possible to move away from the overall State comparisons to "Like Schools". By the term 'like school' we examine our performance against schools of similar socio-economic make-up, enrolment, staffing and other variables. It is here that we have reason to smile and take heart – not to rest on our laurels! In the columns of 'Like Schools' we find Rochedale State School ABOVE the 'Like Schools' in ALL academic areas. So what is the reason(s) for this good news? How long is a string? Clearly, there are many reasons. These results do not just happen. Yes, we have gifted students in our ranks. We have bright students, we have determined students... in short we have them all at Rochedale. Yet, perhaps we also

have something else? A Writing Program, possibly the most important ongoing focus throughout our school and I will make reference to this program in next week's newsletter.

And that's the way we see it this last week of October, with worldwide economic gloom and doom, Melbourne Cup around the corner, the final countdown for a new U.S. President and our resident peacock, Andrew, oblivious to it all... doing his rounds at Rochedale State School...

**Liam Smith  
Principal**

**PREP LEVIES**

All Prep levies need to be finalised by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November. If you have not yet paid your \$25 per semester please pay this in the school office before this date.

**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**  
28/10 Michelle D
- Wed**  
29/10 Kylie P
- Thurs**  
30/10 Cathy O
- Fri Interscho`ol Sport** Melissa T
- 31/10 Kylie P Georgina F Kylie S
- Mon**  
3/11 **Help Needed Today**
- Tues**  
4/11 Shirley L
- Wed**  
5/11 Cathy W Sue V
- Thurs**  
6/11 Douglas K Amanda C
- Fri** Michelle F **Interschool Sport**
- 7/11 Kylie P Kath R
- Mon**  
10/11 **Help Needed Today**
- Tues**  
11/11 Michelle D
- Wed**  
12/11 Kylie P
- Thurs**  
13/11 Cathy O
- Fri**  
14/11 Kylie P Melissa T Sylvia B

**Mon**

17/11 Kaye S

**Tues**18/11 **Help Needed Today****Wed**

19/11 Tracy S

**Thurs**

20/11 Anne W Cathy O

**Fri** Amanda G

21/11 Kylie P Kath R

**Mon**

24/11 Anne D Amanda R

**Tues**

25/11 Michelle D

**Wed**

26/11 Kylie P

**Thurs**

27/11 Kathy M

Thank you Kylie, Kathy & James and my Year 7's for your assistance last week.

**Foreign Coins**

We are receiving a lot of New Zealand \$1 and \$2 coins. Unfortunately the bank will not accept them. Please do not hand these over at the tuckshop.

**Pizza Day**

We will be having another Pizza Day soon. Stay tuned.

**ROSHCA Program****Monday**

Afternoon Tea	Fruit Platter
Craft	Stuffed Paper Sea Turtle
Outside Activity	Yoga

**Tuesday**

Afternoon Tea	Sandwiches & Fruit
Craft	Jellyfish
Outside Activity	Skipping Games
Cooking	Pinwheels

**Wednesday**

Afternoon Tea	Pinwheels & Fruit
Craft	Sea Animal Window Deco's
Outside Activity	Handball Competition

**Thursday**

Afternoon Tea	Dip, Crackers & Fruit
Craft	Handprint Octopus
Outside Activity	Dizzy Races
Cooking	Cornflake Crunch

**Friday**

Afternoon Tea	Cornflake Crunch & Fruit
Craft	Fish Collage

Outside Activity Cryptic Clue Crawl

Also available every day –

Sony, Board games, Dress-Ups, Table Games, Colouring-in and Computers.

**P&C News**

Next meeting, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm in the staffroom. All welcome.

**LEARN TO SWIM: WE HAVE FOUND A NEW LEARN TO SWIM TEACHER!!** Come and meet Kobie, she has several years experience and is looking forward to meeting everyone. We will be holding assessments in the pool on Wednesday at 3pm, so bring your child with their togs, cap and goggles (if needs be) and book in for swimming lessons. This term will be a 5 week block of lessons for \$45.

Any queries please call Bronwyn (P&C Rep) on 3341 2828.

**SWIM SQUAD:** Mr. Mat our coach is ready to coach our swimmers. Come join us. Monday to Thursday:

Junior Squad: 3.15pm – 4.05pm, Intermediate Squad: 4.15pm – 5.15pm, Senior Squad: 5.15pm – 6.45pm

Adult Squad (Tuesday and Thursday) 6.45pm-7.45pm.

For more information, please call Bronwyn King (P&C Rep) on 3341 2828

**CROSS TRAINING:** Senior and adult swimmers who want to cross train are now able to come along during senior squad for SELF-PACED training on the bikes and / or stairs of the grandstand before they swim. Please note that Mr Mat will be giving swimming coaching only and because there will be no supervision on the oval, access to this cross training will be restricted to the pool enclosure only.

Adult swimmers are also welcome to train in senior squad sessions (Monday through Thursday 5.15pm to 6.45pm) if these times are more convenient for you.

Any Questions about squad or learn to swim? Call Bronwyn on 0409 727557 or 3341 2828

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: DISCO!** On Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>. DJ Bobby Brown will be back to provide an evening of great music and games. We will have hot dogs, lollies, soft drinks, spiders, Glow Products for sale. Come Join the fun!! Entry \$3 per child.

Junior (Prep – Grade 3) 5.30 to 7pm, Senior (Grade 4 to Grade 7) 7.15 to 9pm

Shopping Warehouse Tour: Come join the fun on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Shop til you drop at a variety of shopping outlets. Just \$38, includes lunch at the Broncos Leagues Club and morning tea. To book, please call Laura on 0400085512 or email: [lwi44288@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lwi44288@bigpond.net.au)

Jet Star Fundraiser – We are now collecting Jet star boarding passes!! If you fly with Jet star between August 7 2008 and January 7 2009 please hold onto your boarding pass. We are now collecting them to try and receive a free flight voucher that we can use as a fundraiser at a later date. Please leave any boarding passes at the office. Thank you.

Anne Dee, P&C President. Tel: 0402114544

**LANGUAGE NEWS:** During the September holidays I attended a National Language Teacher's conference at which best practice pedagogies from around the world were presented together with exhibitions of the latest language – learning resources available to students. A resource which I thought had great potential to enhance the language learning of our students at Rochedale was a web-based language resource called 'LINGUASCOPE'. It is a site developed in Europe to support the study of 5 languages – French, English, Italian, Spanish and German. The site has interactive game activities for a vast range of communicative topics and has sections dedicated to language learners from primary to advanced level. It can be used self-instructionally for independent learning or as a support to an existing school language program. The company has given our school the opportunity to trial the programme for the next 2 weeks. If students and parents consider it worthwhile the school will consider purchasing the rights of use next year. To access the programme, Type the following web address [www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com) - When the Home Page comes up, click on the section second from the left, called "Linguaprime". This is the section most suited to primary school learners.

As USER NAME – type in .... rochedale

(Make sure it is in lower case)

As PASSWORD – type in ... freetrial

Feel free to experiment with the other sections of course. It is possible to do all of these activities in any of the 5 languages so could be used by ESL students to help them with their English. Also on the site you will note that learners can listen to French radio, download songs etc onto their mobile phones if they choose. The school would like to receive feedback from parents and students about how they found the site. Would you kindly email me [spear43@eq.edu.au](mailto:spear43@eq.edu.au) with any comments you would like to make. It is on the basis of these comments that the school will make a decision to purchase or not. Merci beaucoup, Sandra Pearson. (Professeur de francais)

### **Library News – Term 4 Week 4**

Book Fair - Thank you to all the students and parents who have supported our book fair this year. It was very successful and has meant that we have been able to purchase a large number of books for the library. Raffle prizes will be presented at parade this Friday.

Overdue Books- As it is getting towards the end of the year we are starting to remind children about their overdue books. Reminder notes have been sent out and unfortunately we have had to send some invoices for very overdue books. Please check with your children to see if their books are on the overdue list.

### **Student Council News**

We will be selling bandanas and pens this week in the library in support of Canteen. Canteen looks after children and their families who are affected by cancer. Bandanas are \$3 and pens \$2. Please support this very worthy cause.

### **SUPA IGA Community Benefits Program**

If you have purchased items from SUPA IGA this year you may have had the option to choose which organisation your 'tokens' were donated to. Rochedale State School was one of the selected organisations and as a result of this program SUPA IGA has donated \$172.84 to our school. A big thank you to everyone who donated their tokens and to SUPA IGA for their wonderful support!

## **🎁 Christmas Hampers 🎁**

### **November is Food and Gift Drive Month!**

Each year our School Community practically shares some Christmas spirit with those in our community less fortunate than ourselves through our November Food & Gift Drive. The many boxes of donated food and gift items are distributed through St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers to needy families in the Rochedale, Underwood and Springwood area.

*November* is our *'Food and Gift Drive' month*.

Each classroom will have a 'Donation Bag' where children can place any donated

- 🎁 non-perishable Christmas or 'Special Treat' food (please check use-by dates)
- or
- 🎁 gifts (must be new).

Donation ideas and updates will appear in the newsletter.

*Collection will begin next week* (Week 5) and will continue till Week 8...just four weeks this year!

If anyone would like to help sort and box up the donated goods on a Wednesday morning at 8.40am please give me a call.

Robynne T 3219 9771 or 0408 785 494  
Or email [camrob@iprimus.com.au](mailto:camrob@iprimus.com.au)

## **Christian Religious Education (CRE) News**

We still have a Grade 7 CRE teacher gap and a gap for a Grade 5 CRE helper in our 2009 CRE Program.

Interested in finding out more?

Contact Robynne Turner for more details on 3219 9771, 0408 785 494 or [camrob@iprimus.com.au](mailto:camrob@iprimus.com.au) .