

**ROCHEDALE STATE SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER**



**New Phone No: 3340 8333**  
**New Fax No: 3340 8300**

*No.8 - 17 March, 2008*

Mar 21-24 Easter Weekend
Apr 4-14 First Term Holidays
May 29-30 Yr 4 Yandina Camp

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK**

**Thoughts for the Week**

"Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength."

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"Learning is finding out what you already know, Doing is demonstrating that you know it, Teaching is reminding others that they know it as well as you do. We are all learners, doers, and teachers."

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**How lucky was she?**

(And how lucky are we?) Two simple rhetorical questions I have chosen for this St. Patrick's Day edition of the Newsletter. At our school we make no supremacy claim over the grounds. We do not trumpet *Private Property; Trespassers*

*will be shot!; Keep out!* or any other such messages to our frequent and diverse animal visitors. Not that they would take much notice as they are motivated to enter our school zone for a non-educational purpose. Put simply, they like the place. I often feel privileged as School Principal to walk around the grounds and observe wallabies and kangaroos grazing in the distance; koalas sleeping in our trees and a few late possum revellers getting ready to sleep the school days away in their home amongst the gum trees. Less often, or more discreet, is the appearance of the echidna. Not surprisingly when she does appear, she appears with all the fanfare of a major event. After all, what could be more major than our little friend's Friday adventure? You see, our resident echidna had been in search of some yummy ants, the 'gourmet' kind, residing a few centimetres below the red soil when she took the wrong turn and wedged herself in one of our storm water drains. No UBD directory for her! No state-of-the-art Navman here. Luckily, we managed to summons an intrepid wild-life carer, Karen Sweetapple, from a nearby sanctuary that performed the delicate rescue mission. The gourmet ants, not surprisingly, drew a sigh of relief as our little echidna looked too tired to worry about eating after her ordeal in the stormwater drain. Let's treasure our wildlife to the fullest.

**Start them early...** is a catch-cry not only from trainers and coaches in all sports, but also from educators across the board. It is a proven fact, from a multitude of empirical studies, that Early Education benefits children. How early? There is no definitive data nor correlation with a certain age as children's development varies. However, what is crystal clear is that 'organised, structured' play is enormously beneficial to children's

overall intellectual and social development. It is important to remember that intellectual development in isolation is of questionable value if not followed by social development. How is this so? Well, it is quite simple. Children go to school in a social environment. In this setting they are required to fit in with their peers; accept compromise; accept turn taking; accept social norms and cultural markers necessary to function appropriately in society. It is great to welcome to Rochedale State School a child that knows his/her ABC, basic numeracy and literacy. However, if that same child has no semblance of social norms in their repertoire the teacher's task, will be more demanding. This is where PLAYGROUP, yes in capital letters, comes in. Here at Rochedale State School we are now pleased to announce that we run a weekly Playgroup on Fridays for toddlers. This is not a free-for-all session, but a structured, educational, planned Early Childhood 2-hour block staffed by one of our highly motivated Early Childhood Education teachers, Mrs Trish Ireland and supported by Mrs Sandy Davidson. While this program is of tremendous benefit to all young children, I stress its particular value to one child families where interaction with other toddlers is limited for obvious reasons. I welcome families to take advantage of this great Rochedale State School initiative and look forward to meeting new children during my rounds.

**Council elections over for another** four years. Once again the only signs to dot the landscape will be the myriad of real estate signs. One confused voter was heard to ask about the candidate for the party "First National" only to be told they were a Real Estate agency, hmm! The local government elections are now concluded. Brisbane's Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman is back at the helm of

Australia's largest local authority with a budget twice that of the entire State of Tasmania. Locally, the people of Rochedale re-elected Adrian Schrunner for another four years. I take the opportunity to congratulate the Mayor and our local ward councillor and look forward to their continued support of our great school community.

### **D-Block gets its new roof**

Yes, there is movement at the station. The erection of a new roof, essential for further work, has finally been completed, some 106 days after the fire destroyed much of the building and its contents. Initial response to our unfortunate calamity was immediate, professional and appreciated. Now, we pray that internal work, under the roof, will speed up so that the planned April opening will take place. The added space will give the school even greater possibilities to provide that state-of-the-art education for which we are famous in the district and beyond. I hope to feature pictures of the completed D-Block in future editions of Newsletter.

**It's not easy being green...** sang Kermit E. Frog some years ago. Whether we like it or not, today is the most 'green' day of the year. St. Patrick's Day is growing bigger each year. The successful parade through Brisbane's streets last Saturday somehow beat the gun. Today is the real St. Patrick's Day with all the Irish traditions alive and well. I am unsure if my teachers have planned for the day but would not be surprised should we see the colour green dominantly feature in and around Rochedale State School today.

**Easter falls early** this year. I spoke about its nomadic shifts last week. It now only remains for me to wish everyone a safe, enjoyable and Holy Easter 2008. I trust that every family will enjoy not only the

four-day holiday, but will treasure the message of Easter, a message that takes a person from death to eternal life, possibly the most powerful message of all.

Also, please send any completed Car Park Petition Forms into the office as soon as possible.

With two short weeks ahead and a well-deserved break for all..., and buoyed by the Queensland Reds' and the Broncos' tantalising victories last Saturday...

*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.

#### **Tues**

18/3 Michelle D Shirley L

#### **Wed**

19/3 Kylie P

#### **Thurs**

20/3 Cathy W Naomi B

#### **Fri**

21/3 **Good Friday Public Holiday**

#### **Mon**

24/3 **Easter Monday**

#### **Tues**

25/3 Leah W

#### **Wed**

26/3 Cathy O Donna L

#### **Thurs**

27/3 Douglas K Amanda C

**Fri Interschool Sport**

28/3 Michelle F **2 Helpers Needed**

**Please**

#### **Mon**

31/3 **Helper Needed Today**

#### **Tues**

1/4 Michelle D

#### **Wed**

2/4 Kylie P **Pizza Day**

#### **Thurs**

3/4 Kathy M Bev G

**Fri Syliva B Interschool Sport**

4/4 Melissa T **Help Needed**

**Mon 7/4 – Fri 11/4**

**Mon PUPIL FREE DAY**

14/4

#### **Tues**

15/4 Michelle D

#### **Wed**

16/4 Kylie P **Volunteer Needed**

#### **Thurs**

17/4 Sue VCathy W

**Fri** Kylie P

18/4 Melissa T Georgina F

Thank you Douglas for your help on Monday. Thank you Kathy, Kath & my Year 7 helpers Kyle, Corey, Michael, Jake & Curtis for your help last week.

### **Bathing Caps**

We no longer have stock of lycra or rubber bathing caps. You can purchase these from your local chemist we will replenish our stock when swimming season starts again in October.

### **Apple Slinky Orders**

Please, I now need the money from people who have not paid \$30 for the machine. Would Julie W & Sharon M please get in touch with me as to whether you still require your order A.S.A.P. The order cannot be sent off until I have the money. Thank you.

### **Pizza Day**

Pizza order forms will go home with next Tuesday's Newsletter. Prep may have pizza too.

### **Big Lunch/Little Lunch**

Both Big Lunch & Little Lunch orders must be written out on separate bags. Thank you.

### **Tuckshop Committee Meeting**

Our first meeting this year will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in the tuckshop. We discuss issues related to the tuckshop. Anyone can attend these meetings. Thank you.

### **ROSHCA Program**

#### **Monday**

Afternoon Tea                      Wraps & Fruit

Craft                                  Easter Cards  
Outside Activity                  Skipping Comp

#### **Tuesday**

Afternoon Tea                      Dip, Crackers &  
Fruit

Craft                                  Easter Basket  
Outside Activity                  Force 'em Backs  
Cooking                              Mini Savoury

Croissants

#### **Wednesday**

Afternoon Tea                      Croissants &  
Fruit

Craft                                  Easter Bunny  
Outside Activity                  Hop, Skip, Jump  
Cooking                              Cakes

#### **Thursday**

Afternoon Tea                      Cakes & Fruit

Craft                                  Easter Choc Nests  
Outside Activity                  Easter Hunt  
Cooking                              Choc Balls

#### **Friday**

Afternoon Tea                      **Good Friday**

Craft                                  **Public Holiday**

Outside Activity                  **No ROSHCA**

Also available every day –

Sony, Boardgames, Dress-Ups, Table Games, Colouring-In & Computers

### **Library News- Week 8**

Library bags are essential for Prep classes to Grade Three but it would be appreciated if older students used a library

bag as well so our books are protected from damage.

Library Awards – Students who are showing the correct behaviour will be given a library award. The winner from last week was Eryn P from 4C.

Lunch Time Activities – These are becoming very popular and space is becoming limited. On movie days if you are not in the library by 1.10pm you will not be allowed in because it is very disrupting to the movie watchers to have the door constantly opening and people coming and going. Also, a reminder that no food or drink can be brought into the library at any time.

Library staff would like to wish all members of the Rochedale School community a very happy Easter .

Library staff

### **P&C News**

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the staff room. Everyone is welcome.

### **CURRICULUM CORNER**

At Rochedale we are promoting open-mindedness in our students. Open minded students understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories. They are open to different perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. The students seek and evaluate a range of different points of view and are willing to grow from these experiences. To assist in promoting this at home, encourage your child to see a situation from another person's viewpoint.

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the maths workshop on addition and subtraction that was held last week. It

is always handy having some helpful hints on how to assist your child with their school work. In the very near future Mrs Spranklin and I will run a session with a focus on multiplication and division.

If there are any other areas that you would like more information about, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gayle Healey  
Curriculum Co-ordinator

**Free program supports families following divorce**

The University of Queensland is offering a free 12-week parenting program designed to improve outcomes for children following divorce. The program targets separated and divorced parents who have children aged 2-14 years, who have separated or divorced within the past 24 months, and who are having difficulty managing conflict with their ex-partner, coping with feelings, or managing child behaviour problems. For details, contact Family Transitions Triple P (07 3365 7303, [k.nicholls@psy.uq.edu.au](mailto:k.nicholls@psy.uq.edu.au)).