



NEWSLETTER

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Week Three

It's been a good Week Three at Rosewood Downs and everyone has settled back into our usual routines well. A four day week is a real bonus, so don't forget that we've all earned ourselves a sleep-in tomorrow.

Although we've had lots of disappointing news this school year, with lots of events and activities cancelled, we were very happy to hear the announcement on the weekend that school photos are now allowed to take place. All students had a personalised photo envelope sent home with them yesterday and the ordering process is very simple. Photos will be next Thursday 29th October with the photography taking place outside, but under cover.

Parent Opinion Survey

The Parent Opinion Survey has this year been made available for all parents to complete online. I sent a link home to all families inviting you to participate in this survey. This is your chance to have your say and provide feedback about you and your child's experience and satisfaction with how we operate as a school. Although we hope you have nice things to say about us, all responses are anonymous and will be reported back to the school. We use this data to inform our planning and decisions that will make our school even better.

You can access the survey via the newsfeed Compass post, or you can go to <https://www.orima.com.au/parent>, select '**Rosewood Downs Primary School**' and then enter the PIN **748662**. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and opinions which will be provided to the school later in the year.

Refund for Excursion/Incurtion Payments

With a number of confirmed cancellations, and some still pending, we have a number of families with credits on their school payment accounts. If you had paid for an event that has been confirmed as cancelled (Life Ed, Year 6 Musical, Unit C Museum Excursion) you have two options. You can contact the office and request a refund, or we can hold the money in credit for you for future activities. That includes activities that may take place later this year, or any events in 2021.

If you have paid for STOMP Dance, we are hopeful that this will still proceed as scheduled for five consecutive weeks later this term. We should have a more definitive answer on this next week. If we end up cancelling this event and you have already paid, you will also have the option to get a refund or hold the full amount in credit.

'Team Colours Day' on Thursday

We had a great 'Team Colours Day' at school today. There were lots of students wearing sports uniforms and jumpers and we were able to get outside and do lots of running around in the sunshine. There were quite a few kids in either Richmond or Geelong jumpers, so it looks like there will be lots of people with a keen interest in Saturday night's game. It will be a history-making grand final whatever happens, as it is the first one played interstate and first night grand final. Let's hope for a good game!



2021 Prep Enrolments

We had some good news today, with the announcement that we will be able to run Prep transition sessions for small groups of 2021 Prep students later in the term. Mrs Harrison and Mrs Chan have been visiting our local kinders to meet our future preps, read stories and talk to them about all the fun things they'll get to do at Rosewood Downs next year. We will have further information for 2021 Prep parents in coming weeks.

If you are a parent with a child at home who will be beginning Prep in 2021 and are yet to enrol, please get in touch so that we can get the process underway. If you know of any families who have a child ready to start Prep in 2021 but are yet to decide on a school, please encourage them to give us a call or let them know that we have a number of informative videos on our website that they may like to watch.

I understand that some parents are worried that their child who is due to begin Prep in 2021 may not be ready or prepared because of the disruption to this kinder year. Some parents are considering having their child repeat the year of kinder rather than begin their primary schooling. I would like to assure parents that we are very well-prepared to support our new Prep students next year and have a range of strategies and programs ready to help our new Preps get the best start to schooling and catch up with anything that may have been missed during their interrupted pre-schooling this year. Keeping them with their current, age-related peer group is nearly always in the best interest of every child.

Repeating a Year of School

Our focus for Term 4 is to make sure that each student is supported in their wellbeing and learning needs, and can finish the year with the confidence to progress to the next year level in 2021.

I want to assure you that we will respond to the unique and individual learning and wellbeing needs of all of our students, to prepare them for the transition, and continue to build their knowledge, skills and resilience.

Some parents may be worried about their child's progress during the period of remote learning and wondering whether their child would benefit from repeating a year of school.

Research shows that repeating a year level is not recommended and can lead to poorer outcomes for students. It's understandable that parents may think that another 12 months at the same year level will give their child an opportunity to catch up or mature, however this is only the best option for a student in exceptional circumstances. In most cases, research tells us that repeating a year level is not an effective strategy as it often negatively impacts academic achievement, wellbeing, engagement, and school completion.

We have support available to help identify and meet the individual learning needs of each student. Our school will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students close any learning gaps and meet their learning needs.

If you have concerns about your child's progress, please contact Julian or Deborah at school. We will be happy to discuss how Rosewood Downs can work with you to support your child to complete this year and progress to the next year level in 2021 with confidence and optimism.

'Students of the Week' and Birthdays!!

This week sees the return of our **'Student of the Week'** award! This week, for showing the value of respect, the award recipients were;

Ellie G from Unit A

Matthew L from Unit D

Thomas B from Unit C

Sara B from Unit B

Our birthdays this week are; **Harry and Fraser** from Grade 4, **Sobhan and Ali** from Grade 5 and **Levi** from Grade 6.

Mrs Pinwill and Mrs Anita Chan also celebrated their birthdays recently!

Enjoy your long weekend,
Julian

