



# NEWSLETTER

## Special Edition

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Thanks for all your work and support throughout Term 3. Enjoy the break and see you next term!

### End of Term Three

Here we are again, about to break for school holidays after another term of remote learning. It's been a long one – 10 weeks – and I think that everyone is well and truly ready for a break from online learning. Once again, as a school community, we've been able to navigate our way through a very different term. Not only because of the extended period of remote learning, but because of the accompanying Stage 4 restrictions which have been in place for over six weeks now. While this has provided challenges on multiple levels, I am very proud of the way our staff and parent community have worked together to provide the best learning opportunities for all our students. I would like to thank you all for your sustained efforts during Term 3. We have finished the term with a fun day featuring lots of crazy hairstyles, a real mixed-bag of family pets and a 'virtual disco', which was a new experience for most of us. I hope you now take the opportunity to relax for the next couple of weeks, make the most of the improving spring weather and refresh and recharge.

Although coronavirus cases in the community are gradually dropping and restrictions will hopefully begin to ease over coming weeks, Term 4 will be quite different once again. If all goes to plan with Victoria's Roadmap to Recovery, we will see Prep – Grade 2 students return to onsite learning from the beginning of the second week of term (October 12<sup>th</sup>). I will provide further details about the return to school procedures during Week 1 of term, while we are all going to be remote learning again for the week. At this stage we can't be sure when our Grade 3-6 students will return onsite but I'm hopeful it will be early on in the term.

With many restrictions projected to continue for months to come, unfortunately, there are a number of activities that are unlikely to take place in our day-to-day operations in Term 4. This includes;

- School assemblies
- Parent classroom helpers
- Interschool sports activities
- Rosewood Readers/Musos/Playgroup

- Excursions to public places
- Swimming Program
- School events with parent participation

The Department guidelines for Term 4 operations continue to focus on a range of measures that minimise the risk of potential virus transmission. I will be in touch in the first week of Term 4 with a return to school outline and keep you up to date with any important information from the Department as it comes to hand.

### **Return of loaned laptops and iPads**

As we will be continuing with remote learning in Week 1 of Term 4, students are welcome to hold on to borrowed devices over the holiday break. Please take good care of them as we will be collecting them in Term 4 as students return to onsite learning.

### **Grounds and facilities upgrades**

One of the few positive outcomes of the term of remote learning has been that we have been able to undertake some very significant works projects at school whilst we have had few staff and students on site. These projects have resulted in some exciting improvements to our buildings and grounds and I know our students are really going to appreciate and enjoy these upgrades. Some of these projects include;

- Extensive landscaping of gardens
- Numerous new tree plantings
- Redesign and upgrade of Unit C kitchen garden
- New playground equipment
- New seating
- New signage
- Renovated courtyard areas
- Window replacements

I will send home details and photos of these projects at the start of Term 4, and am confident that our students will be very excited to see and use these new facilities and spaces when they return to onsite schooling.

### **2021 Prep enrolments**

With the current restrictions in place, we have been unable to conduct school tours or run our usual Term 3 'Try Prep' transition sessions. This makes it very difficult for prospective parents to get a 'feel' for the school as there is no opportunity for them to look around and see our students and staff in action. As an alternative to an in-person guided tour of the school, we have a video on our website which provides a virtual tour of Rosewood Downs. If you would like to watch the video, please open the camera on your phone and hold it up to the QR code on the right which will take you to the video.



If you are reading this newsletter on your phone, then click [here](#) to watch the video.

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 feel free to share the virtual tour video with them. We will be uploading some additional transition videos over coming weeks to help support families who have a prep student beginning next year. 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.

### Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

A number of new and previously announced changes have been approved to the operation of CSEF for 2020 only, as follows:

- The final eligibility date for CSEF in 2020 has been extended from 14 April until 5 October 2020.
- Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. The normal special consideration arrangements continue in addition.
- Payments will be made at 50 per cent of the standard per student rates for families eligible between 15 April and 5 October 2020.
- CSEF usage is normally restricted to camps, sports and excursions activities. As there is limited opportunity to undertake these activities this year, it was announced in Term 2 that CSEF could be used for technology devices and internet access. CSEF usage has now been expanded further to include voluntary school charges, books and stationery. It may not be used for school uniforms, before/after school care, music lessons, formals/graduations or compulsory fees.

If you are now eligible to apply for the CSEF, please complete the attached application form and return to the school with a copy of your health care/concession card.

New applications **MUST** be received by the school **NO LATER THAN** Friday 20th

November. Applications can be emailed to: [rosewood.downs.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:rosewood.downs.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

This is only for families that became eligible between 14 April through to 5 October and haven't received the CSEF this year.

### Term 3 highlights

Despite Term 4 being generally tough going, there have been a number of bright spots and highlights over the last 10 weeks. I have really enjoyed seeing the activities we have all engaged in together; Wellbeing Wednesday, our virtual walkathon, our ever-growing RDPS Spoonville, 'RDPS has Talent' and many different specialist and classroom learning activities. When I look through student portfolios on Class Dojo, I'm consistently impressed and proud of the efforts that our students have put in to their learning, with outstanding support from their parents and families. The community spirit that has been evident throughout this term has been very important in keeping students engaged and involved in their learning.

The first day of Term 4 will be on Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, and this day will be primarily consist of specialist activities, as class teachers spend some time planning and preparing for the term ahead.

In the meantime, I hope you are all able to enjoy the upcoming break and all the staff at school look forward to the return of our students in Term 4. Thanks for all your efforts to help make Term 3 a successful one despite the hurdles we encountered along the way.

Thanks,

Julian