



Smoking Ceremony

Today was a very special occasion as we welcomed special guests and families along for a smoking ceremony. We had David Tournier attend and lead the ceremony. A smoking ceremony is a tradition of the Aboriginal people which symbolises the cleansing of the area and the people of bad spirits and to promote the protection and well-being of visitors. It was also a significant event for the school as it signifies the beginning of our work with ***Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education*** and the development of a reconciliation action plan for our school and community. The action plan will support our school to foster greater knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. We also commit to developing a school environment where cultural understanding and indigenous perspectives are integrated into our learning. This includes providing opportunities for all our students to participate in activities that celebrate their cultural heritage and identities. I want to express my thanks on behalf of the school to Miss Kristy Telford, who is leading this work for Rosewood Downs and who put in a lot of time and effort to organise today's ceremony. Thank you Kristy!



Kaboom Sports and Welcome Picnic

We had a fantastic day last Friday with our annual visit from Kaboom Kid Sports. After some rain overnight, we had an ideal morning and our students really enjoyed the high-energy tabloid sports. All students certainly made the most of the opportunity to mix with students from other year levels in their multi-age activity groups. It was a really fun event and a great way to get the blood pumping. Students clearly enjoy incursions such as Kaboom Kid Sports and we intend on making a regular booking with them to attend each year.

We also had a really great turn-out to our Welcome Picnic on Thursday afternoon. It was great to see so many families come along to meet, mingle and catch up with school friends old and new. It has been 12 months since we have held a community event on site (the Welcome Picnic last year!) and we were really happy to have our families back and enjoying each other's company. I would like to thank everyone for making the effort to attend and our staff for cooking and serving food and drinks. Big thanks also to the parents who helped with preparations and catering for the event.

Student Absences

This year, we're making a concerted effort to bring our student absence rates down. Absences at our school are higher than state and like-school benchmarks, which is really disappointing for us as a school. Often, this is a result of families choosing to take extended family holidays during school terms, but it is also due to parents regularly choosing to keep their children at home for special occasions, birthdays, shopping excursions or when they have visitors. It is important for parents to realise that every time school is missed, students also miss opportunities for learning. When absences are more frequent, the impact on your child's learning and overall development can be significant. Students with chronic absence have poorer academic and social outcomes, simply due to the fact that they aren't attending school as regularly as their peers. So, our message is clear - 'It's not OK to be away'.

Here are just some of the benefits of regular attendance at school;

- The development of skills and attitudes such as self-discipline, punctuality, being organised and sticking to routines
- Leads to making friends and learning how to maintain relationships over a period of time
- Leads to learning social skills necessary to live and work with others
- Students are safer and better supervised at school than in many alternative settings
- People are more positive towards those that have a good attendance attitude, and finally,
- The more students attend, the more they learn and the more they will like school!

So please, unless your child is unwell, please get them to school every day!

School Council Nominations

This year we have three vacancies for parents on School Council. I invite parents to nominate for a position as a way of serving our school community. Eight meetings are held each year on a date and time that is agreed on by all members of School Council. You do not need any special skills to be a school councillor, but it is essential that you have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future. If you would like to know more about being a School Councillor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Timeline for School Council Nominations

Friday 19th February

Call for nominations

Friday 26th February (4:00pm)

Close of nominations

If you would like to nominate for School Council, application forms are now available from the school office. School Councillors come to our monthly meetings, attend sub committees and support the school in many positive ways. All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. The Rosewood Downs school council is made up of 8 members: 5 parents and 3 Department of Education employees.

Recent Works Projects

The snap lockdown earlier this week gave us a small window of opportunity to knock-off a couple of small works projects that we think the kids will really enjoy. This has included repairing and painting the fort, installing a mist line around the futsal pitch and the installation of a magnetic STEM wall in the quiet area.

One additional job of a more significant nature which is currently underway, is the replacement of the old louvre windows in the Library corridor. This is a very high span of windows which fronts the Asian garden courtyard adjoining Unit C. These windows will be replaced by commercial grade aluminium window frames and door with safety glass and the courtyard upgraded with an exciting new garden concept. More information on this soon!



Be You

FREE Online Parenting Program - Parenting In Australia

Jasbir, from Anglicare, is looking forward to supporting our families at Rosewood Downs.

Please contact us at school on 9795 3744 to secure your place.

Due to our recent lockdown the workshops will now begin on Friday 26th February and run for five sessions. Further information available on Compass.

Be You Action Team



Sport News

Greater Dandenong Division Swimming Trials – Friday 12th March

We will be announcing our Swimming Team soon. They will be competing at the Noble Park swimming pool against students from around the Greater Dandenong Division. To be selected, students need to have Squad level or equivalent grading in the correct swimming techniques over 50m. Each student selected can enter in a maximum of 2 individual events plus a relay. There is also a maximum of 1 student from each school in each race classification.

House Cross Country and Fun Run at Tirhatuan Park (Kriegel Way) - Friday 26th March

This is a free school event and is a House Team competition. All students are required to return their Minor Excursion forms to be able to attend. Families are welcome to attend (at this stage) to support the students and their House Teams. More information will be sent out shortly so we can make arrangements with parent helpers. Thank you.

Lindsay Campbell

Music Awards

Noah Dong (1HP), Zayd Elali (2S), Filip Zivak (3W) & Maggie Pham (5/6F).

LOTE News

Children have learnt about the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival. They have engaged with the language and culture through songs, stories, and crafts to celebrate the Year of the Ox.

Anita Chan

**Unit A**

First and foremost, we would like to start this week's newsletter by expressing our sincere thanks to all our Unit A parents for their fantastic support over the duration of the 5-day lockdown. We know how challenging it is having to juggle family life, home schooling, working from home or even personal studies as it was the case for some of our families. Needless to say that we are thrilled to be back at school and we spent some time talking about the wonderful things that happened at home during the restrictions. 'Going to the park' was a strong favourite followed by 'baking delicious treats with the family' as a close second.

We are still all recovering from the exciting Friday that we had last week for Kaboom Sports! It was heart-warming to watch the children enthusiastically participating in all the different tabloid games on offer. We are also very proud to say that all the Unit A students were on their best behaviour on that day and displayed great sportsmanship throughout the event. Well done guys! Below are some happy snaps from last Friday. Enjoy 😊

Unit A Team,

Mrs Mary Chan (Prep C), Mrs Linda Harrison (Prep H), Mrs Maddy Hartmann & Mrs Carly Pinwill (1HP)

**Unit D**

What an action-packed 2 weeks it has been! We have had a number of eventful items ticked of our list for this term ALREADY! The Grade 1 and 2 children from Unit D had an absolute blast at the Welcome Picnic and Kaboom last week, these events are always enjoyable. It is evident that the students are appreciating being back at school doing "normal" things and re - connecting with their teachers and friends.

We are all thrilled that LockDown 3.0 was short-lived and that we could get back to school on Thursday. All the students had a great day and enjoyed learning in the classroom with their teachers and peers. Thank you for your support during this time and for the time you set aside in your busy schedules to partake in our telephonic parent/teacher interviews.

All Unit D teachers have set up their Class Dojo Accounts as a means of communication between parents and teachers.

Our Guided Reading sessions are underway with Take -Home readers and Wushka set up to support our children's reading. Please try and read with your child every day.

Last but not least we would like to welcome baby Oliver to Ashton and his family in 1PT. Congratulations!

Unit D Team,

Ms Terrie Palmer-Tanner (1PT), Ms Natalie Semercioglu (2S), Mrs Chante Smith & Mrs Ashlee Rumney (2RS)



Unit C

There has been lots of excitement and activity in Unit C over the last two weeks, even with an unanticipated extra-long weekend! It was wonderful to see so many Unit C students and their families attend the Welcome Picnic and explore the new nature play area. The following day the children thoroughly enjoyed the KABOOM Sports event and it was great to see such enthusiastic participation.

While the day ended with the unexpected announcement that students would not be returning to school on Monday, the children reacted with perseverance and optimism. During the lock down, it was great so many Unit C families were able to have a catch-up interview with their child's teacher. Thank you for the support you gave your child to continue learning from home during this time. With all the students now back at school, we kindly ask your child bring an art smock and/or tissue box to school if they have not already.

Unit C Team,

Ms Kristy Telford (3T), Mrs Karen Woodhouse (3W), Ms Gail Woodhouse & Mrs Caitlyn Watkins (4W)

Unit B

"Last Friday everyone knew what day it was - Kaboom Sports! The whole school was looking forward to it since last year. I think we were even more eager to have Kaboom Sports back because we knew how much fun we would have.

When it started we needed to get in our groups first and I think this was my favourite, no, the whole school's favourite part - it was to humiliate the teachers by making them dance! Three people got to dance Miss S, Mrs Smith and Mrs Chan. All of us were trying to copy their moves."

- Sikander J 5T

"Last Friday the Kaboom instructors came to our school. First we embarrassed Miss S, we did that by making her dance and the whole school had to copy her. Then we called Mrs Smith to come and dance, but she wouldn't, so we decided to get Mrs Chan to dance! Finally Mrs Smith came onto the stage and she had to dance slowly. When Dan (one of the instructors) said and dance fast when he said. We had to do star jumps. Whoever jumped the quickest got a free shirt!

We had 14 groups and 14 different activities. I was in group 11 with Daniela. My favourite activity was when we could spin plates on sticks. I was spinning two plates at the same time!

Kaboom Sports is so fun!"

- Fiona 5T

Unit B Team,

Ms Mia Todisco (5T), Jo Ford (5/6F) & Ashleigh Price- Bell (6PB)

