

NEWSLETTER

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Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday	7 th	February	School Banking commenced	
			Coles Sports for Schools commenced	
Friday	9 th	February	School Council – Call for Nominations	
Friday	16 th	February	School Council – Nominations Close	4:00pm
Monday	19 th	February	Events Committee Meeting	3:45pm
Thursday	22 nd	February	Welcome Picnic ‘Fun Family Activities’	5:00pm – 6:30pm
			Parent and Friends’ Association Meeting	9:15am
Thursday	8 th	March	Student Goal Setting Interviews	2:00pm – 7:00pm
Friday	9 th	March	Curriculum Day (Pupil Free Day)	
Monday	12 th	March	Labour Day – Public Holiday	

We have had a very smooth start to the school year with all children settling in well. As you may have heard, due to some very late enrolments it has been necessary to create a new Prep/One Composite class. The children who have moved to this class have settled very quickly with their new teacher, Mrs Smith. By creating this extra class, we have been able to ensure that all of our Prep and Grade One classes are now much smaller.

These school decisions are never easy, but we always aim to give our students the best possible learning opportunities and we are confident that this change is in the best interest of your children. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable term.

Please note I have indicated some important dates to put into your diary. As you can see it is going to be a very busy term. I am very concerned that we have many children arriving at school before 8.45am. In fact, we have some children getting to school as early as 8.00 am. **Please do not leave your children at school early, as they will not be supervised until 8.45 am.**

In addition, we need all children to be collected on time at the end of the day. Please ensure that we have an **up to date** phone number, where you can be contacted during the day. If your contact details have changed please make sure you inform the office of the changes. If you require ‘Before or After School Care’ please contact Rosewood Downs Child Care Centre on 9795-5400.

School Council Elections 2018 – Close of Nominations Friday 16th February at 4pm

This year we have two 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. If you would like to know more about being a School Councillor please do not hesitate to contact me.

Timeline: -

Friday 9 th	February	Call for nominations
Friday 16 th	February	Close of nominations - 4pm

If you would like to nominate for School Council, application forms will be available from the school office **from tomorrow, Friday 9th February**. 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. Our school council is made up of 9 members: 5 parents, 3 Department of Education employees and 1 community member.

Welcome Picnic/BBQ Thursday 22nd February 5.00-6.30pm

On **Thursday 22nd February**, all families are invited to the Welcome Picnic/BBQ, on the school oval. This picnic will give you the chance to meet your child's teacher and to mingle with other families in the school. Bring your own picnic tea or buy one of our yummy sausages and a drink. You may wish to bring a picnic rug or chairs. We appreciate your support in making this an alcohol free event. There will be some activities such as 'fun races' that families can participate in. **Please note that if it is wet then we will send out a Flexibuzz notification to let you know that this event has been postponed.**




Student/ Goal Setting Interviews - (This is not a pupil free day)

On Thursday the 8th March we will be holding Student/Goal Setting Interviews **from 2pm until 7pm**. Students **will** attend school on this day. You will be able to book interview times online and we will send home further information about this shortly. We hope that all parents will be able to attend.

CSEF - CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND 2018 - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a **valid** means tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you **may** be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities that benefit the child. The annual CSEF amount **per student is \$125** for primary school students. If you are eligible for CSEF then you need to apply every year. *(Even if you received CSEF in 2017)* Application forms were sent home last week. **Completed Application Forms need to be returned to the school with proof of a current concession card.**

We need to see  your Concession Card and photocopy it, so please bring this with you.

(Some parents have just sent the form and unfortunately we cannot proceed with the application without seeing your valid concession card) You are encouraged to lodge the application form as soon as possible. Extra forms are available from the front office.



Hats and Sunscreen



A reminder to all parents and students, that the school policy for Term 1 mandates that all children must wear the Rosewood Downs School hat, when outside at school. Hats can be purchased through the PSW Uniform Shop and we have some available at the front office. Please ensure your child brings their hat to school every day. In addition sunscreen should be applied at home. Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated.



IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY

The Victorian Government has introduced measures to ensure students attend school every day and get the most out of their schooling. If your child is absent please ensure that you contact the school office on 9795 3744 (*you can leave a voice message*), use the FLEXIBUZZ App or send a written note. We don't expect children to attend school if they are unwell, however, we do expect them to attend school the rest of the time. Having a day off for a birthday celebration or a shopping trip are not appropriate reasons for being away from school. I also discourage parents from collecting children prior to the end of the day. When children leave school early they often miss valuable instructions that they may need for the following day. This can also become very disruptive for the rest of the class. Please aim to make appointments out of school hours. We are also aiming for every child to be at school **prior** to the bell every day, so that they are in time for assembly.

Helen Casey
Principal

KidsMatter

Welcome back to all our families. We are looking forward to 2018 with lots of Kids Matter activities happening for our Rosewood Downs Community.



Many helpful services are available for families so we have taken the opportunity to list the programs offered in our local area (find attached to the end of the newsletter). Further information of these programs is available on the notice board in our Community Space at the Hall or by contacting the office or Deborah Lucas.

Kids Matter Team



Events Committee

The Events Committee will be holding their first meeting on Monday 19th February and 3:45pm in the staffroom. We are the team who organise a number of fundraising events for the school throughout the year.

To ensure we continue to provide the school community with great events we need the support of our school families and we encourage you to become involved. We welcome anyone who may be interested to attend, even if you cannot commit to all meetings or events.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

**Thank you on behalf of the Events Committee,
Lindsay Campbell**



Music Award & Music News

Aleksa Trakilovic, Ruby Kendall, Leonora Rakovic, Harini Fernando, Taylor Bonica and Hady Deknache

Anita Chan – Music & Lote Coordinator

Sport Awards & News

Courtney Rance, Ruby Kendall, Natasha Nikolic, Harini Fernando, Jana Vasavan, Monica Beth Thomas

SPORT NEWS

Congratulations to our new Sports Team for this year.

Sport Captains	Vladimir Milkovic	Xavier Riley-Mete
Barwon	Maximus Ioane	Sebastian Boersch Quadara
Goulburn	Niko Ntotas	Eliza Roden
Rubicon	Amreeta Bobby	John Choi
Yarra	Angela Ivkov	Joshua O'Callaghan

These students will be responsible for running morning assemblies, handing out the sports awards, organising the sports equipment for borrowing, setting up PMP, Platoon and Unit sport time and assisting the teachers at all of our sporting events.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of sport with lots of opportunities for the students to be involved in House activities and fun events.

Coles Sports for Schools

Our school is registered for the Sports for Schools program. It starts on Wednesday 7th February continues until Friday 11th May 2018. Please read the details from the Coles website below.

We're excited to announce that the Coles Sports for Schools program is back for 2018 and your school is invited to join! Our program gives schools across Australia the opportunity to earn sports gear just by collecting vouchers from Coles.



Through Sports for Schools, Coles has supplied over \$20 million worth of sports gear to over 7,500 schools across Australia.

At Coles, we're passionate about quality, fresh food and helping kids across Australia lead a healthy lifestyle. That's why we're launching the Coles Sports for Schools program again. During the Sports for Schools program, your students families will be able to collect Coles Sports for Schools vouchers for their school from Coles stores across Australia. When the program ends, schools can exchange those vouchers towards sporting equipment to encourage all kids to get healthy and active at school.

For every \$10 spent at Coles supermarkets you will receive a voucher for 1 point. There will be a collection box at the school office for you to drop your vouchers in. Please support the school in getting more sports equipment for our students to enjoy!

Lindsay Campbell - Sport Coordinator

Art Awards & News

There are no Art Awards for week 1.

Junior School Council

Well done to the students selected as our Junior School Captains for 2018.

President	May Pham
Vice President	Max Mondon
Secretary	Chloe Cashman
Treasurer	Bradley Barbera

Each year the Junior School Council (JSC) is responsible for:

- Supporting various charities and organizations by raising money and awareness at our school.
- Helping organize and run fun activities like the Hat Parade.
- Promoting fun events like the School Disco.
- Writing short pieces for the newsletter and making announcements at assembly.
- Representing the students and each class from Grade 3 to Grade 6.
- Attending regular meetings with the JSC to discuss and organize upcoming events.
- Reporting to each class with any news and information from the JSC meetings.

Over the next two weeks we will be holding class elections for the student representatives for each class in Grades 3, 4 and 5. If you are interested in being part of the JSC this year you will need to consider the following:

- You need to nominate yourself or a classmate.
- Nominees then write a short statement about how they can represent their class well.
- Present this to the class to be voted on.
- Each student gets a vote to be counted by the classroom teacher.

**Thank you,
Lindsay Campbell and the JSC Captains**

Parents & Friends Association

Welcome everyone to a new school year, 2018! Big welcome to all the new families. I know back to school can be daunting during the first few weeks but it does get easier, trust me. For those who may not know, the Parents and Friends Association, or PFA for short, is a parent run group who help out the teachers and faculty with different functions and events throughout the year. Some of the events we run are the **MOTHERS DAY STALL, FATHERS DAY STALL, BBQ's, DISCOS, BUSH DANCES and GRADUATION** as well as collaborating with the Dandenong Neighbourhood House for various parent focused lessons such as baking, gardening, healthy lunch box ideas, 20 minute meals and the list goes on and on. The PFA also provide volunteers for the school Commonwealth Banking program and the coordinator is Michelle Marsh. If you would be interested in volunteering your time on a Wednesday morning to help process the students banking please leave your name with front reception or better yet come along to one of our PFA meetings which are usually held on the last Thursday of every month. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 22nd February at 9.15am in the Hall Foyer after assembly.** This is a very casual meeting, we have coffee, share ideas as well as begin to choose the items we wish to order for the Mother's Day stall and also help each other with questions and answers that pop up regarding back to school etc. Please join us, don't be shy, we are a group of parents formed for the parents, care givers and students to support the school community. My name is Allison, my son is in PREP and my daughter year 3 and son year 5, I am usually around most assemblies and at pick up time so feel free to grab me for a chat anytime.



Allison Esmonde – PFA President

Unit News

Unit A

The Unit A Team wanted to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning families. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank families for being so understanding with the recent changes. We look forward to an exciting 2018! We would also like to welcome Mrs Smith who is the teacher of Prep/1 S.

Our annual 'Welcome BBQ' for our school community is on **Thursday 22nd February**, so make sure you keep the evening free!

We like to keep in contact with our families through the FlexiBuzz app. We also keep families updated with unit and school events via our Unit A noticeboard. Make sure you regularly check both app and notice board to keep up to date!

Just a few friendly reminders:

- We have 'fruit break' at 10am so please make sure your child has a piece of fruit
- Make sure all clothing and items are labelled clearly
- Apply sunscreen to children before school and make sure they have a full water bottle for hot days
- Prep families have made appointments for Wednesday Interviews. If you cannot make it we kindly ask if you could call the school and let us know
- Parents please check school bags and book bags daily for notices
- Prep children are asked to bring in an art smock, box of tissues and a shower cap for PMP, Grade 1 students are asked to bring a box of tissues for the class

Thank you again for your support so far. We look forward to getting to know our new families in the coming weeks.

Unit A Team

Ashlee Rumney (Prep R), Linda Harrison (Prep H) and Chanté Smith (Prep/1 S)

Unit B

Unit B has had a busy but exciting start to the year. The students have all settled in nicely and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome the grade 5 students to the unit. The grade 6s are excited about beginning their final year at Rosewood Downs. Across the unit, all the students are making a real effort to show the values that are important to Rosewood Downs.

We have many exciting things happening in the unit, and throughout the school, this year. With camps, musicals, gala days and many more, it's sure to be a busy 2018.

We have asked the students to bring in tissue boxes and any unwanted board games, as unfortunately many of ours were ruined in the flooding towards the end of last year.

Thank you,

Unit B Team,

Brenda Brighton (6B), Shaun Pepper (6P), Mia Todisco (5T), Carly Pinwill & Jo Ford (5PF)

Unit C

We have had a fantastic start to the year in Unit C. The children have settled in really well and we are looking forward to a busy term ahead. It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming our new teacher, Miss Marsham, into the unit and the students have enjoyed getting to know her.

Unit C comprises of Grade 2s, 3s, and 4s this year and all teachers have been working closely together to establish regular routines for cross unit activities, including; platoon, sport, developmental play and classroom lessons. The students have been enjoying working together and getting to know each other across all grade levels.

An expression of interest will be sent out this week in regards to Grade 3 & 4 Camp Adanac, as it will be held at the beginning of Term 2. As this is a part of the Camping and Outdoor Education Program, providing a valuable learning experience for children, we hope that all students are given the opportunity to attend. We would appreciate your response by next week to enable us to continue our planning and to calculate final costs. Grade 2s will be heading to Camp Oasis together in May. Information on their camp will be sent out later this term.

Thank you to all the families who have sent in a tissue box and an art smock. If your child hasn't brought their art smock to school yet, it would be greatly appreciated if they could do so.

The entire Unit C team welcome all our new families this year and we are looking forward to getting to know you and working together.

Unit Mrs Maddy Hartmann (2/3H), Mrs Dianne McCulloch (3M), Ms Gail Fitzpatrick (4F) & Miss Caitlyn Marsham (4M)

Unit D

A big welcome to everyone in Unit D and an even bigger welcome to our new families!

The children have settled in well and seem very happy and well adjusted. A big thanks to you, the parents for your support in making this transition smooth and trouble free.

The Welcome Picnic evening will be on Thursday 22nd February. We are hoping you can come along and meet with us all. The children love this opportunity to introduce their parents to their new teachers. It should be a lovely evening.

In order to build good habits and independence in our students we are asking if parents could be mindful of leaving the children at either the Unit assembly area and or the hall/basketball court rather than come directly to the Unit before school. We would also like to ask that parents do not come back to the Unit after assembly but rather allow our students to start their day with us. Goodbyes etc should be said before school. Similarly at the end of the day please collect your child outside not from the passage way outside the Unit, unless it's raining of course. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Just to let you know that Karen (2W) will be using Class Dojo as a form of communication with parents however Mary (1C) and Terrie (1PT) are not, preferring to use the school email or direct contact.

Parent helpers are a big part of the success of our year. We are now asking for parents to help us with our daily reading, spelling and numeracy. If you are interested and you can spare some time please let us know. We will also be putting a list on the notice board outside Unit D for you to sign up. Thank you in anticipation!

Lastly we ask if you would please send to school a box of tissues with your child. As you could appreciate we use many, many tissues throughout the day.

Kind regards

Unit D Team

Mary Chan (1C), Terrie Palmer-Tanner (1PT), Karen Woodhouse (2W)



ANGLICARE VICTORIA – PARENT ZONE
City of Greater Dandenong

PARENTS BUILDING SOLUTIONS – PARENTING IN AUSTRALIA

A Program for CALD parents, step parents, grandparents or carers of Primary Aged children. Tired of Yelling; Dealing with Anger, Self-care are some of the topics. Come and share experiences and solutions.

PARENTS BUILDING SOLUTIONS – GROWING GREAT KIDS

A Program parents, step parents, grandparents or carers of Primary Aged children. Tired of Yelling; Dealing with Anger, Self-care are some of the topics. Come and share experiences and solutions.

PARENTS BUILDING SOLUTIONS – For Primary Aged

An interactive program for parents, carers, grandparents of children aged 5 to 12 years to share experiences and ideas and learn strategies to support your child.

BEYOND THE VIOLENCE

A parent and children's program for those who have experienced or are experiencing Family Violence.

* Are you dealing with the effects of family violence?

*Does your child's anger or anxiety worry you?

*Are you tired of yelling?

3 YEAR OLD PLAYGROUP

Is your child starting school in 2020?. If so, we would like to invite you to our playgroup that will prepare and encourage your child to start kindergarten in 2019.

General Playgroup

Your child will have many learning experiences in a safe and friendly environment, including story time, outdoor/indoor play and many fun activities, while making new friends. Like any other playgroup, your child will need to be accompanied by an adult.

PARENTS BUILDING SOLUTIONS

DADS DO MATTER (DDM)

A Program for dads. Intake is via Corrections case managers. Share experiences learn new strategies and solutions on: Increasing your confidence as a dad; improving communication and closeness with your kids, creating a healthy environment for your children. Learn strategies and tools that work. Learning how to cope with stress emotions and anger.

HELP FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Ph 9767 0817 talk to your Maternal Child Health Nurse.

Offers many services: Maternal and child health; children's centres; occasional care- short term flexible child care for children aged 6mths to 5yrs.; Childhood immunisation; family and children's publications; playgroups and toy libraries; training and support for parents/guardian's/grandparents/ playgroup attendees and early childhood educators. Special assistance is available for children with: disabilities, developmental difficulties, from Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander Families.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

A support group for those recovering from drug & alcohol dependency.

NEXT STEP

Develop your potential and get ready to take that next step in life.

KINSHIP CARE- A CHANCE FOR CARERS

Grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and any significant other(who care for children when their parents are unable to), to get together and have a cuppa, some lunch, listen to a guest speaker but mainly have time to talk to each other about what's happening for you.

NEW LIFE

A recovery program for women with problems of addiction. Join this friendly support group.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Alcohol and/or drug use impacting on family

Anxiety Recover Centre Victoria

Support group for people that been affected by anxiety disorders, that have similar experiences. Family friends and members are welcome.

MY TIME PLAYGROUP

For special needs children. Playgroup.

PLAYGROUP

For children aged 0-5yrs

TINY MINY MUSLIMS PLAYGROUP

A Program packed full of joyful educational experiences for children and Mums, including play activities and a Mothers discussion group. All welcome

WAHINES

A mature age women's group, which meets weekly for social activities, friendship, outings

and connections with the local community. Meets during School. Holidays also.

MEN FACING TODAY'S CHALLENGES.

Dandenong Neighbourhood House. We look at strategies for dealing with issues in our lives & developing new life skills.

THE BBQ BOYS

A support group for male carers living in the southern region of Melbourne. It offers peer support, fun and relaxing social activities, a space to talk about bloke's carer issues, as well as information, referral and support

PIT STOP

An eight-session 'parenting tune-up' for fathers who like seeing their families fire on all cylinders. Get the FACTS on FATHERHOOD.

KOORIE KIDS PLAYGROUPS

Wonderful creative ideas to build our muscles, coordination and develop our pencil grips, ready for kinder and school next year.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Extended Families Vietnamese Family. Friendship Group. Larger groups for children with a disability and their families meet regularly for fun, friendship and social development.

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH.

A supportive group for women of various backgrounds to come together and practise their English conversations skills.

DROP IN AT ABA

Australian Breastfeeding Association
Drop in for a chat support and information.

REFUGEE & SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Provides family relationship counselling, mediation, loss & grief programs for children, marriage preparation program & personal support program & School Refusal program

CONFIDENT LIVING PROGRAM

A creative arts & social integration program for people with progressive MS & other neurological disorders.

LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER PLAY GROUP

Activities includes; Free play, Story Time, Art time, Obstacle Courses and more. Next term we

will be having the SING AND GROW program for ten weeks.

PLAY STEPS

This 8 week program builds parenting skills with the emphasis of learning and connecting through play. It is designed to improve parent-child interaction by assisting parents develop a positive relationship with their child. 0-3 years.

WOMEN'S ONLY SWIMMING

All women are welcome. Female only lifeguards and instructors are on duty at all times.