A Letter to the Community

No. 16       24th May  2012

Dates to Remember in 2012

MAY
25 – Under 8’s Day
27 – First Aide /CPR Update

JUNE
11 – Public Holiday Queens Jubilee
15 – Parent/Teacher Interviews
22 – Walkathon – Last Day of Term

AUGUST
21 – 23 – School Camp (Prep-3’s)
21 – 24 – School Camp (Yrs4-7’s)

TUCKSHOP
30TH    MAY

HELPERS –
Janine Riley & Tracey Vayne
CAKES/SLICE - Karen Bullion

Early Learning Centre

Since recovering from the NAPLAN testing last week and the preparations for the school’s centenary before that, the Year 3 and 4 students have been able to devote more time to our English unit of work on characterisation. Last week the students wrote a character description. The students started another description this week and some are even motivated to write more at home!

It’s terrific that we have such a group of very enthusiastic writers in the class!!

The Year 1 and 2 students are working on place value in maths and the Year 2’s have practised subtraction with regrouping as a trading game with our MAB blocks. In the past week we have done some very simple work in comparing fractions but this is a challenging topic for our students and will need some further consolidation. Ms Clifford worked with the Year 1’s on the place value and subtraction concepts using MAB blocks.

Diary writings from two of our Year1’s.
On the weekend I went roller skating at Beaudesert and I did 12 laps. I raced my mum and Luke and it was fun. I played the Wii it was fun and I played Mariocart and I unlocked 10 new vehicles. I was colouring in with Luke and Sean and it was fun.

By Ryan

On the weekend my family and me played dancing on the Ex-box and it was fun. After that we played a big game of Ludo. I also played Wii with my brother and sister and it was fun.

By Ella

Upper School News

This week has again been a busy one in our calendar. Students had a great time participating in the Arts Council performance on Monday. They were given a brief history of dance and various types of dance with plenty of chances to experiment with the steps after watching the talented performers.

We have returned to normal routine with daily homework and, for the most part, our in-class activities revolve around Numeracy and Literacy. By Friday we will have completed our entry for the R.S.L. Australian Spirit Competition. Students have enjoyed solving the mathematical and design challenges that have arisen from this project and have also enjoyed the opportunity to create our unique piece.

On Monday, our class will begin the Prime Minister’s Olympic Challenge, which involves recording outdoor physical activity on the designated website between May and September, in order to achieve personal prizes, certificates and perhaps a visit by an Olympic athlete. Mrs Easton (our P.E. specialist) is currently reviewing activities to complete during the lunch hour, P.E. lessons and Friday sport time that allow our students to experience both well-known and lesser known Olympic Sports.

While Naplan Testing is over, standardised testing for end of semester reports will commence early next week.

Thought for the Week

“The strength of a civilisation should not be measured by its ability to win wars, but by its ability to prevent them.”

Gene Roddenberry

Under 8’s Day

Tomorrow (Friday, 25 May) the students from Prep to Year 2 will be attending an interschool Under 8’s Day at Beaudesert State School. They will need to be at the school by 8.30am ready to travel on the bus to Beaudesert. The students will return to Rathdowney at approximately 1.30pm. All students are required to wear full school uniform (hat included) bring their own lunch/morning tea and water bottle.

Centenary Committee
The Centenary Committee met in the school staffroom on Tuesday evening. It was an opportunity for this hard-working committee to celebrate the success of a wonderful centenary weekend and to make some decisions about sending out “thank you” letters to the many people who helped out. At the next meeting, 5 June, the committee will be discussing the re-sealing of the time capsule and what needs to be included. The capsule will then be re-opened when the school celebrates 125 years! Who will still be around for that?

(Following is a copy of a letter received from a past student of Rathdowney School.)

Dear President,

I wish to express my congratulation to the whole committee, and the Rathdowney community on the fantastic effort by everyone to ensure the success of the Centenary celebrations.
As a past student and with family ties to the school and district, I was very excited about attending the reunion day and the dance. It was one of the best weekends I have ever experienced and much of that was due to the dedication of the school community.
Also, please pass on my thanks to the children who helped serve at the dinner. They did an exceptional job.

Yours sincerely,
Charmaine Morrison (nee Richards)

District Cross Country

Congratulation go to all Rathdowney stu-

dents who represented Christmas Creek Zone in the Beaudesert and District Cross Country event on Tuesday. They were all very happy with their performances and we are very proud of all their efforts. A special congratulation is extended to Mazie Russell who will represent Beaudesert and District at the South Coast Regional Trials next month. It looks like she shares the same athletic talent as her cousins in the Masen family!! Great work, Mazie! We are all very proud of you!!

From the Library

We are, again this year holding a Book Fair commencing Thursday 7th June in the School Library. There will be books for every age group, starting from pre-school right up to mature age. Reading activities can have a strong, positive impact on a child’s educational achievement. Come to our Book Fair and help strengthen the most important skill children can develop: Reading! You are able to buy any of the books that are on show.

Thank You to the P&C

This Friday, 25 May, is “Thank You “Day for all school P&C’s. The P&C are a wonderful group of people whose aim is to support the school in a wide variety of ways. At Rathdowney, there have been many different P&C’s who have worked tirelessly throughout the years for the benefit of all the children who attend our school. Our school P&C has provided the funds that allow our school to do many of the things other schools only dream of do-
They help to provide resources to the school for the students to use in classrooms every day, as well as for landscaping, playgrounds and tennis courts, sports equipment.

They support our annual school camps, including the triennial camp to Sydney and Canberra. They run a wonderful tuckshop and an active swimming club.

The P&C is responsible for funding or providing labour for upgrades to our equipment and facilities!

Often, these hard-working people feel as if they are a small minority and sometimes have to fight to get more volunteers to be involved in this important work.

Friday is our day to honour everyone in the P&C for the great work they do to support all the children and the staff of our school.

Thank you to the Rathdowney P&C!!

"A World Apart".

On 26th and 27th May, five locations in the Mt Barney valley invite you to experience "A World Apart". This family-friendly event is now in its fifth year, and it allows you to sample unique local food and wine, and visit each venue at a leisurely pace. Your FREE ticket allows you to sample local wine, homemade Italian gelato, an alpaca farm tour, a bushtucker tour and samples, and croquet in a heritage garden. Come and discover Mt Barney, and visit your backyard for a day!!

There will be additional food items and activities for sale on the day including authentic wood fired pizzas, Alpaca crafts, a Scottish High Tea, gourmet bushtucker BBQ fare, and local wine by the glass/case.

Those who visit can enter the multi-prize draw to win over $600 worth of accommodation, experiences, and wine prizes donated by the participating operators.

No booking is needed, just follow the signs, and collect your free ticket at the first venue you visit 9am-4pm each day.

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TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER BY HOSTING A SHORT TERM EXCHANGE STUDENT.

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012 for a short term of only 3 months. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scce@scce.com.au, or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!