‘News from the Hill’
Rooty Hill Public School
Quality Education in a vibrant, caring school

Web: http://www.rootyhill-p.schools.edu.au
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Term 1 Week 3
10th February 2015

From the Principal

Any superfish?
I hope everyone is looking forward to our Swimming Carnival, tomorrow. This event is part of our School Curriculum so I know we’ll see everyone there from Year 2 to Year 6!! There is no need to be a ‘good swimmer’ to attend – there will be lots of novelty events for our non-swimmers. Our Swimming Carnival will provide the first opportunity for our newly elected House Captains to undertake their important duties.

Congratulations to:

Baker: (Green)
Captains – JP Lopez, Skye Lepua
Vice-Captains – Baily Tucker, Koralee Catlett

Cable: (Yellow)
Captains – Breeanna Foster, Jake Hinson
Vice-Captains – Mary Nixon, Chontal Robert

Higgins: (Red)
Captains – Jackson Handley, Gisele Barbagallo
Vice-Captains – Jack Foote, Blake Knight

Macdonald: (Blue)
Captains – Kandace Singleton, Ralph Villegas
Vice-Captains – Hannah Cosgrove, Asha Tukuitonga

Classes for 2015 have now been formed and classroom routines are well underway. You may be interested in a list of this year’s classes and staff:

Principal
Deputy Principal
KR
Mrs Malecki
Miss Law
KE
Mrs Robinson
KN
Mrs Kimber
KL
Mrs Nicholson
1D
Ms Milan (Grade Co-ordinator)
1L
Mrs Dollin
1J
Miss Lewis
1H
Miss Dixon
1G
Mrs Hooker
2G
Mrs Golder (Grade Co-ordinator)
2B
Miss Bell
2M
Miss Morton
2C
Miss Cornish
3R
Mrs Roberts
3K
Mrs Kiely
3/4S
Mrs Shankaran (Assistant Principal)

Calendar

What’s happening @ Rooty Hill PS

Wed 11th February
- Swimming Carnival

Thurs 19th February
- Meet the Teacher Evening

Fri 20th February
- PSSA Begins

Wed 25th February
- Kinder Cake Stall

Fri 27th February
- Clean up Australia Day

Fri 6th March
- School Photos

Focus of the Fortnight
* Safely store school bags
* Sit down to eat
Our School Rules

Care For Your School
Care For Others
Care For Yourself

Reading Recovery Mrs Russell & Ms Chapple
Library Mrs Poona & Mrs Thomas
Special programs Mrs Pereira, , Mrs Tume (Assistant Principal), Ms Gentle, Mrs McIlwhan, Ms Tait, Mrs Simunovic, Ms Wythes, Mrs Dumont, Mrs Steward, Mrs Bridge (Grade Co-ordinator), Mrs Lehn

School Counsellor Ms Delaney

PSSA
Congratulations to the many talented students who have been selected to represent our school in this term’s inter-school PSSA competition. All team members have been asked to sign a PSSA “Code of Conduct”, indicating that they understand the importance of good sportsmanship at all times.
Representing our school is an important role, needing a good memory! – all team members must ensure that they are wearing a school uniform hat every day, that they bring bus money to their coach each Friday morning and that they have plenty of water with them. A quick reminder – due to the time that the teams leave school to attend their games, PSSA members cannot order HOT food from the Canteen on Fridays. A special ‘Sports Pack’ is available.

More sport
The opportunity to attend swimming or gymnastics for school sport has proved very popular. Those boys and girls who missed out this time will have the opportunity to express interest in attending these sessions in Terms 2 and 3.
Of course, as with any activities where we are going out into the local community, student behaviour is expected to be exemplary. In the (hopefully!) unlikely event that any students are placed on Level 2 at the time of these sessions, they will be unable to attend.

Focus of the Fortnight
* Safely store school bags
* Sit down to eat
Pride in our school
It is really pleasing to see nearly every child in full school uniform, ensuring pride in our school and a message to the local community about the high standards set and achieved at Rooty Hill PS. Whenever you need new items, our Uniform Shop is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 8.30 to 9.30. If you are unable to attend school personally to make purchases, order forms are available at the Canteen, at the school office and on our website – uniform items will be sent home with your child. Please remember that school hats are part of the uniform and there is an expectation that they will be worn. Both broad-brimmed hats and caps are available.

A great start?
I had the pleasure of attending last week’s Excellence Assembly at Rooty Hill High School where 2014 student achievement was recognised. It was with a great deal of pride that I watched a significant number of ex Rooty Hill Public School students receive awards – it must have been the great educational start they got in primary school!!

Best start for Kindy
Again this year, every NSW public school kindergarten student will take part in the Best Start literacy and numeracy assessment program. Under the Best Start program, specially trained teachers will assess students’ reading and writing, their communication skills and recognition of the sounds and letters of the English language. Teachers will also look at students’ early numeracy skills in counting, number recognition and how they work with groups and patterns. The program allows teachers to assess and diagnose the starting point of a child’s education and gives students the best start to their formal education by allowing teachers to plan their lessons to cater to each child’s level of proficiency in literacy and numeracy.

Some gentle reminders
Our car park can be a dangerous place, with delivery and staff vehicles coming and going throughout the day. Please ensure that, if you walk your child to their classroom, you use the pedestrian gate and do not use the car park entrance at any time. Cars may not enter the car park to drop off or pick up students – we have to ensure our students’ safety at all times. School does not ‘open’ until 8.25 each day – no supervision is provided until then. Please ensure your child’s arrival at school is not before this time.

Kind regards
Jackie Malecki
ATTENDANCE

At this time of the year attendance is usually not an issue but during the course of the year, the attendance patterns can cause concerns for teachers. It is important that children are here on time every day to ensure they get the maximum benefit of the education our school provides. The table below shows the impact that missing a few minutes a day can have on your children’s education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If he/she is only missing just....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is....</th>
<th>And over 13 years of schooling that's....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly Half a Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 minutes per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day a week</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 and a Half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a half years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jargon buster

Wondering why your kids talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA’s? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school.


Avoiding injuries

Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain?


Helping your child with homework

How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns.


Maths questions

Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child's maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey’s Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It’s aimed at children from Years 3 to 8.