FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Week 4 and the first newsletter for 2014. What a wonderful start to the school year for the students, parents and staff at Rossmore Public School. The students have returned ready to learn and lessons are well under way in all our classrooms. I am particularly impressed with our new Kindergarten students who have taken to school as though they have always been here. Acknowledgement to the parents and Miss Sorbara must be given.

2014 Newsletter
As this is the first newsletter for the year, today every family will receive a printed copy of our updated fortnightly newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: The increasing print costs associated with the printing of the newsletter, along with the environmental impact has led us to review how our newsletter will be distributed in the future. From Term 2 onwards, the newsletter will no longer be printed and distributed as a hard copy. Each family will receive the newsletter via email and it will also be available on the website for family and friends to view. For this reason, we ask that you provide the office with your current email address before the end of this term.

In the exceptional circumstance that a parent does not have access to an electronic device on which they can access email or the internet, I ask you please speak directly with me to organise alternate arrangements.

2014 Class Names
For 2014, it was decided that each class would be known by name rather than a number and teacher initial.
The staff selected a theme, FANTASY, and the students from each class chose their name based on the theme.

The class names for 2014 are:
Elves – Miss Sorbara
Griffins – Miss El-Azzi
Pixies – Mrs Piper
Pegasus – Mrs Richardson
Dragons – Mr Narres
Hobbits – Ms de Peau
Hippogryphs – Miss Juleff/Ms Barlow

Student Representative Council
Last week, each class held their elections to select their student representative for the SRC.
In 2014, the SRC will meet twice a term to discuss school issues and organise fundraising for charity. They will also be responsible for helping the leaders run the assembly at the start of Terms 2, 3 and 4.
SRC representatives will receive their badges at the Week 6 assembly. Parents of students receiving a badge will be notified prior to the assembly.

Student Leaders
I would like to thank the student leaders for their patience as their new badges are being made. As soon as the badges arrive, a special leader’s induction ceremony will take place. Parents will be notified of the specific time and date as soon as it is established.
I have been impressed with all the leaders and their willingness to embrace their leadership...
Week 4, Term 1

roles with maturity and dedication. They are aware of the role they play and many have shown impressive initiative even at this early stage of the year.

This week, the leaders will receive their contract outlining the expectations for a leader. Each student must sign the contract and then have their parent/carer sign it and return it to school.

Student Numbers
Last week, our student numbers were finalised and we officially have 4 mainstream and 3 support classes. This means at this stage, there are no major changes to class groupings that have been established.

This also means the vacant temporary teacher position on the Griffins class, which Miss El-Azzi has done a wonderful job teaching the last few weeks, will be filled in the coming weeks through the Expression of Interest process. I will keep you updated.

Parent Information Evening and Barbeque
Just a reminder that our information evening and barbeque is happening this evening. The support classes session will run from 5pm – 5.30pm and the mainstream classes from 5.30pm – 6pm. The barbeque will take place from 6pm under the COLA. The staff are looking forward to meeting and speaking with many parents tonight and we hope you can join us.

Attendance Requirements
The start of the year is a timely reminder of the legal requirements for student attendance. I recently met with Marlene Cross, our Home School Liaison Officer who monitors attendance at Rossmore Public School.

Attendance at school each day is essential for the social and educational well-being of students. It is a legal requirement that a child attends school every day and on time, unless they are ill, have urgent family matters or important religious events.

In the event that your child is absent, it is also a legal requirement that the school is informed by letter or by phone. Absences not been explained within 7 days are recorded as unexplained. Please do not keep your child/ren away from school for reasons such as birthdays, to go shopping, or to look after younger siblings. These are not valid reasons for an absence and by law are recorded as unjustified, even if a note is provided.

*It has been proven that when a child misses:*
- 3 days per term over 7 years at Primary school = almost 1/2 a year of school
- 10 days per term = 40 days per year = almost 1 term missed
- Over 7 years of Primary school this equals 280 days or 1 1/2 school years missed
- 20 minutes late on a regular basis, translates up to 1 hour of lost effective learning time. Lateness can throw children out of routine for the entire day.

The impact poor attendance has on a child’s academic progress is alarming. Children with high numbers of days absent and lateness from school can have difficulties adjusting to school routines, and can fall behind in their school work as they lose valuable learning time. Un satisfactory attendance will be followed up by the HSLO and in extreme cases, legal action may be taken by the Government and/or DOCS notified of Educational Neglect.

There are a high number of students arriving late to school each morning and this is a major concern. I understand that at times, situations beyond our control occur, and partial absences will result. However, I seek your support in ensuring that your child/ren arrive at school by 9.30am on each day the school is open and a doctor’s certificate is provided for extended absences due to illness.

Have a wonderful week.
Sandy Juleff
FROM THE P & C

Welcome back to school. We are looking forward to another great year. The P&C would also like to welcome all our new children and our new Kindy kids and their parents. We hope you have a wonderful year at Rossmore PS.
P&C meetings are held every 3rd Monday of the month. We meet in the staff room at 9.30am and all parents and young children are welcome. I hope to see you there.

Jo Mossman
P&C President

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FROM THE STUDENTS

Hippogryphs

This original artwork was created especially for the students of the Hippogryphs class. It was imagined by artist/illustrator Matt Lin. We thank Matt for his generosity and for sharing his talents!

Hi. We’re the 5/6 Hippogryphs. We have lots of fun but if you are not following the rules we have lots of consequences.

When we are good and try hard, we get a STAR Award and when we get ten of them we can trade them for a WOW Card.

If we forget to follow the class expectations we get a Reminder. If we get three Reminders then you have to fill out a reflection sheet.

The Hippogryphs are learning about the Great Barrier Reef, Visual Literacy, personification and similes and metaphors.

The Hippogryphs have two teachers Miss Juleff and Ms Barlow.

by Joseph, Dean, Amy, Cindy and Chloe

Student Leaders

Meet our wonderful student leaders for 2014. There are six elected leaders from Year 6 and three elected sport vice leaders from Year 5.

Every Year 6 student has an important leadership role to undertake this year. We hope you enjoy reading the work of the leaders as they outline their specific responsibilities:

School Leaders
Jessica, Rikkii-Leigh and Emily

Hi. We are your 3 school leaders for 2014. My name is Jessica and I am your school captain. My name is Rikkii-Leigh and I am your vice captain. My name is Emily and I am your school ambassador. We cooperate in lots of school responsibilities and we are determined to make 2014 the BEST YEAR EVER!

Sport Leaders
Ryan, Julian, Alana, Sebastian A, Justyce, Sharna

Hi. We are the Sport Leaders for 2014!

Waratah –
Captain: Ryan
Vice Captain: Sebastian A

Banksia –
Captain: Julian
Vice Captain: Justyce

Wattle –
Captain: Alana
Vice Captain: Sharna

Our job is to set out and pack up sport equipment for Friday sport and carnivals; cheer people on in their races; be good role models; show good sportsmanship; check the equipment is working; and to keep the sport shed neat and tidy.

by Joseph, Dean, Amy, Cindy and Chloe
Welfare Leaders
Tamikah and Tristan

Hi we are Tamikah and Tristan and we are welfare leaders. Our job is to welcome new students and support them. We also organise and hand out the Birthday Awards at each assembly. We also help to distribute and hand out the lunch orders. We monitor the lines at the canteen during eating time and let the teacher know if there are any problems. We help the younger students in the playground who may need help and if we can’t handle it we let the teachers know but we are pretty sure we will be able to sort it out.

Finance Leaders
Vicky, Kaiya and Justin

Hi. We are the Finance Leaders and our job is to talk to the teachers as we can plan some fun things to help fundraise. We also collect the money for the fundraising for Year 6 and the SRC. Our names are Vicky, Kaiya and Justin. If you find us in the playground feel free to request some fun ideas for fundraising. Each fundraising Fun Day may include bringing a gold coin if you would like to participate.

Environment Leaders
Anthony A and Sebastian Z

Hi. Our names are Anthony and Sebastian and we are the Environment Leaders. A part of our job is to protect the environment by picking up rubbish, keeping the sandpit tidy, watering the gardens, doing the recycling as well as many more jobs.

Technology Leaders
Brayden, Anthony M and Joshua

Hi. Our names are Brayden, Anthony and Joshua and we are the Technology Leaders. Our jobs are to turn on the computers for the Kinder classes and to shelve library books. We are in charge of helping Mrs Comerford with stocktake and helping Mr Narres with the technology.

Communication Leaders
Meagan and Zander

Hi. We are Meagan and Zander. We are Communication Leaders around Rossmore Public School. We deliver messages and notes to staff members and students. We have to check for notes every day at the office and deliver them to the classrooms.

Resource Management Leaders
Ethan and Molly

Hi. Our names are Ethan and Molly. We are Resource Management Leaders. What we have to do for resource management is help Ms De Peau to organise and hand out equipment to the classes. Teachers let us know what they need and Ms De Peau helps us sort it out. We deliver things like books, pencils, glue and whatever else the teachers need. We also help Miss Sorbara by keeping her class’ pencils sharpened.
Photography Leaders
Katelyn, James and Billy

Hi. Our names are Katelyn, Billy and James. We are your photography leaders. Our responsibility is to take photos of the students, teachers and community during special events. Every now and again we may need to take other photos such as for classes to include in the newsletter or for Miss Juleff or Mr Narres to use on the website or notice board. We took these photos for today’s newsletter.

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LEADERS’ UPDATE

Each fortnight, the School Leaders, Jessica, Rikkii-Leigh and Emily, will provide a report showcasing the students, special events, and observations of Rossmore Public School.

SPORT LEADERS’ UPDATE

Each fortnight, the Sport Leaders, Ryan, Julian, Alana, Sebastian A, Justyce and Sharna, will report on the weekly sport for K-2 and 3-6 and any other special sporting events such as carnivals and gala days that occur throughout the year.

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SPECIAL AWARDS

Term 1 Week 4
Congratulations and a fantastic effort to the following students who received honour awards:

Yellow
Kyla    Brayden Q    Joshua

Silver
Nathan    Meagan

Gold
Hanan

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HELPFUL INFORMATION

What is Kik and why is it popular?
Kik is a free texting app popular with younger teens who generally have a limited texting plan or use an iPod Touch.

Find out more about Kik messenger:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology_glossary/7w0F/5353/Kik+messenger

Find out why experts say it’s the No.1 social media problem involving kids:

Helping with Homework
How much should you help your child with homework? When your child makes a mistake, should you fix it? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns.

Find out more:

School Weeks
TERM 1
Week 3  10/2        Week 8  17/3
Week 4  17/2        Week 9  24/3
Week 5  24/2        Week 10 31/3
Week 6  3/3         Week 11 7/4
Week 7 10/3

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