Principal’s Message

Dear Families,

Our last assembly was hosted by 6K who treated us to a wonderful song that linked to the year 5&6 Inquiry topic. Thank you 6K and to Miss Warner whose musical talents, I am sure, contributed to the performance. Freeman and Thorpe were the lucky houses to share the ‘house points cup’ and you can see it adorned with red and blue ribbons in the front office. Will Bradman be the winner this week so that each house has had one week in the lead? Only time will tell.

I must say a big thank you to Mrs Young for the fabulous swimming program last week. Organising so many students to get to the pool, have a lesson, get changed and get back to school on the bus was no mean feat. It all went very, very smoothly. This program gives our children the opportunity to develop greater confidence and water safety skills and is also a fantastic opportunity to learn independence and self-management. Our parent helpers were an invaluable support. I was particularly pleased to hear that one of the bus drivers stated that he loves to transport our students to events as they are such terrific kids with wonderful appreciation and lovely manners. Thank you everyone.

Once again, I need to remind all families that in our valiant attempts to create a paperless and effective communication system, we are reliant on parents accessing information through the Compass portal. All our notices go on Compass and parents are alerted by email that there is something to check. Lots of schools have been using this system for years, so we know that if we are patient and persistent, we can make it a really reliable way to keep parents informed and in touch with school activities. One of the big advantages of this system is that parents in split families can always be assured that they are receiving all information. If you are at all unsure about how to use Compass, please give Susy Sutton or Peta Ryan in the office a call. They are extremely patient teachers and will be happy to step you through the system as you learn to use it. Payments can be made through the parent portal or in person at the main office.

On Tuesday we held our 2016 School Council Annual General Meeting. We said farewell to outgoing members Katrina Franklin, Noel Lim and Elyce MacMillan. I would like to share with the school community the citation that was made to Katrina who has been a long-standing and extremely important member of the Rolling Hills School community.

Katrina joined the Rolling Hills school council in 2006 and has served on a wide range of committees and in events since then. She held the role of President for five years and has worked with all three of the Principals who have led this school. Her understanding of DET processes, parent concerns and community needs has ensured that she has been an invaluable council member and has been very difficult to replace. She has seen the development and completion of the school co-operative, has seen portable buildings grow and then be replaced with the huge Boorai building project, and has seen teachers and children come and go. There is very little at Rolling Hills Primary in which she has not been directly involved and her contribution is very much appreciated by us all. She has served this community with great distinction.

Last week of Term 1 next week

School finishes normal time, 3.30pm on Wednesday 23rd March

Curriculum Day—NO SCHOOL—Thursday 24th March

Public Holiday—NO SCHOOL—Friday 25th March
New members Joel Johnson, Sher Ray and Damien Smith will join the current council team of Fleur Cousins (President), Donna Platt (Treasurer), Vishal Patel, Nina Ling, Jaci Lees, Kathy Jerin, Mel Woolhouse (P&F rep), Tim Wilson, Daena Hailey, Janice Addicott (currently filling in for Mary Moore who will be back next term) and myself (Executive Officer). The school council is a vital governance body and is ultimately responsible for many aspects of the school. It is a terrific group who bring a wide range of interests and expertise and I am looking forward to working with the council as we move into the very important task of the school review.

This week has been a sporty week with our year six students participating in a sport day at Lilydale High and a round robin with the other schools in our interschool sport network. Well done everyone.

At the time of writing this newsletter, our Friday twilight working bee was in limbo. Very few families have responded to our call-out for helpers to attack one of our wilder garden beds. I hope that in the next newsletter I can report that we had a last minute surge and that I had to race out and harvest a big crop from the sausage tree for the barbecue. I cook a mean snag and my apron-modelling is second to none... well maybe beaten only by Wendy Schilling.

Speaking of the best canteen in the southern hemisphere, you will notice this newsletter has news of the new season canteen menu. Anyone who has the responsibility for hunting and gathering for their family will know that food prices have gone up and up and up over the last few years. Consequently, Wendy has had to revise some of our canteen prices to make sure that the canteen remains a going concern. We try hard to keep costs as low as possible so I am sure you will understand the need for regular price reviews.

Next week I have a very important duty, for which I have been studying hard. I am to be one of the judges for the Easter Hat parade. I am sure there are many millinery masterpieces being made and modified all over Mooroolbark. We will hold the parade and our annual Easter morning tea on Tuesday March 22nd. I hope lots of parents can come along to the gym just after drop off to share the fun with our junior students.

Finally, a reminder that we have a school curriculum day on Thursday next week as our teachers will be working with a renowned maths consultant. Our aim is to look closely at current knowledge of excellence in mathematics teaching and learning. Children will not be required at school on that day and I hope that gives some families the chance to make an early get-away for their Easter vacation. Please take special care on the roads as this is a notoriously dangerous holiday period. Take it easy with the hot cross buns and chocolate too!

Robyn English

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 21 Mar</td>
<td>Bunny Ears / Treasure Hunt</td>
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<td>Tues 22 Mar</td>
<td>Easter Bonnet Parade</td>
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<td>Egg &amp; Spoon Races (EEP)</td>
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<td>Wed 23 Mar</td>
<td>Easter Baskets / Cards / Colourings</td>
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<td>Thurs 24 Mar</td>
<td>CURRICULUM DAY</td>
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<td>Fri 25 Mar</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<td>Mon 11 April</td>
<td>Modelling Clay</td>
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<td>Tues 12 April</td>
<td>Camping Night</td>
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<td>Wed 13 April</td>
<td>Aboriginal Art Canvas Banner</td>
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<td>Thurs 14 April</td>
<td>Animal Paint Scrapers</td>
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<td>Fri 15 April</td>
<td>Cardboard Indigenous Animals</td>
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It is been hard to believe that we are approaching the end of Term 1. It is often said that “it takes a village to raise a child” and I’m really encouraged to see all the positive learning experiences and activities taking place at Rolling Hills Primary School, providing education for life. I’ve had many excited children talking to me about their positive experiences at school and activities they are involved in. I have really enjoyed visiting the classes, talking about my role and reminding them and reinforcing the support that is available at Rolling Hills Primary School. We’ve also enjoyed reading a book together and completing a craft project.

Our lunchtime Knit & Natter group is up and running, it’s been great seeing the students enjoying knitting.

Thank you for sending in your recycling material such as bottle tops, cling wrap rolls and wool. Please keep them coming. There will be a box in the Office Foyer to leave recyclable material.

Wishing you a special Easter and holiday. Look forward to seeing you in Term 2.

Fiona
Swimming

Congratulations on a successful week of swimming. All of our participating students and staff worked very hard and enjoyed themselves. Thank you to our families who came along to cheer on our children—we all appreciated your support. Certificates will be sent home with your child in the coming week.

Here is a gorgeous photo of our Foundation students Raymond, Kayla and Max having a splash!

School/Home Communications

Have you responded to the following Compass activities this fortnight?

Mad About Science
Level 3 & 4 students

Melbourne Zoo Excursion
Foundation students

Tuesday, 22nd March
9—10am in the Gym

Foundation—Level 2 students are encouraged to make a special Easter hat at home and bring it in to parade in front of their friends and family.

The Rolling Hills Kinder kids have also been invited to share in this special event.

See you there!
Canteen News

EASTER MORNING TEA:
Thanks to the families who have returned their orders for canteen’s next special event – Easter Morning Tea, which will be held on Tuesday 22nd March. Unfortunately, we have had a number of orders which have been handed in with either no money or short of the correct amount. Could you please check the money you include when placing orders to ensure it is correct. If there is insufficient money enclosed in future, items will be deducted to cover the shortfall.

NEW TERM – NEW MENU:
Next week, youngest students will receive a copy of the Canteen’s Winter Menu, which will be current until the end of Term 3. Please take the time to have a browse – there are some seasonal changes, exciting new products, as well as a price increase on some items.

I hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing break and the Easter Bunny brings you something special.

See you next term!
Wendy Schilling & Canteen Sub-committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 21st March</th>
<th>Wed 23rd March</th>
<th>Fri 25 March 10am - 12pm</th>
<th>Fri 25 Mar 12.30pm - 2.30pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tegan Campbell</td>
<td>Melody Boni</td>
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<td>Alison Allan</td>
<td>Lori Dudley</td>
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<td>Janet Ruddock</td>
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<td>Lisa Cantlay</td>
<td>Chris Van Veen</td>
<td>Adrienne Ruddock</td>
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<td>Renee Walsh</td>
<td>Rachael Asbury</td>
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Sustainability at RHPS

Term 1 WORKING BEE!
We would love to see the whole family this Friday 18th March
3:30pm - 6:00pm
We need to get the Boorai gardens looking their best.
Come along for a chat and a BBQ dinner!

EASTER ECO TIP #1:
Support an endangered Australian icon this Easter!
Buy a Bilby instead of a bunny!
Proceeds fund programs to help breed and protect Bilbies.
Like the “Save the Bilby Fund” on Facebook to find out more.

EASTER ECO TIP #2:
Roll & Recycle!
Roll up your clean foil into a big ball and put it in the recycling bin!
Aluminium foil takes a lot of energy to produce and is often thrown into landfill when it could be recycled.
Try buying eggs with less plastic and cardboard filler packaging too.