A Letter to the Community

“Thought for the Week”

Welcome Back for Term 2

From all the staff, we would like to welcome all students and their families back to school for term 2. It promises to be another busy and eventful term. Lots of exciting learning and events have been planned for this term. There will be some construction work also. Please keep reading your newsletter for updates on what will be happening.
ANZAC Day March and Service

Yesterday, almost all the students of our school attended the annual Rathdowney town ANZAC Day march and service. Thank you to all the parents who made it possible for your children to attend.

Our school is always very involved in this annual event. Our school band with the help of past students ably and proudly led the march, with the rest of our students marching behind the group of retired and serving service men and women. Other local schools and organisations also joined in the march. Ila and Keenan did a wonderful job reading the resolutions and the requiem during the service, Dak and Jayden laid flowers at the flagpole, while all our students also laid sprigs of rosemary for remembrance under the flagpole during the service.

Well done, students! You were a credit to our school and we received many congratulations for your part in the march and the service from members of the public who attended.
A big “thank you” goes to all the people who helped with the P&C’s market stall on Easter Sunday. The stall was very successful with the P&C raising over $1000 for the school.

We couldn’t have done it without our P&C executive and some parent volunteers. Two students were also there to help out, thank you, Kiara and Holly. Thank you all for giving up your holiday to help our school!! The money raised will directly benefit every child in our school.

**Upcoming Date Claimers**

Following recent enquiries, please be advised that the national NAPLAN tests for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be held on the following dates. 14 May - Language Conventions and writing, 15 May - Reading Comprehension and 16 May – Maths.

Also this term, this school will again be hosting the Christmas Creek Athletics carnival which is to be held over 2 days, 23, 24 May. Our P&C will also be catering on both days. The dates for the annual junior school camp (for Prep-Year 3 students, and any parents who want to come along) will be on the 18, 19, and 20 June. As usual for this camp, we will
Principal’s Report for the P&C Meeting
23. 04. 19

Staff and Students

There have been no changes in staffing and student numbers since the last report.

Student Council

The Student Council is raising funds by having healthy lunches at school on Fridays, commencing next week Friday, 3 May. Order forms for healthy lunches will go home early next week. Boxes of chocolates arrived and were sent home to each family in the last week before the Easter vacation. We ask that each family sells at least one box. Mrs Wieland organised the Easter raffle to also help raise funds for the Student Council. The raffle was drawn on Thursday night last week. The raffle, valued at $200+, made a $497 profit. Student Council funds are used for 3 separate projects. These are: donations to charity, namely, the cancer fund and school chaplaincy; looking after the school gardens; and raising money to subsidise school camps for each student. This reduces the overall cost to attend camp for every student. The Student Council pays for all the entries to venues that we visit on our school camps.

School Band

Although numbers are quite low, Mrs Wieland has been practising with the school band each week. We should have enough members and past band members to lead the town march on ANZAC Day this year. It has been great to see more Year 3-6 students showing an interest in joining the
school’s drum and fife band this year. It may be another story as far as making enough band members to lead the march for the Christmas Creek Sports this year, which is only 4 weeks after ANZAC Day!

We desperately need some more fife players. It is not a gender specific activity. Both boys and girls can learn to play the fife, just as both girls and boys can play the drums. We have 3 drummers, and 2 girls sharing the role of band major, but we need to have more fife players to make a good sound for the march on sports day. Parents, we would be very grateful if you could help persuade your children from year 3 up to join the band.

School Events
The annual Anzac Day march will again be led by our school band with the help of past band members. We will assemble outside the Rathdowney store at 7:45am for the march. Students are asked to wear a neat full school uniform and a school hat on the day. Two of our school leaders will be reading the resolutions and the requiem during the service at the Memorial grounds.

Our term 1 swimming carnival was held on Thursday, 4 April, in the last week of term. The students have had swimming lessons on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week for term 1. Logan narrowly beat Cunningham House on points from this carnival. So it is still anybody’s trophy as we are yet to add in the points from the end-of-year swimming carnival.

The Christmas Creek Athletics carnival is being held earlier this year because national trials have been brought forward. The Christmas Creek Athletics carnival will now be held in week 5 of term 2. Our school will be doing the catering and the Christmas Creek Athletics carnival will be held at Rathdowney State School. The Christmas Creek
cross country was held at Darlington State School Thursday, 21 March for all 9-12 year old students. All our students ran well and completed their races, with 3 of the 6 students qualifying for the District cross country at Emmaus College. Ila, Max and Will competed well at the next level with Will qualifying for the Pacific District Cross Country. At the end of first term, we had a leadership induction ceremony where our school leaders were presented with their badges and served afternoon tea for parents and guests in the school’s staffroom. Our P&C president, Mrs Janine Reilly presented the badges at the ceremony. On 28 March, the Beaudesert cluster for Gifted and Talented students held a Day of Excellence for talented and able readers. The following students were invited to attend, Montana, Linden, Erin, Ashley and Keenan. All students enjoyed the activities on the day and felt that they had learned something new. This term we are highlighting the second of our 3 school rules, “Be Responsible” with the students on weekly parades. We will also be focusing on the HI-5 response to teasing and bullying as part of our school’s behaviour management plan for the year. The students have really taken these strategies on board and they have been used very effectively in the school playground. Every year we focus on one of the Values for Australian Schooling. This year’s value to practise is INCLUSION AND TOLERANCE. We are encouraging our students to keep practising the 2016, 2017 and 2018 values of KINDNESS, HONESTY and RESPECT while adding on the 2019 values of TOLERANCE AND INCLUSION. This term, we will have a lot of parents, builders, visitors from other schools and other official people in and out of our school. So this morning on parade the students were reminded to always use their best Rathdowney SS manners at all
times and be helpful to visitors who come to our school.

New building works for the school are in the planning stage. A new office building is planned for the area below the current school office to allow for disabled access. This work will begin this term. All classrooms will be refurbished, with the Year 3-6 classroom being done first, also this term. This means that our class will be moving into Mr Kroll’s classroom until our classroom has been completely refurbished and modernised. The work on the second tennis/multipurpose court has started during the last holidays, with the concrete and line markings still to be done. All new basketball backboards have been installed in both tennis court areas. The work in the tennis court is expected to be completed by the end of second term.

On Wednesday, 3 April, the school travelled to the Ipswich Art Gallery for a special show for students entitled, “Playing with Light”. The students attended this show in the afternoon. We also visited Queen’s Park for lunch after a visit to the Railway Workshops Museum in the morning. It was a fantastic day learning in a different setting. This year’s school camps have been booked. Our school camps are an integral component of the curriculum our school offers to its students and they contribute to improvement in each student’s learning. The Prep-year 3 students will be staying at Brookfield in Brisbane for the annual junior school camp (18-20 June) and visiting various venues around the city and the Gold Coast. The senior students will be travelling
to Sydney, Canberra and the snow, the Blue Mountains and the Jenolan Caves on our triennial 9-day camp (23-31 August) across the border. Parents are invited to attend either or both camps to accompany their children. As always, our camps are heavily subsidised so that cost is less likely to be a factor in students missing out on camp. The P&C pays the bus costs and the Student Council pays for entries to all the venues the students visit. Parents will be asked to pay for this camp in set instalments. Please see the newsletter for further details.

To help raise the funds required to send the students to camp this year, the P&C will hold a series of theatre restaurant productions over two weekends at the end of July and the first weekend in August. Auditions were held last night and rehearsals are scheduled to begin this week. That will give the cast and crew twelve weeks to practise and present another hilarious feast of singing, dancing and fun character portrayals all wrapped up with some naughty adult humour. We hope to again involve the local theatre group, BAMS Theatre Inc. to provide some expertise in the form of cast members, music and lighting for the show. There is already interest in the community for this year’s theatre restaurant, entitled “Jungle Fever”. Watch out for news of ticket sales in the school newsletter. It will be a show not to miss!!

Staff Professional Development

Staff are spending staff meeting afternoons unpacking the review report to determine the school’s direction for the next 4 years. All teacher aides and teachers have completed and discussed their plans from last year and have written new personal development plans for 2019.
Playgroup

Playgroup will be running as usual each week of this term. Rachel has some great activities planned as always.

Playgroup is for any parents or carers of very young children new-borns to school age. Come along and meet others, share some knowledge, ideas and fun.

Playgroup starts at 9am and finishes at about 11am -11:30am.

If you want to know more about playgroup, contact Rachel Rohan at Beaucare (5541 4216), or P&C Secretary, Mrs Sorelle Jobson (5544 3250)

School Building Work

Last term, the Regional Facilities Officer and an architect visited the school to plan for a refurbishment of the school’s multi-purpose courts. This work is expected to be completed by the end of this financial year. We’ve chosen the colours for the courts and the colours of the line markings. So our courts will soon both be compliant and up to code for standard multi-purpose courts, allowing for all sorts of games to be played. There will be markings for basketball, netball and tennis. Other court sports will include volleyball and badminton.
The courts already have lighting so they can also be used by the community at night.

Last week we were visited by many electricians, plumbers, and builders, who are hoping to tender for the construction work that is soon to start at school. They have taken photos of the sites for the new building work planned for our school. Plans for the refurbishment of the admin block have been sent to the school.

Exciting times for Rathdowney SS!

**Student Council News**

The Student Council with the help of Mr and Mrs Wieland, and the Rathdowney Hotel held an Easter raffle which was drawn on Thursday, 18 April. Close to $500 was raised for the Student Council. Thank you to everyone who helped out with this raffle.

Before Easter, each school family was given a box of chocolates to sell. Over the holidays some families were able to sell more than their box. Thank you everyone for helping the school with this fundraiser. We have ordered 50 boxes to sell. Each box contains 60 chocolates which sell at $1 each. Once a box has been sold, the money needs to be returned to the school. If there are left over chocolates please also return them to the school for others to sell.

Should you wish to sell a second or third box, please return the money from the previous box and you will
be given another box to sell.

The money raised with these two fund-raisers is to help subsidise the cost of both the junior and the senior camps for this year.

Super Spellers: 3-6
Caleb, Holly, Erin, Max, William, Jayden

Rathdowney Soccer Club
Please come and join the Rathdowney Soccer Club every Wednesday at 4pm for training or contact Emma MB: 0423 637 202 Everyone is Welcome.
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