Welcome to the 2013 school year and a special welcome to all our new families. We hope that you enjoy the Rossmoyne experience and the community you are now part of. I am very confident you will be made to feel welcome by our existing ‘family’.

We commenced the year with total enrolments of 448 students from P – 7. This year of course our pre primary students are in their foundation year, the first year of compulsory schooling. This is a change from the past when pre primary was optional and is indicative of the changing nature of education and society.

I would like to thank all parents for making the effort to have students commence school on Monday. First day attendance this year is the best we have had in the last ten years and is appreciated by all of us as it makes the commencement much easier for children, teachers and I suspect parents. I was again delighted with the way the year began with every classroom operating smoothly by 9.00 a.m. day one. Indeed some students were so eager that their classes were filled with seated students by 8.30!!

With this newsletter is a ‘mail out’ with information from the P & C Association and an assortment of local community news and activities. On Friday individually addressed invoices for annual contributions and charges will be sent home and we would appreciate payments being made between 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. These preferred hours allow us to have sufficient time to meet policy requirements with respect to banking. Parents wishing to use electronic transfer facilities will need to email Rossmoyne.ps@education.wa.edu.au to get details about how to do this. This is a new facility which was unable to be used previously and we hope it is helpful.

In the school we have a significant number of children with severe enough nut allergies to cause a life threatening anaphylactic reaction. To avoid any likelihood of a tragic outcome, parents are asked to avoid nuts and nut based products in children’s lunches. For some children the slightest brush with nut residue on the hands can lead to a reaction and I urge everyone to support our request to keep Rossmoyne ‘nut aware and nut free’.

You will have seen a regular ‘nut aware’ item in our newsletters in past years. I thought I would take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of our nut aware status.

Severe allergies are part of everyday life and severe nut allergies affect up to 3% of children. Peanuts are the most common foods associated with food related anaphylaxis with one Epi-pen [an auto injector to relieve the symptoms of the reaction] being given to every 544 children under the age of 10. In our school we have nine students who have nut allergies requiring Epi-pens.

We all have a responsibility to ensure the safety and well being of students so there are a few things we can do to help. In the first instance, parents of those children spend a lot of time educating their own child, and friends and relatives, about what to do in an emergency and how to prevent allergic reactions. Food prepared at school adopts a nut free policy with respect to food, ingredients and cooking products. The rest of us can help by being ‘nut aware’ and refrain from taking peanut products to school. Many of the snack items often found in lunch boxes contain these products including muesli bars and the like. We can teach our children to read labels to look for ingredients that may contain nuts. We can educate our children that sharing / swapping food should be avoided and we can make a point of getting to know the children who have these life-threatening allergies. All of this goes some way towards minimising the risk of an anaphylactic reaction.

You can see by the above that we take this matter seriously and are asking for the school community as a whole to do the same. Perhaps the best way I can summarize the situation is to say:

Put yourself in the position of a parent of a child with severe food allergies and ask what you would expect of your school community?

The new school year always brings with it a range of emotions for students and parents. Most of these are positive but an occasional negative arises. The strategy for overcoming these is communication and our first vehicle for this is a parent teacher meeting in the first few weeks.
These have already been planned and can be found on the calendar on our website http://www.improation.com.au/demo/index.cfm?schid=80101&view=public.

This calendar is updated almost weekly and parents are urged to use it to establish dates of importance throughout the year. The parent teacher meeting dates are as follows:

- **Tuesday 12th February** Rooms 13 – 18 6.00 p.m.
- **Monday 18th February** Rooms 8 – 11 6.00 p.m. Rooms 19 - 20 6.30 p.m.
- **Wednesday 20th February** Rooms 21 – 26 6.30 p.m.

These meetings are an initial 30 minute information sharing opportunity and not designed for interviews. If follow up interviews are required these can be arranged for later as necessary. It is my very firmly held belief that regular contact between teachers and parents is essential. At least once a term a quick chat is worth while but more importantly if any issues arise proactive intervention can save headaches later. Your first port of call for classroom related issues will always be the teacher. When parents come to me I always ask if they have seen the teacher first and if not usually direct them there. One of the important aspects of a mutually positive relationship is to seek information before making judgments. Sometimes our kids come home with bits of information that may trigger a concern. If that happens I encourage parents to make a time to see the teacher and ask the question ‘Can you please tell me about…..?’ before drawing conclusions, as sometimes student perception can be different from reality.

Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance Programs applications close on March 5 2013. Brochures will be sent home soon to year 6 students. All applications must be done on-line. The testing is for year 6 students entering secondary schools in 2015 but there is also catch up testing available for year 7 students going to secondary school in 2014. Parents of current year 5 students are advised that programs will be offered to those entering year 7 in 2015 and testing will take place in 2014. Full information can be found using the following web link.

http://det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/giftedandtalented/detcms/portal/

As I look forward to 2013 I am excited about what we have planned both with ongoing programs and newly emerging ones; including the extended use of Mac Books in the senior years, more iPad research programs and further implementation of the Australian Curriculum. I remain confident that we provide the broad and balanced curriculum which allows us to enhance the academic, social, creative, physical and personal development of each student and enable them to fulfil their potential.

Next Newsletter Thursday 21st February

Geoff Anderson

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Rossmoyne - Shelley Scout Group**

*Cub and Scout Registration and Information Day (Saturday 16th February 2013 from 12:00pm - 2:00 pm). Where: Shelley Foreshore.*

**Invitation to Play Netball**

The Rossmoyne Netball club invites players to register on-line before 17th February for the 2013 season. Girls born in 2005 are eligible to play and grading is being introduced for girls born 2002 and earlier. The club trains at the Koolan Drive courts in Rossmoyne which will shortly be upgraded with $150,000 from the City of Canning. We were the most successful club in the Fremantle competition last year with 6 premiership wins and invite you to visit us on www.rossmoyne.freeclubsites.com.au

**Johnny Moran Karate**

Teaches karate classes to children and adults in the local area. A special offer for the school’s students - 4 WEEKS FREE beginners karate lessons! Classes are held after school and are a great way for children of all ages to learn self-defense in a fun and safe environment and for adults to get fit on. Karate has many benefits which includes confidence, respect and fitness. Call now to take advantage of this 4 week trial 0402 830 402.

**Melville Golf Centre, Dimond Ct, Leeming.**

*February 2013 is Women’s Golf Month!* As a Drummond Golf Partner I am offering a Women’s Golf tuition promotion. This is an outstanding opportunity to learn from one of Perths most sought after PGA professionals at heavily discounted rates, and available only to women aged 6 - 96! Whether you would like individual tuition, or to enrol in a group program, there will never be a better time. **Brad J Eastick**  AAA Rated PGA Golf Professional  0422 084 481  **Summer Golf Classes – February 2013.**

**Kathy Ziatas Speech Pathology - Naplan Preparation Group Year 5.**  *Starts Monday 11th February from 3:45 to 5:00 pm.* 

Cost $70.00 per session, for registration phone: 9450 6939 or www.kzspeech.com.au
SHARED LAPTOP PROGRAM 2012 STUDENT SURVEY

Years 5 & 6, Rooms 19, 20, 21 22 & 23

Following the six month implementation phase of the shared laptop program, 2012 in years 5 & 6 the students responded to questions as to how the laptops affected their learning. 125 students were involved in the survey.

Results:
The survey had a 4 point scale (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree) against which they rated each of the 15 statements. Combining the positive response (strongly agree and agree):

Interest in learning
• 99% agreed using the laptop makes learning more interesting

Finding information
• 93% said using the laptop helps to find the right answer
• 94% said using the internet helps me find the correct answer quickly
• 99% use the internet to research information
• 100% said they know how to use the internet safely
• 70% provide information to others through the internet

Collaborating
• 85% said the laptop makes it easier to work with others
• 97% are proud of the work they have produced on the laptop
• 92% prefer to use the laptop on their own
• 81% use the laptop to share information with others
• 55% said being a member of a group on the internet in important to them
• 90% have learnt a lot about the laptop from other students

Standard of work
• 97% said the work they produce on the laptop is of a high standard
• 96% are proud of the work they produced on the laptop
• 90% learn more quickly using the laptop

Grouping the questions related to:
Learning (1, 2, 4, 12, and 15): 97% said using the laptops improve their learning
Collaboration (6, 7, 8, 9, and 10): 85% said using the laptops improves collaboration
Standard of work (8, 13, and 14) 96% said using the laptops helps them achieve a high standard of work

The results of the survey reflect the value students attach to laptops as part of their learning program and is endorsed by the teachers’ feedback about the MacBook program. We continue working towards increasing student access to technology in learning.

Laptop Purchase/lease
Parents of Year 5, 6, & 7 students can still purchase or lease a laptop for their child through the special education bundle created by Winthrop Australia for Rossmoyne Primary School.
To order, please visit: https://portal.winaust.com.au/a/RossmoynePrimarySchool

WHATS ON IN SPORT

Swimming Trials: Thursday 7th March, 9.00-12.00. Riverton Leisureplex.

Students from Years 4-7 (and Year 3 Swim Club members) are invited to nominate. Nomination forms will be given to the students in the first week of school.

The results from the swimming trials will be used to place students in the appropriate divisions in the Faction Swimming Carnival.

Faction Swimming Carnival: Wednesday 20th March, 9.00-12.00, Riverton Leisureplex. If you can assist with this carnival please contact Mr Wilson at school. Spectators are welcome.

South Canning Inter School Sports Association Swimming Carnival: Wednesday 10th April, 9.00-12.00, Fremantle Leisure Centre. Spectators are welcome.

In-Term Swimming: Tuesday 9th-Friday 12th & Monday 15th-Friday 19th April. Detailed information will be forwarded to parents later in the term.

Basketball

School Sport WA Inter School Basketball Carnival: Willetton Basketball Stadium, Tuesday 9th April. Selected students from Years 6 and 7 will participate in this carnival Trials will commence early in the term.
A copy of the program of events can be found on the Rossmoyne Primary School Community Notice Boards

**SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES**

All children from Pre-primary to Year 11 are eligible for free dental and preventive treatment with School Dental Services.

Your dental therapy centre is the Willetton Dental Therapy Centre at Willetton PS (best parking is Cnr Apsley Rd and Pinetree Gully Rd).

Clinic hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm (Ph) 9457 4624.

If you feel that your child’s recall appointment is outstanding or need to update your details you may do so by contacting us and we will endeavour to resolve any queries or inaccuracies. Thank you.

**DENTAL TREATMENT AFTER YEAR 7**

Just a reminder that past students from Year 7 going into high school (2013) are still eligible for dental treatment through the School Dental Therapy Centre until year 11 inclusive.

An appointment card will be sent home when their next recall is due, so please ensure you inform the therapy centre of any changes in address AND phone numbers.

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**EAL PARENTS MORNING TEA (Friday 8th February 2013)**

You are invited to an EAL Morning Tea (EAL - English as an Additional Language formerly ESL - English as a Second Language)

**When:** Friday 8th February 2013

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Where:** Room 4

Come along and meet other parents. Bring a friend! We are looking forward to seeing all EAL parents - old and new!

Mrs Williams, Mrs Vong and Mrs Foo