Welcome Back!!

We have had a very busy start to the term. One stormy night last week, hailstones battered down on our roof and broke holes in the skylights in the boys’ and girls’ toilets. A huge thankyou to Paul Moloney who happened to be in the right place at the right time and fixed them.

Also a huge thankyou to Donny and Simone for keeping our gardens looking so great – we haven’t seen green grass in January for a long time!

During the next couple of weeks, lots will be going on. Please read this bumper issue of our newsletter for all the information to keep you up to date with what is going on. I can’t stress to you enough the important contributions parents make to the running of the school. Whether it be at working bees, classroom helpers, fundraising activities or School Council. Please consider volunteering for these activities.

Cheers
Wendy

Volunteers Wanted!!

If you would like to volunteer to assist in the Junior Classroom to hear reading one morning per week, (usually ½ to ¾ hour from 9am) you are invited to a briefing on tomorrow 4th February at 8.45am in the Junior Classroom. Thankyou.

Jo and Jules

Fees/Payments for 2016

At this stage, School Council have set our fees the same as last year and the year before. $185 ($140 for fees and $45 for swimming). These can be paid at any time (preferably on Wednesdays when Leanne is in the office) or straight into the school’s bank account (details above – please include your name). Fees can be paid in a lump sum or we can arrange instalments if you prefer. Please contact the school and discuss.

Last year was our year for camps however we have a bonus camp for the 3 – 6 students at 15 Mile Creek in November this year. The grade 5/6 students will have the opportunity to go to Somers in August. I will let you know exact pricing when it comes to hand.

BBQ

We will be having a welcome back BBQ on Friday 12th February. The evening will begin with a brief overview of the year ahead and to introduce the new families into our school community.

This will be followed by a BBQ. The school will provide sausages and hamburgers and we ask families to please bring a salad to share. BYO drinks.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

School Council

Attached to this newsletter is information regarding school council and the vacancies we have for 2016. The role of the school council is very important. Parents on school council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

CSEF

The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) helps ensure that no student will miss out educational activities. If you currently hold a concession card, you may be eligible to receive this funding.

Attached to this newsletter is an information form and an application form. If applicable, please complete and return to school.
**Cluster Day**
Our first cluster day for the year will be on Tuesday 1st March at Everton Primary School. The cost for the performance and bus is included in the school fees.

**Playgroup**
We will once again offer playgroup for the Springhurst community. We anticipate this taking place once again on a fortnightly basis every Monday afternoon from 2.30 to 3.30 at the school but it is entirely up to the mums to decide when best suits the majority. Playgroup will begin on the 29th February. If you know of any new families to our community, please let them know.

**Junior Room**
What a fantastic start to 2016, the foundation students have settled in beautifully. Our letter focus this week has been “s” and “p”. We have been learning cued articulation for our letter sounds and have been practising our pencil grip and correct formation of our letters. Our Grade 1 and 2 students have been focusing on rhyming words and looking at reading strategies to support them in being independent readers. In maths we have been learning numbers and number patterns. It has been really pleasing to see how quickly the kids have settled into the daily routine. We would like to thank all of our parents for their support and look forward to having some volunteers to help out with reading. There will be a brief session for all volunteers tomorrow to outline the best practice to support students with their reading. A reminder that we have an “open-door” policy, so please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Jo and Julie

**Senior Room**
We welcomed the new grade 3 students into our grade and they have settled in very nicely. We are busy learning new routines and assessing where the students are in their learning. On demand testing is a little challenging but I must say, they have coped brilliantly with this. Mr Pod was in yesterday to take Physical Education and he got right in to practising for our athletics sport which will be held in March.

Homework was given out this week – I am still determining the students levels so please let me know if you consider the homework too easy or too hard. Please drop in or call if you have any concerns.

Wendy

**Religious Education (SRI)**
In regards to RE (SRI) in schools, new regulations came into effect at the beginning of 2016. We have certain responsibilities and the requirements for SRI, which include the following: Students in government schools may only attend SRI for a maximum of 30 minutes per week, during lunchtime, or in the hour before or after school; Attendance must not be compulsory for any student; The program must operate as an ‘opt-in’ extra-curricular activity that students may only attend with their parents’ informed consent obtained using the prescribed consent form. If you would like your child to attend SRI, please see me. If there are enough people interested, we will investigate this further.

**Kid’s Council News**
**Zooper Doopers**
The cost is 30cents each and they are on sale Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
Remember to wear your hats in term 1

Athletics Sports – save the date
This year’s athletics sports will be held on Tuesday 15th March at the Appin Street Athletics Complex in Wangaratta. We will be practising for these during the next month or so. It is a great day and we would love to see as many parents there as possible.

LIONS CLUB OF RUTHERGLEN INC
PO Box 79, Rutherglen Vic 3685

January 29th, 2016
Dear Families,
The Victorian Districts Lions Crimewatch Committee is making available car stickers (see below) to be placed on the driver’s window as a gentle reminder not to leave children in cars. Between September 1st 2013 and August 31st 2014, Ambulance Victoria paramedics rescued 1165 children who had been left unattended in a car. Children are particularly at risk because they can lose fluid quickly, become dehydrated and suffer from heat stroke which can be life threatening. We feel that this is totally unacceptable and wish to help reduce the incidence of such occurrences.
The Lions Club of Rutherglen have purchased a supply of these stickers which will be distributed to each family enrolled in our local schools and kindergartens.
If it saves just one child it will be worth it.
We hope you will use this sticker.
Yours faithfully,

Laurie Richards
TREASURER

LIONS CLUB OF RUTHERGLEN INC
PO Box 79, Rutherglen Vic 3685

Dates for your calendar:
4th February – ART
11th February - Library
12th February – Welcome BBQ 6pm
18th February – ART
25th February – Library
29th February – Playgroup 2.30 – 3.30
1st March – Cluster Day – Everton
3rd March – ART
10th March - Library
11th March – Curriculum Day
14th March – Labour Day Holiday
15th March – Athletics Sports
17th March - ART
24th March – Last Day Term 1 dismiss 2.30
11th April – First Day Term 2.