For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 24th November</td>
<td>Romsey Festival choir performance</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th November</td>
<td>School Council 7.00pm (Note change of date)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 1st December</td>
<td>Cake stall 9.00am Romsey Uniting Church Christmas Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th December</td>
<td>7.00pm—Graduation &amp; Christmas Concert</td>
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From the Principal’s Desk

School Council have agreed to have another cake stall at the Romsey Uniting Church Christmas Market on Saturday 1st December. We would like raise funds for the purchase of a new chicken coop to be located nearer the main buildings of the school. Further information is included with the newsletter. We will require volunteers to help run the stall. See John if you can help.

We are also going to enter the Romsey Festival choir performance on Saturday 24th November. We would really like all of our students to attend. Further details have been included with the newsletter.

Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received Student Achievement Awards:

Year Prep—2
Chloe Bonnici — For asking questions when not understanding the task in Maths.

Year 3-6
Tana Males — For her effort in completing the reading and mathematics ‘On Demand Tests’.

Student Absences

Absence note proformas were included with the newsletter two weeks ago. It is a requirement that parents provide a written explanation with every student absence, including medical appointments even if the student returns to school later in the day. The school is audited on this requirement every so often including earlier this year.

Code Red Catastrophic Days

The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD) after consultation with other government departments and the CFA has compiled a list of schools which will close on ‘Code Red, catastrophic’ bushfire risk days.

Local schools such as Clarkefield, Darraweit Guim, Riddells Creek and Hesket Primary Schools are on the register but we are not. We were two years ago but were taken off before last summer. I spoke to the Regional Office at the time and was told, “It is complicated and we can’t give you a definitive reason why you were taken off, but that was the decision.”

When questioned further I was given an assurance that if these other local schools closed, we would also be instructed to do so. This was a verbal agreement with an Assistant Regional Director who has since left the department. Given the large number of people who have left the Regional Office due to the government staff cuts, I’m not sure there is anyone there now with the clout to be able to instruct us to close as we are not on the register.

After discussion at School Council we would like parents to become proactive in this situation rather than wait for others to say whether we should or shouldn’t be open on Code Red days. School Council believes in these situations the safest place for students is with their parents. Parents can make an informed decision as to whether they ‘stay or go’ without possibly needing to return to the school to pick up children.

We ask that parents voluntarily keep their children home on Code Red days and not worry about what the department or other agencies decide. The other consideration is staff needing to travel to school through areas where schools are closed due to the danger. Staff should also have the right to decide whether to be with their families and decide to defend their properties or evacuate.

If parents decide to send their children to school on “Code Red” days the Principal is responsible for their safety and will need to be at school to supervise students, legally Principals and teachers have a higher duty of care than parents. We ask that parents complete the attached form and return to school indicating their child (ren) will not attend school on ‘Code Red Days’. Every parent will be contacted on proposed ‘Code Red’ days either personally or by phone to confirm attendance or non-attendance even if the form has been completed confirming non-attendance.
From Monday (November 5), bans will be put in place on attending one hour per week of the compulsory meetings that may be required under clause 21(2)(b) of the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2008 and clause 19(4)(d) of the Victorian Government Schools – Schools Services Officers Agreement 2004, as varied.

The ban applies to all schools employees and highlights the significant amount of meetings members attend in light of the Baillieu Government’s failure to respect the work of teachers, principals and ES staff. The ban ends on Friday 23rd November.

Our other ongoing bans cover:

- Responding to DEECD emails
- National Curriculum implementation, trials and PD
- Use of the Ultranet
- Participation in Education Department surveys
- School visits by state Coalition MPs, to be met with stopworks and protests
- Employing relief teachers or other casual staff to replace AEU members on stopwork
- Reporting VELS student achievement data to the Education Department
- Written comments or numerical assessment data in student reports
- Preparations for school camps and excursions outside the 38-hour week in 2013.

As mentioned above, presently due to industrial action student December reports will not include written comments, only Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) progression points.

I have instructed staff to have these reports completed by the end of November and be sent out to parents in the first week of December. Parents who would like further feedback on student performance will be able to make appointments for student, parent teacher interviews during the week beginning 10th December.

Should the bans be lifted before the end of November staff will include some written comments but clearly will not be as detailed as parents would normally be used to. If this was to happen, reports would not go home until the last week of school. Teachers would contact parents for interviews if there were particular issues that would need to be discussed. We will conduct interviews with all parents at the end of February next year as normal.

As we approach the summer months the demand for lighter clothing, in particular polo shirts usually increases, additionally, some new stock for 2013 preps usually needs to be ordered. We currently do not have any stock of size 6 or 8 polo shirts.

If you have any uniform needs even for the start of next year please see Kellie Bonnici. If need be we can place an order early next week and possibly have new stock here before the end of the year or at worst, ready for the start of next year.

What’s on this month?

* $14 Weekday Lunch Specials *
(Also available Saturday in Romsey)

* $7 Coffee & Cake All Day *

* Kids Eat Free from 5pm-7pm *

* Wednesday Oyster Night *
(Only at Romsey)

* $14 Bar Meals Mon-Wed *
(Only at Sunbury)

Bring in this voucher when dining to get your Coffee Free!

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