

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

FRIDAY 8th MARCH

IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1

Monday 11th March

Labour Day (Public Holiday)

NO SCHOOL

Monday 18th March

Ready, Steady, Go! Gr 1/2s

Wednesday 20th March

Didjeribone Show

Thursday 21st March

Gr 3/4 Sovereign Hill
Excursion

Tuesday 26th March

Gr 5/6 Immigration Museum
Excursion

Thursday 28th March

Last Day of Term 1

2.15pm finish



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear School Community,

This week, we have been finalising our preparation for the OHS audit to be held next Tuesday 12th March. As part of the audit we have updated our 'Emergency Management Plan (EMP'). As part of the EMP, we are to schedule drill practices in response to different emergencies that we may experience. In the coming weeks we will hold our Term 1 drill practice - 'Fire in a building'. Part of this process means evacuating students from buildings to our Number 1 assembly area, being the basketball courts. These practice drills allow us to improve our practices and ensure our staff and students become aware of the processes schools undertake in an emergency. There will be four drill practices across the year, one held each term, and each drill practice will be based on different emergency situations. Last week we updated our staff teams with EMP processes. As part of our preparation, teachers will share with students' information about why we do a drill practice and what the processes are. In any drill practice, the time and date are not shared with staff, this ensures that we have an accurate observation of our processes. We complete a post practice report to ensure we address any area that may need reviewing or changing. If you live close to the school, you may hear our warning sirens for either a drill practice or for a real emergency. We will always try to communicate with our community when practical, however, our attention will always be on ensuring student and staff safety first. As a family, you may like to further discuss emergencies with your children to ensure they feel safe at school when emergencies occur. **CONTINUED**

CONTINUATION OF PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Also on safety (OHS), we have been concerned with the cars that are parking in front of the school on the driveway entrance where our mini skip bin is placed. To ensure our students are safe walking along the pathway to the entry into our school, we have placed bollards across the entry so that cars can no longer park there. Please do not move the bollards from this area.

We will be sending out our uniform policy to families once again this term as we have noticed many students wearing incorrect uniform items. We also have an expectation that if hair is below shoulder length, then hair should be tied back. This is for all students, both female and male. Having long hair and leaving it untied, makes it very difficult to manage 'nits' infestations across the school.

The 2025 Foundation Student timeline and all other information can be located on the Department Website link: https://www.vic.gov.au/enrolling-foundation-prep . Important information to share with our community is as follows:

*2025 Foundation Enrolments are open from 15th April, 2024 (day 1 of term 2). We have been busy hosting school tours on Friday mornings for new families and 2024 Foundation families. Enrolment forms can be accessed from our website or from the front office. Enrolment applications can either be emailed to our school via: enrolments@rockbankps.vic.edu.au or dropped off at the office between 9am-3:30pm. Foundation Enrolment applications are due for lodgement at schools by Friday 26 July, 2024 (Term 3), for processing. If you have any queries, please contact the office for additional advice.

NAPLAN Update: Week 7 – Year 3 and 5 students will commence NAPLAN assessments from Wednesday 13/3/24. Wednesday: Writing assessment, Thursday: Reading assessment, Friday: Language Conventions assessment and Monday 18/3/24 will be Numeracy assessment. We will be providing catch up assessments each afternoon up until 22/3/24. We hope our students try their best to complete these national assessments.

CONTINUED

CONTINUATION OF PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We thank you for your support that you provide to your children as part of this preparation. Good luck everyone.

Last Friday, our Principal Leadership team met offsite to plan for school audits and our school review in 2024. We have an OHS audit this term, ChildSafe Standards audit in Term 3 and our School Review in Term 4. We have invited our regional Data Coach to work with us as we prepare to analyse data to determine goal and target achievements. During the review process consultation with our community will be invited and valued.

Website upgrade: We have engaged a website design business to upgrade our website. We are very excited to finally start this process. Ideally, we would like this process completed by end of Term 2. We will notify you when our website is unavailable due to upgrade. We are also organising a professional school tour video to be used once the website is up and running. We are looking forward to student leader and school council input in the final design.

We hope you all have a fabulous fortnight.

Krista Barnes Principal



IMPORTANT REMINDER



As part of the **SunSmart policy** students must wear hats from **1st September through to the 31st March**

This will be enforced as of Wednesday 31st January

School hats can be purchased from Primary School Wear in Melton www.psw.com.au

Legionaire hat: \$16.95

Safety Slouch Hat: \$20.95

Please note that caps are not acceptable



EASTER RAFFLE

As you are aware, Easter is fast approaching. This means it is almost time for our annual Easter raffle. As we are a small school, we are reliant on the good will and generosity of our parents and friends. Let's make this Easter raffle the best one yet!

This being said, we are in need of any donation of Easter eggs and cane baskets to make up the prizes. No donation to small. If you can help to get some donations, or have any contacts we could approach, please come and see us. Raffle tickets will be sent out on the 7th of March. More tickets will be available from the office.

Drawn on the 28th March - Last day of term one.

Thank you for your support - every cent we raise goes towards resources for our kids!



DRAWN
THURSDAY 28TH MARCH
LAST DAY OF
TERM ASSEMBLY





CELEBRATING OUR ATTENDANCE



COME TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY (AND ON TIME!)
AND BE RECOGNISED FOR YOUR GREAT ACHIEVEMENT!

2024 Stats at 08/03/24

Number of students with 100% attendance in term 1: 118

TERM 1 CLASSROOM
STATISTICS

FA - Miss Gatt: 92%
FB - Miss Gregson: 96%
FC - Mrs Sharma: 82%
FD - Mrs Thorburn: 85%

3/45

1/2A - Miss Pierce/Mrs Kaur: 90% 1/2B - Miss Kaur: 95% 1/2C - Miss Buttigieg: 97% 1/2D - Mr Shen: 94% 1/2E - Mrs Calidonna: 76% 1/2F - Mrs Haynes: 93%

> 3/4A - Mrs Batra: 85% 3/4B - Mrs Murden: 94% 3/4C - Mr White: 88% 3/4D - Ms Soler Coy: 95% 3/4E - Miss Newton: 95%

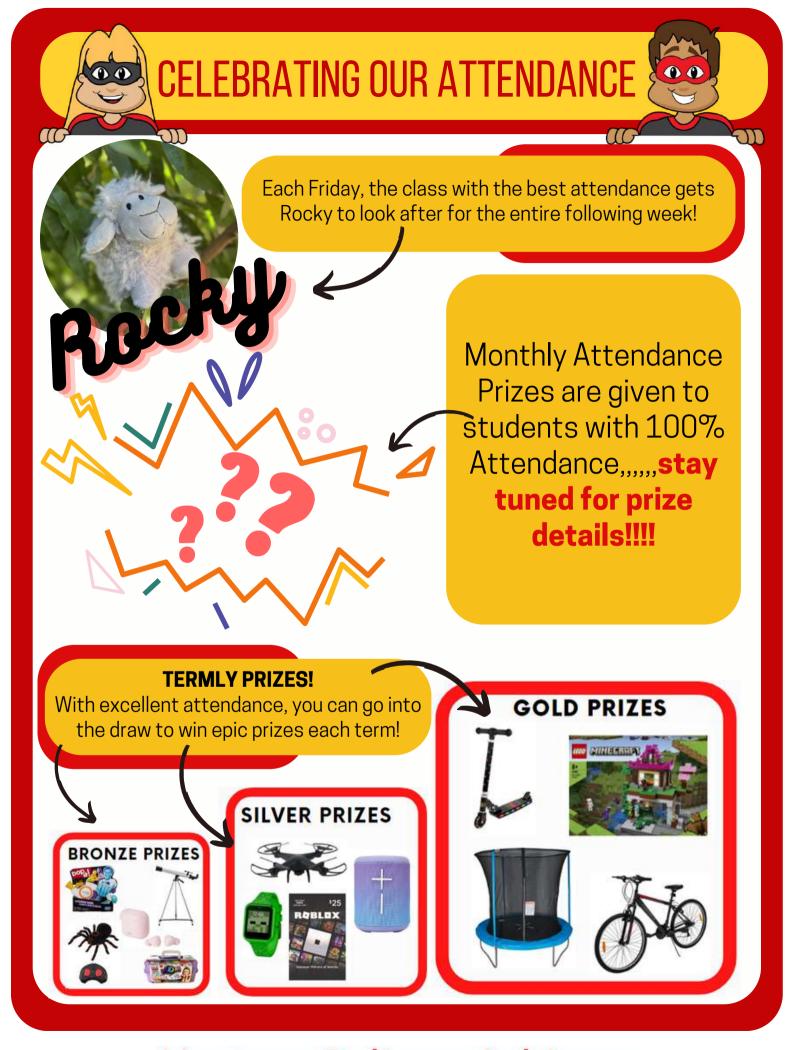
<mark>3/4F - Ms Kastanaras: 92%</mark>

If your child is sick or absent, you are required to notify the school as soon as possible on the day of absence by phone or via Compass.

5/6A - Mrs Layton: 85% 5/6B: Mr Randich: 89% 5/6C - Miss Walker: 90% 5/6D: Miss Eudey: 85%

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ATTENDANCE MATTERS

HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL: BUILD THE HABIT OF GOOD ATTENDANCE EARLY SCHOOL SUCCESS GOES HAND IN HAND WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE!

Did you know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school
- · Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks
 - · Being late to school may lead to poor attendance
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important.

Good attendance will help children do well in high school, tertiary education

Good attendance will help children do well in high school, tertiary education and at work

What you can do

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine
- · Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots
- Introduce your child to teachers and classmates before school starts to help transition
 - Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick
 - Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counsellors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbour, or another parent
 - Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS





STUDENTS OF THE WEEK





Class/Teacher	Week Ending:	Week Ending:
Classy reastres	01/03	08/03
FA (Miss Gatt)	Nathan	Anshu-Ballav
FB (Mrs German-Gregson)	Myra	Vedant
FC (Mrs Sharma)	Paula	Amreen B
FD (Mrs Thorburn)	Matias	Sehajveer
1/2A (Miss Pierce & Mrs H Kaur)	Shanvi	Syon
1/2B (Mrs N Kaur)	Kye	Auggie
1/2C (Miss Buttigieg)	Emmy	Iliana
1/2D (Mr Shen)	Paysen	Mutugi
1/2E (Mrs Calidonna)	Jensen	Adithi
1/2F (Mrs Haynes)	Daliya	Amy
3/4A (Mrs Batra)	Rudveag	Preshu
3/4B (Mrs Murden)	Samairah	Sharon
3/4C (Mr White)	Fatima	Odhora
3/4D (Ms Soler Coy)	Ksharaa	Kau Ariki
3/4E (Miss Newton)	Burak	Aarvi
3/4F (Mrs Kastanaras)	Carter S	Aryanna
5/6A (Mrs Layton)	Carter A	Autumn
5/6B (Mr Randich)	Moksha	Amreen C
5/6C (Miss Walker)	Isabella	Gian
5/6D (Miss Eudey)	Sukhraj	Jackson
PE (Mrs Richardson)	12C	12B
Auslan (Mr Still)		FA
S.T.E.M (Mr Rasmanis)	56A	
The Arts (Mrs Georgievski)	34A	34D

A class member from each class is recognised weekly with our Student of the Week Award. This award recognises students who consistently display our school values.

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

HOUSE POINTS

Students receive house point tokens for demonstrating our school values while out in the yard.



960















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MEET OUR TEAM

KATHERINE GATT

FOUNDATION A

Hello RPS Community,

My name is Katherine Gatt and this will be my first year at Rockbank Primary School. I am super excited to meet you all for 2024. I have been teaching for 10 years. Most of my teaching experience has been in the lower primary years.

Teaching is my passion and I absolutely love seeing my students learning new things daily and watching them become the best version of themselves that they can be. My classroom is a happy, safe and encouraging environment.

Outside the classroom I am a mother to my 4-year-old daughter Aleyna. We love park hopping and going on adventures together. I enjoy catching up with friends and family and a fun fact is that I used to live on a farm. My favourite animal is an elephant and favourite colour is purple.

MOLLYGERMAN-GREGSON

FOUNDATION B

Hello, my name is Mrs GG. I have been teaching at Rockbank Primary School for 3 years in Foundation! I was a kinder teacher and worked in the early years before working in a primary school.

I love teaching young people to read, write, draw and to love learning. I recently got married to my amazing husband Jiah! At RPS I have a few jobs including Foundation team leader, Phonics/Reading leader and running our school Choir.

My favourite foods are chocolate and raspberries. My favourite things to do are spend time with my family and friends, singing and walking my dog Frankie with husband Jiah.



ROSELEEN SHARMA

FOUNDATION C

Hello Rockbank Primary Community!

My name is Mrs. Sharma. I am 41 years old, and I have a Fiji Indian background. I am born in Fiji, but my ancestors were from India. I live in Cairnlea with my husband and two children.

My son is 20 years old, he has started first year of university. My daughter is 18 years old, she is in year 12. My favourite things to do is spend time with my family.

I have been teaching for over 6 years. I have taught Foundation, Year 1, Year 3, EAL and Intervention programs. I have been teaching at Rockbank Primary School for 2 years. I am a positive person who has an enthusiastic outlook on life. I love my job and I get a great sense of achievement from seeing my students develop and grow as individuals.

JESSICA THORBURN

FOUNDATION D

Hi, I'm Mrs Thorburn.

This is my first year at Rockbank Primary School and I am so excited to be your teacher.

I have six years of teaching experience and particularly love teaching the younger years.

I am a mum of three very cheeky and adventurous boys, Austin aged 7, Archer aged 5 and Bentley aged 4. As a family we love to go 4wd driving and camping, especially collecting rocks in the riverbanks.

My favourite things to do are read, bake yummy sweets and going for walks with my dog, Lucy

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MEET OUR TEAM

KAMIA BATRA

34A

Hello Rockbank Community

My name is Kamia Batra, and this is my first year in Rockbank Primary School as full-time class teacher for grade 34A. As the newly appointed class teacher, I am thrilled to embark on this journey of learning, growth, and discovery with all of you. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your child's class teacher this academic year. I am committed to ensuring that every student in our class receives the support, guidance, and encouragement they need to thrive both academically and personally.

I am married and blessed with 2 beautiful girls aged 10 and 5. When not at work, I love to spend time with my family while exploring the beautiful surroundings and cooking different cuisine. My daughters loves physical activities, so outside my working hours I am busy taking them to cricket, soccer and Taekwondo. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have. Let us work hand in hand to make this academic year a memorable and fulfilling one for our students.

MEGAN MURDEN

34B

Hi, I'm Megan Murden.

I have been teaching since 2016 at a wide variety of different schools, including overseas.

I have a 2-year-old daughter, and 2 sausage dogs.

I enjoy spending my weekends with family relaxing or going to the park and if the weather is nice, to the beach or pool.

JUSTIN WHITE

340

Hello, my name is Mr. White and I have been teaching for a few years now.

Students will tell you that my worst quality is my dad jokes but that is what happens when you have 5 kids of your own!

I like to have fun in class and build positive relationships with the students so we can build each other up to be the best we can be. Like our class motto says, "We will become better versions of ourselves everyday."

PATTI SOLER COY

34D)

Hello everyone!

I am Miss. Soler and this is my first year at Rockbank Primary school. I currently teach 34D.

My background is Spanish so I studied my bachelor's in teaching there. After my studies I taught for 1 year and moved to Australia!

I moved to Australia in 2019 so I got lucky enough to experience covid-19 in Melbourne. Once I could validate my studies I started as a Spanish teacher a a primary school located in the eastern suburbs until I recently moved to Rockbank.

I am very excited to be part of the Rockbank family and team and I hope we all make good memories together!

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MEET OUR TEAM

TRACEY KASTANARAS

34F

Hi, I'm Tracey Kastanaras, also known around Rockbank Primary as Mrs. K. I teach grades 3 and 4 F and have a big passion for learning and empowering children to make eco choices in the future.

I have been working with the Rockbank Primary School "Community Crusaders" in the school veggie garden. The students love pottering around the garden even when I'm not there. Last week we even introduced some squirmy worms. This experience unleashed some amazing yelps of both disgust and delight with squished faces coupled with incredible interest fostering a handson understanding of ecosystems and

the natural world. We have just sewed some new seeds, I can't wait for them to grow. I am looking forward to helping the students harvest, giving and sharing some of the garden bounty with the community.



DANIEL BEESON

WELLBEING

Hello Rockbank community!

Daniel from wellbeing here. I work as a behaviour and mindset coach with students, teachers and parents. I have worked in many roles over the last 8 years, in and around young people. From secondary colleges, to prisons, and now primary schools! I have been at Rockbank for just over a year now, and I love being able to work with all aspects of the school and community.

In my out of work hours, I am also an Arborist (tree monkey). I enjoy anything in nature, and I can now call myself an Ultramarathoner, after completing 3 ultra marathon distances in the last year, including a 105km race I just finished. I always show up for life, and love taking on new challenges.

Come say hi at the crossing!

ALYSSA CARMICHAEL

EAL CO-ORDINATOR

Hi there!

I've been a part of the Rockbank PS community since 2016, and have worn many different hats over the years. Right now, I coordinate our English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Tutor Learning Initiative (TLI) programs and am supporting the rollout of the new Disability Inclusion reform.

I truly love my role within the Wellbeing team, supporting teachers, students and their families through a new process.

Outside of work, I'm happily married with three little ones. And I absolutely adore animals, plants and nature in general!



LUCY MAGNANO

THE ARTS

Hello everyone!

My name is Ms Magnano and I am the Foundation ART teacher. I have been at Rockbank Primary since 2020, but left in 2022 to have a baby, and now I am back one day a week!

It is exciting to be teaching ART this year, as I have only ever been a classroom teacher since I started teaching in 2015.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family, taking my dog Lenny for walks, travelling and reading books. My all time favourite books are the Harry Potter series, I have read them too many times! If you see me in the yard, come and say HI!

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A WORD FROM WELLBEING

with Ms Nerida West

Last week I wrote about the School Values and Class Dojo. It's been great to see so many families signing into Dojo. This is a great way for school and families to connect with each other.

This week I'd like to give you some insight into our Token system and our Wellbeing room.

Tokens

Students are given tokens for showing the school values in the yard. Tokens go towards our house points. We have four houses – Missen (Green), Peacock (Yellow), Harrison (Blue) and Fisher (Red). Students put their tokens in the letterbox for their house. Every student in the winning house for the term has a reward. In the past, this has been an icecream from an ice cream van!





The Wellbeing Room

Our wellbeing room is a space where students can spend 5 or 10 minutes to help them be ready to learn. Sometimes students need a quiet place to help them regulate their emotions and some of the big feelings that they are experiencing. There are sensory toys such as kinetic sand, weighted toys, threading activities as well as more energetic resources like a punching bag. When students enter the wellbeing room they are greeted by Gethsi and /or Daniel, our Wellbeing staff. The students will set a timer for 5 or 10 minutes and can have a chat if they need or just quietly use the resources. Students find that at the end of the 5-10 minutes they are usually feeling better and ready to continue their learning in class.

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LEARNING AUSLAN





"Good"

POINT THUMB UPWARDS FROM FIST

"MORNING"

With palm facing armpit and fingers bent towards it (thumb pointing upwards); tap chest, close to armpit once or twice.





"AFTERNOON"

TAP YOUR HOOKED
POINTER FINGER ON YOUR
CHIN ONCE

FB with Mrs German-Gregson

FB have been working incredibly hard on their numbers! The students have been identifying, making and writing numbers. This looks like using counters, teddy bears, popsicle sticks and our fingers to represent numbers. We have also been practising our formation of our numerals/digits, using play based methods and explicit instructions on whiteboards.

The students have had so much fun learning and working together.





5/6B with Mr Randich

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

This just in! The students of 5/6B have been diligently working on an exciting endeavor that has captivated both their minds and imaginations: crafting compelling narrative stories. In the bustling world of education, where the quest for knowledge never ceases, these budding writers have embraced the intricacies of the writing process to weave tales that enchant and inspire.

With guidance from their dedicated teachers Miss Dahni and Mr. Randich, the students embarked on the voyage brainstorming, where ideas flowed freely like a river in spring, each one more vibrant and imaginative than the last.

Next came the crucial stage of drafting, where the raw essence of their ideas began to take shape on paper. However, the journey did not end there. Like skilled artisans sculpting a masterpiece, the students meticulously revised and edited their work, polishing every sentence until it gleamed with literary brilliance.

Finally, after weeks of dedication and hard work, the students emerged triumphant, their narratives shining examples of the power of storytelling.

As the dust settles and the ink dries on their final drafts, the students of 5/6B stand tall, proud of their achievements and eager to share their stories with the world. Through the writing process, they have not only honed their literary skills but also discovered the boundless creativity that lies within each of them.



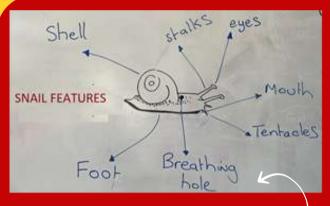
5/6B with Mr Randich





STEM with Mr Rasmanis

Our year in the brand-new STEM room kicked off with a whirlwind of excitement and busyness. The students are thrilled about the new learning space, complete with ample room for experiments and a multitude of scientific paraphernalia, including our engaging skeleton named "Bones." In the current term, the 5/6 students are exploring the inventor of the microscope, Anton Van Leeuwenhoek, and delving into the fascinating world of an unusual micro-organism known as yeast. Meanwhile, the 3/4 students have been delving into the workings of seed anatomy, actively investigating the concept of germination by growing their own seeds. On another note, the 1/2 grade students have been keenly observing the features of various animals, such as worms and snails. The revelation that the snail trail is a mucus similar to what originates from our noses caused a collective cringe from all the students. Ewwww!

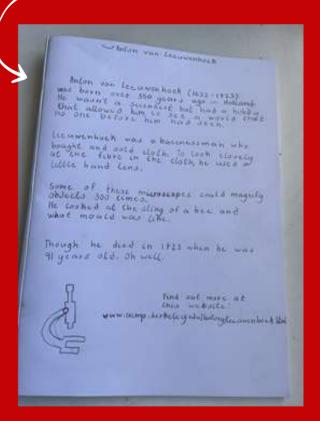


Grade - 1/2s - Animal Features



Grade 3/4s
Germination

Grade 5/6s - Mr Microscope





HARMONY WEEK



18th - 23rd MARCH

Celebrating Australians from all different backgrounds.

Harmony Week encompasses inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Tuesday 19th March
Whole school dress up parade session 5 (2.15pm).
Dress up in colours of your cultural background or wear orange.

Wednesday 20th March Whole school Didjeribone Show

To celebrate Harmony week students from F-6 will participate in a uniquely Australian music experience accompanied by both personal and ancestral stories.

The event is up on compass. Cost is \$6.

Payment due by Friday March 15th.

Students will also be participating in various classroom activities with their teachers to celebrate harmony week.

SCHOOL NEWS: ESMART



Dear Parents and Guardians,

National E-Smart Week is celebrated from 18th to the 24th of March. As a school we will be focusing on promoting safe and responsible internet use among our students. In today's digital age, it's more important than ever to equip our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate the online world securely.

We understand that navigating the digital landscape can be overwhelming, which is why we are committed to providing you with the necessary support and resources to ensure your child's online safety. Together, we can empower our students to make smart choices and thrive in the digital age. There is an online webinar that parents are encouraged to participate in run by the Alana and Madeline Foundation. In this session, they will discuss the importance of developing media literacy skills to ensure safe and responsible engagement with the online world. Together you will explore ways of identifying and responding to issues such as mis- and dis-information and what influences the media that we are delivered.

Date & time: Monday 18 March 2024 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM (UTC+11)

To book follow the link and register for a free ticket.

Webinar link: https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1165796



SCHOOL NEWS: CLASS DOJO





CLASS DOJO HAS NOW REPLACED SEESAW

ClassDojo is an online classroom management platform and app where teachers can record and track student behavior, facilitate classroom activities and engage in school-to-home communication.

**Please note - DO NOT SUBSCRIBE or UPGRADE, this platform is free





SCHOOL NEWS: CSEF



SCHOOL NEWS: PARENT WORKSHOPS

PARENT

WORKSHOPS

You are invited to attend our Parent Workshops.

These are free sessions with practical strategies to help your child:

- Manage everyday worries
- Build healthy peer relationships
- Thrive now and into adolescence

Please use the QR code or link below to fill out this quick survey to help us gauge interest.

LINK:

https://forms.gle/pCLZtaCfNERVkcqp7





CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

AT ROCKBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Due to severe allergies within the school. we are making some changes to what families can provide to celebrate their child's birthday from 2024.

Instead of food items, families are welcome to provide their child and their classmates with novelty items such as stickers, pencils, erasers, etc.

It is incredibly important that all students feel safe and included at all times.



















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REMINDERS

MORNING MUNCHIES



Each morning, students arriving between 8:30am and 8:50am are welcome to grab something for breakfast as they pass the Dojo Shop.

If they've already had a nice, healthy start to the day, they are even welcome to grab a snack for later!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

To stay informed and upto-date with the latest news from Rockbank PS, follow us on social media!





COMPASS SCHOOL MANAGER

Turn ON your notifications to stay up to date with all of our school news





ICY POLES

Icy poles are sold every
Wednesday and Friday
from our school canteen
at 11:10am

ICY POLES ARE \$2 EACH



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