Dates to Remember
*A reminder that Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays during February.

Next Week
- Tues 24th Feb. Swimming Program Session Four
- Thurs 26th Feb. Swimming Program Session Five
- Fri 27th Feb. Cluster Swimming Sports @ Rochester (Grades Three-Six)
  Prep Health Questionnaires Due

Term One
- Mon 2nd March MARC Library
  Prep Health Checks with School Nurse
- Wed 4th March Preps First Wednesday at school
- Mon 9th March Labour Day Public Holiday
- Fri 13th March MARC Library
- Fri 13th March Grade Six Leadership Excursion to Melb.
- Mon 16th March School Council AGM
- 17th—25th Mar. Somers Camp
  (selected Grade Five-Six students only)
- Fri 27th March MARC Library
- Fri 27th March Last day of Term One, 2.15pm dismissal

2015 Term Dates
- 29th Jan—27th Mar. Term One
- 13th Apr—26th June. Term Two
- 13th July—18th Sept. Term Three
- 5th Oct—18th Dec. Term Four

Weekly Awards
P-2: Values Award– Teagan
  Literacy– Alla & Charlie
  Maths– Bethany

3-6: Values Award - Isobelle
  Literacy– Alex
  Maths– Lana

A reminder that awards are now presented on Tuesday afternoon at 3.00pm

Our School Values—teamwork, respect, honesty and care.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP ELECTIONS

Well done to all of our Grade Six students who presented their school captain speeches on Monday morning. I was very impressed with the quality of the speeches and the effort that the students had put into preparing them.

I am pleased to announce that David and Nell have been elected as our School Captains for 2015, following a vote by their peers. Our School Captains will be greatly supported by Zoe, Lana and Emily, who are also part of the Student Leadership Group.

As I said to the students on Monday, leaders are defined by their actions rather than the title they hold. I encourage each of our Grade Six students to be excellent role-models for the other students. I look forward to working with our Student Leadership Group throughout 2015.

We will have a special assembly to present our Grade Six students with their badges in a few weeks—stay tuned!

On Friday 13th March the Grade Six students will travel to Melbourne by train for the National Young Leaders Conference at the Exhibition Centre. Please find attached to today’s newsletter further details and a permission form for this excursion.

LOTE PROGRAM

I am very excited about the opportunity for our students to learn a language following our first Chinese lessons on Monday. The students learnt how to say hello (ni hao) and goodbye (zai jian). They also learnt that their teacher’s name is Li lau shi, which means ‘teacher Li’. Our next session with Li lau shi is on Monday 2nd March.

PREP HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

The Prep Health Questionnaire was sent home with last week’s newsletter for families with a student in Prep. This is a questionnaire that is conducted annually with parents of Prep students prior to the Education Department’s school nurse conducting health checks. Further information about the health checks is attached with the questionnaire. We ask that the questionnaires please be returned to the school by Friday 27th February. The School Nurse will be visiting our school to conduct the health checks with the Prep students on Monday 2nd March—please make every attempt to ensure your child is at school on this day. If you are the parent of a student in Prep and did not receive your health questionnaire please see Mrs Wickham at the school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Thank you to those parents who nominated for a parent-member position on our school council.

This year we had three parent-member vacancies and received three nominations. As such, an election was not required. I would like to welcome Daneeta Ede as a new parent member and Jamie Tuohy & Tim McCrohan as returning parent members to our school council.

The first meeting of our new school council is the Annual General Meeting on Monday 16th March at 7pm, followed by a normal council meeting. Finance Committee will meet at 6.30pm on this evening. I wish to acknowledge outgoing school councillor Ross McKinstry for his efforts on the Goornong Primary School council over the past ten years. Ross has been a valuable contributor to our school council over a long period of time, including as President from 2011-2013. During Ross’ time on council he was involved in various significant facilities projects which will benefit the Goornong community for many years to come, most notably the construction of the new school building. I thank Ross for his dedication and commitment to improving our school and hope that he will continue to be a valuable member of our school’s parent community.

GRADE THREE-SIX SWIMMING SPORTS

The Campaspe Cluster Grade Three-Six Swimming Sports are next Friday 27th February at the Rochester Swimming Pool. This day will see our students compete in various events against students from the other Cluster Schools. Swimming Sports day is always a great day and parents are encouraged to come along and support. The first events are at 10am with the day usually finished by 2.30pm

Permission Forms were attached to last week’s newsletter.
I am pleased to announce that the school oval will be resurfaced over the upcoming school holidays. This will involve the spreading of topsoil and planting of grass seeds. Many of you will have noticed many weeds on the school oval on our return from summer holidays. The oval will be sprayed soon to prepare for resurfacing works. This will occur outside of school hours and will not pose any risk to the students. It is anticipated that there may be a short period of time following the school holidays where the students will not be able to use the oval whilst the grass establishes. We anticipate the end result being a lush grassy surface for our students to play on.

**RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION—CHANGES TO FEES**

Religious instruction will begin in Term Two. Our school offers two programs for religious instruction. —Catholicism, run by the Catholic Church; and Christianity, run by Access Ministries.

Please note that Access Ministries have notified our school of changes to the fees for participation in the Christianity Program. As such, there will now be a cost of $10 per student to cover the cost of materials for the Access Ministries Christianity Program. There will be no cost for participation in the Catholic Program.

Please find attached to today’s newsletter Consent Forms for those wishing to participate in either Religious Instruction Program in 2015. If you do not wish for your child to participate in Religious Instruction you are not required to return a form.

**Quote of the Week**

“So be sure when you step, step with care and great tact. And remember that life’s A Great Balancing Act. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and ¾ percent guaranteed) Kid, you’ll move mountains.”

— Dr. Seuss, *Oh, The Places You’ll Go!*

Jason Cox
Principal

**HIGH FIVE**

A high five to our groundsman, Les Varker, who has spent a great deal of time over the past few weeks spraying and digging out bindi-eye from around the school grounds following the summer rain—thanks for your efforts Les!

**Cooking Class**

Both classes enjoyed cooking pancakes this week. Firstly we started off the lesson talking about the meaning and significance of Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday. The students got an understanding of the importance of food to cultural and religious events. Toppings included jam and whipped cream, lemon and sugar and honey.

Felicity Nicholls
**PlayGolf Clinics**

**Women Beginner Golf Clinics**

**Elmore Golf Club**
Raywood Road, Elmore

**Women’s Clinic (Level 1)**
Tuesdays 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th May & 2nd June 2015
Time: 10.00am - 11.00am
Morning Tea provided
* Level 1: For complete novice or people wishing to return to the game

Cost: **$25** for 5 week course

Equipment provided – Dress comfortably (flat shoes) – Giveaways

Registration forms online at www.golfvic.org.au
(Click tab - PlayGolf Clinics)

For enquires, please contact:
Janet Simmie - 0448 541 134 or
Mark Bamford - 0428 241 213

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**BOLD** is bringing Karen Starkiss from Dyslexia Assessment and Support Services and SPELD Victoria to Bendigo for an information evening for families.

**Support your child with Dyslexia or other Learning Difficulties in Upper Primary or Secondary School.**

**Time:** Arrive 6:30pm for a 6:45pm Start
**Where:** Catholic Education Centre, 120 Hargreaves St Bendigo
**Cost:** $10 per family

Complete the registration form located at www.bold.org.au
Enquiries: email info@bold.org.au
- Information: Judy 0408 312 027
- Booking: Jenene 5434 3922

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**Rochester Agricultural & Pastoral Association Inc.**
Reg No. A0011021L
PO Box 127, Rochester 3561

**GREAT NORTHERN SHOW**

President: Mr Scott Somerville
Secretary: Mrs Jade Hewlett

Phone: 0408 846 221
Phone: 0408 841 175

Email: rochester.show@hotmail.com

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**INVITATION TO CELEBRATE**

The Rochester Show Society would like to invite students of our local primary schools to compete in a poster competition. We would like to celebrate the memory and spirit of the ANZAC’s in this, the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. We aim to make this a feature of the 2015 Rochester Show which is to be held on the 27th and 28th of February. It is our intention to have a dignitary of our armed forces to open the show and judge the competition.

The competition categories will be:

- Grades 5 & 6. The ANZAC Story. A small write up and picture about the ANZAC landing, or about a specific soldier.
- Grades Prep to 4. The Spirit of the ANZAC. A poster, painting/drawing etc. about the ANZAC spirit.

There are a variety of prizes to be won! We look forward to seeing many works to display at our upcoming show.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our President, Scott Somerville or Secretary Jade Hewlett.

Kind Regards
Rochester Show Society.