FROM THE PRINCIPAL CLASS TEAM

At Roberts McCubbin we are committed to ensuring that parents and families are valued partners in their child’s learning and development. Throughout the year we offer a number of programs to parents asking them to participate in school-based learning activities to support their children’s learning. Last Friday our final ‘Classroom Helpers’ session was held for junior school parents. This program focuses on the importance of parent helpers in the classroom and assists parents with supporting students during the Literacy and Numeracy blocks. Thank you to Linda Abbot and Maria Pase for running these valuable workshops. The next parent program ‘Helping Your Child Learn to Read’ will be held in March on Thursday, 21st March and Friday, 19th April. This program will give parents strategies on supporting reading at home and at school. In the meantime here are some tips for reading with your child at home:

- Make reading a special time together
- Be positive and praise every effort
- Spend at least 10 minutes each day reading aloud to your child
- Read stories that kids love over and over again
- NEVER cover the pictures!
- Make reading fun!

In the newsletter I have included an article by Michael Grose on: ‘It’s not Ok to be away………………nor to be late to school’. It is important for all children to develop regular attendance habits at an early age. School attendance helps children to successfully develop social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication skills and a healthy self-esteem. Students who regularly miss school are at risk of missing out on learning and building on the basic skills in Literacy and Numeracy and may experience long term difficulties with their learning. It is well established that the more time children spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. If you would like more information on this, there are some brochures at the office and more in the DEECD website.

It is also important that all children arrive at school on time each day. The first bell goes at 8.50am, to allow time for children to take bags inside and be ready to line up for the 9.00am bell. Please help your child to be well prepared for learning each day by being on time for school.

The first Education Committee Meeting for the year is on Wednesday 6th March at 6.00pm. Melinda Browne will be presenting information about the Robotics program. We encourage parents to attend Education Committee meetings which are held monthly in the staffroom. This committee provides another opportunity for parents to contribute to discussions about key issues in education for students at Roberts McCubbin.
Nominations have closed for positions on the Roberts McCubbin Primary School Council for 2013.

Nominations for the Parent Member Category equals the number of positions available. No election was required. Successful nominees are:

Gary Layton
Fiona Lund
Cathy Hayes
Polly Poon

Nominations for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Category equals the number of positions available. No election was required. Successful nominees are:

Amanda Wigg
Peter Wright

Margaret Pickburn,
Principal

Elite sportsperson trials

District trials are to be held in several sports in order to select children to try out at Division level.

Elite Sportsperson Trials

Tuesday 26th March - Australian Rules Football, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Netball (girls)

Monday 25th March - Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball.

Criteria - All athletes nominating must be competitive at Club level competition. The trials are for grade 5 and 6 students only. Many of the athletes at the trials will be Regional reps in their chosen field, this is why we are asking for elite athletes only.

NOMINATING YOUR CHILD

If your child fits the above criteria, please forward your written nomination to Mr F-W by Friday 8th March 2013.

Nominations must include:

*Child’s name, D.O.B, Club or squad, preferred playing position, contact phone number. Parents must sign and date this letter please.

District Swimming

Congratulations and well done to the 6 students who represented Robbie Mac at the recent District Swimming competition.

Emily P, Thalia W, Ella N, Harrison T, Fintan H and Danielle S.
Harrison, Fintan and Danielle will go on to swim at Division level.
Parent Teacher Meetings Years 1-6
Term 1 2013

This is a reminder that a notice went home last week about Parent Teacher Meetings (Year 1 - 6) that will be held on Tuesday, 12th March. In order to make a time to see your child’s teacher you need to go to the school’s website and follow the links. You will be able to see what times are remaining and select one that suits. This service will be available until Wednesday, 6th March.

If you do not have access to the internet could you please contact the school office.

Marg Pickburn, Principal

Roberts McCubbin Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

You are invited to attend a series of workshops which we will be presenting in February/March:

*Please note the change in dates*

**Thursday 21st March**: ‘Helping Your Child Learn to Read 1’

**Friday 19th April**: ‘Helping Your Child Learn to Read 2’

The workshops will start at 9.10am and finish by 10.40am.
All workshops will be presented in 5/6V Classroom.
Coffee and tea will be provided.

We encourage all parents to attend both these worthwhile and informative workshops.

The ‘Helping Your Child Learn to Read at Home’ workshop will support and assist with your child’s reading and will give you some great ideas and strategies to help make reading an enjoyable and fun experience at home.

Childminding is available but places are limited.

We look forward to the upcoming workshops

Many thanks
Linda Abbott & Maria Pase
Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPi) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.
Junior School News

The Junior School teachers are really proud of how well our students are settling into their class routines and coming up with lots of ideas as to “How Do We Learn Best?

Each class has contributed to our Essential Learning Expectations and these will be sent home shortly via the Safe and Happy book. Please take the time to browse through this booklet with your child, and keep it in a handy location for future reference.

Last week all Junior Class teachers had an opportunity to carry out the English Online interview with their Prep students. This is a mandatory assessment requirement throughout Victoria that assesses the students in areas of Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing.

Over the next two weeks all Junior class teachers will conduct the Mathematics Online Interview with all students in their class. This assessment has specific tasks in the areas of counting, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The information gained from these assessment interviews is of great value to our planning, teaching and learning. They provide comprehensive information about student achievement and the results are aligned against VELS and AUSVELS. Each teacher uses the results to track individual student achievement and growth. It also allows teachers to plan their curriculum program with their student learning needs in mind.

Whilst the class teacher is conducting these assessment interviews, a Casual Relief Teacher (CRT) is employed to take their class. Each teacher will be released for two days to carry out the Mathematics Interview. Every effort is made to employ the same CRT, and class teachers communicate the curriculum content to them. This ensures consistency in our teaching programs and provides minimal interruptions to our students’ learning.

If you have any queries or questions about these matters please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher, or see Maria Pase or Sue McNamara.
Uniform Shop
Shop Open Times
Tuesday: 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Thursday: 8:30am - 9:30am

Junior Rockers
Dear Roberts McCubin Parents,

Junior Rockers' lessons are back up and running for 2013.

We are currently offering lessons in guitar, keyboard/piano, singing and drums.

The lessons are run weekly around the specialist timetable.

You can choose private lessons ($28/lesson) or shared lessons ($21/lesson). Shared lessons have a maximum of 2 students and hire and purchase instruments are also available through Junior Rockers.

For more information or to book in for lessons, please email sue@juniorrockers.com or call us on 8740 3902

Or go to www.juniorrockers.com and fill in the online application.

Parking around the School Grounds
Please DO NOT park your vehicle in front of the Dumper Driveway. This is to be kept clear at all times.

Correct Money
When paying for school events eg. excursions / incursions, PLEASE send the correct money with the completed permission slip / notice in a secure envelope.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2013

Our first Education Committee for 2013 will be held on
Wednesday 6th March
6.00pm-7.00pm in the staffroom.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
All parents are very welcome to attend our meetings.
We always appreciate your constructive input.

AGENDA
Ms Melinda Brown, our Science Teacher, will be explaining our new whole school Robotics Program which will be part of the curriculum in all levels of the school.
If you’re interested in Robotics or would just like to hear how passionate Mel is about Robotics after working with them in Primary schools for 10 years, this is where you need to be on Wednesday, 6th March, 2013!

Sue McNamara: Convenor
School Picnic – This Thursday! 5.30 to 7.30pm
In the vicinity of the school oval
BYO Picnic Food/Dinner/Drinks and Picnic rug.
Please remember that there will not be a sausage sizzle this year.

Well, I can say we are in Melbourne and of course the rain will go away by Thursday and we will have a bright sunny afternoon for a wonderful early evening at our School picnic!?!!! The school picnic provides an opportunity for social and community development amongst our families, and to raise some funds along the way. The School, and PFA hope as many families as possible will be able to attend. Grandparents are welcome too!

Cake Stall - In the school hall. There will be some yummy treats for sale; cakes, cupcakes, cookies, slices and more! Thank you to all of you who are donating your delicious home baked treats for our cake stall. Remember you can find more plates and bags in the school office foyer.

Icy Poles - In the undercroft (the storage room opposite the gym). Icy Poles with no artificial colours or preservatives will be available for purchase at $1 each until sold out!

Fun activities. Some fun activities are planned for out on the oval (weather permitting).

PLUS Face Painting! There will be some very talented mums face painting at the picnic. The cost will be $3 to cover the costs of products used and help raise some funds as well. Thank you!

All funds raised at the picnic will go towards the Mathletics Program that can be accessed from home and school!

And thank you to all the helpers who have offered to help with setting up and selling at the stalls at the picnic – if you can help out with pack up please let us know or just give us a hand at the end of the day. Pack up will be from 7.30 onwards unless all baked goodies and icypoles are sold out prior!

- Can you help with some of the organised activities for the kids? The water balloon toss and tug of war were heaps of fun last year!

There is a roster placed on our PFA Board on the junior deck area and we would be grateful of your contributions and support. Please contact the PFA via matoularomeo@yahoo.com.au or 0411 089 506 if you would like to be involved.

Welcome Social Night – Friday 22 March
Time: 8pm to 11pm in the school hall
Book the babysitter!

All Roberts McCubbin parents and carers are all invited to come along for a social night out on Friday, 22nd March from 8pm to 11pm. Your invitation will be coming home next week and we hope many parents are able to attend, we especially welcome new families to the school to come along. This night out is an opportunity for all parents in our community to mingle and get to know each other without the kids and have some fun!

We have decided to make it simple with pizza and snacks and drinks provided. We are working on the ticket charge ($15 to $20pp) - we simply need to ensure we cover our costs and make it affordable for families. Plus we are organising door prizes and fun activities such as the Darts games as per last year.

Keep the night free and book the babysitter, last years’ event was a great success and parents from all year levels and many classes attended - it was a lovely social atmosphere. Look out for the flyer to come home next week with all the details.
Monday Morning Tea after Assembly in the Hall

Every Monday morning after assembly the PFA holds a morning tea in the hall. All parents, carers, grandparents and of course toddlers/pre-schoolers are welcome to join us after assembly for a cuppa and a chat, hope to see you there! P.S. thank you Robin F and Chris R for bringing some delicious apple tea cake and a fruit platter.

PFA Meetings

Our Next PFA Meeting: 4th March 8pm at Cathy’s house

We would love to have more support and need more attendees at our meetings, so if you are considering coming to a meeting, please do so. You may like to...

1: help organise an event
2: be part of a team
3: perform a small task or
4: simply contribute with ideas, suggestions and feedback at our meetings

Any parent or carer with a child attending Roberts McCubbin Primary School can attend the PFA meetings. With more parents attending our meetings we can properly represent our school community. Further dates will be advertised in the newsletter. If you decide to join us, please contact Cathy cat.jones@optusnet.com.au for meeting details.

PFA Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 26th March 7.30

The PFA will be holding it’s AGM on Tuesday 26th March at 7.30 in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome to hear the reports on the past year and elect the new committee.

Proposed changes to the PFA Constitution

We would like to inform all our PFA Members that the Parents’ and Friends’ Association propose to update the PFA’s Constitution using the Education Departments guidelines. If you wish to discuss these changes please come along to our AGM. You will find a copy of the proposed changes under the Parents’ and Friends’ Section under “About Us” on the schools website.

Would you like to be a PFA committee member?

Office bearers of the Committee are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, other office bearers and assistant roles can also be elected as required.

If you are thinking of becoming a committee member, please come along to our AGM, members are voted in at the PFA’s Annual General Meeting. For more information about being on the committee, please contact myself via email matoularomeo@yahoo.com.au or Cathy cat.jones@optusnet.com.au or if you like, you can catch up with us at morning tea after assembly on Mondays!

The PFA Membership and Volunteer Form

Have you handed in your PFA Membership and Volunteers form? The PFA needs your support and we hope you are able to become a PFA member and/or help with any of our activities. The $5 annual subscription fee to become a member is a legal requirement and helps supports the administrative costs of the committee. By becoming a financial member you are able to vote at any of our meetings and/or join the committee if you decide to. The PFA Membership and Volunteer form is due back this Friday 1st March. The PFA wants to encourage all parents/carers to be involved in the fundraising, social and community events throughout the year, it’s all about helping out if you can, having fun and making friends!

Helping Hands

The Helping Hands is a service that provides help in the form of lunches and dinners to families who are experiencing difficult circumstances. Often family and friends help out but sometimes that is not always possible. What many may not realise is that these difficult circumstances may be that; a family member is in hospital, the family may be coping with a major illness, there may be a major change in family circumstances, death in the family or bedbound family member, there may be no support from extended family, the arrival of a new baby, or even moving house - you do not have justify your need. If you need or know of a family that needs assistance please contact Kate or Alison who are the helping hands coordinators. They will organise someone on their list of helpers to provide a helping hand, these helpers do not know who it is they are giving a helping hand to. Please do not hesitate to ask - as there is no need for
you or other families at our school to struggle when we have a supportive community of parents willing to lend a hand. Please understand, all requests are treated with the **strictest confidentiality**.

**If you need a helping hand please contact:**

**Kate L:** Mob 0434 860 905 or [katie.lane@mac.com](mailto:katie.lane@mac.com)

**Alison Mc:** Mob 0434 132 224 or [alimci@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alimci@optusnet.com.au)

**Thought for the Week**

“A person soon learns how little he knows when a child begins to ask questions.” – Richard L. Evans

Matoula Romeo – President

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**Proposed changes to the PFA Constitution**

We would like to inform all our PFA Members that the Parents’ and Friends’ Association propose to update the PFA’s Constitution using the Education Departments guidelines. If you wish to discuss these changes please come along to our AGM. You will find a copy of the proposed changes under the Parents’ and Friends’ Section on the schools website. Thank you

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**Can you Help?**

The PFA is looking for anyone who may have a table tennis table (and bats, etc.), fuseball table or something similar and happy for us to use at our Social Night on 22nd March. It would be used in the school hall and we have access to a trailer for transporting if required, or can you help with a donation for a door prize perhaps?

Please contact Cathy [cat.jones@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cat.jones@optusnet.com.au) or Matoula 0411 089 506.

Thank you!

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**Craft Group**

The next craft session will be on Wednesday, 6th March from 11:30 – 1:30pm in the after school care room. Drop in for a cuppa and a chat. We will be making cards and hairclips. We look forward to seeing you there. Toddlers Welcome.

For any enquiries, please call Rachael on 0429 409 920

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**Visiting School Nurse – Prep Health Assessments**

Carolyn Holm, a visiting primary school nurse from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be attending the school to conduct the Prep grade health assessments and to see other children as requested by parents or teachers (with parents’ consent).

The purpose of the visit is to provide all Victorian children with the opportunity to have a health assessment; to link children, families and school communities to services available in the community; and to provide information and advice that promotes health and wellbeing.

Parents are invited to visit or telephone the visiting primary school nurse if there are any general child health issues they wish to discuss. The contact number for the visiting primary school nurse is 0411 486 127.

Parents of students (other than Prep students) that wish their child to be seen by the school nurse need to complete a Referral form that is available at the school office. This completed Referral form needs to be returned to the school office.
TRY OUR TRADING POST IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL, SWAP, WANTING TO BUY OR ADVERTISE AT ONLY $1.00 PER AD
(Maximum of three, brief items per $1.00).

IT'S A BARGAIN! OUR NEWSLETTER IS DISPLAYED ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE

Dear PARENTS,

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DINNER & MYELOMA RESEARCH FUNDRAISER

Event to be held at the following time, date, and location:

Friday, 8 March 2013 from 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM (EST)

Box Hill Community Art Centre
Station St and Comberin St
Box Hill, Victoria 3128
Australia

You are Invited to an International Women's Day Dinner & Myeloma Foundation Fundraiser

Champagne on arrival
3 courses
Roving Desserts
Goody Bags
Entertainment
Music
Games
Inspirational Speaker
Photo Booth

BOOK HERE or for more details Ph on 1300 146 178 or email: jenruth@orgwell.com.au

We hope you can make it but if you can’t and would still like to help find a cure for MYELOMA, please DONATE HERE

Jen Rutherford
Organisational Wellbeing

Dear Parents,

In the spirit of International Women's Day, we invite you to join us for a special evening to support research into Myeloma, a blood cancer that affects people of all ages and backgrounds.

**Event Details:**

- **Date:** 8 March 2013
- **Time:** 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM (EST)
- **Location:** Box Hill Community Art Centre, Station St and Comberin St, Box Hill, Victoria 3128, Australia

**Event Features:**

- Champagne on arrival
- 3-course meal
- Roving desserts
- Goody bags
- Entertainment, music, games, inspirational speaker, photo booth

**How to Participate:**

- **In Person:** To book your place, call 1300 146 178 or email jenruth@orgwell.com.au
- **Online:** Visit BOOK HERE or for more details

We hope you can make it, but if you can’t and would still like to help find a cure for Myeloma, please donate here.

Jen Rutherford
Organisational Wellbeing

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**Baby Sitting**

Hi my name is Karri Walker,

I have recently finished year 12 at Melbourne Girls College and I am about to start at university at Melbourne University. I have been babysitting for many years and love working with children. I have had many jobs over the summer holiday period and would love to continue this work throughout the school year. I live locally in Box Hill, and am available for part time (eg daily pick-ups from school) or casual baby-sitting jobs.

Please feel free to call me at any time with enquiries.

Mobile: 0439 358 137

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**TUPPERWARE SALE**

NEW ITEMS
LIMITED AMOUNT OF STOCK
DON'T MISS OUT
ALL ITEMS DISCOUNTED

I AM A FORMER DEMONSTRATOR
CONTACT ME ON:
janinewebb@gmail.com
or
Janine 0425 740 574 MITCHAM
anytime except Thursdays & Friday mornings

ALSO KIDS BOOKS, TOYS & CLOTHING
FRED BARE, PUMPKIN PATCH
ALL IN GOOD TO EXCELLENT CONDITION
KNACKERED KNEES present a night of BOGAN BINGO

Come along for a night of ‘Bogan Bingo’, music and laughs to help support the Knackered Knees in raising money for OXFAM.

Prizes to win for bingo, best bogan outfit, air guitar, door prizes and more

Dress up in your favourite bubble gummers or flanny shirt or white boots or mullet…..

Friday 15th March from 7.30pm -11.30pm
MCC (Baseball Section)
Surrey Park Oval, Surrey Drive
Box Hill

$20 pp BYO drinks / food / gold coins

Please contact any of the ‘knackered knees’ for tickets:
Jane Thomas philthomas@optusnet.com.au
Michelle Blake dj.blake@bigpond.com.au
Julie Toomey julietoomey11@optusnet.com.au
Ruth Smithson rasmithson@bigpond.com

Prayer Group

Did you know that RMPS had a prayer group? We are a group of parents from RMPS who meet together to pray for our wonderful school and it’s community. We will be having our first get-together for this year, this coming Monday morning (straight after assembly). We aim to meet twice a month.

Location is at my home, 44 Foch Street, Box Hill South. For more details or prayer requests phone 0438 887 762 or email jenniferpittendrigh@bigpond.com. Hope you can join us this Monday, 4th March, 9.30 - 10.15am. Regular or occasional involvement is welcomed. Jen Pittendrigh
OSHClub News
Before School / After School Care Program

Program Update
Lolas going away party looks set to be the event of the year!! Thanks to all who wished her well and we hope to see her over the school holidays.
Next week Floorball and cricket sessions will still be around as will our cooking club and we are looking for members of our new formed movie appreciation group.
A reminder that the program concludes at 6pm each evening with a $2 per minute charge thereafter and that all children enrolled in OSHClub must have fully updated anaphylaxis/asthma/risk management plans and any medications required are to be held at the facility. No pen, no plan, no play.
Thankyou

Next Week’s Activities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Breakfast</td>
<td>Toasties</td>
<td>Cereal</td>
<td>Hash browns</td>
<td>Smoothies</td>
<td>Cereal</td>
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<tr>
<td>After Care snack</td>
<td>Rice cakes</td>
<td>Build a pizza</td>
<td>Natural popcorn</td>
<td>Chips and dip</td>
<td>Jaffles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>AASC: Floorball</td>
<td>Discovery: science</td>
<td>AASC: Cricket</td>
<td>Art Attack:</td>
<td>Cooking club</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent Information
OSH program phone: 0407 634 842 (Available Mon - Fri 7am - 9am, 3pm - 6pm)
Coordinator: Danae
Assistants: Lola, Penny, Dan, Azucena and Andy
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000
All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

Marble tower by Kunson

www.oshclub.com.au