

**Roberts McCubbin Primary School Council
Principal's Report Wednesday May 7th 2014**

ENROLMENT INFORMATION

- Total Number as at June 5: 476
- Number funded from Census Day: 474
- Number of overseas fee paying: 2

Junior School	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
226	131	119

Staffing

Learning and Teaching:

The units of work for Term 2 are:

- P-2- What does it take to make?
- 3/4- What's the matter?
- 5/6- How do we use science to make cool things?

The NAPLAN assessments were undertaken on May 13, 14 and 15 with everything going quite smoothly. The writing topic we considered was difficult for the Year 3's but it would be the same for all Year 3's throughout the country. The same writing topic is undertaken for all age groups from Year 3 to Year 9. This year it was The tests were collected from the school last week.

Education Week in Week was quite eventful this year. We held an Open Morning on Tuesday, May 20th and our House Captains lead groups of people on tours of the school. As in other years there were plenty of very positive comments about how well they conducted themselves and presented the school. The classes had a focus on literacy, science and technology.

On the Tuesday evening a Mathematics forum was held for parents. The session was titled 'How To help Your Child with the Four Process' and was facilitated by Rob Vingerhoets. The night was a great success with around 100 people attending. Rob will present another parent session on October 9th as a follow up to the one just held around the topic of Real Life Maths.

On the Friday morning a parent information session titled 'How to Recognise Anxiety in Children' was run by Dr Natalie Flatt. Again we had a great response with 50 people attending.

This year our buddy program is really thriving thanks to the very positive efforts of Steve Roche. With the sessions being locked in to the timetable each month the buddy classes are really getting to know each other extremely well. The same activity is undertaken by the whole school. The last buddy activity was a maths activity and when I visited the classrooms there was a real buzz everywhere.

The Year 5/6 students had a Cyber Safety incursion on May 15th. It was a musical called MyFriends Dot Com.

The P-2 students enjoyed a wood work incursion on the 27th and 29th of May as part of their 'What does it take to make?' unit of inquiry.

Two of our families, the Gerling family and the Bury family registered applications for Shell's Science 'Hero for a Day' competition. Nick Gerling was successful and the school has won a day's visit from Questacon Science Circus. All of the classes will participate in a one hour interactive show covering aspects of science in everyday life on Thursday, June 12th.

This week the school leadership team spent a day working with Tracey Ezard. The purpose of the day was to reflect upon the school's journey over the past four years.

On Thursday June 5th a group of staff including Amanda and myself, attended the Positive Schools Conference. Attending the conference supported the work the school has begun with KidsMatter. Steve Roche presented a video and talked about the program at the last Education Committee meeting. Staff will begin to undertake professional learning sessions on the program next term. KidsMatter supports schools in their work to nurture happy balanced kids. The program gives the school access to the latest thinking and research on mental health and wellbeing including:

- Strategies to help build a positive school community
- Social and emotional learning resources for use in, and beyond, the classroom
- Practical ideas for working with families
- Specific guidance to help children with mental health difficulties

Positive Education embraces KidsMatter because it also focuses on specific skills to assist students to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions and encourage a healthy lifestyle. You are simply not healthy without good mental health and children struggle to learn if they are in a state of anxiety or depression. Positive Education is based on a growing body of research which allowing us to understand what helps people flourish and reach their potential. I have included an article 'An applied framework for Positive Education' with the other documents this month for those of you who would like to learn more about this.

The week beginning June 16th will be planning week for teachers.

The children's reports and portfolios will be sent home on Friday June 20th. Partnership Meetings will be held after school on Thursday June 26th and during the day on Friday June 27th. The Friday is the last day of this term and will be a pupil free day.

Special Items/Events:

On June 27th Gary and I attended Box Hill Rotary's evening meeting. At the meeting I spoke to the club members about our school and the new iPad program. Rotary generously donated \$2000 to the school and we have purchased several iPad Minis to give to children whose families want them to be a part of the program but who are finding it difficult financially to provide their children with an iPad. Gary also spoke from a parent's perspective and presented the club President Vincent Li with a certificate of thanks. Thank you Gary for the time and effort you put in to developing the relationship between our school and Box Hill Rotary. I have included the Rotary Club's newsletter with information about our attendance at the meeting.

Our Vice House Captains attended a Student Leadership day at Koonung Secondary College on May 22nd. The day looked at three important facets of leadership.

- What makes a good leader?
- Successful collaboration in teams
- Leaders creating a safe and supportive environment

School Facilities and Grounds

Thank you to Andrew for the work you have put in to organising the removal of the oak tree. It is pleasing that the wood can be used purposefully and we can move forward and plant a new tree that will hopefully give us lots of shade for the children in a few years.

Marg Pickburn
Principal