WELCOME!

We would like to warmly welcome all families who are new to the 5/6 area and to warmly welcome back our Year 6 families. It is going to be a fabulous year full of learning opportunities that we are sure your children will enjoy!

INTRODUCING THE TEAM!

The 5/6 Team are a warm and welcoming family, so come and meet us at your earliest opportunity if you have not already done so. We would like to welcome to the 5/6 area Margie Hardy (56H) as well as our existing team members from last year, Peter Wright (56W), Steve Roche (56R), Ash Van Hattum and Kirsty Davies (56V) and Raelene Aleandro (56A).

SOVEREIGN HILL CAMP

Our 5/6 camp to Sovereign Hill is fast approaching and we are all excited about the opportunities the experience will offer all students who are attending. Important notices will soon be handed out to the students and the 5/6 staff would appreciate a prompt return of all these notices to help facilitate the smooth planning and final preparations for this fabulous event.

Attending students will enjoy the opportunity to immerse themselves in this unique hands-on experience of gold rush history, the turmoil of a new nation being formed, a struggle for democracy and the explosion of new technology. We can’t wait to go!
iPAD PROGRAM

Our iPad 1-1 program continues to go from strength to strength and the 5/6 team is always excited about the new possibilities they bring to the classroom and the home/school connection at Roberts McCubbin P.S.

We would like to thank those families that have already reminded children about the procedures for the use of iPads at school, such as our morning and afternoon packing and security routine, and would like to encourage all families participating in the program to continue to remind their children to follow the prescribed procedures and usage of iPads at school.

INQUIRY UNIT TERM 1

This term we are learning about health and wellbeing in our inquiry unit ‘How do I impact my own wellbeing?’ This unit will cover aspects of healthy living including healthy food choices, the importance of exercise, cyber safety and mental health and wellbeing.

The understandings for the inquiry unit are:

- I can take action to keep myself happy and healthy
- It’s equally important to look after your physical, emotional and social health
- When communicating and learning with others online there are ways that we can make ourselves safe

We would like to invite any parents who feel they can offer expertise in healthy lifestyle choices to contact the 5/6 team if interested.
NUMERACY TERM 1

This term the students will be focussing on consolidating and extending their numeracy skills in the areas of:

- Place Value
- Addition and subtraction
- Money
- Mapping and location
- Basic operations

If you would like to offer any expertise in these areas please contact the 5/6 teaching team.

LITERACY

This term our whole school literacy focus is picture story books. As part of our literacy program students will be exposed to a wide range of multi media literacy formats and sources. Students will respond to these texts in a range of ways using both paper and digital resources.

If you have any expertise in the area of literacy please contact the 5/6 team if you are interested in offering your services.

STUDENT DIARIES

Each 5/6 student has received a diary which they will use throughout the year to assist them in developing their organizational skills. We will be encouraging the children to record their nightly reading in it, which we would like you to sign off on, so that you can continue to monitor your child’s reading and make sure they are practising this vital skill.
The children will also record up and coming events in it such as sporting days, excursions or homework due dates. Notices will also be held safely in their diaries; therefore, we would appreciate your support in gently reminding your child to make sure that their diary is in their bag every morning, along with their charged iPad.

**HOMEWORK**

Homework will come in varying formats this year and will cover key learning areas such as Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry. Examples of homework may include completing an information poster, practicing numeracy skills that are being taught in class, interviewing family members or completing some research. Homework will always have a clear due date and will be relevant to the needs of the students and to the work being covered in the classroom.

We continue to have the expectation that all students will **read nightly for at least 20 minutes**, record it in their diaries and have it signed by a parent or guardian, in order to support their literacy skills.

In addition we encourage all families to continue to provide opportunities for children to regularly use the Mathletics website to support their numerical development. As a suggested benchmark we encourage all children to aim to achieve a minimum of 1000 points per week.

**SCHOOL TIMETABLE**

The format for the school day will look like this:

- **8.45am** Organisational bell
- **9-11am** Learning sessions
- **11-11.30am** Recess
11.30-1.30pm Learning sessions

1.30-1.40pm Lunch eating time

1.40-2.30pm Lunch play

2.30-3.30pm Learning session

The school day is divided into 5 one hour learning sessions. Due to recess and lunch eating times being later than some children are used to, we encourage families to pack larger recess snacks or two ‘lunches’ so that students don’t get overly hungry as the day progresses. A rumbly tummy is quite a distraction when you need to concentrate! The children will always be welcome to eat ‘brain food’ during class time such as fruit and nuts.

WATER BOTTLES

Please make sure your child has a clearly named water bottle every day at school. The next few weeks will no doubt be quite warm so hydration is vital for healthy bodies and concentration. This also reduces the level of interruption to students if they don’t need to keep ducking out to the drink taps during learning time.

TISSUES, HAND SANITISER AND HOT/COLD PACKS

We would greatly appreciate each student bringing in two boxes of tissues and one bottle of hand sanitiser at the start of the year for our classroom supplies. Jen in the sickbay would also appreciate it if families could contribute an icepack to update her supplies which tend to diminish by the end of each year.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

We always welcome parents into our classrooms, so where possible, pop in from time to time and say ‘hello’. You might like to come and
see a display that your son or daughter feels proud of, or to simply have a chat with us. If you would like to make a time for a meeting, please let us know and we will make sure we arrange a suitable time. If you need to speak with us but can’t come in due to work or personal commitments, feel free to call the school and we will get back to you as soon as we can, or you can email us directly. The partnership between home and school is vital for your son or daughter’s wellbeing and we want to be accessible to you in order to assist with this.

**KIDSMATTER**

Roberts McCubbin is continuing its journey of implementing the national KidsMatter Primary Framework. This is a flexible, whole-school approach to improving children’s mental health and wellbeing for primary schools.

School is the most significant developmental context, after family, for primary school-aged children. Schools play a crucial role in building children's self-esteem and sense of competence. They can also act as a safety net and assist in protecting children from circumstances that affect their learning, development and wellbeing.

Schools, working closely with families and the community, are key environments for comprehensively supporting children's mental health and wellbeing through the additional support the framework provides.

If you have any questions about this please see your classroom teacher.

**SAFE AND HAPPY BOOKS**

In the near future, the children will be bringing home a new copy of the Safe and Happy Book. We would appreciate you sitting down for a few minutes with them and having a read through the classroom guidelines and then signing off on them. The children will then be
returning the Safe and Happy Book to school while we photocopy the contract which we will keep in our student files. The Safe and Happy book will then go home to families for the duration of the school year where it can be easily accessed if the need arises for discussions with families. Our Safe and Happy Books are a valuable resource for both students and staff whenever we need to remind ourselves how to be great people!

BIKES AND SCOOTERS

This is fabulous weather to be riding to school, but when the children arrive each morning they must make sure they lock their bikes and scooters up securely on the bike rack which is located just behind Margie Hardy’s classroom (56H). All students must wear a helmet and hop off their bikes and scooters as they enter the school grounds for the safety of all students and staff.

DIGITAL DEVICES

If your children bring a mobile phone to school or any other personal devices such as iPods, they must keep them safely in their bags or hand them into their teachers for safe keeping during the school day. The school takes no responsibility for lost or stolen devices so children bring them at their own risk.

HATS

Terms 1 and 4 are ‘Sunsmart’ terms so please make sure your children have their clearly named hat with them every day. It’s always easier if they leave their hats in their lockers each night so that they’re ready to go the next day. If your child attends OSHC, why not buy a spare hat and let them leave that one in their school bag? That way, they’re always prepared!
There is a terrific YouTube clip that you can watch at home which brings home the importance of the department’s ‘SunSmart’ policy of hat wearing along with the daily application of sunscreen to protect everyone’s skin. You might like to watch it along with your child, in order to emphasize our important ‘non-negotiable’ school rule. Click on the link below to watch the clip.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2omGwrROml

SUSTAINABILITY

One of the many great things about Roberts McCubbin Primary School is that it is a sustainable school. We have water tanks that flush our toilets and the kids are always thinking about turning off light switches, fans and air conditioners when not needed. We also need your continued support to reduce the number of wrappers on food that come to school. We would really appreciate you putting as much of your children’s food in clearly named reusable containers as possible. This will alleviate the need for playground clean ups during play times and learning times.

HEAD LICE

What stubborn little critters those head lice are! Please check your child’s hair regularly for those annoying little eggs and critters. We will notify you whenever there is an outbreak in our classrooms, but the more we are vigilant with our checking at home, the less we will need to alert you to classroom outbreaks.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

On Monday 9th February Roberts McCubbin P.S. will be holding a ‘Back to School’ open night in the 5/6 area. On the night 5/6 staff members will speak about the curriculum areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry learning for 2015 and what students will
experience in our area throughout the year. A range of other topics will also be covered, including ICT use, specialist areas, homework, avenues of communication, student leadership and Kids Matter. All parents are welcome to attend.

IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES

Monday 9th Feb – ‘Back to school’ open night
Friday 20th Feb – District swimming
Thursday 26th Feb – School picnic
Thursday 5th March – Pupil free curriculum day
Friday 6th March – Pupil free curriculum day
Monday 9th March – Labour Day public holiday
Friday 13th March – Young leader’s day
Saturday 14th March – School fair
Monday 16th March to Friday 20th March – Cultural diversity week
Wednesday 25th March to Friday 27th March – 5/6 camp
Friday 27th March – Final day of term 1

Kind regards,

The 5/6 Team: Peter Wright (Coordinator), Raelene Aleandro, Ash Van Hattum, Kirsty Davies, Margie Hardy and Steve Roche