A Letter to the
Community

SCHOOL NEWS
No.31 21 October 2016

“Thought for the Week”

Year 3-6

Below you can read some more of the students’ holiday re-counts.

On the holidays we went to the movies because it was my birthday. Hey Presto we were there!! The movie we saw was “Storks”. The movie had some beautiful music at the end and it made me cry.

Luckily for me, the fun wasn’t over yet. We went shopping after the movie and I was allowed to buy some purply-pink hair dye. Now my hair looks AMAZING!
Later in the holidays Dad took me to see some of his friends. We all went to the park and I chased the birds. I was even fast enough to touch one of the birds!

We had three days away all together and I was able to see my Grandma. I also got to see my big sister in the holidays.

Indy (Yr 4)

In the school holidays I went to the Gold Coast with my Mum, my big sister, Drew and her friend, Ayla. They were going sky diving and Mum and I went along to watch. Of course I didn’t go because it was way too scary and I’m way too young to skydive. Looking up from the beach Mum and I could see the plane way up high in the sky. We held our breath as we watched four little dots leave the plane and start falling to the ground.

Ayla was the first to jump out and then Drew followed. We watched them freefall through the sky. Later Drew said that the freefall was the best part of the whole experience. Drew was worried that the cords to the parachute might be too hard to pull. However, when she had to do it for real, it was as easy as!

Drew and Ayla both thought that skydiving was fun.

I can’t wait until I’m old enough to go!

Hannah (Yr 4)

In the school holidays, I went to Iluka. I swam at Shark Bay but I didn’t see any sharks. I also collected shells at The Bluff. I slept over at my Great Nan’s house. We went fishing.

Then we spent some time at my Nan’s house. I rode Candy, the horse and made her stop, go, run and jump. We fed her and washed her.

It was an awesome holiday!!

Rieley (Yr 3)
Swimming Training

Swimming training is available on Wednesday and Friday afternoons at school from 3-4pm for all Rathdowney students who can swim 25 metres of any stroke. Ellen Masen is the coach and she is working on stroke correction, diving, racing techniques and improving her students swimming skills generally.

There is no cost to the students except for $2 entry fee for each lesson.

Hopefully by offering these lessons, it will give new students a chance to work out whether they would be interested or have the talent for taking their swimming involvement further.

School Photo Day – Next Week!!

Our school photo day for this year will be on next Wednesday, 26 October. Forms were sent home two weeks ago about this. Envelopes for your orders were sent and need to be returned to the school by photo day if you are intending to buy photos.

To make sure that we have the correct information about media release wishes from each of our families, a media release form was also sent home. As the school photos have the students’ names attached and once sent home may be shared by families more widely, it is important that we are clear about your wishes regarding having photos taken of your children.

If you haven’t yet done so, please take the time to fill in the form and return it to the school ASAP as we can’t allow the children to have their photos taken on the day without your permission.
Pre-Prep Program

As we do every year, our school is again offering parents of students who will be attending Prep next year the opportunity for those children to be involved in our Pre-Prep program. This 6-week program started last week and will continue for the next 4 weeks. It operates on Wednesdays from 10am to 11am. You can join in the program anytime. We are hoping to see all our pre-Preps on these days.

The program allows our Pre-Preps to mix with the other students who will be in their class next year and, in this way, smooth their transition into school. It also gives our teachers an opportunity to learn more about the students who will be in the Prep class for 2017 and to discuss any special needs with parents so that the school can be best able to prepare and plan for their entrance into school. Mrs Grahl has lots of fun activities for the youngsters to do together with the Rathdowney students while they are here. The pre-Preps always have a great time and usually can’t wait to come back again the next week!

If any parents know of other local children who will be entering Prep next year, please tell them about our pre-Prep program and encourage them to bring their children in for a fun time.

Parents can either stay for the whole session by having a coffee and chat in the school staffroom or just drop the children off and pick them up afterwards.

Principal’s Report to the P&C for October

Principal’s Report for the P&C Meeting - 18.10.16

Junior News.

This week we have continued on with our Geography unit. We looked at places around the school and identified their natural, managed and constructed features. All of the students did a great job at this task. Well done students!

In English this week we have continued on with our narrative unit. We read ‘Little Cat and the Big Red Bus’. The students then had to identify the introduction, complication, resolution and conclusion. The students loved this story. We are also working on when to use adjectives (describing words) when writing narratives.

In Maths this week, we have all been practising our rainbow facts (facts that make 10). The Preps have been revising maths concepts learnt so far as well as simple addition. The Year 1’s have been collecting data and learning how to represent that data on tables and graphs. The Year 2’s have been working on time (o’clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past).

In History, the Year 1’s and 2’s have been learning how we used to keep in touch with people in the olden days. They compared how they used to communicate to how we communicate today. They also learnt about local heroes in different communities and local heritage sites. The Preps have been learning the terms past, present and future as well as how stories get passed on from generation to generation.

Kasey, Cathy, Kay and Ellen
Both classes have selected plays to perform for Concert night at the end of the year. Parts have been decided and students are starting to learn their lines and songs in preparation for the big night which is now only 8 weeks away!

Both classes have also started assessments for the end of the year report cards.

It looks like another very busy term.

Staff Professional Development

In weekly staff meetings, we are discussing the school’s present pedagogical framework and looking at various options based on current research into best practice in teaching. By the end of the year we will have a new framework and a ‘signature’ Rathdowney pedagogy in place in our school. Mr Wes Kroll has almost completed an online course in the new STEM subject being introduced into all schools from next year onwards.

All teachers and teacher aides from the local small schools attended a professional development day at Tamrookum State School on Monday, 17 October. We learned about the new look resources available to teachers for planning curriculum units. We learned more about the new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and maths) subject which will be introduced in all Queensland state schools from next year. In the afternoon, we learned more about modelled reading and what this looks like in our classrooms. It was a worthwhile day for all 50 or so people who attended.

Next week Tuesday, Mrs O and Ms v B will be attending another PD day at Boonah. The PD is about higher order thinking through reading and writing.

Later this month, Mrs Trish Williams will be attending a PD for Business Service Managers.

Staff and Students

Mrs Cathy Wieland has returned to work this term. Mrs Kay Todd will continue to work at the school for three days per week this term and we also welcome back Ms Ellen Masen who will be working here on Thursdays and Fridays each week as a teacher aide and who is also the coach for two afternoon swimming training sessions, namely on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3pm to 4pm.

We hope to plant new vegetable gardens at the start of 2017. The Council will be planning for this and costing materials to repair and enhance the garden. There may be a need to move the current vegetable garden to a more suitable location in the school grounds. There will be more discussion about this in upcoming Student Council meetings. We’re also hoping to see if any of our parents with green fingers can give us some advice about moving the garden and what to plant.
**School Events**

During the recent school vacation, the teachers took 4 of the students for a citizenship outing to the movies and lunch at Sizzler at Loganholme. Every holidays students who have earned 50 award stickers for good citizenship, or who have a record of 50 weeks of perfect school attendance, are given the opportunity to go out with the teachers for a day in the school holidays as a reward for their efforts.

This term we are revising all three of our school rules, “Be Respectful”, “Be Responsible” and “Be Safe” with the students on weekly parades. We will also continue with the HI-5 response to teasing and bullying as part of our school’s behaviour management plan for the year. Our year’s focus on “being kind to others” both in words and deeds will continue throughout this term. This year the students have really taken these rules, strategies and the focus on kindness on board and they are applying them very effectively in the school playground.

Our regular Wednesday playgroup sessions are continuing with a number of families using our facilities each week. Playgroup operates on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:00am in the old preschool building. Last week we also started our annual, very successful, six-week Pre-Prep program on Wednesdays from 10am to 11am each week. This program helps the new 2017 Prep get to know the school, the other kids and the teachers who work here. It also helps the teachers and teacher aides who work in the Prep to Year 3 class to get to know about them so as to better help the new Prep make a smooth transition into school. The Pre-Preps always leave the school on Wednesdays with their faces lit with smiles and eager to come back the next week.

The repair work on the pool has been completed at a cost of over $15 000. However, it was all completed in the holidays so there was no interruption to the start of our school swimming program. Our school swimming days are Monday and Friday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. There is also an opportunity for those students with a talent and interest in furthering their swimming abilities to attend two afternoon training sessions on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3pm to 4pm for this term. Hopefully we’ll be able to continue this program for first term next year also. We hope to encourage all students who can swim 25 metres to come along to these training sessions each week. Hopefully we’ll be able to continue this program for first term next year also. We hope to encourage all students who can swim 25 metres to come along to these training sessions each week. The only cost will be a $2 entry fee each lesson. The coach’s wages are being paid using money provided through a federal grant which the school successfully applied for.

The pool is also open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm - 5pm until the start of the summer school holidays when the pool will be open from 2pm – 5pm every day excepting Christmas Day.

Entry prices for the pool have been decided and will remain the same as for last year – adults $3, children $2, family day passes $10 and season’s passes for a Family $200, single adult $100, single child $90. Season’s passes have to be fully paid for by 28 October. Payment can be made in person at the school office, or electronically into the school’s bank account. (Please phone Trish for account details for electronic banking).

Chappy Rob has started ‘breakfast at school’ mornings each week. The children will be served a healthy breakfast of cereal and toast every Thursday. There is no cost for this as the ingredients are all donated by local businesses supporting our local chaplaincy programs. There were plenty of students with great appetites lining up for breakfast last week. It’s also a nice social time for the students where they can sit around and talk while all sharing the same food.