

School Newsletter

~ safe and sensible, respectful, excellent learners ~



Issue 1

Term 1, Week 4

Thursday, 17 February 2011

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, 16 February

Book Club sent home

Friday, 18 February

Scripture Classes commence
Kindergarten to Year 2 12:15-12:45pm
Years 3 -6 12:45-1:15pm

Monday, 21 February

P&C Meeting, Library, 6:30pm

Monday, 28 February

Book Club returned to the office

~~~~ Please Remember ~~~~~

\* Crunch&Sip® every day at 10:00am \*

## School Student Banking every Friday

### Principal's Message

Ropes Crossing Public School is an integral part of the community. It's close to where you live and that makes it a great place for you and your child to develop friendships and possible support networks that can last a lifetime.

As our first term has commenced over the last three weeks it has been wonderful to note the excellent support of our parents and carers, as we have settled to a new school year; our fourth year of operation for Ropes Crossing Public School. Thank you for your friendship and co-operation, as we work together to provide the very best for our students.

At Ropes Crossing Public School we encourage our children to be safe and sensible, respectful, excellent learners. We are very proud of our students, with special congratulations to our Kindergarten students for their great start to school and a special welcome to our new families from Kindergarten to Year 6.

A further copy regarding school staff and classes for 2011 is printed in our first newsletter home, following the separate flyer last week.

## Our Ropes Crossing Public School

### Staff and Classes

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mrs Fiona Jackson  | Principal                       |
| Mrs Yvonne Rodger  | School Administrative Manager   |
| Mrs Debbie Tipler  | School Administrative Officer   |
| Mrs Liz Jansen     | School Learning Support Officer |
| Mr Don Cunningham  | School Site Manager             |
| Mrs Bettina Lisson | Class 5 – 6L                    |
| Mrs Krystyna Brett | Class 3 – 4B                    |
| Miss Goodfellow    | Class 1 – 2G                    |
| Miss Leanne Forbes | Class KF                        |
| Mrs Leanne Ellis   | School Librarian                |
| Ms Jacqui Budden   | School Counsellor               |
| Mr John Olivera    | School Cleaner                  |
| Mr Andrew Betancor | School Cleaner                  |

With the commencement of school it is important to note, as part of our school's program, the children are encouraged in their eating of healthy foods. As our school does not have a canteen your child will need to bring a packed recess and lunch each day. All lunchboxes, drinks and lids should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Continuing for 2011, our Crunch&Sip<sup>®</sup> is a successful program for our school students, with our school committed to improving children's health through education and by supporting the Department of Health's Crunch&Sip<sup>®</sup> initiative.

Crunch&Sip<sup>®</sup> is a set break for students to eat fruit or salad vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Research has shown that drinking water and eating fruit and vegetables is essential for good health and can help concentration throughout the day. **Crunch&Sip<sup>®</sup> operates each day from 10:00-10:10am. Please remember to send suitable fruit/vegetable for this daily time.**

Further information can be accessed from the Crunch&Sip<sup>®</sup> website at: <http://www.crunchandsip.com.au>.

F. Jackson  
**Principal**

### Student Information

With the beginning of the new school year, as well as throughout the year it is vital the school is kept informed of your current home address as well as home, work and mobile telephone numbers.

The school office also requires the name and phone number of two emergency contacts that can be reached if parents or carers are not available. This person could be another family member or friend over the age of 18 years who is willing to collect your child in case of accident or illness. The person nominated by you needs to be agreeable to being contacted in an emergency. If at any time during the year, these contact details change we ask that you notify the school promptly in writing. You are welcome to complete the attached 2011 Update of Student Information and return it to the office. Thank you.

### An Office Message

Please keep in mind that our school office does not have **EFTPOS** facilities. Therefore we are always appreciative of the correct money being offered when purchasing uniforms and paying for various school events and activities, as we are unable to tender change. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

### School Newsletter

Currently our school newsletter is sent home each fortnight with the youngest child of each family to ensure our school community is well informed.

### **Scripture**

Recently information was sent home relating to scripture groups at school. These classes for Kindergarten to Year 2 and Years 3 to 6 are held each Friday and commence this term in Week 4 on Friday, 18 February. Each lesson is 30 minutes in duration.

This year scripture lessons are available for children of Catholic, Protestant and Islamic religions. Volunteer teachers are Mrs Polkamp (Catholic), Mr Wood (Protestant) and Mrs Adil (Islamic) and we welcome these school helpers to Ropes Crossing Public School. Thank you very much to all families who recently returned our school scripture note, updating details for the school records.

### **School Student Banking**

This successful program continues in 2011, with students bringing their school bank books each Friday morning for collection by the class teacher. Our School Banking Coordinators process all deposits, returning the books to the children. New students who may already have a Youthsaver account, are able to bring their weekly deposit in with their Dollarmites deposit book on Fridays for School Banking Day.

Additional account opening packs are available from the school office.

Saving within the School Banking program is all about regular deposits, rather than the amount of money saved. There is a Rewards Program to motivate children to participate and save a little more often. Every time a child makes a deposit at school, no matter how small or large, they collect a Dollarmites token. They can then redeem these tokens for Dollarmites items.

The Dollarmites items for 2011 are:

### **School Banking Coordinators**

The banking program is well organised with the very kind help of parents and carers volunteering approximately an hour of their time on Friday mornings between 9:00am and 10:00am in the school office.

We are currently in need of 1 or 2 extra volunteers to help. Please contact the school office if you may be able to assist. All training in the process is provided. Thank you.

### **Attendance**

In NSW all children between the ages of 6 and 15 years are legally required to attend school and attendance is recorded daily. All students should be at school before the bell rings at 9:00am. Students who arrive at school after this time are required to collect at Late Pass from the office.

If you wish your child to leave school before the end of the school day, please forward a note with them that morning. For safety reasons all children leaving before the end of the school day must be collected by parents or carers who will be required to sign their children out from the school office. An Early Leave Pass will be issued and this needs to be handed to the class teacher before your child will be permitted to leave. Written advice is also required where the student is to be released into the care of another adult.

Parents and carers should ensure that their child attends school everyday unless illness or exceptional circumstances prevent this from happening. Any absence from school should be explained in writing within seven days of the absence. If you expect your child may be absent for more than three days, please notify the school in advance. Similarly, the school is required to inform parents and carers of unexplained absences.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) monitors attendance, including lateness, regularly through the Home School Liaison Officer. These officers are trained to work with families and the school to improve attendance.

A school sheet containing a series of absent notes is printed in this newsletter for families to use, if they so wish, to explain any student absence.

### **Our School Day and Bell Times**

The following bell times are listed to note the various sessions at school each day.

|                 |                                                                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:57am          | Lining up for the morning assembly                                         |
| 9:00 – 11:00am  | Morning teaching and learning session ~ (10:00am Crunch&Sip <sup>®</sup> ) |
| 11:00 – 11:30am | Recess ~ Eating 11:00 – 11:15am, Playing 11:15 – 11:30am                   |
| 11:30 – 1:15pm  | Mid-morning teaching and learning session                                  |
| 1:15 – 2:00pm   | Lunch ~ Eating 1:15 – 1:30pm, Playing 1:30 – 2:00pm                        |
| 2:00 – 3:00pm   | Afternoon teaching and learning session                                    |

Our school's supervision roster starts from 8:30am and the school gates open at this time. Parents and carers remain legally responsible for their child or children prior to 8:30am, when supervision begins. Therefore we please ask that children not arrive at school before this time.

### **Book Club**

Our first book club flyers have been distributed. All orders must be returned by Monday, 28 February. This is a wonderful opportunity to access quality reading resources for your children.

### **Stage Curriculum Notes**

Term 1 curriculum notes are currently being sent home to families to provide an overview regarding the school's teaching and learning programs. Some important messages from our class teachers regarding student requirements are also included for the start of the year.

### **School Uniform**

Children develop a sense of belonging when they have a school uniform. Our school actively encourages the wearing of a school uniform, especially on excursions. Apart from the positive image the wearing of a uniform projects to the wider community, it also allows those supervising excursions to readily recognise those children belonging to Ropes Crossing Public School. This is important for safety and supervision. Please be sure to label all clothing with your child's name.

Our school uniform items are as noted and are available for purchase from the school office. Our colours are navy, white and jade green. School bags and library excursion bags are also available.

#### **Boys – Summer Uniform**

- Navy cargo shorts (canvas or polyester/viscose)
- Polo shirt with striped collar, short sleeved
- Navy hat (full brim or bucket)
- Black leather school shoes and white ankle length socks
- Navy sloppy joe or jacket

#### **Girls – Summer Uniform**

- Summer dress
- Navy culottes (polyester/viscose)
- Polo shirt with striped collar, short sleeved
- Navy hat (full brim or bucket)
- Black leather school shoes and white ankle length socks
- Navy sloppy joe or jacket

#### **Boys – Winter Uniform**

- Navy long cargo pants (polyester/viscose)
- Polo shirt with striped collar, long sleeved
- Navy hat (full brim or bucket)

- Black leather school shoes and white ankle length socks
- Navy sloppy joe or jacket

### **Girls – Winter Uniform**

- Navy boot pants
- Polo shirt with striped collar, long sleeved
- Navy hat (full brim or bucket)
- Black leather school shoes and white ankle length socks
- Navy sloppy joe or jacket
- Tartan tunic
- White blouse, long sleeved
- Tartan tab
- Navy Tights

### **Boys and Girls – Sport Uniform**

- Navy knit shorts (cotton)
- Sports shirt with striped collar, short sleeved
- Navy hat (full brim or bucket)
- Sports shoes, predominantly white, and white ankle length socks
- Navy microfibre tracksuit

### **Lost Property**

Please label all your children's belongings. To ensure lost items can be returned to their owners, it is important for all clothing and items such as lunch boxes, drink bottles etc. to be clearly labelled with your child's name. Lost property is stored centrally and students and parents are welcome to claim their property. Unclaimed clothing will be collected at the end of each term after efforts to locate the owner have failed. Surplus clothing will be donated to charity.

Our Lost Property collection is stored in KF room with Miss Forbes.

### **Animals At School**

In maintaining a safe learning environment it is important to note that parents and carers are requested not to bring dogs to school or allow their dogs to roam the school playground, as this constitutes both a health and safety hazard. Local authorities will be notified regarding dogs in the school grounds.

Please speak with the classroom teacher **before** a pet animal is brought in for classroom news-time. An adult must be in attendance with the animal and the pet must be taken home when news-time has finished. No pets may be left at school for the day.

### **A Happy and Safe School Message**

With the commencement of Term 1, a road safety reminder notes the 40km per hour school zone slows traffic in the vicinity of our school.

Most 40km per hour school zones operate between 8:00am and 9:30am and from 2:30pm till 4:00pm. The 40km per hour school zone speed limit must be observed even if school children cannot be seen.

A 40km per hour school zone operates on all gazetted school days including school development days, (student free days).

A timely reminder, also regarding safety on wheels, from the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), highlights the preferred locations for using skateboards, roller blades and scooters are away from roads and in special areas set aside and designed for their use. As a school, we therefore request that these items not be brought to or used to ride to and from school.

For bike riding, all riders of bicycles must wear a Standards Australia approved helmet. Bicycles must be fitted with an effective brake and bell. Bicycles should only be used to ride to and from school by students of 10 years of age or older, obeying all the road rules.

Children are asked to walk their bike in the school grounds, storing their bike in the bike rack with the use of a lock and chain. The school cannot accept responsibility for the loss or theft of bikes or helmets.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all safe in our school community.

## **Ropes Crossing Public School P&C Association**

The P&C is the forum for the discussion of a wide range of issues related to the operation of the school. It is also the function of the P&C to fundraise to assist with purchasing additional educational resources.

The school's P&C meets each month on the third Monday evening, from 6:30pm in our school library. Notice of meetings is printed in our regular school newsletters. New school community members are always welcome.

The first general meeting for the 2011 school year will be held on Monday, 21 February at 6:30pm in our school library. We look forward to your company.

### **Information from the Department of Education and Training (DET)**

Regularly during each school term, brief stories and parent tips are issued by the DET to share with the school community.

The following interesting topics are included in our newsletter:

#### **Are your details up to date?**

Have you moved or changed phone numbers? Please inform the front office with any changes in your living situation so we can contact you if the need arises.

#### **If your child is absent from school**

If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, please tell your child's teacher or send a signed note explaining the reason for the absence within seven days.

#### **Telephone Interpreter Service**

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact your principal, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on telephone number **13 1450** and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call the principal and will stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

#### **Tuesday 8 March is International Women's Day**

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global event that celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

More information at [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)

**Reminder:** If your child has any allergy, medical condition or special needs, talk to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

#### **Reading with children is fun and one of the best ways to help prepare them for school.**

**Tip:** Try not to let television intrude on reading time - set aside some uninterrupted time to read with your child.

#### **Selective high schools placement test – 17 March**

The selective high schools test is held annually for Year 6 students wishing to enter a selective government high school. For key dates, online applications and more information for parents, see

[www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/index.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/index.php)

#### **Treatment of head lice**

Around 23 per cent of primary school children screened through the NSW Health Nitbusters program have head lice. Head lice are a very common problem that most parents and teachers are more than familiar with. If your child has head lice here are some treatment tips:

- Do not treat your child if their scalp is irritated or inflamed.
- Always read the head lice product label and directions before you apply it to your child's head. Products can be found in local chemists.
- Apply the head lice product to every strand of your child's hair and work through, leave for 20 minutes, and comb out with a good quality lice comb.
- Check your child's head and if dead lice are found, the product has worked. However make sure you re-treat your child's head in seven days to catch nymphs that have emerged from unhatched eggs.
- Reduce the risk of your child catching head lice by tying their hair back or braiding it.

For more information visit:

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/treatment.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/treatment.asp)



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## Ropes Crossing Public School 2011 Update of Student Information

|                                  |                  |                  |  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>STUDENT:</b>                  |                  | <b>CLASS:</b>    |  |
| Residential Address:             |                  |                  |  |
| Home Phone Number:               |                  |                  |  |
| Home Email:                      |                  |                  |  |
| <b>EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS</b> | <b>Contact 1</b> | <b>Contact 2</b> |  |
| Name:                            |                  |                  |  |
| Phone:                           |                  |                  |  |
| Mobile Phone:                    |                  |                  |  |
| Relationship to Family:          |                  |                  |  |
| <b>PARENT CONTACT DETAILS</b>    | <b>Father</b>    | <b>Mother</b>    |  |
| Name:                            |                  |                  |  |
| Work Phone:                      |                  |                  |  |
| Mobile Phone:                    |                  |                  |  |
| <b>STUDENT'S MEDICAL DETAILS</b> |                  |                  |  |
| Family Doctor - Name:            |                  | Phone:           |  |
| Allergies:                       | YES / NO         |                  |  |
| Allergies' Details:              |                  |                  |  |
|                                  |                  |                  |  |
| Medical Conditions:              | YES / NO         |                  |  |
| Medical Details:                 |                  |                  |  |
|                                  |                  |                  |  |

Please return to the school office at your earliest convenience. Thank you.



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**ROPES CROSSING  
PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
Est 2008

**Phone:** 9833 7615

**Fax:** 9833 1065

**Email:** [ropescross-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ropescross-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

**ABSENCE NOTE**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Child was away from** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ **to** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**The reason for the absence is:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
(Parent/Carer) (Date)



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**The reason for the absence is:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
(Parent/Carer) (Date)



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**The reason for the absence is:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
(Parent/Carer) (Date)