FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Dear Mount Rogers families,

I can hardly believe that the 2016 school year has just about come to an end.

Today students met their 2017 teachers and spent time in the space their class will probably be in. This session is designed to help students transition from one class to the next. I ask parents to support this transition process by trusting the judgement of our staff, who have worked collaboratively putting considerable time, thought and professional judgement into the placement of each child.

I am delighted to announce Liz Marman has been permanently appointed as School Leader C at Mount Rogers. Liz has done an outstanding job acting in this role at our school for the past two years, leading and managing our preschool – year 1 teaching teams. Under her leadership our three preschools have been through the Assessment and Rating process where they have achieved or maintained their ‘Exceeding’ rating in all seven National Quality Areas. We are thrilled to have Liz permanently in the SLC role!

It is that time of year when we say goodbye to our graduating class. We wish our year 6 students every success with their future education. For those families who end their association with Mount Rogers Primary, I thank you for your support of our school throughout your child’s primary school education. I would like to particularly thank Kathryn Semrad for her support over the past 8 years particularly on the canteen committee helping transform our canteen into one that meets Fresh Tastes guidelines and volunteering a day a week to allow the canteen to operate every day of the school week.

End of year reports will be sent home with students on Friday. Included with Kindergarten reports will be the end of year Performance Indicators in Primary School (PIPS) report.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Year 6 Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday afternoon in the school hall.

Sue Harding
Principal
As presented at our Assembly on Friday, 2 December 2016

JUNIOR STAR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mackenzie is a shining example of someone who consistently demonstrates our school values and who absolutely deserves the honour of being awarded Star of the Year. She is a delightful, honest and enthusiastic member of Year 2 Hortons. She always has a smile on her face and her bright personality has a positive influence on everyone around her. The kindness that Mackenzie shows both in the classroom and playground is admirable. When one of her classmates is in need of someone to play with she offers her friendship without hesitation. Her kind and generous nature is just one of her many endearing qualities that is greatly appreciated by her teachers. Mackenzie is always ready to learn and produces quality work through persistence and quiet determination. During cooperative learning activities she welcomes, encourages and values the efforts of others.

Congratulations Mackenzie, on receiving the Junior Star of the Year Award, and for being a truly wonderful member of the Year 2 Hortons class!

JUNIOR READER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Malachi thoroughly deserves this award. He reads A LOT and does all the things that good readers do. He reads fluently with expression, makes predictions about the text, makes many connections and enjoys talking about what he has read. He has demonstrated tremendous dedication to our home reading program often reading not one or even two books a night, but some nights reads up to 8 books! He has been the host of our Year 1 assembly earlier this year, a daunting task reading in front of so many people, which he handled with ease. He reads a wide range of books, enjoys giving them a rating to encourage his peers to read the book too, and has even been known to read a Book Club ordered book before it even made it home at the end of the day.

Congratulations Malachi, on receiving the Junior Reader of the Year Award, and for being the Year 1 Porcupine’s resident book worm!

INTRODUCING STAFF MEMBERS

Hello lovely Mount Rogers Community!

My name is Katie Vandeburgt and I am a passionate Early Childhood teacher in the Kindergarten area this year. I have had the absolute pleasure of teaching the Kinder Bilbies.

I have just had my first anniversary at Mount Rogers! Prior to that, I worked at Lyneham Primary for about 8 years. Before Lyneham I taught in London, which I absolutely loved and learnt so much from.

I have a husband and two little people who, when I am not at school, keep me very busy. Most of my life revolves around children in the age group of 2-6 years! I have a very energetic spoodle, called Millie who loves to be walked and played with. She is my third child!

My philosophy has always been;

I believe that all students possess talents, passions and are experts at different things. In my classroom you will see each student’s needs being catered for and challenged.

I believe that a positive and supportive relationship with families is invaluable for children’s learning and growth. My classroom is always open for parents and families.

I believe in the Kathy Walker approach to learning and in my classroom you will see children taking responsibility for their own learning. You will see students actively participating, negotiating, contributing, discussing, and reflecting about all aspects of their learning, which assist in children “getting smarter” each day.

The staff of Mount Rogers Primary wish all families the very best for the holiday season.
THE MOUNT ROGERS GIVING TREE
Mount Rogers Primary has a giving tree in the front foyer of the school to collect donations for The Helping Hand Food Pantry, run out of St Paul’s Ginninderra in Spence. St Paul’s provides the school with volunteers each Wednesday morning to run our Breakfast program. We are asking students to donate non-perishable food items to place under the Giving Tree. Think of things that you would like in your pantry at Christmas.

Examples of non-perishable food pantry items;

- Tinned Fruit
- Pasta
- Savoury biscuits
- Tea
- Jelly
- Saucers
- Fruit cake
- Coffee
- Biscuits
- Shortbread
- Pretzels
- Tea

Items can be donated until Friday 9, December. The goods will then be delivered to St Paul’s ready for Christmas hampers to be made and distributed to families in need in our local community.

Clare Talevich
Giving Tree Coordinator

LIBRARY NEWS

CHIEF MINISTERS READING CHALLENGE
Our school was awarded a certificate from the Chief Ministers Reading Challenge for reading many books in the P-2 category.

Thanks to Promit, Daniel and Gwen who represented our school, at the National Library, to receive the certificate and book gift.

Anna Comerford, Teacher-Librarian

REMINDER
Borrowing has ceased for the year. Please return all library books NOW.

SCHOOL BANKING

Last banking day is this Friday, 9 December.
Orders for Rewards have now closed.
First banking day for 2017 is Friday, 10 February.

Reminder

SWIM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

PLEASE don’t forget to pack:

- Towel
- Swimmers (wear or change into at school)
- Thongs
- Plastic bag for wet clothing
- Goggles (optional)
- Rash vest or t-shirt (for Kindergarten, Yrs 1, 3-6)
- Hat (for Kindergarten, Yrs 1, 3-6)

YEAR 6 GRADUATION EVENTS

.graduation assembly
Our formal celebration for our graduating students.
Tuesday, 13 December - 1:30pm

.graduation party
A fun family event hosted by Year 6 families.
Tuesday, 13 December - from 5pm
Western Foreshore, Macdermott Place, Lake Ginninderra
Catering by The Golden Roast
RSVP by Friday, 2 December via www.flexischools.com.au or return your order slip.

 PLAY FUN DAY
An excursion to the amusement/games centre at Westfield Belconnen, followed by a pizza lunch and DVD at school.
Wednesday, 14 December – 9:15am-12:45pm
Notes & payment ($30) due Wednesday, 7 December

DUE NOW:
Deposit $100 & 2nd Instalment $100
10 February 2017 - 3rd Instalment $95

Please note:
• This camp requires a minimum number of participants to proceed as costed.
• If you require assistance or would like a payment plan, please contact Mrs Levett or Mrs Harding.

Happy Holidays
THE CANTEEN WILL CLOSE AFTER LUNCH ON TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER.
No lunches or counter service will be available after this date.

It would be great if families could start to think about volunteering in the canteen in 2017! If each family volunteered one a term, we would be in great shape! You don’t need to volunteer all day – just 10:45-1:15pm would be an amazing help, and I’m sure your children will love seeing you in the canteen!

We would like to acknowledge the amazing input of Kathryn Semrad, who is leaving us this year. Kathryn has been involved with the canteen for many years, and has been a regular volunteer and real supporter of the canteen. We will miss you!

We also thank Kat Gee who has volunteered 3 days a week for the whole of 2016 – an amazing commitment!

Thanks so much to all our volunteers throughout 2016 – we appreciate you!

Merry Christmas!

Reminders

DUE DATES FOR EXCERUSION NOTES WITH PAYMENTS

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Excursion notes and payments received after the due date will not be accepted.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN DAY - FREE!

Come and celebrate the joy of Christmas!
Friday, 16 December - 3.30 – 6.30 pm
St Barnabas Anglican Church
Charnwood shopping centre

Pat the animals in our nativity setting ● Jumping castle for the kids ● Christmas crafts to make and take ● Live music ● Barbecue ● Our Op shop will be open for last minute gifts and much more!

KIDS CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

WHEN? Tuesdays 6th & 13th December from 3:15-5pm.
WHERE? Nth Belconnen Uniting Church
(opposite Melba/Copland Secondary School)
Drive in off Goldner Circuit, Melba

WHAT? Have afternoon tea; hear Tim’s story telling; do loads of Christmas craft!

WHO? For Primary School aged kids (younger children must have a carer to stay)

COST? $5 each / $10 per family (covers food & craft supplies)

RSVP: Mary on 0422 818 861 by 4 December (giving names & ages of children attending)

NOMINATE A CANBERRAN

Chief Minister’s Canberra Gold Awards
Have you or someone you know lived in Canberra for fifty years or more? What about an organisation or community group that has been contributing to our city for fifty years or more? Then consider nominating them for the Chief Minister’s Canberra Gold Awards.

Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrgold

Canberra Citizen of the Year Award
Nominate a Canberran who inspires you for the Canberra Citizen of the Year Award. The Award recognises citizens who have made a major contribution to the Canberra community. This award is open to a person or group in any field, including the arts, education, community work and business.

Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrcitizen

Do you assist family members, friends or others who are frail aged, living with disability, long-term physical or mental health conditions, or drug and alcohol issues?

Carers ACT provides information and support to carers of all ages and backgrounds, including support and assistance for young carers to complete their education.

Would you like to...
• know what supports and help you can get?
• take a break or go shopping?
• get some help around the house?
• talk to someone?
• meet others who understand you?
• learn new skills?

If the answer is yes, contact Carers ACT today.
1800 052 222 | 1800 242 636 | carers@carersact.org.au

Carers ACT is supported by funding from the ACT and Australian Governments.