Dear Mount Rogers families,

Welcome to Term 2!

I am delighted to see students eager to be back at school and working hard to get smarter.

FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE
Our core school values are fairness, excellence, honesty and respect. This term our focus school value is excellence.

At our school evidence of excellence includes:
- giving recognition to students achieving high standards
- encouraging and acknowledging individual improvement
- celebrating school community achievements
- encouraging students’ awareness of broader life opportunities

In our classrooms, evidence of excellence includes:
- reaching personal best performance
- maintaining high learning expectations
- setting and meeting high standards
- persisting through challenges and difficulties in learning

I encourage parents to talk with their children about how they can be working towards excellence in daily life.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
Thank you to all those parents who have paid voluntary contributions. These contributions are a valuable source of funds for our school. This year we are using voluntary contributions to purchase quality literature, maths equipment and resources to support our mental health wellbeing programs.

We are well on our way toward our targets of $10,000 for the primary school and $12,500 for preschools. By the end of last term 21% of families in the primary school had paid with a total of $5890 received. 32% of preschool parents have paid, with $6870 received. If you have not yet paid I encourage you to do so early this term as we are ready to place orders.

ANZAC CEREMONY AT MELBA COPLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL
Our year 3-6 students attended a special community cluster ANZAC commemorative service at Melba Copland Secondary School on Friday, 11 April. This is the second year for our cluster of schools to hold a combined ceremony. Evatt Primary led the ceremony. I was particularly impressed with the behaviour of all students throughout the long but moving ceremony.

STAFF NEWS
We welcome two new members of staff in our front office. Tracy White is replacing Jenny McNaught as Business Manager for the next few weeks while Jenny has a well-earned overseas trip. Many of you will have already met or spoken with Katie Shearer who has been working here for the past few weeks. We are delighted that she will continue in her secretarial role assisting Bronwyn until at least the end of this year.

MOTHERS’ DAY COMMUNITY EVENTS
Don’t forget to send in gifts for the Mothers’ Day stall which will be held on Friday morning next week. Many thanks to Lea Major for coordinating this event. If you are able to help please contact Lea on 0421 708 896. Also on Friday, 9 May the P&C is hosting our traditional Mothers’ Day breakfast. The canteen committee desperately needs helpers for this event to go ahead. Please let Donna in the canteen now if you are able to assist.

Sue Harding
Principal
Ashley demonstrates exemplary manners and a commitment to on-task behaviour. Caring for others is something that Ashley does automatically. She waits for her turn to speak and is inclusive when working in cooperative groups. She encourages others to make a contribution and supports those in other roles. Although a quiet achiever, Ashley is acknowledged by her classmates as an asset to the class and someone they can go to if they need help. The 1/2 Amethysts appreciate her friendliness and kind-heartedness and congratulate her as Junior Star of the Month.

**Will H** is a student new to Mount Rogers who always displays exemplary manners and a commitment to on-task behaviour. He has made many good friends in his first term at our school due to his positive outlook, his cheerful nature and his willingness to include others. Will is always eager to learn and approaches learning tasks with a fantastic attitude. Even if the job isn’t going to be easy he is a star because he is always willing to have a go. He puts in his best effort, looks for support if he needs it and produces quality work each time as a result. Often he is able to help his classmates and is a supportive learning partner for anyone he is asked to work with. Will is quick to lend a hand and never seeks any accolades for doing so. He can be relied upon to perform helpful jobs and is always efficient. He has settled right in to the Mount Rogers Primary community by displaying all the qualities that our values reflect. Check out his big smile as you congratulate Will as Junior Star of the Month.

**Jaiden F** displays an outstanding attitude and approach to all of his learning, and to every aspect of school life. He is always ready and willing to learn and can often be seen sitting patiently waiting for the teaching and learning to begin. He always applies himself diligently to tasks set in class and consistently finishes his work to a very high standard. Jaiden has a friendly and easy going demeanour, and is very approachable and easy to talk to. He speaks honestly about himself, and has a knack for making people feel better about themselves. His open and caring nature often results in him including other less confident classmates in work and social groups. Unsurprisingly, Jaiden also demonstrates genuine sportsmanship in all games, preferring to get the best out of himself instead of having to always be on the winning team. Such a well-rounded student and individual as Jaiden, is a deserving Star of the Month.

**Hayley R** is a truly deserving Senior Star of the Month. She brings a calm and gentle, yet influential presence to our classroom. Hayley is always ready, without being asked to lend a hand to all students in the classroom. Without even realising it this person is a role model to all. Hayley accepts help in a grateful manner and always take advice on board. When faced with an obstacle she works it out in a rational and cooperative manner. Hayley displays exemplary sportsmanship and is always encouraging others to do their best whilst maintaining their own high standards. She accepts defeat with dignity and always learns from her mistakes. When participating in pair work she always makes sure they choose someone who they sense is feeling a little left out or in need of some positive cheer.

Hayley also displays such a commitment to learning. Even though she always participate enthusiastically, and is a focal person in class discussions, she always knows when to allow others to have their turn. Hayley is always tolerant of differing perspectives and even though she is a highly capable student, she never makes anyone in the class feel inferior and uses her knowledge to encourage and motivate others. Hayley uses initiative, is extremely reliable and accepts responsibility for all her actions. The Diamonds class is a more peaceful and understanding place with her in the room. A huge congratulations to Hayley for helping us all learn from you.

**INTRODUCING STAFF MEMBERS**

Hello, I’m Jodi Stoneman and I am one of the new Kindergarten teachers here at Mount Rogers Primary. I grew up in Goulburn, NSW and currently live on a large property in Collector. I have two daughters and love to spend my spare time reading. As I undertake the task of educating your amazing children, I do so with a few underpinning beliefs and philosophies which are:

1. In my classroom I believe that every student is unique and so you will see my lessons being planned, assessments being undertaken and programs being developed to meet the individual learning needs of every child in my class.
2. I believe that every child has the right to a quality education and so in my classroom you will see a learning environment which is safe, secure, nurturing and accepting of every child’s background and culture.
3. I believe that learning needs to be student-centred and student-focused and so in my classroom you will see students actively participating, negotiating, contributing, discussing, and thinking about all aspects of their learning, of which they all have a sense of ownership and eagerness to “get smarter” in all learning areas.

I have been enjoying getting to know the students, parents and community of Mount Rogers Primary, and so if you see me around don’t forget to say hello.
The Dolphins have spent Term One making friends and getting to know each other. We have spent lots of time outside working together and having fun!

We have many children who love to read and they have really enjoyed sharing books with each other. Our favourite series of books this term has been *Meg and Mog* and we have had fun retelling and dramatising *The Terrible Plop, Stick Man* and *Room on a Broom*.

Our interest areas this term have developed from the children’s interest in space, planets, rockets, under the sea, role play and dressing up.
**Reminders**

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

**PRESCHOOL ENROLMENTS FOR 2015**

*Flynn – Melba – Spence*

**On-line enrolments now open**


Please note:

Original birth certificate, proof of residency and immunisation records must be provided to Mount Rogers Primary School (Alfred Hill Drive, Melba) following the on-line enrolment process.

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**P&C UPDATE**

**MOTHERS’ DAY STALL**

**FRIDAY, 9 MAY**

The P&C is once again running a Mothers’ Day stall on Friday, 9 May so that all Mount Rogers Primary School students can purchase a gift for their mother/grandmother or other special person.

_We need your donations to make the stall a success._

Gift ideas include plants, photo frames, chocolates, books, coffee mugs, tea cups, notebooks, or anything else you can think of. Please note any jewelry must be NEW. Gifts will be sold from $1.00 to $10.00, with cards at 50c.

We’re running a competition between the classes with the class collecting the most donations winning a free morning tea on the day. Gifts that are handed in already wrapped in CLEAR cellophane and tied with ribbon will receive double points.

The competition starts first week of Term 2 and finishes on Tuesday, 6 May.

If you can help with wrapping gifts or at the stall on the day, please contact Lea Major on lea@seventyeight.com.au or phone 0421 708 896.

**MELBA COPLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Our school is working closely in partnership with MCSS, some examples of which you will see in this and future MCSS newsletters.


The MCSS Principal, Michael Battenally, appreciates your interest in what MCSS has to offer as an education pathway for every local child.

Feel free to contact Michael at e: michael.battenally@ed.act.edu.au or phone (02) 6205 7622.

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**KidsMatter**

*Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative*

This term Mount Rogers is starting an exciting new venture. **We have become a KidsMatter school!**

KidsMatter is an Australian mental health and wellbeing initiative set in primary schools and in early childhood education and care services – like preschools, kindergartens and day care centres.

It’s not a program, but a framework that helps these places take care of all their mental health needs by focusing on:

- creating positive school and early childhood communities
- teaching children skills for good social and emotional development
- working together with families
- recognising and getting help for children with mental health problems.

KidsMatter is funded by the Australian Government and beyondblue, and is a partnership between education and health sectors. It was developed by experts - mental health professionals and education and childcare staff - in response to the ‘high rates’ of school-age children with mental health difficulties and the problems they face getting help.

KidsMatter is the first of its kind in Australia, and has the mental health of children top of mind. Throughout this term look for information sheets as inserts with the newsletter with top tips and information about ‘Belonging at school’, ‘What makes a positive school?’, ‘Why connect at school?’ and ‘Helping children connect across cultures’.

The whole school staff will be involved with the implementation of KidsMatter which is an 18 month-3 year cyclical process. The action team consists of Felicity Levett (Deputy Principal), Nerida Knight (School Counselor), Jenni Wittchen, Murray-Hodge Neill, Ron Eather (staff representatives) and Jason Hayduk (parent representative).

We are looking forward to the whole school community joining us on this wonderful journey!