

School Newsletter

~ safe and sensible, respectful, excellent learners ~



Issue 1

Term 1, Week 4

Thursday, 16 February 2012

Dates to Remember

Thursday, 16 February

Book Club issued

Friday, 17 February

P&C Welcome Morning Tea for New Parents and Families, Hall area, 9am
School Banking

Monday, 20 February

P&C Meeting, Library, 6:30pm
Book Club returned to the Office

Friday, 27 February

Scripture classes commence
K-2 12:15-12:45pm
3-6 12:45-1.15pm

~~~~ 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 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 fifth 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 2012 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                                                                                                 |
| Miss Michelle Smith   | Class 4S                                                                                                   |
| Mrs Krystyna Brett    | Class 3B                                                                                                   |
| Miss Carly Goodfellow | Class 1–2G                                                                                                 |
| Mrs Sandra Galea      | Class 1G                                                                                                   |
| Miss Leanne Forbes    | Class KF                                                                                                   |
| Mrs Leanne Ellis      | Teacher Librarian<br>English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher<br>Release from Face to Face (RFF) Teacher |
| Mr Peter Wood         | Release from Face to Face (RFF) Teacher                                                                    |
| 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 2012, our Crunch & Sip 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 initiative.

Crunch & Sip 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 operates each day from 10:00-10:10am. Please remember to send suitable fruit/vegetable for this daily time. A water bottle can be brought to school for this time.**

Further information can be accessed from the Crunch & Sip 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 2012 Update of Student Information and return it to the office.

### An Office Message

Please keep in mind that our school office does not have EFTPOS facilities. **Correct money is required when purchasing uniforms and paying for various school events and activities, as we are unable to give 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 on Friday, 27 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 Mr Khan (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 2012, 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.

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 2012 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.

If you are interested in volunteering to help please contact the school office. 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 a 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) |
| 11:00 – 11:30am | Recess ~ Eating 11:00 – 11:10am, 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 children should not arrive at school before this time.

## **Book Club**

Each year our school participates in the Ashton Scholastic Book Club. The first of our Book club issues is currently being sent home.

At regular intervals through the year, during each of the school terms, Book Club flyers are issued to our students. This is an opportunity to access age appropriate reading material and an excellent range is available.

If families are wishing to place an order to purchase a Book Club item, the order form and correct money need to be returned together to the front office. The closing date is noted on each flyer. For this issue, the closing date is Monday, 20 February.

From ordering, books arrive back in the school in a few weeks' time ready for distribution to students to take home.

Happy reading with our school's Ashton Scholastic Book Club!

## **Stage Curriculum Notes**

Term 1 curriculum notes will shortly be 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. Girls' hair accessories should be in the school colours.

### **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 school newsletters. New school community members are always welcome.

The first general meeting for the 2012 school year will be held on Monday, 20 February at 6:30pm in our school library. We look forward to your company.

## **P&C Welcome Morning Tea for New Parents and Families**

The Ropes Crossing Public School P&C would like to invite parents and carers of students new to Ropes Crossing Public School this year to join us for morning tea. We would like to welcome you to the school and give you time to spend with each other as well. We will be serving coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits from near the hall and canteen area. We do hope you will be able to come.

### ***Ropes Crossing Public School Welcome Morning Tea for Parents & Carers of New Students***

***Friday, 17 February  
9.00am***



*Janet McGuire, Liz Wood and Simone Bye*  
(President, Secretary and Treasurer)

#### **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:

#### **Summer water safety**

Being in, on or around the water is an enjoyable part of living in Australia. However, drowning is one of the leading causes of preventable death and permanent brain injury in children under five years of age, with more than 50 children between one and 15 drowning every year. Drowning is tragic and preventable.

If your children are not water confident or are not able to swim, consider enrolling in certified swimming classes held throughout the year in public pools around the state. Sport and Recreation offers Swim and Survive courses in the summer months.

<http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/swimandsurvive/>

Royal Lifesaving Society Australia offers valuable courses in resuscitation and rescue as well as fact sheets on water and pool safety, and translated resources.

If you live near the coast, contact your local Surf Lifesaving club for healthy and fun water activities such as Nippers: [www.sls.com.au/](http://www.sls.com.au/)

#### **Treatment of 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)

## Ropes Crossing Public School 2012 Update of Student Information

|                                                                      |                  |                  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>STUDENT:</b>                                                      |                  | <b>CLASS:</b>    |  |
| Residential Address:                                                 |                  |                  |  |
| Home Phone Number:                                                   |                  |                  |  |
| Home Email:                                                          |                  |                  |  |
| <b>PARENT CONTACT DETAILS</b>                                        | <b>Father</b>    | <b>Mother</b>    |  |
| Name:                                                                |                  |                  |  |
| Work Phone:                                                          |                  |                  |  |
| Mobile Phone:                                                        |                  |                  |  |
| <b>EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS<br/>(neighbour, friend or relative)</b> | <b>Contact 1</b> | <b>Contact 2</b> |  |
| Name:                                                                |                  |                  |  |
| Phone:                                                               |                  |                  |  |
| Mobile Phone:                                                        |                  |                  |  |
| Relationship to Family:                                              |                  |                  |  |
| <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.



# Go Bananas

A whole bunch of family fun!



## After and Before School Care

Operational Hours are 7am- school drop off  
and school pick up till 6.00pm Monday to Friday

**Vacation Care** for school holidays 7am -6pm

**CCB Approved Service**

**Child Care Rebate**

Up to 50% back (check your eligibility)

**Caring and Experienced Staff**

**Active and fun daily program**

**See Reception for  
more information**

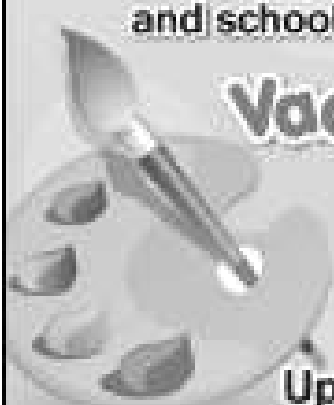
Conditions apply

Cnr Forrester & Boronia Roads, St Marys NSW 2760

Phone: 1300 BANANA (1300 226 262)

Email: [oschnsw@gobananas.kiddiacentre.com.au](mailto:oschnsw@gobananas.kiddiacentre.com.au)

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**READING and WRITING help for ADULTS at HOME**

If you would like to learn to read & write but are unable to come to class, you can get help with the Home Tutor Program.

This is run by Nepean TAFE - Kingswood Campus.

Each student works with a trained tutor either in the student's home or another suitable place.

This is a **FREE** course

For more information about this course please contact:

Sue : Adult Literacy Officer  
 Nepean TAFE  
 • (02) 9208 9347

In Term 1 come and hear what the Bible says about What Matters to YOU...

MONEY

WORK

FAMILY

We meet on Sunday at 10.30am at Ropes Crossing Public School  
**ALL WELCOME**  
 (includes a fun program for children)

**Ropes Crossing Church**  
 9673 5183 or 0431 371 692

[www.ropescrossingchurch.anglican.asn.au](http://www.ropescrossingchurch.anglican.asn.au)

St Anthony's Family Care Presents

## FREE Jumping Joes Playgroup at St Marys

Supported playgroup for migrant and refugee communities

Every Friday during school terms:  
 First group meets Friday 3 February

10.30am to 12.30pm  
 Fusion Western Sydney  
 12 Carsons Lane, St Marys

Morning tea is provided; please bring a piece of fruit to share.

Call Julia for more info 9747 5782

Produced by St Anthony's Family Care | Supporting Children and Families in Need  
 © Alexandra Kemlin, Croydon, NSW 2132. For more information and to provide your feedback:  
 Ph: 0947 5782 Fax: 0947 5807 Email: [enquiries@stafc.org.au](mailto:enquiries@stafc.org.au) Web: [www.stafc.org.au](http://www.stafc.org.au)

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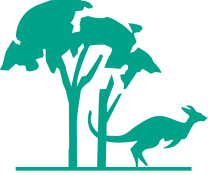
Unit 3, 31 Coombes Drive Penrith  
- also held at THE HUB Ropes Crossing

0423 070 843 4722 8207 0438 355 304


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| <p>growth through learning</p>  <p><b>ROPES CROSSING<br/>PUBLIC SCHOOL</b><br/>Est 2008</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 9833 7615<br/><b>Fax:</b> 9833 1065<br/><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ropescross-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au">ropescross-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au</a></p> | <p><b><u>ABSENCE NOTE</u></b></p> <p><b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Class:</b> _____</p> <p><b>My Child was away from</b> ___/___/___ <b>to</b> ___/___/___</p> <p><b>The reason for the absence is:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Signed:</b> _____ /___/___<br/>(Parent/Carer) (Date)</p> |
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