



# Rocky River Public School Newsletter

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**TERM 4, WEEK 10– 12th December 2013**

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2nd December –13th December–Swim School.
- 18th December-last day of school term for students.
- 29th January 2014 students return to school.
- Thursday 6th February the small schools swimming carnival hosted by Kentucky Public School.

## Canteen

Parents please note:

**There will be  
no canteen  
next  
Wednesday**

## P&C

The next P&C meeting  
will be held  
**5th February 2014  
at 6.30 pm.**

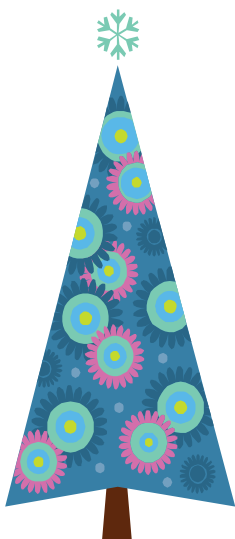
## PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

This is the final newsletter for 2013. Thank you to everyone who was able to support our school last night at our Presentation Night. Small schools are wonderful and it is fantastic to see so many grandparents and great grandparents coming along, some of whom were students at this school. It means so much to the children and these occasions are what memories are made from. We had many stars last night and I hope you enjoy looking through the photographs in the newsletter.

Next Monday we are having a Safety Day with the Fire Services visiting, water safety, electrical safety and bike safety. Students should bring their bikes and helmets to school if possible. Parents could drop them off at school and pick them up again at the end of the day or the next day.

Next Wednesday will be the last day of school for students and all students will return on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. The small schools swimming carnival will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Armidale pool.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students, their families and our wider school community a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Nick Endacott along with the rest of the Rocky River School Community thanked the Rowbottom family for their many years of tireless work and dedication to our school.



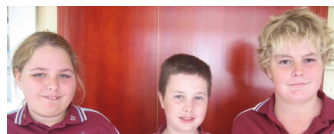


Some of the photo's from our Presentation night performance and our school captains wearing the new school blazers purchased this year.





Mrs Thornton announced our new school captains for 2014. Rose Burke and Nicholas Page —School Captains and Sophie Byers and Christopher Rassatti—Vice Captains. We know they will be wonderful leaders for our students and we congratulate each one of them. There were many proud parents on hand to pin their badges on for them. Stelios Charnas, Jackson Peters, Dean Vickery and Louisa Rassatti are our Sports Captains.



We would also like to thank the captains for 2013; Katahna, Harry and Joseph for the wonderful job they did in their role.





Mr Colin Wood giving our students an impromptu lesson about snakes after we had an unwelcome visitor in our school grounds this week.

If anyone is having an issue with snakes in this area he can be contacted on 0438 013 500.



## Adult eastern brown

**snakes** are highly variable in colour. Whilst usually a uniform shade of brown, they can have various patterns including speckles and bands, and range from a very pale fawn colour through to black, including orange, silver, yellow and grey. Juveniles can be banded and have a black head, with a lighter band behind, a black nape, and numerous red-brown spots on the belly.



**THE RED BELLY BLACK SNAKE** This snake is dangerously venomous but bites are rare because it is usually a placid and fairly docile snake, preferring to enact a lengthy bluff display with flattened neck and deep hisses rather than bite. It grows to a length of 2.5 metres the snake is black while the belly is light pink. The only other snake with similar appearance is the small-eyed snake. The red-bellied black snake specializes in eating frogs but they will also eat lizards, mammals, birds and occasionally fish. The red-bellied black snake is commonly associated with streams, rivers, creeks, swamps and other wetland areas. They may wander into well vegetated private gardens which are adjacent to water courses.



By Toby & Jacob

The New England Conservatorium of Music Chamber music in schools visit was a fantastic experience for students and teachers.





## FROM OUR 2014 STUDENT LEADERS



### Swimming School

For the last week and a half we have been involved in swimming lessons at the local pool. I am in the Dolphin's group and we have been practising ear arm, bubble arm (freestyle strokes), dolphin kicks, fast kicks (with straightened legs), and safety and emergency procedures. We have also been learning about safe entries into the pool such as; pin drops, bombs and how to enter the water safely by sitting on the edge, twisting your body and lowering yourself (feet first) slowly into the water. All the students are showing improvements and are now feeling a lot more confident in the water as well as enjoying a cool swim in the hot weather. Thank you to all parents and swimming teachers for their time and efforts.

By Sophie Byers



### The New England Conservatorium Wind Trio

On Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, we had some special visitors in our school. There was Nick the Flautist, (flute player) Warwick the Pianist, (piano player) and Rob the Saxophonist (saxophone player) who also brought his Clarinet. We were lucky to have them visit us. Unfortunately, this was the last time they would play for people. They left us a wonderful cd to listen to and played a special birthday girl a special song!

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and I hope you enjoyed our Christmas Musical, Hey Ewe!

Rose Burke year 5



### Hey Ewe!

Yesterday we had our 2014 Christmas Concert and Presentation Night. We started off the evening with our performance play, Hey Ewe! We have been practising for weeks and all of our hard work paid off with everybody doing a great job. All the students of the school were presented with very interesting and colourful books for achievement in literacy, numeracy and other subjects. With the help of the Rowbottom's and the P&C we had a delicious barbeque. Santa also dropped by in a fire engine and gave out lollies and poppers to all the well behaved children. Thank you to all of the parents and teachers for a wonderful night.

By Christopher Rassatti



### The Snake Man

Yesterday when Mrs Thornton went to get the mail she came across a Red Belly Black snake in the drain. She got up on the steps and watched the snake to see where it was going. Mrs Stace acted quickly and called the Snake Man, Mr Wood. When Mr Wood arrived he lifted up the grill, but unfortunately, the snake went in the pipe and disappeared. Afterwards, he spoke to all the children about snake safety. We learnt that it is really important to stop and see where the snake goes. If bitten you must stay calm and wrap a pressure bandage around it, ring 000 and get to the hospital as soon as possible.



*On a concluding note the play last night was awesome!*

Nick Page Yr 5



A Papercraft Exhibition by Katherine McKinnon

## ONCE UPON A TIME

7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY



FEATURING CANVASES, FRAMES AND MINI ALBUMS



Opening 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 3-5pm

Afternoon Tea provided

GRANNY FI'S TOY CUPBOARD

42 BRIDGE ST. URALLA

## The Far Side®



Rusty makes his move.

### Ready for high school

Can you recall what you were most apprehensive about when you started high school? This video of Year 7 students explain why teens shouldn't be worried about starting high school, and how they can get off to a great start in the first few days.

Watch the videos: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/what-happens-in-year-7>

### Kik messenger

Does your child use Kik? Police have described it as "the No.1 social media problem involving teenagers", but most parents would barely have heard of messaging app Kik before last week.

Find out what it is: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology\\_glossary/7w0F/5353/Kik+messenger](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology_glossary/7w0F/5353/Kik+messenger)

Why cyber safety experts are concerned: <http://www.smh.com.au/digital-life/digital-life-news/experts-warn-of-apps-hidden-dangers-20131130-2yif3.html#ixzz2mYlkXFyd>

### Choosing school shoes

Are expensive school shoes the best option for happy feet? Let's face it. School shoes have never been at the cutting edge of fashion. In fact if you look at what your parents were wearing, the humble school shoe really hasn't evolved much at all. Tips for choosing shoes: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/choosing-the-right-school-shoes>

### Teach your kids to be waterproof

As temperatures rise, the risk of drowning increases too. Review these water-safety tips to help keep your family safe this summer.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/water-safety-tips>

### Boys and body image:

AUDIO: Rachel Friend talks with paediatrician Associate Professor Michael Kohn about the issue of body image and how it impacts on young men in particular.

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/boys-and-body-image>

### Girls and body image:

AUDIO: Rachel Friend talks with the Butterfly Foundations Education Manager, Danni Rowlands about body image issues affecting young girls. Research shows young people feel under more pressure than ever to look a certain way.

Warm regards Rocky River Students & Staff. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy holiday.

