### FEBRUARY

- **24th** Yr. 11 Outdoor Ed Camp commences
- **25th** Yr. 7 Nagambie Camp Commences
- **28th** Newsletter home

### MARCH

- **10th** Labour Day Holiday
- **13th** CCLLEN - School Friendly Business Launch 10.00am
- **14th** Curriculum Day - NO students at school
- **17th** College Council 7pm
- **21st** National Day against Bullying & Violence
- **27th** Parent Teacher Interviews 4pm - 7pm

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Above: Victorious House Captains of McNamara—Jack Valent & Hailey Lemin show of the House trophy, see story and more on page 6.

Below: Even world renowned Superheroes like Batman, visited the College’s swimming sports!!

Reminder: We are a Sunsmart school!

HATS need to be worn at all times when outside in Term 1
Dear Readers,

Often when deciding what to write about each edition I will look through my calendar at the events that have occurred in the past fortnight and those that are fast approaching in the coming weeks. However, over the past fortnight and our work this term there has been a recurring theme, that of “Community.”

Over the past couple of years we have steadily been building our momentum around making links between the College, the Rushworth community and the communities of our surrounding towns. Whilst we are making positive progress in every regard, we will continue to work on this in 2014 and beyond. When we look deeper at the concept of community though we can see that the past few weeks have given us a chance to really cement the concept of a College Community here at Rushworth P-12 College. Our College Community continues to develop and become more vibrant as we explore ways of giving our students a voice within the College, as we look at how we further recognise the vast majority of students who come to school every day and make the most of every learning opportunity and as we look at how we can ensure our College activities reflect the fact that we offer 13 years of schooling for our community in one facility as a P-12 College. It is this last point that has stood out significantly for me over the past week as we conducted our inaugural P-12 Swimming Carnival.

Highlights of the swimming carnival were evident for all to see but nothing more so than the active, purposeful and positive interactions of our junior and senior students. Our senior students should be proud of the role they played in being leaders, ambassadors and mentors for our younger students but also in how they encouraged, supported and interacted with our younger students. It was a privilege to witness and great to see students respecting one another, cooperating with each other and their teachers, being helpful and having fun. A big thank you is extended to our staff team, especially Amanda Cray for her organisation of the day. A special thank you and congratulations to our Sports Captains – Jack, Hailey, Chloe and Jayden for their leadership and encouragement of others on the day, with a special mention to Gerry Doolan for taking on a leadership role in the afternoon and displaying great initiative and leadership.

Our Year 9 students have been active participants in Community consultation with the Shire of Campaspe earlier this week, participating in the Shire’s Open Spaces Forum. This was a great opportunity for students to share their voice in a public forum about the future of public, open spaces in the Shire and also gave students a great insight into elements of local government and its operations.

On a final note for the Community theme it has been great to see our Senior VCAL students actively engaged in their Unit of Work based around the Rushworth Easter Festival. Students have been busy designing and building scarecrows to be part of this year’s festival. If you haven’t been to the Rushworth Easter Festival please mark the dates in your diary and join with the broader community for this great local event, not to mention the chance to purchase one of these great scarecrows in the Auction. Thank you to students Caine McCarten and Brendan Gatt for their work in holding a Pasta Lunch day for students and staff this week, another great initiative to showcase our students talents and bring our College community closer together.

**College Council Elections**

It has come to that time of the year where we are looking for interested College Community members to put their
hand up and join us on our improvement journey as a member of College Council. The College Council provided valuable feedback, insight and decision making as we work towards becoming a high-performing school and culture. If you would like to contribute to the positive development of the College then please consider nominating for College Council. Further details are included later in the P-12 Perspective and nomination forms are available from the office. In 2014 we have vacancies for 4 Parent Members and 2 DEECD members.

**Every day counts – school attendance**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

*In 2013 students at Rushworth P-12 College recorded their best attendance rates for over 4 years. However, our school wide average number of days absent per student was still too high at 20.56 days. This is the equivalent of missing one day a fortnight and equates to four full weeks by the end of the year. By the time this student reaches Year 10 they will have missed more than a year of schooling and by doing this places themselves significantly behind their peers and makes the completion of work to the required standard extremely difficult.*

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future!

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

*At Rushworth P-12 College our aim is to halve our 2013 absence rate and work towards a school wide absence rate of just 13 days per student per year. With your help and the help of your children we can make this a reality.*

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your child’s form group teacher/classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

*Kind regards, Brad Moyle, Principal*
News from the P-8 Team

Over the past 2 weeks, students have been engaged in any different learning experiences both in and out of the classroom. Students have participated in the Primary Swimming Program, learning about Water Safety and completing aquatic activities. All students who participated in the lessons had fun and were able to demonstrate their knowledge about safety around aquatic environments.

Year 7 and 8 students have continued to get used to their new routines and classes over the past 2 weeks and are now settled and working well in all their classes. There is great excitement over the P-12 swimming carnival with most students enthusiastic and keen to participate. The Year 7’s are preparing to go away to their camp next week at Nagambie, and are looking forward to the many fun and exciting activities that they will participate in during this time.

We wish the all the Year 7’s a safe and enjoyable time at camp next week!

P-8 Literacy & Numeracy

**Years Prep - 2**

**Literacy:**
Literacy includes using different comprehension strategies, and reading for meaning.

Next week’s focus will involve studying the different features of a story, including characters, plot and differing points of view in a text.

For the next this week the Prep students will be focusing on the letters M and D, next week we will be looking at G and O, as well as revising the letters we have already learnt.

**Numeracy:**
Developing and expanding our understanding of place value and efficient use of place value when counting and completing mathematical equations.

**Years 3/4**

**Literacy:**
Drawing connections between real life experiences and text. Understanding that paragraphs are a key organisational feature of written text. Making written text cohesive through the use of pronoun reference and text connectives.

**Numeracy:**
Number and place value. Investigating the use of properties of odd and even numbers.
**Year 5/6**

**Literacy:** In Literacy, students will be continuing to implement different comprehension strategies whilst reading a variety of texts. We will be focusing on identifying different characteristics of texts (imaginative, informative and persuasive texts) and identifying the language features used in each example. Students will identify the purpose of the text using supporting evidence.

In Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, students will be investigating apostrophes and commas, the use of apostrophes in words and how these are associated with common and proper nouns.

**Numeracy:** Our focus for Numeracy will be investigating Chance and listing the possible outcomes of chance experiments involving equally likely outcomes and represent probabilities of those outcomes using fractions. Students will also be investigating the addition and subtraction of fractions with the same denominator, both with and without digital technologies.

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**Year 7**

**MATHS:** The Year 7 numeric focus for the coming weeks will see us shift our attention from the four basic operations to geometry. It would be wonderful if parents could spend ten minutes a night helping their children memorise their times tables. Only four children in the class showed consistent rapid recall during last week's test.

**ENGLISH** In English we are well underway with our initial Set Novels The Water Horse and Bridge to Wiseman's Cove. We are working towards writing our first analytical or expository essays based on the themes and characters in these texts. Students will be completing creative and written tasks in addition to making comparisons between film as text and the original written novel. Students should be taking home their Wider Reading novels and reading every night at home. On a weekly basis they may have a writing piece to also finish in their Personal Journal.

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**Year 8**

**Numeracy:** Over the next two weeks, students will be reviewing BODMAS and working with negative integers. They will carry out the four operations with positive and negative numbers and some students may work their way up to substitution, which is one of the basic skills used in Algebra. By the end of week 5/start of week 6 we will have our first Maths test which will cover the four operations with positive and negative numbers, BODMAS, squares and square roots, lowest common multiples and highest common factors, prime and composite numbers and prime factorisation. Students have been given one Maths Mate to do at home each week. They receive these on Mondays and they are due the following Monday. Term 1, Sheet 4 is due on Monday 24th Feb. Congratulations to those who have submitted the last two by the due date. I hope to see everyone’s in this coming Monday.

**Literacy:**

Students will continue to work on their text response and will be beginning work on the related assignment. They will be exploring the ways authors combine different modes and media in creating texts, and the impact of these choices on the viewer or listener. Students will be developing their writing skills and will be learning how to properly structure a fictional story with the big focus being on the incorporation of word images to make students writing more interesting. They will be completing written exercises that build their capacity to write for extended periods of time.

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Turn the page to see the highlights of our recent Prep - Year 12 Swimming Sports…..
What a great day we had for our inaugural Prep – Year 12 Swimming Carnival with all of our students showing house pride and fantastic sportsmanship to make the day a fun and memorable one for all! Tuesday 18th February was the day and Rushworth Pool the location for our whole school swimming carnival, the first that has been held at Rushworth P-12 College.

The day started with plenty of excitement as our junior students took to the pool in their freestyle and backstroke races interspersed with our senior students competing in a giant inflatable thong relay and a deep water egg and spoon race. The students were then given the chance to compete in the traditional bombing competition followed by a max laps competition, where each house needs to get as many laps completed as possible in 5 minutes. While this was going on our junior students competed in a cork scramble in the toddlers pool. The morning was a great success and our Prep – Grade 4 students had a great time before heading back to school at lunchtime. After this the Grade 5 – Year 12 students competed in their Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle Relay races finishing the day with the traditional Staff vs Year 12 race where once again the Staff team – this year made up of Miss McIntosh, Mr Daff, Miss McMillan and Mr Hogan – came off victorious!

All in all the day was fantastic for all involved with brilliant house spirit shown by all students, staff and parents. A very big thank you to all of the parents who attended on the day!

At the end of the day, McNamara (Purple) house were the winners with 2,628 points, a lead of 282 points, over Brocklebank (Yellow) house with 2,346 points.

Our class and age group champions were as follows:

Prep/1/2 Tiffany Clarke and Bradley Bons
Grade 3/4 Tamazin Sacco and Andrew Robinson
11 yo Jordann Rogers and Bailey Mimmo
12/13 yo Sarah Lange-Richards, William Brown and Kristen Halls
14 yo Chloe Laurie, Nikita Schembri and Matthew Lange-Richards
15yo Ebony Sacco and Jack Horsley
16yo Mikayla Marshall and Tanner Stokes
17yo Kelly Turgoose and Danyon Stockdale
20yo Chloe Fisher and Gerry Doolan

Congratulations to all of these students who will be awarded their medallions at an upcoming assembly as well as our House Spirit medals to be nominated on by our House Captains and Staff.

Once again a huge thank you and congratulations to all staff, students and parents for making our first Prep – Year 12 Swimming Carnival such a fantastic day!

Amanda Cray
P-12 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Prep to Year 12 students enjoyed the FUN of the carnival

Face painting was popular as usual...
P-12 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The bombing competition saw some great entries... wonder who won?
P-12 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

STAFF vs Student race was hotly contested,

STAFF WON!
What's happening in Humanities…

**Year 7 Humanities** have been doing a Geography unit focusing on water usage, scarcity and some of the things that can be done to save water in the home.

**Year 8 Humanities** have been getting a general overview into the Medieval Times and the Age of Discovery. Some fantastic research work has been done. In the next couple of weeks we will be studying the Medieval Times in more depth and looking forward to our trip to Kryal Castle in Term 2.

**Year 9 Humanities** have been learning all about how people have changed their world through innovation and invention during the Industrial Revolution and through the power of the people during the American and French Revolution. Over the rest of the term they will be learning more about Australian History and focusing on our involvement in World War 1 with the aim of running the 2014 Rushworth P12 College ANZAC Service (more details to come soon).

**RUSHWORTH P12 STUDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY**

What a great opportunity was given to our Year 9 students this week.

They were invited to participate in the Campaspe Shire's Open Space Strategy consultation session at the Rushworth Senior Citizen Club. This allowed the students to participate in discussions about the open spaces and recreation services they use in Rushworth.

Students were asked to give their opinion about which services they use and which ones they want more of.

It was a great chance for the young people of Rushworth to learning about decision making process used by the shire and to have the chance to have a say in their town's future.

*Annette Gould*

*Humanities Teacher*
Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year there will be specialist Music classes at the College for these instruments:

**Electric Bass Guitar**
**Acoustic Guitar**
**Drums and Percussion**

Class sizes and times available are limited and a waiting list may apply. Students will come out of normal classes for lessons and then return at the end of their lesson.

Students will be expected to make a serious commitment to learning their instrument and being a part of the Music Program at Rushworth P-12 College.

There is an annual fee of $48, which can be paid in Term installments. Instruments are available at the College, however, students may wish to bring their own instruments to lessons.

*Andrew Richardson and Greg Hutchison.*

Please return the section below with payment to the office

I wish to enrol my child

__________________________________________________________________________

Year Level _________________

In tuition for _______________________________________________________________________

I will pay for lessons annually / per term

Signed __________________________
Student Awards

**Prep - 2:** Bradley Bons for trying his hardest during our assessments for the last few weeks.

Hannah Price also received an award for her efforts during last week’s swimming program.

**Year 3/4:** Kannika Saksunit for her hard work and effort in all areas of her learning within the classroom.

**Year 5/6:** Jordann Rodgers – For participating in all class activities to the best of her ability. Keep up the great work!
Sarah Lange Richards – For achieving a great result on her Spelling Test. Well Done!

Chevy Talbot – For displaying persistence during her Swimming Lessons. Keep up the great work!
Julie Habegger – For showing great respect towards her classmates and others around the school.

**Year 7:** Jake Jones: for great work in year 7 English with Ms. Nobbs
Maya Barlow: for giving 100% in everything she does.
Jack Risstrom: for a fantastic start to Year 7.

**Year 8:** Molly Risstrom and Paris Lehmann for their excellent work on their PowerPoint on Medieval Times.

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**EMA Allowance**

A reminder to parents that EMA applications close on 28th February.

A copy of your Health Care Card is required when submitting your application form.

If you are eligible or have any questions please see Christine in the office.

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**Canteen Special**

From the 24th February for 2 weeks

**Fried Rice**

With or without Chicken
Small tub $3.50’
Large tub $6.00
Chicken 50c extra

**Don’t Forget to Order!!**
Welcome back to the school year of 2014! Hope everyone had a great break and students and staff are ready for an exciting year! I would also like to welcome the new staff members and also welcome back a few of the oldies!!!!!!

The school year has started off with very hot days and we need to be mindful of the Sunsmart Policy. Rushworth P-12 College is a Sunsmart school and all students and staff must abide by the conditions that are set out.

1. WEAR A BROAD BRIM HAT
2. STAY IN THE SHADE
3. WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING
4. WEAR SUN BLOCK
5. WEAR SUNGLASSES

As the weather is so hot, students and staff be mindful of maintaining hydration. Drinks lots of water and try to stay clear of the flavoured waters, soft drink and any other sugary drinks as they tend to dehydrate the body.

Another issue that is around at the moment is the amount of smoke in the air from the bush fires around the state.

Children, the elderly, smokers and people with pre-existing illnesses such as heart or lung conditions (including asthma) are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in fine particles. Symptoms may worsen and include wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing.

It is very important that people with pre-existing health conditions take their medication, follow their treatment plan and seek immediate medical advice if symptoms persist.

Signs of smoke irritation include itchy eyes, sore throat, runny nose, coughing and wheezing. Healthy adults who have a short exposure to smoke usually find that these symptoms clear up once they are away from the smoke.

Children and Adults with asthma should follow their personal asthma plan.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEE YOUR MEDICAL PRACTITIONER IF YOUR CONDITION WORSENS.

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au  www.asthma.org.au

Until next time,

Leanne James

School Nurse Educator
Library Learnings

Woolworths Earn & Learn Program

A BIG thank you to all families and the wider community who have contributed to the Woolworths Earn and Learn Program by dropping off their sticker coupons.

The College Library now has wonderful new resources for the College teachers and students to enjoy!!

- Possum Magic - Big Book
- There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly - Big Book
- I am the Music Man - Big Book
- Orchard Toys - Pass the Word Game
- Story Sequencing Cards

NOW IN!!!!!! New Non-Fiction Resources

Until next time...
Happy Reading!
VCE News:

Thank you to the parents, students and staff who attended the VCAL/VCE night and a huge thank you to Kristen Nicholls who gave up her time to speak to the current VCE students about her own Rushworth P-12 College experience!

TIP:

Over the next week sit down with your child and experiment with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) calculator, its hours of fun! By inserting 6 VCE subjects and estimating your study score for each subject (0-50 possible marks) you can gage what your ATAR might be. The ATAR is the primary criteria for entry into most university programs in Australia. [http://atarcalc.com/](http://atarcalc.com/)

Resources:

The 2014 YR 11 and YR 12 SAC/T calendars have been posted on the Rushworth P-12 college. GO to [http://www.rushworthp-12.vic.edu.au/](http://www.rushworthp-12.vic.edu.au/) and click on the ‘Student’ link to access them.

Miss Frankie O’Toole

VCE Coordinator
Rushworth P-12 College

Below: Our Year 12 students were all prepared for a great Swimming Carnival this week....
Parent feedback from the recent VCE & VCAL Information Night

The recent information night at the College was informative, friendly and very supportive of VCE & VCAL students and their families.

As the parent of a Year 10 student who is fast-tracking a VCE subject, I find the prospect of my son’s final few years of secondary school, its associated workload and stresses quite daunting – not to mention all the jargon!

I applaud the College’s move to help de-mystify these years of schooling and provide support for the journey, by holding the information session early on in the year.

I was struck by the strong cohort of staff, who provided advice from their broad experience, and advice from other students who had achieved their goals, some with challenge. It was encouraging to note that the teachers also supported each other in their passion and drive to deliver the very best possible outcomes for our senior students.

We were introduced to the on-line ATAR calculator, which proved interesting. Past student Kristen Nichols was the ‘icing on the cake’, as she spoke frankly about her own journey and shared a wealth of wisdom and tips for students’ study habits, learning and motivation.

Thank you to Frankie O’Toole, Chris Hogan, Kerrie Raglus and the College Staff who gave willingly of their time and energy.

Mica Rosenberg

 SHEPPARTON FESTIVAL
UNIQUE EVENTS IN UNUSUAL PLACES

DREAMWEAVER WORKSHOPS
These workshops are rolling – come and go as you please.
Victoria Park Lake, Shepparton
Saturday 1 March 2014
2pm - 4pm & 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Sunday 2 March 2014
10am - 11am & 1pm - 3pm

TANGLE PERFORMANCE
Saturday 1 March 2014
3pm - 5pm & 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Sunday 2 March 2014
10am - 12noon & 2pm - 4pm

For more information visit sheppartonfestival.org.au

Is your Lollipop person the sweetest?
Nominate your Lollipop person for the 2014/2015 School Crossing Supervisor of the year award.

Pick up a nomination form online at www.schoolcrossingsvictoria.com.au.

Your support of this program will help ensure your School Crossing Supervisor is shown the appreciation they deserve for their commitment to the ongoing safety of our children.

Closes Friday 2nd May 2014
Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Tatura Dental Care is a registered dental provider. We have a Medicare provider number and are registered to see patients under the Child Dental Benefits Scheme. If you have received notification that your children are entitled to dental treatment under this scheme please phone the clinic to make your initial examination appointment and we can formulate a treatment plan to suit the individual needs of your child. We are able to bulk bill directly to Medicare to save you out of pocket expenses at the time of your appointment.

**SOME INFO ON THE SCHEME:**

**What is the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?**

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule is a dental benefits program for eligible children aged 2-17 years that provides up to $1,000 in benefits to the child for basic dental services. The Child Dental Benefits Schedule replaces the Medicare Teen Dental Plan from 1 January 2014.

Services that receive a benefit under the program include examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals, extractions and partial dentures. Many of these services have claiming restrictions. Services can be provided in a public or private setting. Benefits are not available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and cannot be paid for any services provided in a hospital.

**Which children are eligible for dental services?**

A child’s eligibility for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is assessed by the Department of Human Services. A child is eligible if they are aged between 2-17 years at any point in the calendar year and receive a relevant Australian government payment, such as Family Tax Benefit Part A, at any point in the calendar year.

**When are families assessed as eligible?**

The Department of Human Services assesses a child’s eligibility from the start of each calendar year and sends a notification to the child or the child’s carer. This notification may be done electronically, or in the form of a letter, which may be presented by the patient to the practice. Routine checks are performed throughout the year to determine newly eligible children. Most children will be informed of eligibility at the beginning of the year.

Feel free to phone the clinic to make an appointment or to discuss in more detail.
Why is it important for a child to learn maths?
Maths skills are important to a child’s success – both at school and in everyday life. Understanding maths also builds confidence and opens the door to a range of career options.

In our everyday lives, understanding maths enables us to:

- Manage time and money, and handle everyday situations that involve numbers (for example, calculate how much time we need to get to work, how much food we need in order to feed our families, and how much money that food will cost);
- Understand patterns in the world around us and make predictions based on patterns (for example, predict traffic patterns to decide on which way to go);
- Explain how we solved a problem and why we made a particular decision;
- Use technology (for example, calculators and computers) to help solve problems.

Knowing how to do maths makes our day-to-day lives easier!

Parental support and encouragement are vital to children’s mathematical development and success in school. Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers. What parents do with their children counts more than anything else in fostering a positive attitude to and an interest in mathematics.

How will my child learn maths?

Children learn easily when they can connect math concepts and procedures to their own experience. By using common household objects (such as measuring cups and spoons in the kitchen) and observing everyday events (such as weather patterns over the course of a week), they can "see" the ideas that are being taught.

An important part of learning maths is learning how to solve problems. Children are encouraged to use trial and error to develop their ability to reason and to learn how to go about problem solving. They learn that there may be more than one way to solve a problem and more than one answer. They also learn to express themselves clearly as they explain their solutions.

What tips can I use to help my child?

Be positive about maths!
Make maths part of your child's day.
Encourage your child to give explanations.

For more ideas keep an eye out for the ‘Maths Matters’ section in each fortnightly newsletter.

Margaret Turner. Numeracy Support, Rushworth P-12.
KYABRAM BLUE LIGHT DISCO

FRIDAY 28 FEB

YOUTH CLUB HALL
UNWIN STREET
KYABRAM

6.30-9PM

Prep to Year 9
Cost: $7.00

Contact: TANIA CHISWELL
KYABRAMBLUELIGHT.ORG.AU

WWW.BLUELIGHT.ORG.AU

Ask your parents to like the page if you are under 13.
SGR Giants Junior Football Club

are calling for any boy or girl 14 years or under interesting playing for the Stanhope, Girgarre, Rushworth Juniors to register interest by phoning or leaving a message for Sue on 0438546374.

We are currently seeking interested Under 14 players as we still require numbers. Under 12 numbers are looking great.

Training will commence Early March at the Stanhope Football Grounds, with the season starting Early April.

Club will be hosting a BBQ & Kick Thursday March 6th from 6.30pm at the Stanhope Football Ground for formal Registration Forms to be completed.

Fees remain the same as last year.

Looking forward to a great 2014

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Newsletter 2014

(PLEASE take the time to complete! Only a few have been returned and we will be making a decision soon!!!)

The College are currently reviewing how we will disseminate our College news for the 2014 school year, and we would like to gauge your response (sadly only a few thus far!) before we make a decision.

The options we are proposing include;

- Emailing home the newsletter on a fortnightly basis (NO PRINTING)
- Printing once per term - A College Highlights mini magazine and posting home.
- Compiling a once a week - one page flyer of the highlights of the week, emailing home.

Please tick ✓ the option/s that you prefer and send this slip back to the general office ASAP.

Please feel free to contact Kerrie Raglus at the College if you have any ideas.

Name:___________________________________________________

Email address:___________________________________________________________________
School Council Elections 2014

**What is a school council and what does it do?**

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

**Who is on the school council?**

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

**Why is Parent membership so important?**

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**How can you become involved?**

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?**

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?**

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.
Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact Brad Moyle, Principal for further information.

Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of
Rushworth P-12 College

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on
27 ........ / 02 ........ / 2014 (insert date and year).

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on
13 ........ / 03 ........ / 2014 (insert date and year)

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 20........ to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 20........ to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Bradley Moyle

Principal