Welcome back!

2015 is shaping up to be a phenomenal year. We are already busy into our learning and it was a real treat visiting the classrooms today and watching our enthusiastic scholars at work and play.

We are pleased to welcome several new students to our Rossville family. Please welcome Luca, Bay, Robert, Ned, Saxon and Netta! It was been wonderful to watch them make friends and figure out how to distinguish themselves as safe, responsible learners.

It was also fantastic to welcome back all of our school staff this year. We are very fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated staff. Ms Margie and Ms Melissa will continue to teach prep and assist with small group targeted learning. Ms Tonya continues to teach the JR class with the additional task of teaching science across the whole school. Ms Tonya is a trained high school science teacher so our students will no doubt be extended by her expertise. Ms Heidi will teach the SR class Monday—Wednesday and she will also teach our BOOST program school wide with Chappy. I look forward to teaching the SR class Thursdays and Fridays as well as reading comprehension and writing workshop to JR students.

I’m looking forward to working with all of you this year to implement the improvement agenda for the school that we worked on together last term. I hope to see all of you at our Meet, Greet and Eat afternoon tea in Week 3.

Cheers, Amelia

Meet, Greet and Eat! Tuesday 10 February 2015

We would love to welcome all parents, carers and community members to the school for an afternoon tea on the Tuesday 10th of February. This will be an opportunity for everyone to mingle in the beautiful setting of Rossville SS and to meet staff, see the classrooms, talk to the teachers, and to share your ideas for making 2015 the best year yet at Rossville! We invite you to bring a plate, a picnic blanket or chairs, and enjoy the afternoon from 2:30—4:30pm. All students and family members are welcome. Look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome back!
Junior Class Capers!!

From Miss Tonya

Most of the Junior class have started school ready to learn. They have settled into new routines so quickly and easily: I am amazed! However, we still have a number of children who have not returned from holidays. I would like to remind all families that every day counts. We are busy learning every day!

We have so many exciting things happening this term. We have spent quite a bit of time researching and developing programs and activities that we believe will help BOOST each child in body, mind and spirit.

(To find out more about Boost, come along to Meet, Greet and Eat on Tuesday 10th February.)

Did you know? Doing art can boost students’ achievement by the equivalent of 6 months of schooling, as they feel more engaged at school, activate more parts of their brain, and the benefits flow on to other subjects.

Some students are being extended academically through the opportunity to work in the Senior room for selected subject areas. All students will be offered a choice of Art Electives. Students choose from: creative movement (dance), drama, digital media and visual arts.

If you have an artistic passion, please get in touch, as we will be looking for more ideas for art electives for later terms.

Miss Margie is continuing her Philosophy lessons. In Philosophy, children practise core skills of speaking and listening, but also discuss the big questions like: What does it mean to be happy? and Which is most important, love or money? We are very grateful to Miss Margie for extending our children into such deep thinkers.

FRUIT BREAK

We start each morning with a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables. Unfortunately we aren’t able to cut fruit for children, so please send cut fruit that children can manage easily or try bite-sized bits like grapes, sultanas or cherry tomatoes.
Senior Class Capers!!

From Miss Heidi

Yeah! What a wonderful start to the year! 2015 is going to be an amazing year!

Communication

This year I would like to communicate to families as often as possible about the great work that your children are doing in class. I will be phoning parents to ask what the easiest way of communicating with you is. Some parents may choose email, phoning or a letter home. Unfortunately I don’t have access to text as yet. So please let me know which form you would choose to ensure that you get photos and stories about what your child is doing at school.

Please email me if you would prefer to be emailed: hcarr51@eq.edu.au

Homework

To start the year we are easing into homework and we will be working as a class, towards a common goal. The focus to start with is reading. We are hoping that all students will be reading every week.

Homework will be handed out on Tuesday and it is to be returned the following Tuesday.

Refuel

When students first come into the classroom they are invited to bring a healthy snack with them to eat. Children could eat fruit, vegetables or nuts that are easy to snack on and don’t cause too much mess. This food is to be enjoyed as soon as they come into the classroom. Students are also welcome to bring a drink bottle that can be placed on their desk.

WOW Words for Week 1 & 2:

We are building our vocabularies with sophisticated words that will help us achieve! You can help us by encouraging us to use our WOW words at home. If some of these words are new to you, ask us. We love to show off our learning.

allocate, assemble, articulate, ascertain, accomplish, adversary, aplomb, apprehensive, aptitude, attentive affable, agreeable, application, banish, contribution
This year Rossville State School is very excited to be implementing Positive Education as a response to last year’s forum of what direction the school community wants to take in the next four years. The Rossville Positive Education Program is called Boost!

"Positive Education brings together the science of Positive Psychology with best practice teaching to encourage and support individuals, schools and communities to flourish. We refer to flourishing as a combination of ‘feeling good and doing good.’ Positive Education focuses on specific skills that assist students to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, enhance personal resilience, promote mindfulness, and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

We also aim to foster engagement amongst our students, encourage them to achieve and, ultimately, equip them with the qualities to enable them to fulfil their life purpose.”

(from the Geelong Grammar Positive Education Website)

Positive Psychology has five elements of wellbeing. They are:

- **P**ositive **E**motion
- **E**ngagement
- **R**elationships
- **M**eaning
- **A**ccomplishments

Every Tuesday, Ms Heidi and Chappy will be explicitly teaching elements of positive education to the whole school. We will also be embedding the above elements throughout the curriculum and practicing them in our school routines. We look forward to sharing more about positive education with you at our Meet, Greet & Eat Tuesday 10 February at 2:30 pm. In the meantime, feel free to ask us any questions or find out how you can learn more about our Boost! Program.