Welcome to Rockville State School

2013 Handbook

Rockville State School
3 Holberton Street
Toowoomba Qld 4350

'a great place to learn'

Principals welcome
Dear Parents, Carers and new Students

Welcome to Rockville State School and the beginning of your learning journey with us. Starting a new school is an exciting time and we are looking forward to working with you as we build your child’s skills and confidence in trying new things.

Our school provides a learning environment that is ‘a great place to learn’ as we have access to a number of fantastic resources including well resourced classrooms with access to an interactive whiteboard, a well resourced library, large outdoor playing areas, 2 multipurpose rooms, music and art rooms and a swimming pool.

Rockville is very fortunate to be part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. Children from Prep to Year 7 have opportunities to grow fruit and vegetables in our gardens and then harvest and cook fresh food in our purpose built kitchen. This program is an integral and unique feature of our school curriculum.

A key feature of our school is our Rockville B rules and you will notice bee pictures around the school. Our B rules are:
1. Be a learner;
2. Be responsible; and
3. Be encouraging

We also have a number of reward systems including:
- Going for GOLD— where student work towards our Friday Reward Afternoons and end of term Reward Days
- High Fives where children collect stamps for following our rules. Children who reach key goals receive certificates on parade
- Playground ‘gotcha’s and hatcha’s’

As part of your child’s induction process (Yr 2-7) they will be given a short booklet to complete based on Rockville School. Once completed and shared with you they can then bring it to me so I can give them a prize.

The whole school community is looking forward to you and your family being a part of the Rockville School and don’t forget to join our P&C. Our P&C make a very valuable contribution to our school becoming ‘a great place to learn’ and this dedicated group is always looking for people keen to become involved.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school office.

Thank you

Simon and the Rockville Team
A typical Rockville Prep Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>What happens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45 am</td>
<td><strong>START OF DAY—</strong> • Parents/carers drop children off to class and can join in with the start of day activities. · If you are running late then please sign your child in at the office before going to class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00—10.45 am</td>
<td><strong>CLASS TIME</strong> • Start of the day activities for children and parents • Carpet Time &amp; Roll Call • Literacy rotations including reading, writing and spelling • Stephanie Alexander Kitchen or Garden learning time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 am</td>
<td><strong>BRAIN FOOD &amp; TOILET BREAK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.45—11.00 am</td>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong> • Numeracy blocks or Science lessons • Specialist Lessons—Music/PE cooking and gardening • Whole Group Focussed Teaching and Sharing opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00—11.25 am</td>
<td><strong>Eating Time</strong> • Play Time • Drink &amp; Toileting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.25—11.30 am</td>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong> • Rotations - Numeracy or Science (Teacher directed and guided activities) • Specialist Lessons—Music/PE cooking and gardening • Whole Group Focussed Teaching and Sharing opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30—1.00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong> • Rotations - Numeracy or Science (Teacher directed and guided activities) • Specialist Lessons—Music/PE cooking and gardening • Whole Group Focussed Teaching and Sharing opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00—1.10 pm</td>
<td><strong>Eating Time (Afternoon Tea)</strong> • Play Time • Drink &amp; Toileting</td>
</tr>
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<td>1.10—1.25 pm</td>
<td><strong>Class Time</strong> • Focussed Lesson (Science, Literacy, Speaking and listening &amp; Numeracy) • Stephanie Alexander Kitchen or Garden learning time • Friday GOLD Reward Afternoon (1.45–2.45pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.15—2.45 pm</td>
<td><strong>End of Day Routines include:</strong> • SMART Moves • Wednesday Whole School Parade • Story and sharing</td>
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<td>2.45 pm</td>
<td><strong>HOME TIME</strong> • Children to be collected from carpeted area by parent/family member or responsible adult (please make sure ALL adults who collect your child are known by the office and are identified on our system—thank you) • If you are running late then please ring the office so we can let the teacher know and re-assure your child.</td>
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<td><strong>START OF DAY</strong> • Please make sure you get to school on time as— • Updating of Going for GOLD charts (behaviour, attendance and homework)</td>
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<td><strong>Session 1</strong> • Focus reading session for all classes where children work in small groups developing key reading skills</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2</strong> • Focus on writing, spelling and grammar • Numeracy blocks or Science lessons • Specialist Lessons—Music/PE or Art • Cooking or gardening sessions including Language of Food • Whole Group Focussed Teaching and Sharing opportunities.</td>
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During 2013 the staff at Rockville will be working to implement the new Australian Curriculum (ACARA) for:
- English;
- Mathematics;
- Science; and
- History

For the other Key Learning Areas we will be following the Queensland Curriculum of 'Essential Learnings' in:
- SOSE—Studies of Society and Environment
- The Arts—Music, Art and Drama
- Healthy and Physical Education
- LOTE—Languages Other than English

Our formal reporting structure at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2 will reflect both the Australian Curriculum and the Queensland Curriculum in our reporting comments.

At the end of 2013 we will begin to implement the new History aspect of the Australian Curriculum and begin moving away from the Queensland SOSE Curriculum.

Our unique Curriculum at Rockville

We are very fortunate to have such a great learning environment that we utilise to engage our students in real life learning experiences. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden Program allows our students the opportunity to grow, harvest and cook in our purpose built facility.

Language of Food—LOTE at Rockville

Our Year 4’s to 7 have been piloting a ‘Language of Food’ program combining the study of the Italian language with the study of Italian food, following the Stephanie Alexander principles.

General Information about Rockville State School

Key Contacts:
- Office—Sue Swadling & Sherrena Ryan
- Principal—Simon Flint
- Phone: 4659 2333
- Office hours—8:30am—4:00pm

What to wear:

At Rockville State School we expect all children to come to school every day wearing the approved school uniform. All families are issued with the Uniform Policy.

Uniforms can be ordered and collected through the school office and Tuckshop.

What to bring to school?
- Named school bag
- Named school uniform, especially jumpers and hats
- Healthy lunch and a non-fizzy drink e.g. sandwich, dried fruit, a piece of fresh fruit, yoghurt and spoon, cheese.
- Healthy afternoon tea e.g. fruit or a muesli bar
- Spare clothing in a school bag in case of accidents or mishaps.
- A named Rockville State School book bag

What to leave at home
- Caps—we have sun safe hats as part of our uniform. From Year 1 all children will wear wide brimmed blue hats for outdoor play and PE lessons.
- Toys and other personal treasures from home as these can get broken or lost.

Student Leadership

We have a number of opportunities for students to become involved in our school including becoming:
- School Captains or Sports Captains (Year 6 and 7)
- Student Council Members (Year 1—Year 7)
- Prep Buddies (Year 4 and 5)
- Library Monitors and Eco-Citizens (Year 4—Year 7)
Sharing Information

Events in family life such as illness, accidents, family visits, births or deaths (even family pets) can cause major concern or excitement for children which may affect how they interact at school. If such an event affects you we would appreciate being informed so that we can support your child through this period of time.

Celebrations

Children love to celebrate their birthday at school with their classmates. You are most welcome to send along a cake or enough cup cakes to share.

If your child does not celebrate such occasions then please inform your class teacher.

What if my child is sick:

Before school:
• If your child is sick in the morning and will not be attending school then please ring the school office.

During the school day:
• If your child becomes unwell during the school day they will be given the opportunity to rest in the sick/medical room which is in the office area.
• During this time your child will be monitored and you may be notified to come and collect them early.

Returning to school after an illness:
When your child returns to school after an illness we ask that you either send in a letter or complete one of our slips so that we can update our rolls.

After 3 days of illness we will require a doctors certificate for our records.

Extra Curricula Activities

We offer a range of extra curricula activities including—choir (Prep—Year 7), Can do Club (Year 4-Year 7), Gardening (Prep—Year 7) and a weekly Homework Club (Prep-Year 7).

Please check our weekly newsletter for updates on programs on offer including our Active Afternoons Sports program which changes termly.

We expect children to come to school everyday and on time.
However we know that family holidays and illness can affect children’s attendance so we ask you keep us informed so that we can ensure your child has 100% attendance with explained absences.

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As part of our reward system each child has there own ‘going for Gold’ chart where they record their:
• Attendance
• Behaviour; and
• Homework completion.

Children work towards the different levels of Gold, Silver and Bronze. This level is used to reward students during our Gold Reward Friday afternoons and end of Term Reward Days.

Gold Reward Friday’s—children achieving:
• GOLD level get to choose from a range of options for the last session on a Friday including sport, art or music
• SILVER level miss part of the reward afternoon catching up on work or their homework once completed they join one of the options
• BRONZE level have time out to reflect upon their choices and plan for a better week.

Behaviour—all children are expected to follow our 3 Be rules at all times. Each class has a peg system where child can be given warnings for making poor choices. More than 1 warning will mean a child drops to a Silver level.

Rewards and recognition

High Fives
• Each child has a stamp book where they are awarded stamps for following our rules and making good choices.
• At 50 high fives children bring a slip to the office to collect a prize.
• At 75 high fives children place their slip in the bag in the office which will ensure they will receive a certificate on parade—following parade they can collect a 75 high five prize from the office.

Playground hatcha’s and gotcha’s
• These are given out during break times for following our rules and wearing appropriate hats
• Children place their slip in the appropriate bag in the office
• During parade a gotcha and hatcha draw is held and the children winning get to choose a prize.
Before your child starts school in Prep / Year 1 they should be able to:

- Repeat and recognise his/her own name.
- Recognise and organise his/her own belongings.
- Take off, and put on, outer clothing and jumpers.
- Take off and put own shoes—velcro shoes are great!
- Use a handkerchief/tissue when required.
- Flush a toilet and wash and dry hands after using the toilet.
- Open and close his/her own school bag.
- Unwrap and open simple packaging including cling wrap around sandwiches.
- Open water bottles
- Ask for help when needed.

What you can do to help:

- Collecting materials for art, collage and construction.
- Become a ‘Rockville Reading Volunteer’
- Visiting our classroom.
- Clearly name and label all your child’s possessions and clothes.
- Make sure your children arrive at school on time and attend everyday.

What would be helpful for us to know:

Can you please notify the school of any:

- Copies of any health/educational reports you have received including speech, doctors or paediatrician.
- Health issues including allergies especially food related.
- How your child will / may react when you leave them for extended periods of time.
- Other adults or contacts who may collect your child during the school year.

What would be helpful for you to know:

During February all parents will meet with their child’s teacher to share relevant information. These scheduled meetings will run for 15 minutes.

And finally....

We are excited to be working with your child this coming year. We look forward to building positive partnerships as we learn and develop together.

We are here to provide a quality learning experience for your child as we strive to achieve of our aims of making Rockville ‘a great place to learn’, so we always welcome feedback.
By being prepared and feeling confident about starting school you will ensure your child will settle quickly into their new class. If you are unsure of anything or have any queries, please ask your child's teacher.

**Before School**
- Well rested (10-12 hours sleep)
- Well nourished (balanced breakfast)
- Child knows school collection arrangements
- Be on time
- Smile when you say goodbye and tell them that you will be back to collect them at 2.45pm.
- Remain positive - if you look forward to the first day then your child will also.

**Inside the child’s bag**
- Has child’s name on inside and on outside.
- Lunchbox contains morning and afternoon tea (is also named).
- Brain food (please cut up any large fruit like apples or oranges).
- Spare clothing in plastic bag.
- Optional water bottle (named)
- Tuckshop order if relevant

**Child is wearing**
- School uniform (all items named)
- Enclosed BLACK shoes (runners with velcro or straps)
- White socks (named)

**After School**
- Be on time and wait near the classroom.
- Check school bag for all items.
- Check class pockets / KIT books for teacher/ school correspondence and letters.
- Smile and ask how your child’s day went.