

RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Issue: 2 Date: 1st April 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

School Values

Our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Safety and being an Active Learner are reinforced daily through classroom and schoolyard conversations and activities. It has been pleasing to see some students becoming an 'upstander' rather than a 'bystander' and reminding others that their behaviour or language is not acceptable as well as awarding correct behaviours and seeking adult assistance. We are fortunate to have a school where everyone has the opportunity to engage in a wide selection of active and passive activities in a safe and calm environment.

Warragul Show

It was great to see all of the students' individual and class competition entries and artwork at the Warragul Show over the Labour Day weekend. Many received prizes or commendations and our school display organised by Mr Baker also received an award. Our gate duty on Friday night and Saturday assisting with disabled car parking was supported by a number of staff and parents and will raise \$600 towards our school fundraising efforts. We will be undertaking this task on an annual basis, so please put the 2027 Warragul Show dates in your calendar.

Sporting Schools

Students have been enjoying Ultimate Frisbee coaching sessions provided by DS Sports and many have been practising their skills of throwing, catching, target practice and distance competitions. Our Sporting Schools grants pay for these visiting coaches and we hope to be successful with additional grant applications for different sports in future terms.



KEY DATES

April

Thursday	2 nd	Easter Fun Day Last Day of Term 1, 2:15 finish
Friday	3 rd	Good Friday
Saturday	4 th	Easter Saturday
Sunday	5 th	Easter
Monday	6 th	Easter Monday
Monday	20 th	First Day of Term 2
Friday	24 th	ANZAC Service Assembly
Saturday	25 th	ANZAC Day

May

Monday	4 th	School Council
Friday	8 th	Mother's Day Stall
Friday	22 nd	9:30am - 12:30pm

June

Friday	5 th	Curriculum Day
Monday	8 th	King's Birthday Holiday
Thursday	11 th	School Photos
Friday	26 th	Last Day of Term 2



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE PART 2

Clubs

Afternoon Clubs have started on Wednesdays allowing students to participate in Sports, Gardening, Outdoor Ed, Origami, Card Games or Sewing/Knitting. We hope to increase these weekly groups with parent involvement in Term 2. Interested and available parents will have an induction and information session in April so they can assist.

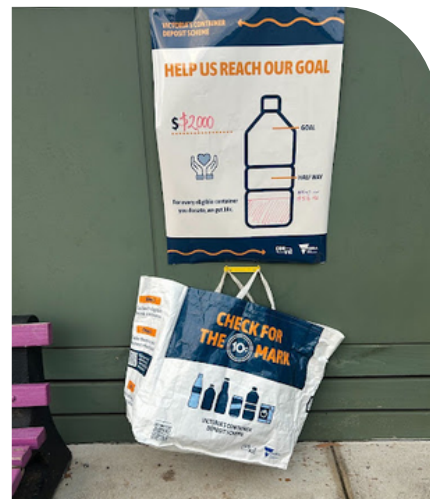
District Athletics

Congratulations to Arjay, Katie, Will, Taj, Darcie, Marley, Jett and Kai who represented our school at the District Athletics in Warragul. All students competed in at least three different events and some will progress to the Division Athletics held in Term 2.



Return-It Scheme

Thanks to the families and students who have regularly been using our three CDS bags at the school gates and office, we now have over \$620 from returning the 10 cent containers for recycling which all goes towards our school's budget as well as helping the environment. We have also submitted an entry for Sustainable Schools awards in the CDS category and we will have an opportunity to showcase our efforts during Term 2 when they visit our school to see our progress, speak to the students and take some photos for promoting the scheme.



Nigel Kilpatrick
Principal

OFFICE NEWS

RIPPLEBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next School Council meetings will be on the following dates.

Term 2

Monday 4th May

Monday 1st June

These meetings take place in the school library from 6:15 pm till 8:15 pm.

BREAKFAST CLUB

BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Students are not permitted to enter Breakfast Club after 8:30 am. Students are welcome to arrive at school from this time but there must be an understanding that the schoolyard is not supervised until 8:45 am and students are still the responsibility of parents.



COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

If you are having concerns logging on to the portal for the first time or if you have misplaced your login details, please contact Amanda or Mr Baker in the office for assistance.

The Compass Parent Portal can be accessed by the following link:

<https://ripplebrookps-vic.compass.education/login.aspx>

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE

As a School we use Compass, to monitor student attendance. In the case of a child/ren being absent from school, it is most important that the school is notified.

Parents/Carers need to contact the school office (5627 6278) on or before the first day of your child/ren's absence by 9.45 am or log on to Compass to record the absence and continue this process until they return to school.

When students have not arrived at school and the school's administration staff have not received written or verbal notification, an SMS notification will be sent out at 10:00 am to parents/carers seeking explanations of their child's absence. We kindly request that you contact the school ASAP in response to this message.

UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE LETTERS

Unexplained absence letters are sent home to families regularly. Please sign and return these for accurate records.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Just a reminder that School Newsletters come out on Thursdays (hopefully!) at the end of each month. Copies of the school newsletter are electronically sent out on Compass. You can also find a copy of the newsletter on the school website and Facebook page. A hard copy of the newsletter is provided to the eldest student in the family if it was requested by families.

OFFICE NEWS

Office Reminders

Note for our families, just a reminder that the office is usually only manned most days of the week. If you need additional copies of any forms or notices that have gone home, please contact your classroom staff or check on Compass.

Please make sure all notices come with your child to their room or are handed into the office. Also, if we can't answer your call at the time, please leave a message as we do check the voicemail on a regular basis throughout the day and we will get back to you as soon as we can. For an emergency call the school mobile on 0428 276 279

Office Hours for Term 1 2026

Our school office will be manned most days out of the week this term with Amanda and Mr Baker working in the office over the week.

Amanda will be in on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 am to 4 pm for anything financial-related and general office matters.

Mr Baker will be in on most afternoons from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm for general office inquiries.

If the office is closed on a day the phone will be going through to the 2/3 classroom.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

GRADE LEVEL	EVENT	COST DUE	PERMISSION DUE
All	Families who returned signed 2026 Voluntary Curriculum Contributions	\$ 60	Term 1
All	Easter Raffle	\$20	

Parent Payment Policy 2026

2026 Parent Payment Policy letters have been sent home late last year. If you would like a copy, please drop by the office to ask for a new copy.

Voluntary Curriculum Contributions

Thanks to families for their voluntary curriculum contributions. This has enabled us to purchase/update learning resources at the school. This supports the enrichment of your children's education and overall learning environment at Ripplebrook Primary School.

CSEF

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. Forms are at the office if you haven't already filled one out.

Payment Options

Families now have several ways to pay for school uniforms, school camp, excursions, and voluntary curriculum contributions. Payments can be made at the office by card if that is your preferred method, or through BPay, direct deposit, or cash.

If you need to discuss payments, please call Amanda McLaughlin, our School Business Manager, she is in on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.



Amanda McLaughlin
Business Manager

MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we reach the end of Term 1, students have been developing important skills to support their mental health and wellbeing. Throughout the term, children have been learning about recognising and understanding emotions, and exploring healthy ways to manage and express their feelings.

In classrooms, students have been discussing how everyone experiences a wide range of emotions such as happiness, excitement, frustration, worry and disappointment. Learning to recognise and name these feelings is an important first step in helping children regulate their emotions and seek support when they need it. Classes have also practised simple strategies to help manage big feelings, such as taking slow breaths, pausing before reacting, talking to a trusted adult, and finding calm spaces when needed.

Another key focus this term has been gratitude, inspired by our work with The Resilience Project. Students have been encouraged to notice and appreciate positive moments in their day – whether it's a kind action from a friend, learning something new, being grateful for our amazing bodies and what our bodies help us to achieve in our everyday lives. Practising gratitude helps us build positive thinking habits and supports our overall wellbeing.

Families can support this learning at home by having simple conversations such as:

- "What was something that made you feel happy today?"
- "Did you have any tricky feelings today?"
- "What is one thing you are grateful for today?"

A simple activity you can do together as a Family is a Gratitude Walk.

During the holidays, try going on a short family walk together. As you walk, take turns sharing one thing you are grateful for. It could be something small like sunny weather, a favourite toy, a friend, or spending time together.

At the end of the walk, ask each other:

- What was something you noticed that made you smile?
- Did hearing others' gratitude make you think differently?

These small daily check-ins help children feel heard and supported, while reinforcing the wellbeing skills they are learning at school.

Many parents find these conversations reassuring, relatable and helpful in supporting wellbeing conversations at home.



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and
Wellbeing Leader
(MHWL)

MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

As part of our ongoing work with The Resilience Project, we encourage families to explore The Imperfects podcast. Hosted by Hugh van Cuylenburg, Ryan Shelton and Josh van Cuylenburg, the podcast features honest and often humorous conversations with well-known Australians about life's challenges, mental health and the realities of being human. The conversations normalise imperfection and encourage open discussion about wellbeing — messages that closely align with what students learn through The Resilience Project.

If you're looking for a thoughtful listen during a walk, commute or quiet moment, the following episodes are a great place to start:

website link: <https://www.theimperfects.com.au/#>

Dr Julie Smith – Building Confidence, Brick by Brick – This podcast breaks down how confidence actually develops. It has practical tools for managing anxiety, emotional regulation and helping young people cope with pressure.

Hamish Blake – Let's Talk About Self-Doubt – a light-hearted but meaningful conversation about self-doubt, parenting and staying grounded.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we wish all families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable school holiday break.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

We're working with The Resilience Project

We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program. Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** and **Emotional Literacy**.

<p>Gratitude</p> <p>Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives. Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.</p>	<p>Empathy</p> <p>Empathy involves understanding others' feelings and perspectives and is practised through kindness, compassion and curiosity. Developing empathy fosters deeper connections, increases our likelihood of acting kindly, and helps us experience positive emotions.</p>
<p>Mindfulness</p> <p>The practice of mindfulness is about an awareness of life as we are living it.</p> <p>It allows us to be responsive to our experiences rather than being reactive, and to live with greater balance, presence and connection.</p>	<p>Emotional Literacy</p> <p>Emotional Literacy involves learning to identify and label our emotions, as well as developing emotional regulation skills. When we can accurately name our feelings and emotions, it reduces the impact of uncomfortable emotions and enhances the effect of positive ones.</p>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:

@theresilienceproject —
 The Resilience Project
 The Resilience Project
 theresilienceproject.com.au



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL)

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are pleased to announce our Junior School Council representatives for 2026. These students have been selected for their leadership, responsibility, and commitment to representing their peers and contributing positively to our school community.



We look forward to seeing the great ideas and enthusiasm they will bring to their roles throughout the year. Congratulations to all our representatives!



Mrs. Smith and our Junior School Council representatives Gordi P/1, Will & Marley 2/3 and Taj 4/5&6 with School Captains)

THUMBS UP



Parents and staff who assisted at the Warragul Show



All the families that help with hot lunch each and every week.



Drouin Golden Bakery for their continued support with yummy treats, rolls and bread

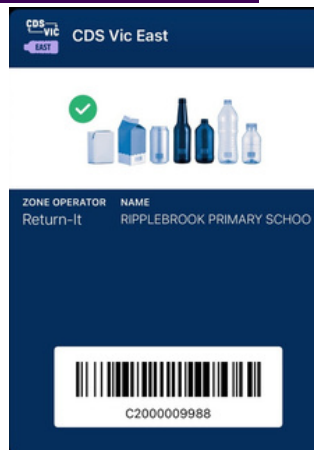


To all the Families who donated to the School Easter Raffle this year.



VICTORIA CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Ripplebrook Primary School is now a registered organisation for the Return-It Recycling scheme. If you would like to donate some or all of your 10c returns to the school, please use the code C2000009988.



ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' privacy policy and the Schools' privacy collection notice.

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' privacy policy: information for parents.

STUDENT DIARIES

Ripplebrook Primary School values the relationship between parents, carers, students, and staff. At all times we encourage open and honest communication and believe this will model our student's responsible problem-solving and social and well-being behaviours.

The diaries are an opportunity for communication between home and the classroom. We expect that diaries will travel between home and school daily. Diaries are checked in the classroom regularly and initialed to indicate that they have been seen. All information home from school (e.g. information on special events or permission slips) is placed in the rear of these diaries or family pouches.

It is extremely important that these diaries are checked at home each day. We understand that everyone has busy lives, but your assistance with this communication channel is greatly appreciated.



OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

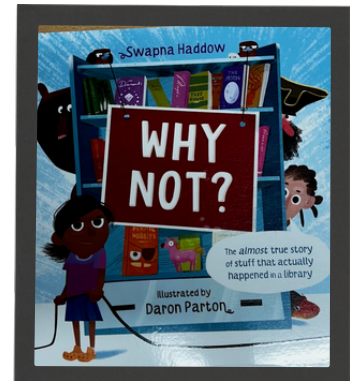
Our library needs your help! If you can spare an hour or two to help in our school library, Mr Baker would really appreciate the help.

He is looking for help with covering books, tidying and sorting the shelves and general tasks around the library.

Book of the Month

"Well, you probably won't believe me if I say it's a snake-ahuge, child swallowing anaconda," said the librarian. A child visits the library with thier mum, who tells them to finda book and stay out of trouble. Almost immediately, the librarian warns the child against doing certain things, like climbing the shelves, peeling up the carpet, or taking a particular book.

Each time, the child responds with 'Why not?' prompting the librarian to spin increasingly outrageous stories



CLASS NEWS FROM PREP/ONE

Wow — we can't believe we're already at the end of Term 1!

It has been a busy and productive term, with students developing new skills and completing their assessments. In Mathematics, we have been focusing on number work, including counting forwards and backwards, identifying numbers before and after, and exploring "number friends."

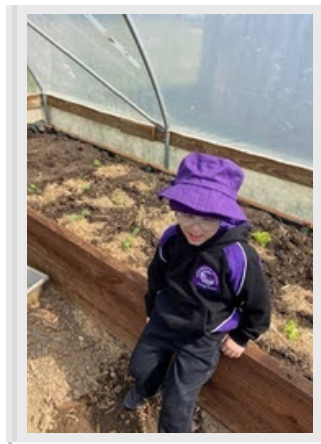
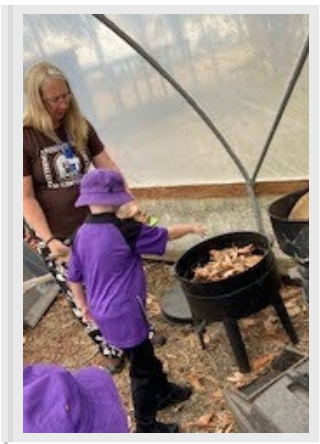
In Writing, students have been working hard on correct letter formation, as well as improving their size and spacing. They have also been learning about sentence structure and the use of punctuation.

During Reading sessions, students are learning to recognise letters and their corresponding sounds. They are beginning to break down words and sound them out as they read, building confidence and independence.

Our Prep/1 students have also been enjoying developing their drawing skills each Friday afternoon. It has been wonderful to see their growing confidence, along with improvements in pencil grip and control.



Wednesday afternoons have been particularly exciting, as students take part in group activities. The gardening group has been busy preparing garden beds and planting vegetable seedlings. We have also started a composting station and have been learning about the importance of composting and worm farms in our gardens. We are looking forward to watching the plants grow and are excited about the possibility of using the produce in cooking later on.



It has been a fantastic term, and we are very proud of all the students' efforts and achievements!



Mrs. McIntosh, Ms Drury
Prep/One Team

CLASS NEWS FROM TWO/THREE

What a fantastic and busy term we have had in our Grade 2/3 classroom!

We have been working hard on our beginning of year assessments, and our Grade 3 students have shown great focus and perseverance during NAPLAN. We are very proud of the effort everyone has put into their learning.

In maths, we have been learning about place value and how to record, partition and rename numbers using money. This will help in our everyday lives when we need to work out how we can use notes and coins we have available to pay for shopping, or to work out if we have been given the correct amount of change.

This term, students explored design and creativity by constructing their own planes out of balsa wood. They loved testing and flying their creations, and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm for this hands-on learning experience.

We also celebrated Harmony Day, taking time to talk about inclusion and the importance of everyone feeling that they belong. Students decorated people cut-outs, which were used as part of an "Everyone Belongs" display.

Our school garden is growing well. We are excited to see that the zucchinis planted last year by our current Grade 3 students have been carefully watered and looked after. They are growing beautifully and are almost ready to harvest.



Over the past couple of weeks, we introduced Wednesday afternoon clubs. Students selected their preferences and have really enjoyed working with peers from across different year levels. Club options include card games, origami, outdoor education, gardening, Knitting Nancy and sewing, as well as sports. We are looking forward to continuing these clubs next term.

We have also begun Performing Arts on Fridays, where students are developing their singing skills. They have been learning "Waltzing Matilda," the Australian National Anthem, and fun variations of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

In Japanese, students have been building their confidence by learning how to name colours, express likes and dislikes, and talk about what they are good at or still practising.

It has been a wonderful term full of learning, creativity, and connection. We wish all families a safe and relaxing break and look forward to another exciting term ahead!



Mrs Smith, Mrs Wilson, and Mr Baker

Two/Three Team

CLASS NEWS FROM FOUR/FIVE & SIX



All students have successfully designed and constructed their planes and most have flown successfully. Some planes required repairs or modifications and students have been learning about the importance of Thrust, Lift, Weight and Drag when building a model aircraft. Close attention to detail and accurate measurements have proved much better than racing through the steps in the process.

Students have been writing their own procedures listing Equipment and Materials and using verbs to start each step. Basic procedures such as Lego building and detailed recipes involving lots of ingredients have been discussed.



Experiments involving Friction have been developed with students using model cars, a sloped ramp and different surfaces such as cardboard, synthetic grass, whiteboards and paper to see which provided the greatest distance for travel and which made movement difficult. This was also evident with the plane flying sessions where the new basketball court was too thick to allow the planes to get up speed for take-off but the concrete floor in the gym was perfect as a runway and landing strip.



As part of Australian Geography and History studies, students have been researching one of the eight different states or territories in our country, finding out about major events, famous people, landmarks and climate as well as political leaders, population, flags and symbols. It has been pleasing to see the different styles of presentation and students discovering some new information about their country.



Mr Kilpatrick, and Mr. Miller
Grade 4/5 & 6 Team



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take a moment to share some updates from our OSHC program. We have seen a fantastic increase in attendance this term, with consistent bookings across the week and additional casual bookings as well. It has been wonderful to see our service growing and so many children enjoying their time with us.



Our communication processes have improved, with many families now contacting me directly via phone or text. This has helped streamline daily organisation and reduce pressure on the school office, ensuring we can respond more efficiently to changes.

A special mention to Sophie or Miss Miller as the children know her, who has been an incredible asset to the team. She has built strong relationships with all the children and provides valuable support, particularly on days with staff changes. Her presence has made a positive difference to both the team and the program.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed our "around the world" experiences, exploring different countries through food and activities. This has been highly engaging, and we look forward to continuing this into next term. To finish the term, we have embraced all things Easter, with themed activities that the children have loved.

As always, we continue to work through updated policies and new regulatory requirements to ensure we remain compliant and provide a safe and high quality service.



Thank you to all our families for your ongoing support this term. We wish you a safe and happy holiday break and look forward to welcoming everyone back next term.

Thank you for your ongoing support of OSHC. As always, if you have any questions, feedback or ideas, please feel free to reach out to me on 0428 276 279 or paula.scanlon@education.vic.gov.au



Ms Paula Scanlon
OSHC Coordinator

MEAL DEAL



Stickybeaks from the School Office \$10

**Meal Deal \$9 per student
Lunch \$ 5
Treat \$4**

Hot lunch is prepared by Ms Scanlon and a parent helper each Friday.

The cost is \$9 per student for lunch and a treat. All money and orders need to be in on a Wednesday morning (students normally bring these in their Stickybeaks reusable bags which are available for \$10 from the office) and put in their lunch order tub that will be in their classroom so it can be counted for catering purposes.

Please note from time to time the Hot Lunch menu can change from what is originally planned, but we will endeavour to let you know asap if this happens.

Date	Lunch	Treat	Parent Helper
24/4	Rippa meatball Subs (think ubway)	Anzac slice	Renee
1/5	Honey BBQ cheesy beef pasta	Chocolate mousse	Sarah
8/5	Hot chicken and gravy roll	Ice cream sundaes	Erin
15/5	Cottage pie	Sticky date pudding and ice cream	Beth
22/5	Fried rice with honey soy chicken drumsticks	Honey joys	Kristie

Ms. Scanlon is looking for parents to help with Hot Lunch this year, if you would like to help her with this, please let Paula know. You will need to make sure you have a valid WWCC and that we have a copy of it.

CHAPPY NEWS

Hello, I'm your School Chaplain Samantha Bond or 'Chappy'. I have been a School Chaplain for 15 years in Qld and Vic, primary and high school. School Chaplains work closely with Mental Health and Wellbeing support in the school and are here for students, families and staff. My role is to support the wellbeing program of the whole school in this community.

I am here every Tuesday and alternating Wednesday and Friday. Chaplains run social skills and wellbeing groups, lunch programs, one to one mentoring and just support across the school generally. I can also arrange food hampers etc. If you feel your child would benefit from one to one mentoring, you can contact me through the school, MHIPs (Mrs. Smith), or via email

samantha.bond@education.vic.gov.au

FUN WITH LUNCH TIME CLUBS!

COOKING CLUB-ALTERNATING WEDNESDAYS@SNACK

Vietnamese Rice Paper Rolls were a favourite and very easy to make! Perhaps a lunchbox alternative? We used lettuce, carrots, bean sprouts, cucumber, vermicelli and bbq chicken. The students also enjoyed making shamrocks with arrowroot biscuits and this week we will have some Easter chocolate fun.



DRUMMING EVERY ALTERNATING FRIDAY@SNACK

Using djembe drums and mini bongos and percussion, we make lots of noisy fun at snack play time with guided activities. We generally have between 4 and 12 joining in at any time, throughout snack play time.



LOOM BANDS- EVERY TUESDAY@ LUNCH PLAY TIME

The students just love making bracelets, rings and occasionally a necklace from the bounty of coloured elastics. They get a lot of satisfaction, as you can see.

