

RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Issue: 3 Date: 21st May 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Anzac Service

Thanks to Seb and Rylee for leading our school's Anzac Service on Friday 24th April. Thanks to Merrick, Taj and Declan who assisted with laying a wreath on behalf of our school at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day in Lang Lang. Thanks to Mr Baker for organising the wreath and communicating with the RSL.

Division Athletics

Congratulations to Katie, Arjay and Darcie who participated in Division Athletics at Newborough on May 4th. All three girls earned the chance with their efforts at District Athletics which were held at the end of Term 1. Darcie will progress to Regional Athletics in October after finishing second in her hurdles event.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

We have used our \$15000 SAKG grant to purchase two new colourbond garden beds to be placed outside the kitchen ready to be planted with vegetables and herbs that can be used for Cooking Club, Hot Lunch ingredients and OSHC. The garden beds were designed by Tank You in Koo Wee Rup and our nice new soil was delivered by Down To Earth Garden Supplies in Drouin.



KEY DATES

<u>May</u>			<u>July</u>		
Friday	22 nd	Open Morning 9:30 til 12:30 pm	Monday	13 th	First day of Term 3
			Friday	24 th	School Tree Day
			Monday	27 th	Book Fair Opens
			Friday	31 st	Family & Friends Day
<u>June</u>					Dress Up Day for Book Week
Monday	1 st	School Council			Book Fair Closes
Friday	5 th	Curriculum Day	<u>August</u>		
Monday	8 th	King's Birthday Holiday	Wednesday	19 th	Flying Start begins
Thursday	11 th	School Photos			
Friday	26 th	Last Day of Term 2 (2:30 pm Finish)			



OUR SCHOOL VALUES Be Responsible
Be Safe

Be Respectful
Be Resilient
Be an Active Learner

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE PART 2

Gymnastics and Hockey

Students have been involved in several weeks of Gymnastics and Hockey coaching sessions thanks to a \$3000 Sports in Schools grant.



Footwear

As we head into colder and wetter weather, students are reminded that they can bring gumboots for outside and slippers for inside so that their feet are warmer, drier and more comfortable on rainy days. These can be left at school or brought from home each day.

School Camp Term 3

A reminder that our whole school camp is booked in for Monday 14th-Wednesday 16th September (last week of Term 3). We will be asking families soon for their intentions to attend, either as a day visitor or full overnight camper. The school will still be open and staffed on these days while we are at camp, as not all staff are required to attend with our ratio of 1:10. Costs for camp (bus transport, accommodation, meals, staffing for adventure activities) will be determined by how many students attend.

CDS Return-It Scheme

As a follow-up to our Term 1 incursion, Grade 3-6 students have also been involved in a second information session and photo opportunity to promote our school's involvement in the 10 cent container returns. So far our school has raised \$723 through recycling drink containers from school as well as donations from families in our school community. We also have been given some extra bin stickers for taking donations of containers and a large bottle graph to track our tally.



Nigel Kilpatrick
Principal

OFFICE NEWS

RIPPLEBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

Term 2

Monday 1st June

Term 3

TBC

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

BREAKFAST CLUB

BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Reminder: Breakfast doesn't open until 8 am.

Students are not permitted to enter Breakfast Club after 8:30 am. Students are welcome to arrive at school from this time. Please note that the schoolyard is not supervised until 8:45 a.m., and students remain 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 2 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

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

OFFICE NEWS



RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL, RIPPLEBROOK

SchoolPix is coming to photograph on:

Thursday, 11 June 2026

SIBLING ORDERS

must be placed prior to 8am on Thursday, 11 June 2026



Order at order.schoolpix.com.au

Orders with **FREE delivery**

to your school **CLOSE 5 WORKING DAYS** after your last photography session. A postage fee will apply for orders placed after this date.

Misplaced your order flyer?

Please visit www.schoolpix.com.au and use the student search to find your child's unique ID or contact our **Customer Care** team on **1300 766 055** or help@schoolpix.com.au.



Courtney Baker
Office Admin

MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Monday 18th May, students attended 'The Protectors' performance by Brainstorm Productions. The engaging performance explored important topics including online safety, emotional regulation, empathy, and positive relationships.

Following the performance, students will participate in classroom discussions and activities that encourage them to reflect on the importance of consuming healthy and age-appropriate online content. They will also explore practical strategies such as 'freeze and breathe' to help manage emotions and respond calmly in challenging situations.

Through these learning experiences, students will develop skills in recognising emotions through facial expressions and body language, understanding the importance of empathy, developing impulse control strategies, and identifying the qualities of positive friendships. Discussions will also focus on respectful communication, conflict resolution skills, empathy in online situations, and the importance of setting healthy boundaries in relationships.

The performance and follow-up activities aim to encourage students to think critically about their online interactions and develop practical skills to support respectful, positive relationships both online and offline



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL)

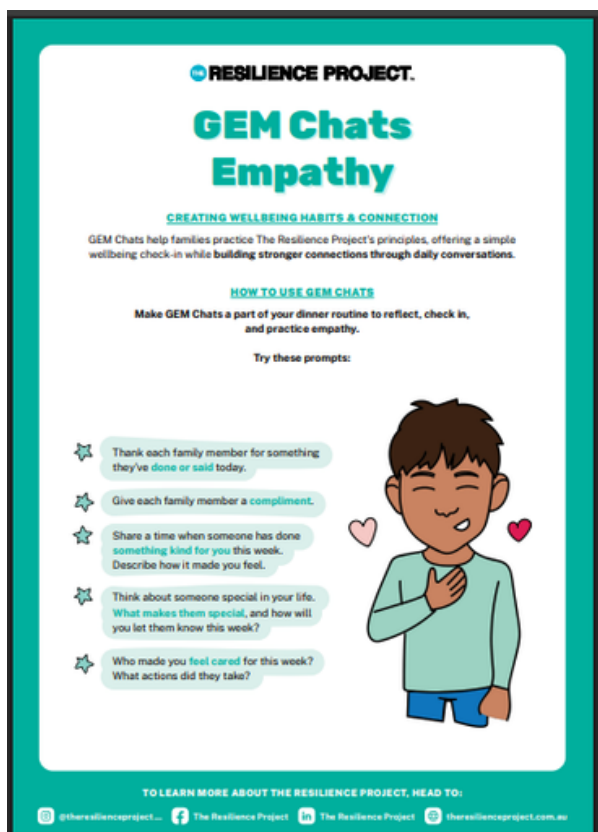
MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we move through the middle of Term 2, it can be helpful to pause and check in on wellbeing as a family. This time of term can feel busy and tiring for children and adults alike, so making space for rest, connection and open conversations can have a positive impact on everyone's wellbeing.

If your child is experiencing worries, big feelings, friendship challenges, or changes in mood, there are a range of external trusted supports available for families. We also encourage families to reach out to staff at school if they have concerns about their child's wellbeing. Your child's classroom teacher, Chappy, the Mental Health and Wellbeing leader (Mrs Smith) or the principal (Mr Kilpatrick) can help by providing additional support and guidance.

The following websites include practical tips, articles and support options for both parents and children.

- Beyond Blue – Support for anxiety, low mood and general mental health
<https://www.beyondblue.org.au>
- Medicare Mental Health Centres and Kids Hubs can connect you with a range of mental health professionals for support.
<https://www.medicarementalhealth.gov.au/>
- Kids Helpline – Free counselling service for children and young people aged 5–25
Phone: 1800 55 1800 or webchat at <https://kidshelpline.com.au>
- eSafety Commissioner – Parenting resources – Helpful advice for supporting children online
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>



Below are some ideas for families to engage in GEM (Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness) conversations together at home.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us build a positive, caring and connected school community.



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL)

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Junior School Council is excited to announce that they have put forward a proposal for a fun-filled Pyjama Day later this term! Students will have the chance to come to school dressed in their favourite pyjamas and enjoy a cosy and exciting day with their classmates.

More information, including the official date and details of the event, will be shared with families once everything has been finalised. Stay tuned!



PYJAMA DAY



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



To the helpers that help Ms Scanlon in the kitchen on Fridays



To the parent helpers that come in each week and help around the school, especially Tamara in the library, and Emma helping sort our shed contents.



To the Cattanach family for donating the pumpkin plants



To the parents who have taken the students to/from District and Division Sports over the last couple of weeks.

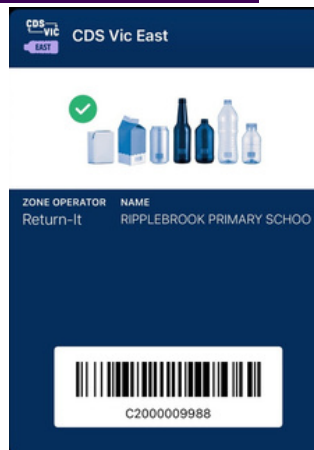


To all the students who have helped move all the new garden bed soil and the Playground mulch around our school.



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.

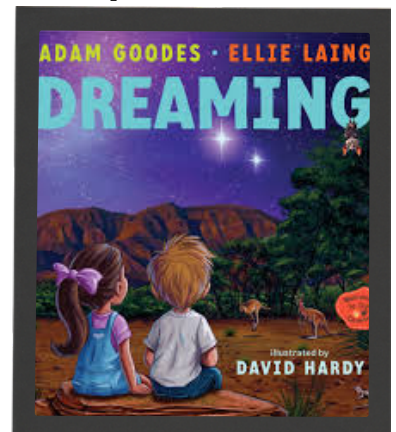
He is looking for help with covering books, tidying and sorting the shelves and general tasks around the library.

Book of the Month

In my dreaming at night, I see pictures behind my eyes that take me far away.

Way way back in the beginning, Akurras slithered, carving rivers, in a Creation story from my Dreaming, my Muda. Law men came down from the sky to teach us about our Country.

In my Muda, the Ancestors are never far, and I can see how I fit and who I am.



CLASS NEWS FROM PREP/ONE

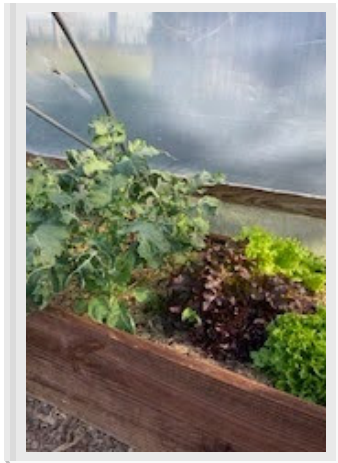
The students have had a busy and engaging start to the term. They worked together to create an ANZAC poster for the classroom, helping us remember the soldiers and animals who served in times of war.

Students have also been learning about relationships and what it means to show respect to others and be a team member through games and learning activities. To celebrate Dolly's Day, the Prep/1 students proudly made and wore "It's Cool to Be Kind" crowns, promoting the importance of kindness and inclusion.

In Reading and Writing students have been developing their comprehension skills, with a focus on sequencing and identifying different text types. They have followed and written a procedure on how to make traffic light sandwiches which they all enjoyed eating. Students have also been learning to identify fragments and complete sentences, as well as expanding their sentences by including nouns and verbs.

During Maths, students have been developing and applying their knowledge and skills to solve simple addition and subtraction problems. They have been using manipulatives to support and demonstrate their thinking and understanding.

Some students have also been spending time in the garden caring for the wonderful vegetable plants they have been growing. The plants are looking healthy, and we are excited to see them continue to grow until they are ready to harvest and enjoy.



Mrs. McIntosh, Ms Drury
Prep/One Team

CLASS NEWS FROM TWO/THREE

What a fantastic start to the term we have had in Grade 2/3! Our classroom has been filled with thoughtful learning across all subject areas. Students have been working hard to challenge themselves, support one another, and celebrate their achievements along the way.

In Maths, students have been building strong number skills through our work on place value and counting patterns. They have explored a range of addition and subtraction strategies, including counting on, partitioning, number lines, the jump strategy, split strategy, near doubles, and vertical addition with renaming. It has been wonderful to see students confidently explain their mathematical thinking and try different approaches to problem solving.



Students have also been investigating 2D and 3D shapes, identifying their features, creating 3D objects from nets and making connections to objects in the world around them.

In Phonics, students have been revising important spelling patterns and sounds, including:

- 'ea' making the /ae/ sound as in break, steak, and greatest
- 'ea' making the /e/ sound as in bread, head, and sweat
- 'eigh' patterns as in eight, weigh, and neighbour

It's great to see students spotting these patterns in their reading and applying them in their writing tasks.

Our Reading sessions have focused on developing comprehension and fluency skills. Students are learning how to:

- sequence illustrations within a story
- explain how illustrations help convey the author's message
- summarise important events and ideas from class texts
- use dictionaries to find the meanings of unfamiliar words
- read aloud with increasing fluency, expression, and confidence.

Our Grammar lessons have focused on building compound sentences using conjunctions such as and, but, so, and or. Students are becoming more confident at joining ideas together to create longer, more detailed sentences in both their writing and speaking.



Mrs Smith, Mrs Wilson, and Mr Baker

Two/Three Team

CLASS NEWS FROM TWO/THREE

This term, in our RRRR and TRP lessons, students have been developing important social and emotional skills by learning strategies to process and express strong emotions in positive ways. We've learned that our emotions and feelings are always trying to communicate with us. We understand that we can ask for help from others when we are challenged or experiencing 'big feelings' like when we were challenged to build a chair for a stuffed toy owl out of only newspaper and masking tape.

We have also explored the importance of respecting and valuing differences, practising mindfulness, and using our senses to help us stay calm, focused, and connected with nature.

These conversations and activities continue to strengthen the caring and inclusive culture within our classroom.

As part of our inquiry learning, students explored the significance of ANZAC Day and the reasons Australia commemorates this important occasion. Students thoughtfully shared experiences of ANZAC services attended with family members and learned about Melbourne's ANZAC ceremonies and traditions of remembrance. It was wonderful to see students demonstrate such respect, curiosity, and empathy throughout our discussions.

We are very proud of the effort and enthusiasm students have shown so far this term.



Mrs Smith, Mrs Wilson, and Mr Baker
Two/Three Team

CLASS NEWS FROM FOUR/FIVE & SIX

Students have been working on creating basic electric circuits for light, movement or noise and integrating these into model buildings to turn lights on and off, make small fans spin and even have working doorbells or buzzers. Students have been adding switches to their circuits to 'break' the flow of electric current between the power source, wires and energy output.



Students have also been learning more about the Moon, Solar System, Planets, Universe and Galaxies. Following on from the Artemis II mission to the far side of the moon and safe return to Earth, students have researched the space programs, NASA and lives of astronauts. Students have discovered that the planet names from our galaxy come from ancient Roman words which in turn were taken from names of Greek deities.

During the lead-up to Anzac Day, students read and watched short videos about soldiers and nurses on the frontlines in order to write their own diary from the viewpoint of someone who was surrounded by the sights, sounds and emotions of warfare. Students also researched family members who may have served in the military and read a number of accounts of famous Anzacs including Simpson and his donkey and Albert Jacka.

Time measuring devices have been discussed during maths sessions and students have looked at small measurements of time such as milliseconds, seconds and minutes all the way up to larger measurements of time such as decades, seasons and millenniums.



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

OSHC



This term at OSHC we've kicked off an exciting new program on Tuesdays and Thursdays the OzHarvest FEAST (Food Education and Sustainability Training)! The children have been learning all about food sustainability, reducing waste, and making healthy choices. It's been wonderful to see their curiosity grow as they discuss where food comes from and how we can help the planet simply by using what we already have.



We've been getting creative in the kitchen, too. Our current focus is on bananas! The children have brainstormed all sorts of delicious recipes, from banana muffins and smoothies to banana pancakes and even banana ice cream down to mashed potato with banana (This will be interesting!). It's been a fun, hands on way to explore cooking and reduce waste by using overripe fruit in tasty new ways.



Our numbers continue to grow, and it's great to see so many new faces joining in the fun. Spaces are still available, but they remain limited so please remember to enrol and book early to secure your spot.

In the lead up to Mother's Day, the children put a lot of love and effort into their crafts. It was heartwarming to hear how much the mums appreciated their handmade gifts a beautiful reminder of how creative and caring our group is.



The children also created their very own tote bag last week and will be bringing it home in the near future.

We're looking forward to another fantastic few weeks ahead, filled with learning, laughter, and plenty of good food!

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
22/5	Fried rice with honey soy chicken drumstick	Honey Joys	Kristie
29/5	Bangers, mash and gravy	Golden syrup dumplings with ice cream	Tim
12/6	Tuna Pasta Bake	Weetbix nutella pudding cake	Renee
19/6	Homemade sausage roll	Chocolate crackle	Sam

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.