

RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue: 8 Date: 31st October 2025



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome New Family

We welcome another family to our school with Aubrey, Amelie and Caleb joining us. Currently, we have 40 students and expect 43 for 2026. If families are not going to be with us in 2026 please inform the school office so we can plan for staffing.

Our New Basketball Court

Our new basketball court surface has been well used since works were completed in Week 2. It certainly makes a welcoming and safe playing space and a centrepiece for school community members to meet during drop off and pick up times. The previous surface had lasted since 2006 and we hope to get 20+ years out of this court. Our Active Schools Grant and OSHC Grant paid for this and Gecko Synthetic Surfaces did a great job to remove, repair the undersurface and replace the court.



Whole School Swimming

Swimming commenced at YMCA Warragul this week and we hope all students took the chance to practise their water safety skills and stroke technique. Learning to swim is a vital skill that all children should have the opportunity to participate in.

Bike Education

Bike Education will be held during November and students should be bringing their bikes or scooters (and helmets) to school to use during this time. There are a few bikes/scooters and helmets at school to borrow if families do not have their own. The Bike Hike will be held on Friday 12th December on the Warragul-Drouin Bike Trail and families are most welcome to ride with us.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Our school was successful in obtaining a \$1500 Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program grant for 2026. This will be used to upgrade our greenhouse, vegetable patches and herb gardens and establish an edible garden for OSHC/Hot Lunches.



Curriculum Day

A reminder that Monday November 3rd is a Curriculum Day for staff to use for report writing, so it will be a 4-day weekend with the Melbourne Cup following on Tuesday 4th. Semester 2 reports will be ready during Week 11 (last week of Term 4).

Nigel Kilpatrick
Principal

KEY DATES

November

Monday	3rd	Curriculum Day
Tuesday	4th	Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Wednesday	5 th	Bike Ed Starts
Friday	7th	House Athletics Day
Saturday	15th	Drouin Farmers Market Fundraiser
Monday	24th	School Council
Thursday	27th	Whole School Sleepover
Friday	28 th	Bike PickUp

December

Friday	5th	Grade 6 Big Day Out
Monday	8 th	School Council
Tuesday	9 th	Statewide Transition Day

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Be Responsible
Be Safe

Be Respectful
Be an Active Learner

Be Resilient
Be an Active Learner



THUMBS UP



Leah Kable for donating a bike to our Bike Ed program



Staff and students coping with our water tank situation



Ms Scanlon and parent helpers for our delicious Hot Lunch menu items



Staff and parents for assisting traffic diversions when large tree fell across Westernport Road near Lewis Road

ENROLMENTS

We have a number of Prep enquiries and school tours for 2026. Education Week and Open Day helped us showcase what our small but growing school can offer.

We offer opportunity, a wide curriculum and extra-curricular activities, wellbeing support, and small class sizes with a more personal approach, however, there is always room for improvement.

If you have a child starting school in 2026, or if you are considering Ripplebrook Primary School for your child in 2026 you can arrange a school tour and pick up an Enrolment Pack at our school office or call us on 5627 6278.

Please share this information with families beyond our school.

Mr Baker is happy to organise this and answer any questions you may have regarding enrolments

THE GET ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN!

The Get Active Kids Voucher Program is now open! Get in quick as applications will close 13 November or earlier if the budget allocation is fully exhausted.

If your family or child has a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, you may be eligible for up to \$200 to put towards the cost of your child's participation in sport and active recreation activities.

Important Dates:

Round 9 open to apply for a voucher or reimbursement: 10:00 am Wednesday, 15 October 2025 and will close 13 November or earlier if the budget allocation is fully exhausted.

Reimbursement expenditure dates: from 1 July 2025 to submission of application

Vouchers expiry date: Wednesday, 31 December 2025.

The Get Active Kids Voucher Program helps eligible families get their kids involved in organised sport and active recreation activities by providing financial support for the cost of membership and registration fees. Eligible children may be able to receive up to \$200 each.

Special consideration also applies for children residing in care services, as well as temporary or provisional visa holders, undocumented migrants, or international students.

To find out if you are eligible, how to apply, what costs are covered and more, visit www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers

Get \$200 to help your child play sport!



getactive.vic.gov.au

GET ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS



RIPPLEBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

Term 4

Monday 24th November School Council.

Monday 8th December School Council

These meetings take place in the school library from 6:00 pm.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Ripplebrook Primary School Assemblies happen several times a term. Our two School Captains usually lead these Assemblies.

This is a chance to come together as a school community to celebrate our students' achievements.

Our Assemblies for Term 4 are listed below.

Friday 31st October

Friday 14th November

Thursday 27th November

Thursday 11th December

Assembly usually takes place on the school basketball court from 2:45 pm

BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Breakfast Club is a combination of early school arrival supervision and an opportunity to begin the day with a wholesome and nutritious breakfast. Ripplebrook Primary School offers this opportunity at no cost to families.

Breakfast Club doors open at 8:00 am.

A parent or carer **MUST** sign students in every day they attend.

Breakfast Club doors close at 8:30 am.

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.

OFFICE NEWS

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

GRADE LEVEL	EVENT	COST DUE	PERMISSION DUE
All	Families who returned signed 2025 Voluntary Curriculum Contributions	\$ 61.70	Term 1
All	Families who returned signed 2025 Voluntary Curriculum Contributions	\$ 56.10	Term 2 & 3
All	SwimmingProgram	\$55	Term 4

OFFICE HOURS FOR TERM 4 2025

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 and Tuesdays and alternating 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.

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.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

Parent Payment Policy 2025

2025 Parent Payment Policy letters have been sent home earlier this term.

A merchant facility has been installed at RPS, payments can now be made at the office by card if this is a preferred option. Other payment options are BPay, Direct Deposit or Cash.

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

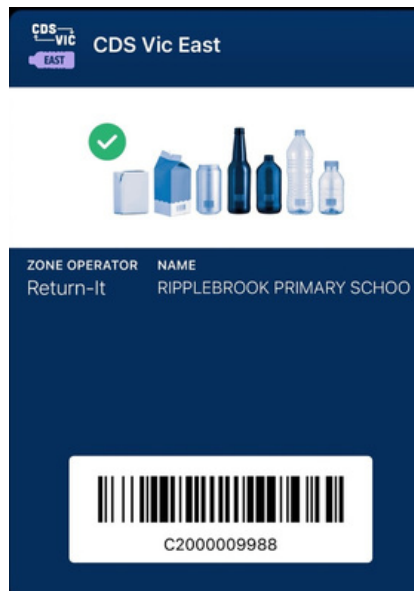
If you need help or have questions regarding the School Saver Bonus please come and speak to Mr Baker or Amanda

Business Manager
Amanda McLaughlin



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.



OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

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.

Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoons are preferable but can be other days if this works better for the individual.

If you are able to help out, please speak to Mr Baker to arrange times that work.



MEAL DEAL

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

The cost is \$7 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.

\$7

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
31/10	Homemade loaded Mac and Cheese with chicken drumstick	White Tim Tam and Raspberry Slice.	Erin
7/11	Loaded Sausage, with choice of bacon, onion, cheese and coleslaw and sauces.	Fairy bread Weet-Bix Slice	
14/11	Chicken burger with lettuce, cheese, tomato and mayo	Biscoff Rocky Road	Kristie and David
21/11	Chow Mein with noodles	Bush jam donuts	Beth
5/12	Hamburger with cheese, lettuce, tomato, egg, bacon and cooked onion	Choc wheetbix slice	Erin

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.

MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introducing the Zones of Regulation in Our Classrooms

Our classrooms have all now introduced the Zones of Regulation framework to help students develop greater awareness and control of their emotions. The Zones of Regulation is a research-based program that helps children recognise how they are feeling, understand how their emotions influence their behaviour, and learn practical strategies to help them regulate their responses in positive and constructive ways.

The program uses four coloured zones to help students identify and name their feelings:

- Blue Zone – feeling tired, sad, sick, or bored
- Green Zone – feeling calm, focused, and ready to learn
- Yellow Zone – feeling excited, silly, nervous, or frustrated
- Red Zone – feeling angry, scared, or overwhelmed

Students are learning that all feelings are normal and that everyone moves between different zones throughout the day. They are also practising strategies to help them return to the Green Zone — their optimal state for learning — such as taking deep breaths, stretching, having a short break, or using positive self-talk.

The introduction of the Zones of Regulation aligns closely with our ongoing work through the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) program and The Resilience Project. Together, these programs teach important social and emotional skills, including emotional literacy, empathy, gratitude, and mindfulness. The Zones framework complements these learnings by giving students a shared language and a practical toolkit to recognise, talk about, and manage their emotions in real time.

By combining these approaches, we are helping our students build emotional awareness, self-regulation, and resilience — key life skills that support both their wellbeing and their ability to learn effectively. We encourage families to use the same “Zones” language at home to help reinforce these strategies and continue building emotional awareness beyond the classroom.

The BLUE zone	The GREEN zone	The YELLOW zone	The RED zone
			
How might you feel?	How might you feel?	How might you feel?	How might you feel?
sad tired bored moving slowly	happy okay focussed ready to learn	nervous confused silly not ready to learn	angry frustrated scared out of control
What might help you?	What might help you?	What might help you?	What might help you?
Talk to someone Stretch Take a brain break Stand Take a walk Close my eyes	The goal of this exercise is to get to the GREEN zone. What can you do to be happy, calm and ready to learn?	Talk to someone Count to 20 Take deep breaths Squeeze something Draw a picture Take a brain break	Stop what I'm doing Make sensible choices Take deep breaths Ask for a break Find a safe space Ask for help



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader
(MHWL)



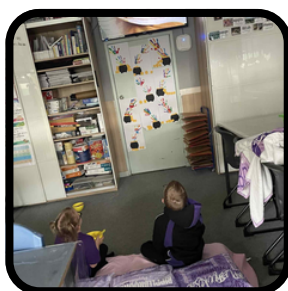
OSHC



Welcome back to Term 4 in OSHC!

We've hit the ground running and jumped straight back into our Around the World in OSHC adventure. So far, we've explored a few exciting destinations Indonesia, New Zealand, and most recently, Mexico!

The children have absolutely loved learning about the foods, cultures, and traditions from each country, and we are excited to continue our journey as we explore many more throughout the term. Movie Day on Thursdays continues to be a favourite, giving the children a chance to relax and unwind together. And Fridays we have begun finish off Fridays as sometimes we never have the time to finish off what we have been doing throughout the week.



Assessment & Rating Success

Before the holidays on the last day of term, our service received our Assessment and Rating results, and I am incredibly proud to share that we received Meeting in all 7 Quality Areas! This is an exceptional achievement especially for a single educator service on its first assessment and it is something truly worth celebrating. To say I'm proud is an understatement. A tremendous amount of dedication, hard work, and heart has gone into building and growing this service. I want to extend my deepest thanks to Nigel, Courtney, Amanda M, and our Ripplebrook staff, and to all of our wonderful families for your ongoing support each week. A very special thank you to Erin Brooks, who supported me throughout the entire Assessment and Rating process. Your guidance has been invaluable.

For a last-minute booking, please call the school office to check if there is still space available for the day and complete a manual booking over the phone. This will need to be done by 3:00 pm to allow staff to notify the student and other staff of any changes.

For all bookings, cancellations, or general OSHC enquiries, please contact Paula directly on the OSHC mobile: 0428 276 279. As our office is not always staffed, you can just call this number to make sure your message is received promptly. A friendly reminder to ensure your child's enrolment is up to date. Having an active enrolment allows for quick and easy bookings through the app or via a phone call whenever care is needed.

Ms Paula Scanlon
OSHC Coordinator



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Be an Active Learner

Be Resilient

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Waste-Free Wednesday Lunch Challenge Reminder

A friendly reminder to all students to bring Waste-Free Wednesday lunches each week. Please note that our JSC representatives will be checking each class on Wednesdays. Students who have a waste-free lunch will receive 100 house points!

Let's keep our school healthy and reduce waste!

Here's a recipe to make for a school snack from

<https://www.coles.com.au/recipes-inspiration/recipes/no-bake-chia-muesli-bars>



Look out for simple, nutritious recipes to inspire lunchbox ideas in our newsletters. Here's a quick and easy one:

No Bake Chia Muesli Bars

Ingredients

- 1 and 1/2 cups (135g) rolled oats
- 1/2 cup (100g) pepitas (pumpkin seeds)
- 1/2 cup (65g) dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup (35g) sunflower seeds
- 2 tbs chia seeds
- 1/3 cup (80ml) honey
- 1/3 cup (80g) coconut oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup (35g) white chocolate melts
- 1 tsp chia seeds, extra

Method

- STEP 1 - Grease an 18cm x 28cm slice pan and line the base and 2 long sides with baking paper, allowing the sides to overhang.
- STEP 2 - Combine the oats, pepitas, cranberries, sunflower seeds and chia seeds in a heatproof bowl.
- STEP 3 - Melt the honey and coconut oil in a small saucepan over medium heat for 3 mins or until combined. Bring to the boil. Cook for 2 mins or until light golden. Remove from heat. Stir in the vanilla.
- STEP 4 - Pour the honey mixture over the oat mixture. Stir until well combined. Press into the prepared pan. Place in the fridge for 3 hours or until firm.
- STEP 5 - Cut into pieces. Drizzle with chocolate. Sprinkle with extra chia seeds. Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 1 week.

Footy Colours Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Footy Colours Day! We raised \$227.75. This will go to the Fight Cancer Foundation to help fund vital accommodation, research and education for kids fighting cancer – and their families.

Christmas Hamper Donations

We are collecting items to create hampers for families in need. Hampers will be delivered to The Crossing in Drouin at the end of November for distribution. Donations can be placed in the Christmas Hamper box in the school office.

- Items needed include:
- Popcorn, chips, lollies, custard, jellies
- Tinned ham, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables
- Icy pole tubes, soft drinks, biscuits, bonbons
- Christmas puddings (chocolate or fruit), long-life milk, Christmas serviettes

Please bring your donations by the end of November. Thank you for helping spread some Christmas cheer

Mrs Smith and our Junior School Council representatives (Harry, Brody, Taj, Arjay and Kayla)

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.



CLASS NEWS FROM PREP/ONE

Wow! Term 4 has arrived quickly!

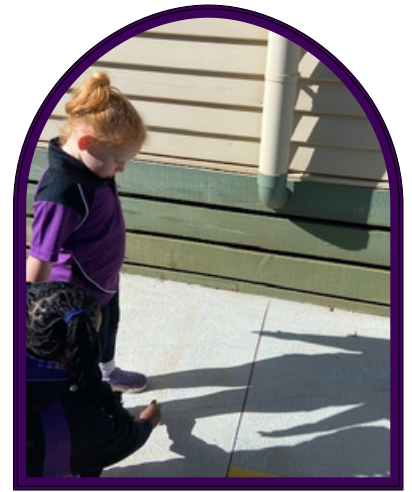
It was wonderful to see the Flying Start students and Prep/1 students working together so well and supporting each other and ready for learning. This term, Prep/1 students are learning all about light and sound.

So far, they have been exploring how light affects the position and size of their shadows. The students enjoyed spending time outside in the morning, tracing around each other's shadows. When they returned in the afternoon to observe, they noticed their shadows had moved and were smaller than before.

This sparked a great discussion about the sun's movement throughout the day and how the changing sunlight affects the shadows we see.

Adding to the fun, the students were lucky to have the ladies from Eleven 88 visit and teach them some fantastic dance moves. Everyone had a great time dancing and playing games together!

Alongside these exciting activities, students have also been engaged in a range of literacy and numeracy tasks through developmental play. They have been learning their numbers, sounds, letter formation, and place value, building strong foundations for their learning journey.



We look forward to seeing where the rest of Term 3 takes us

Prep/One Team

Mrs. McIntosh, Ms Drury and Ms Scanlon

CLASS NEWS FROM TWO/THREE

Welcome to Term 4!

It's been a busy and exciting start to the term!

In Maths, students have been busy strengthening their number skills! They've been practising counting back, using different subtraction strategies, and building confidence with addition, multiplication tables, and division facts.

We've also been exploring the wonderful world of 2D shapes — naming and describing them, learning what makes shapes regular or irregular, and spotting parallel lines. The class has especially enjoyed sorting, combining, and splitting shapes, solving tangram puzzles, and rotating shapes to create colourful patterns.

In Writing and Reading, students are learning about non-fiction and information reports. Each student has chosen an animal to research and is gathering interesting facts to include in their own information report. We've discussed the structure and features of information texts and are focusing on writing clearly to share what we've learned.

In Phonics, we have been exploring the long 'u' sound in words such as moon, blue, new, cube, fruit, and unicorn. Students are also learning about homophones – words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings (e.g. blue and blew). This helps them understand how the internal structure of words influences both meaning and spelling.

In Japanese, students have been working on a Restaurant Menu Project where they create menus using Japanese language, including adjectives to describe the food and prices written in Yen.



Last week we enjoyed a fantastic wellbeing incursion from Eleven88. The Prep–2 students learned and performed a fun dance to “I Like to Move It” from Madagascar, while the Grade 3–6 students took part in a marshmallow and spaghetti team building challenge. Students showed wonderful collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills as they worked to build the tallest tower.

We've also enjoyed our daily swimming lessons this past week! Students showed great enthusiasm and confidence in the pool, building on their water safety and swimming skills.

Two/Three Team

Mrs Smith, Mrs Wilson, and Mr Baker



CLASS NEWS FROM FOUR/FIVE & SIX

Students have been measuring area using square metres and calculating if items are more than, less than or equal to 1m^2 .

This is assisting with their economics tasks of house plans and buying furniture and appliances with a given budget. Students are learning what is essential (a Need) or supplementary (a Want). It is interesting to see what they view as essential compared to an 'extra'.



Students have also been watching Behind The News on a weekly basis to be more aware of local and global events and current affairs. Expanding their knowledge of the world around them opens up new avenues of information beyond social media. Currently students are working on solving an art theft, similar to the one that took place in The Louvre in Paris recently.

Students have been expressing their opinion in regards to the upcoming social media ban for Under-16s, using reasons to back up their point-of-view. We have been learning that an opinion cannot be wrong, but you need evidence to support your thinking. This is improving some students' public speaking and confidence to share answers within a group.

Caleb brought his Lego construction vehicle into school last week to share with the class. This model is similar to mine trucks that the family saw whilst living in Queensland.



Grade 4/5 & 6 Team

Mr Kilpatrick, and Mr. Miller