

RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Issue: 5 Date: 14th August 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Schools Tree Day

We were fortunate with good weather to be able to plant 16 new plants around our basketball court garden area. All students were involved with preparing planting sites, setting out new plants and watering the variety of native grasses, shrubs and small trees which will add to our school environment.



Enrolments

We welcome more students to our school, with Marlan, Alex and Jerzy joining us this term. Our enrolment numbers continue to grow with a few confirmed Prep enrolments for 2027 and additional school tours and enquiries from prospective families. At this stage we will be starting next year with close to 55 enrolments. Our final class structures and teaching staff will be determined on student numbers, student needs and supports available.

Camp

We will be heading to Allambee Camp (near Yarragon) during the last week of Term 3 (Monday 14th-Wednesday 16th September) This camp is very suitable for Prep-Grade 6 students-one of the very few school camps in Victoria who cater for younger students. School will be open and supervised by staff not attending camp; however, we hope most students will enjoy the experience of a two-night, three-day camp away from home.

Carpark and Gates

With more people now part of our school community, the carpark and school yard are busier. Please make sure that you park in designated carparks at the side and front of the school and ensure that gates are closed fully as you leave. Our gates are not spring-loaded and will need to be pulled shut properly to ensure our students are safe.

KEY DATES

August

Monday	17 th	National Science Week
Friday	21 st	Flying Start begins Whool School Assembly
Wednesday	26 th	Lions Club Public Speaking Zone Final

September

Friday	4 th	Fathers Day Stall
Thursday	10 th	Footy Day
Monday	14 th	School Camp

September

Tuesday	15 th	School Camp
Wednesday	16 th	School Camp No Flying Start
Friday	18 th	Last Day of Term 3 Early finish 2:30pm

October

Monday	5 th	First day of Term 4
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OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Be Responsible
Be Safe

Be Respectful
Be an Active Learner

Be Resilient
Be an Active Learner

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE PART 2

Sporting Schools

We have been able to secure DS Sports coaches for Lacrosse for four weeks, which will be followed by netball for another four weeks. Students have been able to learn proper techniques and practise their skills in passing, catching, picking up and goal shooting with the lacrosse sticks and balls.



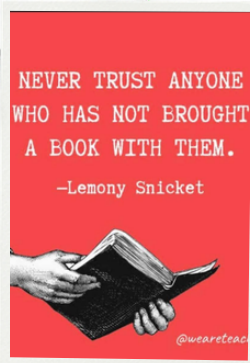
Damper Cooking

Students have learnt about bush cooking and how to make damper. They have also been shown how to use equipment safely and effectively and how to respect fire. Mr Baker provided the ingredients for all students to attempt cooking and eating their delicious damper.



Mid Year Census

Last Friday, August 7th, we had our mid-year census for student numbers. We now have 50 students in the school with four new families joining us since Semester 1. We also have up to 20 Preps provisionally enrolled for 2027 which is exciting as well as problematic in a good way as we now have to ensure all students have a classroom and a teacher for next year. We look forward to meeting some of our new students when the Flying Start transition program starts later in the month.



Family and Friends Day

It was great to see so many people in our school on Friday July 31st. Many creative costumes and a variety of book-themed activities followed by a delicious hot lunch of baked potatoes with all of the trimmings. Our Book Fair was also a success with over \$2000 being spent on Scholastic products which will earn our school over \$600 of books for our school library.

Jump Rope for Heart

Ripplebrook Primary School will again be taking part in skipping during Term 3 to develop students' fitness, coordination, stamina and rope tricks as well as raising funds for the Heart Foundation. Students can choose to ask sponsors for donations, however this is certainly not compulsory. Our school jump-off day will be held later in August when the weather should be improving. Skipping ropes will be available each recess and lunch time for students to use as well as in weekly PE classes.



Nigel Kilpatrick
 Principal

OFFICE NEWS

RIPPLEBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

Term 3

Monday 7th September

Term 4

TBC

These meetings take place in the school library from 6:15 pm till 8:15 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 3 are listed below.

Friday 21st August

Friday 4th September

Friday 18th September

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

BREAKFAST CLUB

BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Reminder: Breakfast Club 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 3 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 the office most day except Thursdays and Friday mornings for general office inquiries from 9 am to 4 pm.

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 & 2
All	Families who returned signed 2026 Voluntary Curriculum Contributions	\$ 60	Term 3
All	Camp payment	\$250	Term 3

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

Introducing the Children's Wellbeing Continuum

At Ripplebrook Primary School, supporting every child's wellbeing is just as important as supporting their learning. This term, we have introduced the Children's Wellbeing Continuum—a simple, evidence-informed tool that helps us understand and talk about children's social and emotional wellbeing.

The Continuum provides a snapshot of how a child is feeling at a particular point in time. It recognises that wellbeing is not fixed and can change depending on what is happening in a child's life. Rather than focusing on labels or diagnoses, it focuses on how children are functioning, coping, and engaging in their day-to-day lives.

The Continuum has four key points:

- **Good** – Children are feeling positive, engaged, and managing well.
- **Coping** – Children are generally doing okay but may benefit from some additional support.
- **Struggling** – Children are finding things difficult and need extra support.
- **Overwhelmed** – Children are experiencing significant challenges and require a high level of support.

This approach encourages open, supportive conversations about what children need to feel safe, confident, and ready to learn.

It is important to note that the Children's Wellbeing Continuum is not a screening or diagnostic tool. Instead, it provides a shared language for teachers, parents, and students to notice changes in wellbeing, respond early, and work together to provide the right level of support.

Each student has a copy of the Children's Wellbeing Continuum on their desk, along with a sliding marker that they can move throughout the day to indicate how they are feeling. This helps students develop self-awareness and gives staff an opportunity to check in and respond when additional support may be needed.

We hope this simple tool supports meaningful conversations about emotions and wellbeing both at school and at home. By using consistent language across different settings, children can build confidence in recognising, understanding, and expressing their feelings.

If you have any questions about the Children's Wellbeing Continuum or how it is used at school, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Together, we can help every child feel safe, connected and ready to thrive.

The Children's Wellbeing Continuum



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and
Wellbeing Leader
(MHWL)

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Junior School Council is excited to support the Fight Cancer Foundation with a Footy Colours Day in Week 9 this term.

Students are invited to wear their favourite AFL or sporting team colours and bring a gold coin donation (or any contribution) to help support children and families affected by cancer.

The day will include fun activities, and our popular Footy Colours Day Lunch will return, with all proceeds donated to the Fight Cancer Foundation. Further details, including lunch order information, will be shared in the coming weeks.



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 who help Ms Scanlon in the kitchen on Fridays for our school's Hot Lunch Program



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 Crystalle Cattanach who manned the Book Fair on Family and Friends Day



To all the Families who attend Family and Friends Day and for all the wonderful book costumes on the day.



To the Brooks family who washed and foiled the potatoes for our Hot Lunch on Family and Friends Day



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

We share a hug, with shiny eyes. 'I love you, house,' I cry. We all hold hands and walk through the door ... One home can tell many stories in this heartwarming, reversible tale about family, togetherness and moving on to new beginnings.



Book Fair

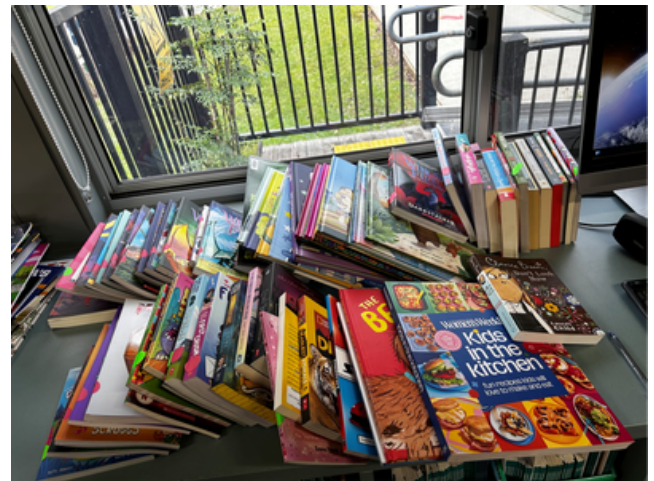
Wow! What a fantastic turnout we had for our school Book Fair this year!

As a school community, you spent an incredible \$2,062.74, Which meant we received \$618.82 in commission.

We chose to put this commission towards new books for our school library, and we are so excited to share that we have added **58 Brand-new books** to our collection!

That's 58 new stories, adventures, and worlds for our students to discover and explore.

This is a fantastic outcome for our small school community, and we would like to thank all our families for getting behind the Book Fire and supporting our school Library



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, what a fantastic start to Term 3! Prep/1 have jumped straight into their learning and have been busy exploring, creating and discovering through a range of hands-on activities.

In Humanities, students have been learning about the months of the year and the four seasons, exploring how they correspond with the calendar year. Students have also been introduced to the six Indigenous seasons and how they connect and flow with the natural world. To demonstrate their understanding, students created their own 3D models of the four seasons, which look fantastic!

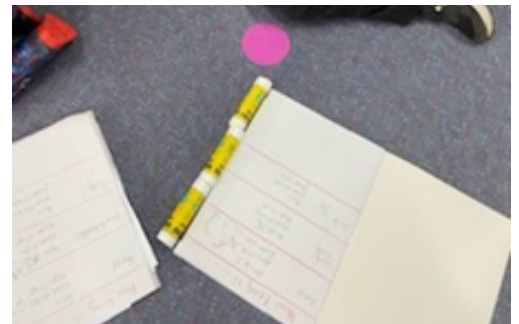
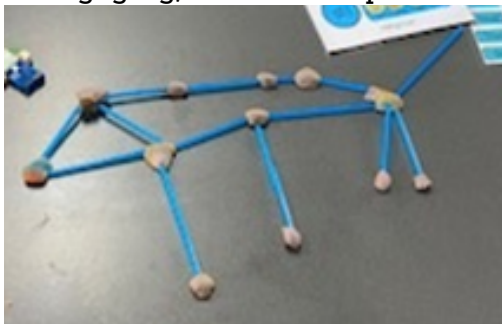
In Mathematics, we have been learning about informal units of measurement. Students have been selecting appropriate informal units to measure different objects and practising how to use these units correctly.

For Science, the class has been exploring the night sky. We have been observing changes in the moon, looking at star patterns and noticing different cloud formations. It has been wonderful to see the students' curiosity and enthusiasm as they investigate the world around them. They have also enjoyed using their creativity to design and create their own constellations using straws and playdough.

In Respectful Relationships, we have been discussing what it means to share and what sharing looks like in our classroom and with others. Students worked together to create a wonderful poster displaying their ideas about what it means to share.

During Book Week, students listened to part of *The Magic Faraway Tree* and then used their imaginations to create their own magical tree pictures. We loved seeing the creativity and wonderful ideas that came to life!

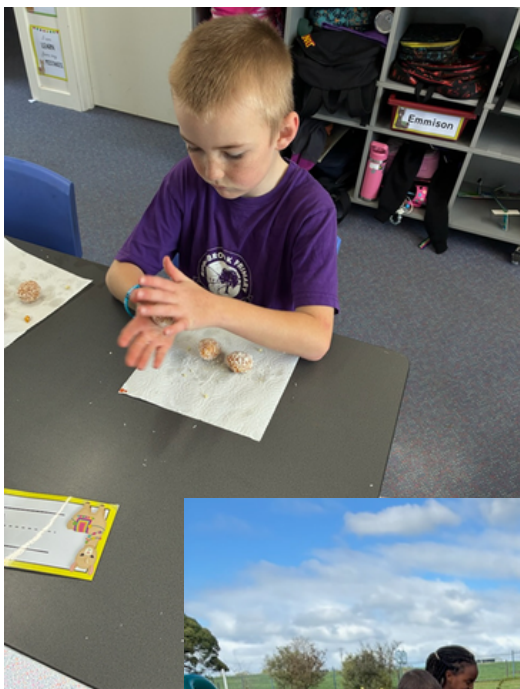
We are looking forward to the rest of Term 3 and continuing to learn, explore and grow through lots of engaging, hands-on experiences!



Mrs. McIntosh, Ms Drury
Prep/One Team

CLASS NEWS FROM TWO/THREE

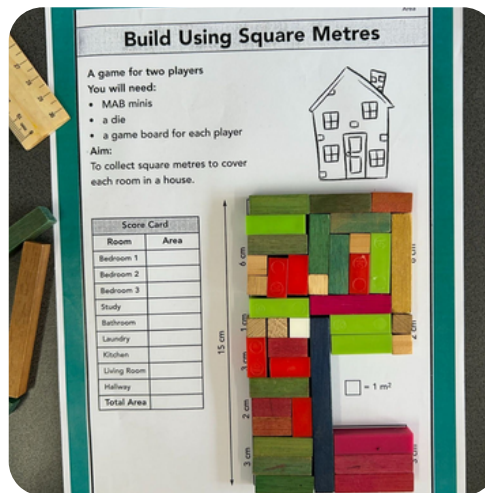
Grade 2 /3 have been looking at various ways of measuring capacity as well as exploring counting patterns and multiplication. Our focus on writing has been researching a place in Australia we'd like to visit and present this in a speech to share with an audience. Everyone enjoyed Family Fun Day for Book Week, and especially loved dressing-up as a favourite book character. Lots of fun was shared in our House Groups with Book Week activities and our visitors. Our Grade also participated in tree-planting around the basketball court by adding new ground cover shrubs. This term we have had new activities for Clubs. These have included Gardening, Cooking, Sport and Art Hub.



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

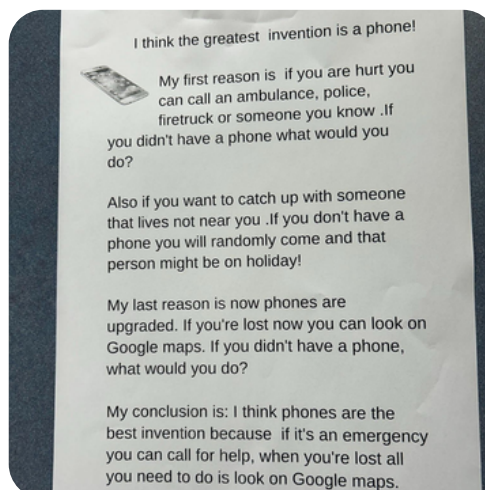
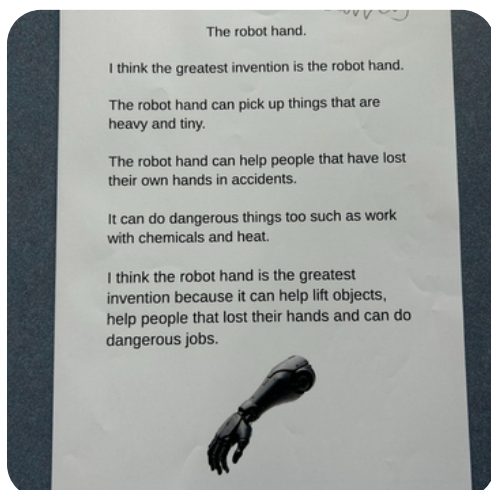
CLASS NEWS FROM FOUR/FIVE & SIX

Students have been measuring area and perimeter of shapes, including rectangles and squares, using addition, multiplication and hands-on materials to determine distance around (perimeter) and space covered (area)



Students have also been working on activities regarding the Commonwealth Games recently held in Glasgow. They have developed timelines, medal tally graphs, designed sports for animals, created costumes for athletes and looked into the history and techniques of different sport events.

Students have also been investigating inventions; looking at historical timelines, researching their Top 5 and writing their opinion about the Best Invention ever, planning, designing, creating and redesigning their own incredible inventions.



Students have also been refining their public speaking skills with the Lions Club Zone final to be held later in August. We will have two Grade 5-6 students and one Grade 3-4 student selected to represent the school at this event



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