

RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Issue: 6 Date: 18th September 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Vicspell

Congratulations to Seb and Georgia who won their respective Year Level competitions at the Zone finals held in Warragul recently, they also participated in the State Final held in Traralgon this week. Both Seb and Georgia did a fantastic job representing our school at the State Final on Tuesday and finished in 5th place. A big well done to both of them on their achievement at the State Finals. We are so proud of them both!



Flying Start

Our 2027 Prep Transition sessions have started with 13 enrolled students attending on Wednesday mornings and/or all day Fridays. They have been participating in all school activities including classroom, playground, Sports Coaching sessions and Hot Lunch. We look forward to these students and their families becoming more familiar and comfortable with their new school environment in readiness for a smooth transition from kindergarten.

Allambee Camp

We finished the term with our whole-school camp to Allambee from Monday 14th-Wednesday 16th September. Students enjoyed challenging and fun activities including: Giant Swing, Flying Fox, Vertical Challenge, Archery, Billy Carts, Bouldering Wall, Campfire Cooking, Low Ropes Course and Initiative Course. We are sure they were very excited (and tired) after their 2 nights away from home.

Scrap Metal Fundraiser

Similar to last year, we will have another 5m3 skip in our school carpark for the first few weeks of Term 4. If you have any scrap metal at home or workplace that you wish to dispose of, please place in the skip before Friday October 16th. We are allocated funds per tonne of scrap, so any unwanted metal large or small is gratefully accepted.

KEY DATES

September

Friday 18th Last Day of Term 3
Early finish 2:30pm

October

Monday 5th First day of Term 4
Wednesday 7th Flying Start begins for Term 4
Monday 12th School Council

November

Monday 2nd Curriculum Day
Tuesday 3rd Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 4th Bike Ed Begins
Monday 16th Whole School Swimming Begins
Friday 20th Whole School Swimming Finishes
Thursday 26th Whole School Art Show
Friday 27th Curriculum Day



OUR SCHOOL VALUES Be Responsible
Be Safe

Be Respectful
Be an Active Learner

Be Resilient

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE PART 2

Sporting Schools

Thanks to DS Sports for delivering 4 weeks of Netball to the students, providing opportunities for them to practise their skills with chest passing, bounce passing, overhand throwing and goal shooting and learning the different positions on the court in minor games. We were successful with our Sporting Schools Grant application for Term 4 and will be booking in two different sports for this time.

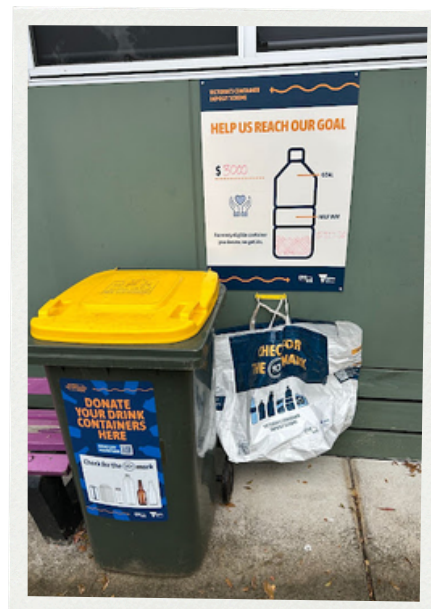


Staffing

We are currently making plans for 2027 with our Teaching and Education Support staff. Our growing enrolments provide opportunities to add to our fantastic and committed staff and we are aiming to have all class structures with staff in place for Statewide Transition Day in early December.

Container Deposit Scheme

We have currently raised over \$850 with our recycling of cans, bottles and other small drink containers. Thanks to the families who have been dropping off their recyclables in our collection bags and bins at school.



Nigel Kilpatrick
Principal

OFFICE NEWS

RIPPLEBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

Term 4

Monday 12th October

Monday 9th November

Monday 7th December

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 Term 4 assemblies are listed below.

Friday 16th October

Friday 30th October

Friday 13th November

Friday 11th December

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 4 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	Overdue

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

Supporting Positive School Attendance

Sometimes starting the school day can feel easy, and at other times it can feel really difficult for some students. Children may experience worries about learning, friendships, separation from family, tiredness, or simply feeling that they would rather stay at home. These feelings are important, and they deserve to be listened to and understood.

At the same time, regular school attendance is an important part of children's mental health and wellbeing. Being at school gives children opportunities to learn, connect with friends, build confidence, develop routines and experience a sense of belonging.

Why attending school matters

When children attend school regularly, they are more likely to feel connected to their classroom and school community. Regular attendance also helps children keep up with their learning, maintain friendships and develop the confidence to manage the everyday ups and downs of school life.

Missing school can sometimes make returning feel harder. For example, a child who is worried about school may feel temporary relief when they stay home, but the worry can become bigger the longer they are away. Supporting children to attend, while also addressing the reason behind their worry, can help break this cycle.

What can families do?

If your child is finding school attendance difficult, try to:

- Listen calmly. Ask what is making school feel difficult and give your child time to talk.
- Keep routines predictable. Regular bedtimes, morning routines and preparation the night before can make mornings easier.
- Focus on the positives. Talk about friends, favourite activities, teachers or things your child enjoys at school.
- Keep expectations clear and reassuring. Let your child know that attending school is important and that the adults around them will help them manage difficulties.
- Celebrate small successes. Recognise effort, bravery and progress rather than focusing only on the number of days attended.
- Work with the school. If there is an ongoing concern, please talk with your child's teacher, Mr Kilpatrick, Chappy or myself so we can work together to understand what is happening and develop appropriate support.



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and
Wellbeing Leader
(MHWL)

MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Remember: attendance and wellbeing go hand in hand.

Supporting attendance does not mean ignoring a child's feelings. In fact, understanding the feelings behind attendance difficulties is an important part of helping children return to school successfully.

If your child is regularly worried about coming to school, is frequently asking to stay home, or is finding the transition into school increasingly difficult, please reach out. You do not need to wait for the situation to become overwhelming before asking for support.

Our goal is for every child to feel safe, connected, supported and ready to learn.

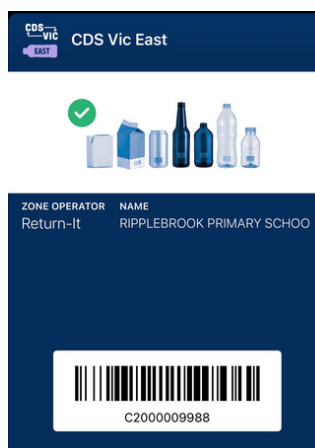
Have a relaxing and safe holiday break. I will be on leave for the first few weeks of Term 4. See you all when I get back.



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and
Wellbeing Leader
(MHWL)

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.



FLYING START DATES FOR TERM 4

Week	Wednesday	Friday	Special Events
1	October 7	October 9	
2	October 14	October 16	
3	October 21	October 23	
4	October 28	October 30	Children's Week
5	November 4	November 6	Melbourne Cup week
6	November 11	November 13	
7	NO FLYING START	NO FLYING START	Whole School Swimming
8	November 25	Curriculum Day	Whole School Art Show 26/11/26
9	December 2	December 4	Last Flying Start Session
10	*Tuesday* December 8		Statewide Transition Day
11	DECEMBER 15 END-OF-YEAR FAMILY PICNIC & PRESENTATION EVENING 5:30 PM		

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Footy Colours Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Footy Colours Day! We had a fun day and raised \$478.00. (Combined with our fundraising from our Pyjama Day in Term 2). This will go to the Fight Cancer Foundation to help fund vital accommodation, research and education for kids fighting cancer – and their families.



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 all the students who pushed themselves outside their comfort zones at camp,

A huge well done to each and every one of you! We are so proud of the way you challenged yourselves, tried new things, supported each other and stepped outside your comfort zones.



To all the staff who headed off to camp,

A huge thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to attend camp, support our students throughout the activities, and make the experience such a memorable one for them.



To all the families who have supported our Hot Lunch Program this term, Thank you for your continued support! We really appreciate everyone who has helped make the program such a success this term. Your support helps us continue providing this great opportunity for our students.

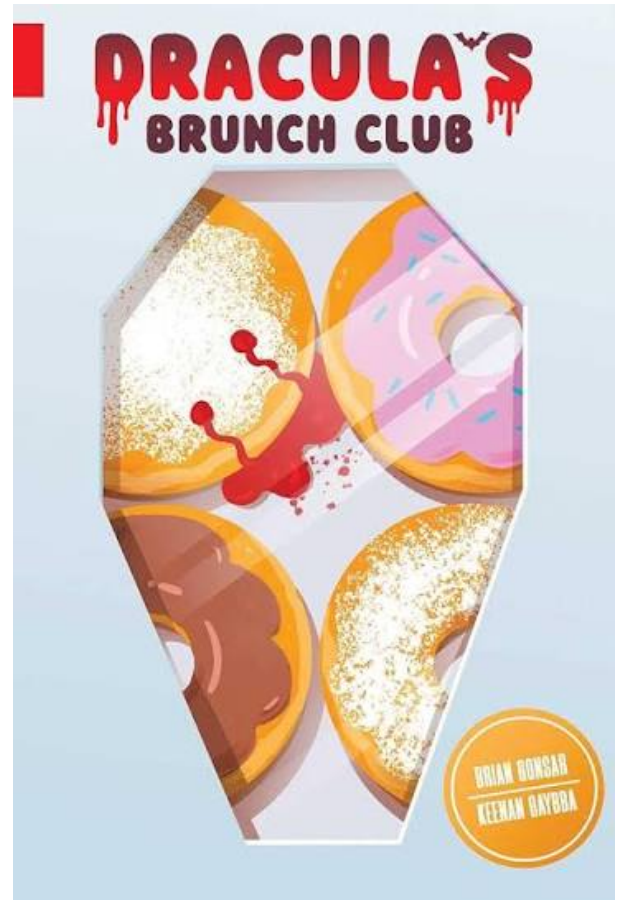


OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

Book of the Month

Have you ever wondered how vampires got their taste for blood? In *Dracula's Brunch Club*, it all started with a crimson-red donut, dripping and oozing with spooky secrets—I mean, jelly. Dripping and oozing with non-spooky-tasting JELLY. Get ready to sink your fangs into the hilarious new graphic novel from debut authors Brian Gonsar and Keenan Gaybba!

Count Dracula is not your average vampire. Well, sure, he's undead, hates garlic, and will burn up in sunlight—but unlike other vampires, he has a knack for baking. And it's his brunch club's famous blood-orange-jelly donuts that give his fellow vampires the energy source they need to live forever. But when Transylvania experiences a mysterious jelly shortage, it allows his nemesis, Constantine, to swoop in and steal the brunch club—and the vampires' loyalty—from Dracula. But it's not just jelly donuts at stake. When townsfolk start to go missing, Dracula suspects Constantine has far more sinister motives lurking that could threaten everything vampires and humans have worked for. With the help of his chef and human friend, Elena, Dracula must find a new energy source before every vampire and human turns on him and he loses his coveted brunch club forever.



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, I can't believe we are already at the end of Term 3! The students have had such a busy and exciting term, filled with learning, creating and challenging themselves.

In Mathematics, students have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. They have explored the different properties of shapes and used their creativity to create some wonderful artwork inspired by their learning.

In Phonics, students have been learning new sounds and blends, building their confidence and developing important skills that will support them as they begin creating their own written texts.

During our reading and story time, students have been exploring a range of stories shared by First Nations peoples. We have been learning about the rich use of art, colour, patterns and texture to communicate stories, culture and connections to Country.

Inspired by these artworks and stories, students have created their own stories through art. Using acrylic paint on bark, they have thoughtfully explored colour, texture and created images to express their own ideas and experiences.

In Science, students have been exploring the night sky and were introduced to the solar system and the planets. This has been a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their curiosity and ask questions about the world beyond our planet. The students have started building their very own Space City. They have been designing, creating and working together to bring their ideas to life. There is still plenty to do, so our Space City adventure will continue in Term 4!

Flying Start Students

Our Flying Start students have also been joining the Prep/1 classroom and are thoroughly enjoying being part of all the activities. They are becoming familiar with our school routines and expectations while making new friends and building connections with their classmates.

The students have been busy creating artwork of their own and enthusiastically joining in with classroom learning and activities. It has been lovely to see their confidence growing as they settle into school life and become part of our classroom community.



Mrs. McIntosh, Ms Drury
Prep/One Team