RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

Issue: 7 Date: 6th November 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Enrolments

We now have 14 confirmed Preps for next year and 60 overall. If any families (apart from Grade 6 students) will not be returning in 2027, can you please inform the school office as soon as possible so we can organise the class structures, staffing, furniture and booklists.

Staffing for 2027

We will be welcoming two new teachers in 2027, Diane Russo and Natalie Morrison. We also welcome Molly Worthington and Evonne Coss who have joined our school as ES staff to assist students in the classroom and playground. Students will be able to meet their teachers, Education Support staff and new classmates on Statewide Orientation Day on Tuesday December 8th.

Sporting Schools

We have been fortunate to have coaches from Warragul Basketball providing skill and practice sessions each Wednesday during October. We have also had coaches from DS Sports providing athletics sessions each Friday in preparation for our House Athletics Sports.





Congratulation Darcie

Congratulations to Darcie Richardson who participated in the 11 Years Hurdles event at the recent Regional Athletics held in Newborough. Darcie finished third in her heat and is already looking forward to 2028 where she can aim for more athletics success.

Bike Ed

Students will be participating in 4 weeks of Bike Education sessions in November with our whole-school Bike Hike booked in for Friday 4th December. Any students who do not have their own bike or scooter (or helmet) will be able to borrow these items from the school thanks to donations of bikes from families.

KEY DATES

November

Monday	9th	Bike Ed Begins School Council
Wednesday	11th	Remembrance Day
Monday	16th	Whole School Swimming Begins
Friday	20th	Whole School Swimming Finishes
Wednesday	25th	Bike Ed Ends and Bikes need to go home
Thursday	26th	Whole School Art Show
Friday	27th	Curriculum Day

December

Thursday	3rd	Library Closes for Borrowing
Friday	4th	Whole School Bike Ride
Monday	7th	School Council
Tuesday	8th	Statewide Orientation Day Parent Information afternoon 2027
Friday	11th	Grade 6 Big Day Out
Tuesday	15th	Whole School Christmas Luncheon Whole School Christmas Concert
Wednesday	16th	Whole School Water Fight
Friday	18th	Last day of Term 4 1:30pm Finish

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE PART 2

Fundraising

Our Scrap Metal Skip collected $237 and our Container Recycling Scheme for cans, bottles and juice boxes has so far raised $925. Thank you to the families who have supported these fundraising efforts to add valuable dollars to our school's small budget.

2027 School Review

As a state school we are required to have a School Review every four years. In 2027 we are scheduled for our 2023-2027 Review. We will be looking at areas of growth as well as areas for improvement to focus on as targets for the next four years. As part of this process, we will be seeking feedback from staff, students and parents as focus groups. More details will follow early next year. Our Curriculum Day scheduled for Friday 27th November will be our first day of planning for what 2027 will look like.

Parking

As we continue to increase enrolments, we now have fewer carparks than families. To assist with ease of parking there are three options.

1. Park along the front fence at the eastern side of the oval (near the flagpoles and cubby) and walk to the front gate to collect students.
2. Arrive five-ten minutes later-staff are always on gate duty until 3:30 (or the last child leaving) and the carpark is usually clear by 3:20
3. Enrol students into OSHC (3:15-5:45) each school day, the carpark is very empty after 3:30 each day.

Please do not park on the side of Westernport Road as it is dangerous to access vehicles when cars are driving past, even with the 60 km/h.

Please do not double-park and block other cars in, waiting a few minutes assists everyone to use the carpark safely.

It is one-way traffic in our carpark, enter from Lang Lang side, exit Drouin side, obeying the speed limit (10 km/h) and direction of traffic

STEM Grant

Our school was successful in applying for a $3000 STEM Grant through Immersive Education for 2027. This year, all students were able to design, build and fly their own model aircraft through a similar program and next year all students will be able to create and construct their own working MARS Rover models. We look forward to seeing our Science Technology Engineering and Maths curriculum continuing to expand and provide opportunities for our students that they would not normally be exposed to.





Nigel Kilpatrick
Principal

OFFICE NEWS

RIPPLEBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

Term 4

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 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 opted in to pay the 2026 Voluntary Curriculum Contributions and/or by payment plan	$ 60 or balance	Term 4
All	**Swimming Payments**	$55	**Term 4**

2027 Parent Contribution Policy

2027 Parent Contribution Policy will be sent home this month. These will list the voluntary contributions plus extra-curricular items and activities for the new school year.

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

Empathy helps children build positive relationships and create a caring, inclusive school community. By learning to put themselves in someone else's shoes, children develop kindness, respect and an appreciation of the differences that make us unique, helping everyone feel valued and that they belong.

Through our TRP (The Resilience Project) and Respectful Relationships lessons, students are learning to recognise their own emotions, understand how others might feel and ask for help when faced with challenges or big feelings. These skills help children build stronger friendships, navigate disagreements and consider how their words and actions affect others.

We are continuing to support students to manage challenges in the yard positively. When conflicts or frustrations arise, children are encouraged to take a deep breath, step away, seek support from a friend or ask a teacher for help.

Families can support this learning at home by talking about feelings, wondering together how someone else might feel in a situation, and using toys or role play to practise what to do when disagreements arise. For example, you might ask, "How do you think they felt?" or "What could you do to help make things better?"

Together, we can help children navigate tricky moments with kindness and understanding, creating a calmer, safer and more inclusive school environment where everyone feels they belong.

At home activity

An activity families can do together at home is to explore how different people might feel in the same situation. It helps children practise the empathy skills they are learning at school, while building understanding, kindness and connection at home.

Choose a scenario. For example, a child is left out of a game, someone loses at a board game, or a friend says something unkind.

Talk about feelings. Ask, "How might that person be feeling?" and "What makes you think they might feel that way?"



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL)

MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Put yourself in their shoes. Invite each family member to imagine how they would feel in that situation. Discuss how everyone might feel differently.

Think of a kind response. Ask, "What could we do or say to help?" or "How could we make sure everyone feels included?"

The most important thing is to remind children that we don't always know exactly how someone else feels, but we can listen, ask questions and try to understand. Practising empathy together helps children develop stronger relationships, manage disagreements more positively and create a sense of belonging for everyone.

Helpful Resource for Families

The single most important parenting strategy.
https://www.ted.com/talks/becky_kennedy_the_single_most_important_parenting_strategy

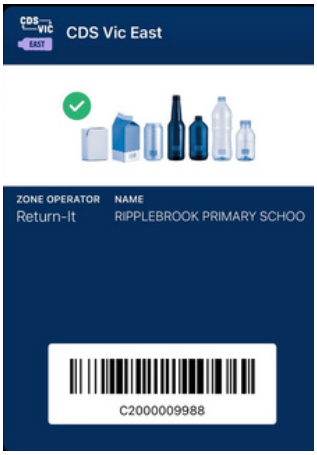
Becky Kennedy's TED Talk explores how parents can manage their anger, overcome feelings of guilt and shame, and build stronger relationships with their children. She shares practical strategies for handling difficult moments and reminds parents that it's never too late to reconnect and become a better parent.



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.





OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

Book of the Month

There's a special place, hidden within the school. It's a magical place where the books inside can take readers on journeys beyond their wildest dreams.



Welcome to Mr Luke's Magic Library ...
Mr Luke's class have opened a magic book and found themselves under the sea! They marvel at the underwater wonders, but when a sad mermaid approaches them, they know they want to help. Can Mr Luke's class help the mermaid find her magical pearls?



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

The Prep/1 students have been busy learning and exploring!

In Maths, we have been learning about the features of analogue clocks and developing our skills in telling the time to the hour and half-hour. To put our learning into practice, students created their very own Halloween pumpkin clocks, carefully placing the numbers and hands to show different times. It was a fun and creative way to explore time!

In Literacy, we enjoyed reading the informative story Dingo by Claire Saxby. Inspired by the text, students wrote their own information reports about dingoes, sharing interesting facts and demonstrating their developing information-writing skills. We are so proud of their enthusiasm and wonderful learning!

During developmental play, our Flying Start students joined the Prep/Year 1 students for a range of fun, hands-on learning experiences. They explored number puzzles, enjoyed creative crafts, practised threading, and created colourful patterns using blocks and pegboards.















Mrs. McIntosh, Ms Molly & Ms Coss

Prep/One Team

CLASS NEWS FROM TWO/THREE

Grade 2 /3 have been working hard with their learning. Mr. Baker has set each student's new challenge for reading this term and everyone is keen to break their previous records.

In Maths, the students have been consolidating multiplication and division skills. They have been working with fractions and revising their time telling knowledge with both analogue and digital clocks.

In Science students have been studying Push and Pull forces. They have explored, experimented and created examples of these forces and compared why and how they work.

Physical Education sessions have included basketball as well as skipping. There have been some very creative ways of using the skipping ropes to achieve some high scores! The students have also enjoyed the range of skills being taught during the basketball lessons.













Mrs Smith, Mrs Wilson, and Mr Baker

Two/Three Team

CLASS NEWS FROM FOUR/FIVE & SIX

Students have started planning their Economics task for their Market Day in early December when they will be operating a stall at school with goods or services for sale. 'Ripplebucks' will be allocated to younger students and visitors on the day and all senior students have to track their debits and credits to record their profit or loss. These are small business stalls with no expectation that they spend hundreds of dollars, rather use cheap or free items to sell. The most successful stalls will have more 'Ripplebucks' at the end compared to their starting budget.





With the state election approaching, students have been looking at the three different levels of government in Australia (local, state and federal) and have identified issues that affect themselves. Letters have been written to Baw Baw shire, Cardinia Shire, Victorian Parliament and Parliament House in Canberra, we hope to receive replies from the councillor, minister or even Prime Minister. Students researched which areas of government are responsible for certain portfolios and planned their letters before handwriting (more likely to be read than a generic email) their opinions with facts to back up their reasons

Interested students currently in Grade 3, 4 or 5 who wish to apply for a school leadership position (School Captain, House Captain) have been given an application template to draft their ideas and then practise their speech prior to Statewide Orientation Day (Tuesday December 8th) when they will be able to stand up in front of the students and staff and say why they should be voted for. 2027 School Leaders will be announced at our end of year celebration/concert on Tuesday December 15th.



Mackai Holland who recently completed his seven weeks of pre-service teacher training welcomed a baby daughter (Maisy) with his partner, Sarah, the day after finishing his placement, so very good timing! We hope they can visit us before the end of the school year. We wish their family all the best as they settle into parenthood.




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

MEAL DEAL



Stickybeaks from the School Office $10

Meal Deal $9 per student
Lunch $ 6
Treat $3

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
6/11	Whole School sausage sizzle no cost		
13/11	Homemade Sausage Rolls	Hedgehog slice	
20/11	Zucchini Slice and Chips	Chocolate Crackle Slice	
27/11	Not hot lunch		
4/12	Not hot lunch School Bike Hike		
11/12	Hamburger with cheese, tomato, lettuce, egg and bacon and sauce	Ice cream sundae	

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 Wednesday. 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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2026:

We ended up putting together 9 boxes this year. Thank you to all the families who were able to send in some gifts to fill the shoeboxes. We did this together as a school as well and the students got to choose items from the table so everyone got a turn. I'll let everyone know where the boxes went in term 1.






CHRISTMAS HAMPERS:

We will be collecting items for Christmas hampers for local families who need a helping hand this Christmas. Just like last year, this will be collected by our Junior School Council, Mrs. Smith & Chappy. There is a box at admin to place your goodies in.





CHAPPY NEWS

FUN WITH LUNCH TIME CLUBS!

COOKING CLUB-ALTERNATING WEDNESDAYS AT SNACK

Our first and only Cooking Club this term so far was Amish Apple Cake to which we added choc chips and served with ice cream.





CHAPLAINCY GROUP WORK

Seasons For Growth- Grade 4,5,6

This group began in Week 3 . This program is about learning that life is like the seasons and nothing stays the same forever. Change happens to everyone, and it can be moving house, losing a friendship, having to share a bedroom, friend moving away, death of a family member , divorce or separation etc.

REMEMBER THAT LAUGHTER IS GOOD MEDICINE :))

KIDS HELPLINE- PARENT HELP

https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids
https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents

Kids Helpline is for everyone really. It's a safe site that children from 5 years-adults can access and get information on friendship issues to emotional guidance relevant to the age. Parents and children/youth can use the site for counselling via online webchat or a free call from mobile or landline on 1800 55 1800.

TALK TO OTHER PARENTS JUST LIKE YOU

There are also groups you can join for support online through their website. Parenting help and for children seeking some help.



Ms Sam Bond
Chappy
School Chaplain

COMMUNITY NEWS



