

# RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue: 3 Date: 26th May 2025



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### What a Holiday!

While it was nice to be away in the USA for 5 weeks, it is also great to be back at Ripplebrook and see our students, staff, families and the wonderful autumn leaves in our school grounds.

I have been impressed with some students' learning growth and maturity since March.

### Welcome

We welcome another family to our school with Brooklyn joining us in Grade 3, this now increases our overall enrolments to 42

### School Zone/Parking

Please be mindful of the speed limit, parking bays and direction of traffic in our school carpark. It is 5 km/hour and one-way traffic entering from the Lang Lang side and exiting the Drouin side. With more families now part of our school community, the carpark can be a little busy at certain times of the day. Students will remain inside the gates until collected by an adult or directed to use pathways to parents' cars only if the car is attended. No-one should be crossing in front of moving vehicles to or from the school entrances. Traffic police patrol Westernport Road as part of their weekly schedule and enforce the speed limit of 60 km/h before and after school.

### Hockey Clinic

We were fortunate to have a free hockey clinic conducted by Hockey Victoria coaches in early May and some students also attended weekend clinics in Drouin to join skills and drills practice and possibly teams with regular games.



### Works over the School Holidays

During the Easter holiday break, the shade sail over the rope playground was taken down and then re-installed

with higher steel poles to ensure that the play area is safer and under better protection for hot sunny days. This was paid for as part of our Active Schools grant.



### Sporting Schools

This term students will also be able to participate in gymnastics and golf coaching sessions as part of the Sporting Schools program.

*Nigel Kilpatrick*  
Principal

## KEY DATES

### June

Friday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Curriculum Day
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos
Monday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Parent-Teacher Interviews

### July

Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Parent-Teacher Interviews
Friday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term 2 early dismissal 2:30pm
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup>	First day of Term 3
Monday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Bookfair Opens more information TBA

### August

Friday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Family and Friends Day
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OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Be Responsible  
Be Safe

Be Respectful  
Be an Active Learner

Be Resilient  
Be an Active Learner



## EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL DAY

Friday 16th May was Education Support Personnel Day and we were able to celebrate and thank our classroom and administration support staff: Courtney, Marc, Paula, Amanda D and Amanda M. We are fortunate to have these people as part of our staff and they fulfil a number of roles across the school including student support in class, yard supervision, medical and wellbeing assistance and school finances and procedures. Without them, we could not be the school we are now and aim to be in the future.



## ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

Our School Captains Brody Byrne & Harry Wells laid a wreath at the Lang Lang cenotaph on behalf of our school as part of the ANZAC Service on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Then they got to be part of the march down the main street of Lang Lang. It's great to be involved with a local community event. Thank you to Mr Baker for organising the wreath and Mrs D for meeting and helping to organise the students on the day.



## ENROLMENTS

We have a number of Prep enquiries and school tours for 2026. Education Week and Open Day last Friday 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

## PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS & TRAINEE EDUCATION SUPPORT

We will be providing opportunities for pre-service teachers as well as people undertaking Certificate IV Childcare to be part of our school as they complete their training. This will mean that students are introduced to different adults as part of their school day and on some occasions there will be 3 or 4 adults in a classroom.

## SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORTS (SWPBS)

Please see attached to this newsletter our updated SWPBS which aligns with our school values. Students have access to these visual reminders within learning spaces, and school yard and they are part of our wellbeing focus.

	AT ALL TIMES	CLASSROOM	YARD	
<b>BE SAFE</b> 	Keep hands and feet to self (personal space)	Move around the room carefully (walking feet)	Using equipment appropriately.	Go to
	Ask for help to resolve conflict	Line up outside classrooms	Climb up stairs and then down slide.	
	Walk on concrete areas		Use trolley to move cubby building equipment.	
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b> 	Wear shoes outside (laces tied/Velcro fastened)	Speak to others in a friendly manner.		
	Follow directions from school staff and visitors.	Actively listen to others who are speaking	Take turns with sports equipment and on playground.	Use t
	Use manners and cooperating		Include others in games.	Ke
	Think before acting and speaking.			Quiet

## RIPPLEBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

### Term 2

**Monday 26th May School Council**

**Monday 23rd June School Council**

### Term 3

**Monday 28th July School Council**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August School Council.**

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

## THUMBS UP



Chris and Beth Dunne for removing a dangerous tree branch overhanging our school fence.



Dunne and Beath families for looking after our school chooks during the holidays.

## 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 to contact them every day 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.



# 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

## OFFICE HOURS FOR TERM 2 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 Thursday 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 are being sent home to parents/guardians this week

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*





# OFFICE NEWS

## CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. Means-tested concession cards must be valid on the first day of Term 1, 2025 (Tuesday 28 January 2025) or Term 2, 2025 (Tuesday 22 April 2025).

A student aged 16 years and over who is considered a mature minor and holds a valid concession card is also eligible to apply.

Eligible families will receive a payment of \$154 per year for primary school students. The funds will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 03 5627 6278 and ask for an application form. Please return completed application forms to the school office as soon as possible.

## SCHOOL SAVING BONUS REMINDER AND ALLOCATION TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus (SSB) – a one-off support of \$400 for eligible government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

The SSB can be used for uniforms and textbooks until Monday 30 June 2025.

Any funds remaining after 30 June 2025, including online voucher amounts that have not been redeemed, will become a credit to use on school activities. However, the credit will not be available on your family account at our school until late July.

To use any remaining SSB funds to cover the cost of school activities in July, please refer to the SSB online system and allocate the funds to school activities before 30 June 2025.

To learn more about the SSB online system, download the step-by-step System guide for parents and carers (DOCX, 945KB) or watch this School Saving Bonus video. System guide translations are also available in 14 languages.

The Department of Education's SSB contact centre will remain available until 30 June 2025. The contact centre can be reached by:

- completing the School Saving Bonus enquiry form
- calling 1800 338 663, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays.

After this date, please contact our administration team for any SSB related questions.

Thank you,

*Business Manager*  
*Amanda McLaughlin*



## 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 <https://www.ripplebrookps.vic.edu.au/page/167/Policies>,

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. This information is also available in ten community languages:

## 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.



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.

DDate	Lunch	Treat	Parent Helper
23/5	Homemade ham and cheese pizza with garlic bread.	Honey Joy	Beth
30/5	Home- cooked fish and chips	Fairy Bread Cake	Sarah
13/6	Creamy tomato pasta	Iced Donut	Beth
20/6	Homemade Sushi 1x Tuna handroll and 1 x Chicken handroll.	Ice cream Sandwich	Erin
27/6	Meat Pie	Milo Peanut Butter Slice	Jodie

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



Welcome Back to Term 2

It's wonderful to be back after a fantastic holiday exploring Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. Term 2 is already off to a great start and moving quickly!

In our TRP (The Resilience Project) lessons this term, we are focusing on kindness and empathy. The children are learning how small acts of kindness not only help others but also make us feel good too.

We're talking about empathy—what it means to really understand and share someone else's feelings. When we show empathy and do something kind for someone, our brains release a chemical called oxytocin. This can boost our mood, confidence, and energy, helping us feel more positive and happier.

At school we have regular GEM (Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness) Chats in class.

You can do these at home too with the whole family!

Here's a simple idea:

During dinner or family time, ask everyone to share something kind or empathetic they did during the day or week. Then talk about how it made them feel and what character strengths were needed to do it.

These small conversations can make a big difference in helping children grow into kind, thoughtful individuals.

Thanks for your continued support—here's to a positive and enriching Term 2!



Mrs Robyn Smith



## Mr Kilpatrick in the 2/3 Room

Grade 2-3 students have been reading the novel 'Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing' and have created some wonderful designs of Dribble the turtle who is one of the main characters.



Students have continued with their number pattern work, some addition and learning about time during our maths sessions. They have been learning how to use a calendar to work out the number of days, weeks, or months between dates. We are also beginning to learn how to tell the time using analogue and digital clocks, which can be both challenging and exciting!

### STUDENT DIARIES

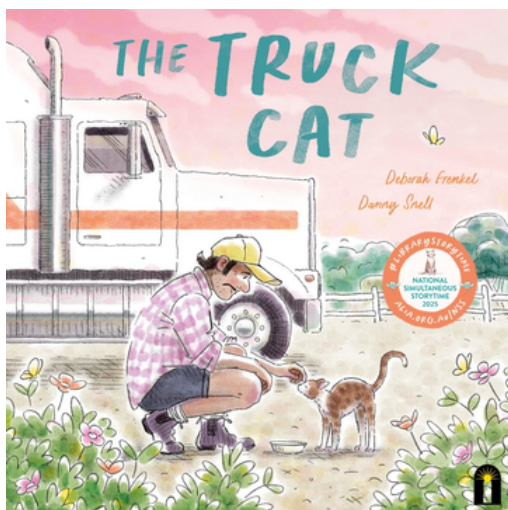
Ripplebrook Primary School values the relationship between parents, carers, students, and staff. At all times we encourage open and honest communication and believe this will model our student's responsible problem-solving and social and well-being behaviours.

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.



### NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME



This week, our class joined in the National Simultaneous Storytime, a wonderful event where students all over Australia read the same picture book at the same time. This year's book was The Truck Cat by Deborah Frenkel, a beautiful story about cats, humans, immigration, identity, and the meaning of home. After listening to the story, students completed a range of literacy activities to explore its themes of belonging and connection.

## RIPPLEBROOK OSHC IS HERE!

We are excited to announce that our OSHC (Out of School Hours Care) is now open. At this stage, we can offer our OSHC service in the afternoons. It will run from 3:15 pm till 5:45 pm Monday to Friday, on days our school is operating. Our service has a capacity of 15 students per day.

To be able to use the service you will need to enrol your child/ren into the Ripplebrook OSHC Service. This is done one of two ways. You use the link provided below or you jump onto the school website and navigate to the OSHC tab and at the bottom of the page, there is a big blue button.

Once you have filled out your enrolment paperwork and submit it. It will take up to 24 hours to receive your welcome email which you will need to complete the final steps to fully enrol your child/ren into our service. Now that your child/ren is/are enrolled in our service you will be able to manage your child's/ren's booking on a casual or standard booking from your home Xplor app. Booking via the Xplor app will close at 2:00 pm on the day or if the service reaches capacity.

For a last-minute booking, you will need to ring the school office to see if there is still space available for the day and do 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, calling this number ensures 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.

<https://www.ripplebrookps.vic.edu.au/page/187/OSHC>

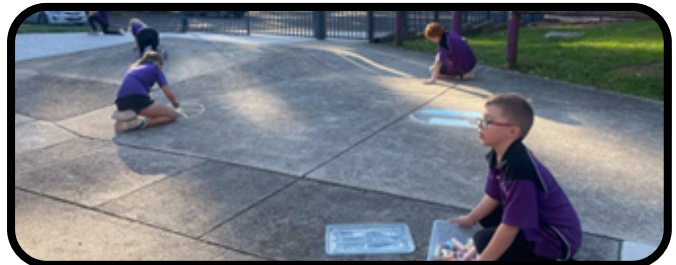


## OSHC

We've had a vibrant and busy start to Term 2 at OSHC, with a higher number of students attending and a few new faces joining our community. The early afternoon weather has been lovely, allowing us to enjoy outdoor play on most days, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

In Week 4, we explored various modes of transport as part of National Transport Week. The children participated in engaging discussions and then brought their ideas to life by creating chalk drawings of different transport types outside. Afternoon tea has also been a highlight, with our new platter-style service proving popular among the children. The variety encourages them to try new foods, and it's been wonderful to see so many embracing different tastes and textures each day.

I continue to have ongoing conversations with the children about activities they'd like to do and foods they'd like to experience. If your child comes up with any ideas at home, please encourage them to share these with me, I love incorporating their suggestions into our program!





## CLASS NEWS FROM PREP/ONE

Wow! Term 2 is flying by, and our Prep/1 students have packed so much into the past few weeks.

We began the term with some fantastic Easter celebrations. Students worked in their house groups and enjoyed a range of activities across different classrooms. In the Prep/1 room, they created their own Easter baskets. The day ended with a colourful Easter Hat Parade and a fun-filled whole-school Easter egg hunt.

We also spent time learning about the importance of Anzac Day through stories and hands-on creative activities that helped students understand its significance.

In Personal and Social Learning, students have been developing important life skills—such as respecting personal space, understanding how words can affect others, and recognising body language—through stories, songs, role play, and letter writing.

In Maths, our focus has been on algebra and measurement. Students have been identifying and creating patterns, and are now exploring measurement using both informal and formal units to compare objects and record their findings.

Students have also been working on tying their own shoelaces through developmental play.

We're so proud of all the wonderful learning and growth happening in Prep/1!



*Prep/One Team  
Mrs. McIntosh and Ms Scanlon*

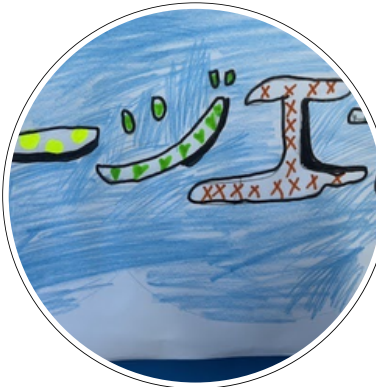


## CLASS NEWS FROM TWO/THREE



It's hard to believe we're already nearly halfway through Term 2—the weeks are flying by as students settle into their routines and continue to grow in their learning!

We started the term with a fun-filled day of Easter activities. Students rotated through different classrooms enjoying crafts, activities, and stories. We wrapped up the day with our Easter Bonnet Parade and a much-anticipated Easter Egg Hunt. In the 2/3 classroom, students worked in their House groups to create as many words as they could from a mix of letter tiles hidden inside plastic eggs. They also tried to solve the mystery phrase using all the letters—EASTER EGG. A big congratulations to Jay in Grade 4, who created an impressive 43 words and was one of the ones who solved the final puzzle



Earlier this term, we spent time learning about the importance of ANZAC Day. Through storybooks, class discussions, and creative activities, students explored the meaning behind this National Day of Remembrance and the values of courage and sacrifice. The class created thoughtful poppy artwork, and we took part in a whole school ANZAC ceremony on the day before Anzac Day at school led by Nathan, Brody and Tyler from Grade 5 and 6. We observed a minute of silence and Arjay proudly represented our class by laying a wreath at the base of the flagpole. It was a moving and respectful occasion for everyone involved.

In the classroom, we've been working hard on improving our writing. During grammar sessions, students have been learning how to expand their sentences using adjectives and adverbs, and they're now using these skills to make their writing more descriptive and interesting.



**Taj** – The bee buzzed. The annoyed bee buzzed to the hive.

**Grayson** – The boy threw the ball. The little boy threw the ball high up into the basketball ring.

**Arjay** – The lion roared. The big lion roared loudly in the jungle.

**Katie** – The dog barked. The big dog barked loudly in the backyard.

Students have been learning how to write their names in Japanese using kanji characters, which has offered a fun and creative way to connect with the language. They have also expanded their vocabulary by identifying and naming the four seasons in Japanese through interactive and engaging activities.

As part of our follow up lessons in the classroom, students created vibrant graffiti-style artwork featuring their names written in kanji. These eye-catching designs are a great blend of language and art, and the students had a fantastic time showing off their creativity!



It's been a busy and exciting term so far, and we're looking forward to what's still to come!

*Two/Three Team*

*Mrs Smith and Mr Baker*