

Richmond Primary School Term 4, 2009

Prep Newsletter



It is hard to believe that we are beginning term four, and that this will be our last term together! We look back with such fondness and look forward with a great deal of excitement. The children have come such a long way socially, emotionally and academically. They are all reading and writing with such enthusiasm and vigour! They are enjoying experimenting with number and have been such eager scientists, which was evident during our whole school science day. It has been such a delightful journey and we will once again, approach this term with great joy.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

This term all children must wear hats to protect them from the harmful effects of the sun. They are required to wear appropriate hats that cover their heads, ears and necks. Any child who does not bring their hat will not be able to play outside and will have to stay in a designated area. Children are also encouraged to apply sunscreen before school, and reapply at lunch time. A roll on sunscreen is wonderful for easy application especially for the preps.

Please remember to return any laminated Magic 100 Words, laminated handwriting sheets, and maths games. These resources take class teachers a great deal of time and cost the school money so we would appreciate if we could use them in future years. We would also like any home reading books returned. We can appreciate that at times things can be misplaced but we ask that special care is taken of these resources.

RICHMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Richmond Primary website <http://www.richmondps.vic.edu.au> is updated regularly and has important and interesting information, forms for parents as well as the grade prep timetable and prep events. Please take time to check this site weekly.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders will continue to be available each Friday through flexischools. If you would like to order a lunch order for your child orders are placed and paid for via an online system. Lunch orders are delivered to the school between 12:30-12:50pm each Friday. The online website can be accessed at www.flexischools.com.au

If you have not used the system before you will need to register as a new user to access the online menu.

PMP HELPERS

Thank you to all of the parents who helped with PMP this year. It is such a valuable program. Due to various Term 4 commitments we are unable to run the PMP program in fourth term. If you were a PMP helper we would appreciate your help with home reading in the classroom on Tuesdays and Fridays.

CLASSROOM HELPERS

Again we extend a sincere thank you for all of the work that has been done in support of our classroom. It has been a great way of bridging the gap between home and school and has been so beneficial for the children to work with all of the helpers. We hope that you have enjoyed your time in our classrooms.

Although PMP equipment sessions will not be happening in Term 4, we would still very much appreciate any help that parents can offer. In particular, we appreciate time parents can offer for listening to and helping with individual children's reading. So we'd love those parents who were helping with PMP on Tuesdays and Fridays to continue their helping at school on the same days they did previously.

We welcome new helpers. Parents new to Richmond Primary, or those now available for helping who were not previously, just need to organise for a copy of their Working With Children Check(WWCC) to be filed at the school office. Application forms for these are available from any Post Office. Once you have presented your receipt for the WWCC at the school office, you can begin helping with children at school. You can be a great parent helper even if English is not your first language, so we encourage everyone who can volunteer any time to do so.

Please let your child's teacher know that you are able to commit to a regular time, as this can help the teacher to plan any other activities in which parent help would be a real bonus. Additionally, when there are more parent helpers available on a particular day for one class than for another, it really assists us when parents spread their helping evenly amongst the different classes.

VALUABLES AT SCHOOL

Please remember that children **should not** be bringing any items of value to school and if they choose to it is at their own risk. If it is unavoidable that an item of value is brought to school please ensure it is taken to the office in the morning and collected at the end of the day. Valuables that are brought to school that are lost, stolen or broken can cause great stress for your child and proves extremely difficult for classroom teachers when they are asked to follow up.

Specialist Times for Term 4

class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>Sue/Natalie</u>	<i>Library P.E</i>		<i>Greek Performing Arts</i>	<i>Art</i>	<i>CRE</i>
<u>Sarah</u>	<i>Performing Arts</i>	<i>P.E</i>	<i>Art Greek</i>		<i>CRE Library</i>
<u>Anne</u>	<i>P.E</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>Art Greek Performing Arts</i>		<i>CRE</i>

LOST PROPERTY

We continue with our request regarding labelling your children's belongings. We also ask that you look through the lost property boxes as there is still a large amount of unnamed property which needs to be

collected by the end of the year. Many thanks to the parents who regularly search through lost property and return items to children.

UNIT OF STUDY

In Term 4, all of Richmond Primary School will be exploring the concept of diversity. The Preps will do this in the unit of study we have titled '**Commotion in the Ocean**' (after a book that is a favourite with the children). The 'Starfish', 'Seahorses' and 'Angelfish' thought this would be a fascinating and enjoyable unit to study as there are so many wonderful and enchanting things in the ocean for us to find out about and enjoy.

As an introduction to this unit of study it was important to find out what the prep children already knew, felt and thought about the topic. We discussed, brainstormed and then watched a short film about the beach and the sea to tap into their curiosity. They then had the chance to explore their 'wonderings', sharing questions that they would like to find out about. These questions then helped us to plan some of the activities that we will be doing this term. It is through the wonderings of the children that an authentic and rich learning experience is developed. We will also be using the children's questions to create a 'Wonder Wall'. Questions will be posted on the Wonder Wall, with space to display responses around them. Each week the children will choose a question to bring home for family discussion and investigation. This research task will be a fun and simple activity, which involves finding out information from your family and friends. Space to record the response to the question, which could simply be a picture or story or photo, is limited to half an A4 size piece of paper. Each day five children will be rostered to share their findings with the other children in their group, using the piece of paper they have brought from home as a prompt. The Wonder Wall can be added to as questions arise throughout the term. We hope you enjoy discussing the questions your children choose and thinking about the answers with your child.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

WHOLE SCHOOL PRESENTATION

On **Wednesday the 16th of December** is our Whole School Presentation Night.

All grades perform an act before we farewell the grade 6 students. We would like **all** students and families to attend this special night.

SKIPPING PROGRAM

The whole school skipping program will begin on Monday the 12th of October until Monday 7th of December.

Fairytale incursion	9 th October
Skipping	Begins 12 th October
Responsible Pet Program incursion	14 th October
Prep Excursion to Aquarium	15 th October
School Photos	15 th October
Prep 2010 Transition 2.30-3.30pm	22 nd of October
Melbourne Cup Day Holiday	3 rd of November
Prep 2010 Transition 2.30-3.30pm	4 th of November
Prep 2010 Transition Night 7pm	11 th of November
Carols by Candlelight Citizens Park	10 th of December
Whole School Presentation	16 th of December
Last day of term 4	18 th of December

Reminder:

☺ All prep classes have a fruit and vegetable snack each day at 10.00 am. Children are encouraged to bring a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable to eat during class time.