



RPSnews

Number 2
February 12th 2009

Richmond Primary School

Brighton Street, Richmond 3121

> T: 9428 1909 F: 9428 9085

Aftercare T: 9421 8901

E: richmond.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

www.richmondps.vic.edu.au

> **EFTPOS facilities available**
\$1.50 per transaction

February

- | | |
|----|---|
| 12 | School Council -
Nominations close 4pm |
| 12 | Family BBQ Night -
Barkley Gardens 6pm |
| 13 | Bushfire Appeal Casual Dress Day
and Disco |
| 17 | Grade One-Two
Parent Teacher Night |
| 18 | Prep Parent Information
Session - 7pm |
| 19 | Grade Three-Six
Parent Teacher Night |
| 25 | Prep Parent Teacher Night |

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will now be open Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00-9:30am. Sam Wischer and Sam Eckholdt have recruited Danielle Romani to assist them with coordinating uniform orders.

Brighton St Parking Information

Yarra City Council has advised us of new parking conditions in Brighton Street. The area on the east of Brighton Street between Lesney Street and the freeway is to be changed to 1 hour parking from 7am-7pm with Permit Zone All Other Times. New parking signs will be installed within the next 4-6 weeks. Please contact the City of Yarra if you require further information on 92055422.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers

The term has started very well, particularly for the prep students who are enjoying getting to know the school with the help of their buddies.

As you are well aware, the recent bushfires have caused major devastation throughout Victoria. Our thoughts are with the families who have been affected. Thank you to the families who have donated items for the school to direct to a charitable organisation. We will continue to collect goods until Friday 20th February. A parent has kindly offered to organise a trailer and delivery of the goods to an appropriate location. The SRC has also organised a casual dress day and disco on Friday 13th February. A gold coin donation is required and all money raised will be donated to the Bushfire Appeal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FAMILY

FAMILY BBQ EVENING

The Richmond Primary School annual family BBQ is here.

WHEN: Thursday 12th February

WHERE: Barkly Gardens

TIME: 6pm

BYO: Everything!

Come along, join in the fun, catch up with other members of the school community and welcome all our new families.



OFFICE

Education Maintenance Allowance

Applications are now available for Parents/Guardians who are eligible for EMA assistance this year. If you are unsure whether you meet the criteria, you can check with Centrelink, look at the EMA website, or just ask Jane in the Office. Applications must be in by 27th February – no late applications will be accepted.

FUNDRAISING

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Where: Burwood Road, Hawthorn

Date: Saturday, February 21.

Time: 8am to 4pm.

Volunteers needed to make this a successful event. Please put your name on the roster on the doors going into Area 1. Also if anyone has some spare eskies we may be able to use them to transport snags and drinks.

Please contact the school on 94281909 for further information. Thanks.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT CONTINUED

Communication at Richmond Primary School is of great importance. Two-way communication is vital for everyone to have a positive and enjoyable experience at school. Please contact your classroom teacher to share successes and concerns regarding your child/ren. However if a concern continues, do not hesitate to discuss the issue with myself. I also encourage you to regularly read the newsletter, as it will keep you up to date with what has been happening within the school and upcoming events. The newsletter is sent home each Thursday afternoon and can also be accessed on the school website at www.richmondps.vic.edu.au.

Parents and carers often tell me that their child is reluctant to tell them about their school day when they ask the question, "How was school?" Children often find this question so general that it is difficult to answer, particularly when they are overloaded after a challenging day at school. A more effective way to connect with your child/ren may be to greet them enthusiastically with "I missed you," "I hope you had a good day," or "It's great to see you." When your child has had a snack or relaxed after school they may be more likely to lead you into a conversation about their school day.

I look forward to seeing you at welcome BBQ.

Regards **Megan**

PARENTING IDEAS

HELP YOUR CHILDREN MAKE SENSE OF NATURAL DISASTERS

By **Michael Grose**

The Queensland floods and the Victorian bushfires continue to wreak incredible havoc on so many people's lives and will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. These two natural disasters will be brought into our living rooms via the media over the coming days and weeks.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can't do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fills the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

Reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don't understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

Be available and 'askable'. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding. Sit with them. Ask them questions to ascertain their understanding.

Support children's concerns for others. They may have genuine concerns for the suffering

that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

Let them explore feelings beyond fear.

Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.

Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish.

Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.

Avoid keeping the television on all the time.

The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.

Be aware of your own actions. Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Take action yourself. Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something. It will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves. Children's worlds can be affected in ways that we can't even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children's needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children. In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.

Michael Grose is one of Australia's leading parenting educators.

Sourced from www.parentingideas.com.au



Adam



Alexander

star of the week

AREA

1

Seahorses

Zach Dowd for settling into school, excellent behaviour and working hard, despite feeling a little homesick.



Niamh Macaulay for settling into school, excellent behaviour and working hard, despite not feeling too well.

Angelfish

Lily Cahill for settling into prep so well and for being such a good listener.



Starfish

Spencer Bodin for settling in beautifully to grade prep.



Every week, we pose a quiz question based on the name of one of our wonderful students.

Write your answer on a piece of paper, along with your name and grade, and put it in the cream letter box in the office. **The first correct entry drawn will win a Student Pass for one hour.**

The winning entry will be drawn on Tuesday at 3.30pm.

NOTE:

- You may place **only one entry per week** in the box.
- Each player must put in their **own** entry (no joint entries)
- If you win, you are **win-binned** (disqualified) for one week, to give others a go.

This week's clue:

Add a letter to this Area 2 student's name and you'll have a type of large church.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Grade 1 / 2 L students wrote some questions so we could get to know the new teachers a little more.

Anne - Prep

Favourite colour:

Cobalt blue

Favourite food:

Mushroom risotto

Do you like your new school?

Very much - everyone is so friendly and helpful.

Favourite movie:

Nicholas and Alexandra

Natalie - Prep

How do you like the new school?

It's delightful!

Favourite hobby:

Anything to do with water.

What games do you like to play at school?

Hiding stuff from Sue!

Favourite Colour:

Blue

Lisa - 1 / 2

Favourite food:

Thai food.

Do you like Maths?

I love investigating problems in Maths.

Favourite hobby:

Watching and playing sport.

What games do you like to play at school?

Maths games like 11, Buzz and Race to 10!

Chris - 3 / 4

Favourite food:

My mum's roast pork!

How do you like the new school?

It is wonderful.

All the students, teachers and parents are very friendly.

Favourite movie:

Braveheart

Favourite colour:

Blue

Riley - 5/6

Favourite colour:

Green

Favourite hobby:

Playing tennis

Do you like Maths?

x + 5 (3+5) divided by 64 - 10 = YES

How do you like the new school?

RPS is fantastic, I could not have asked for a better school to start my teaching career.

Everyone is settling in beautifully.

A big hello to old friends and a warm welcome to the new children who have joined the program. Everyone is settling in beautifully.

We are all enjoying the new space very much. It is wonderful!

The OSHC program is planned weekly and displayed on the notice board above the sign in desk. Copies of the program are available on the sign in desk for you to take home. This is a good way for you to read and talk with your child/ren about what is happening.

We value your input and encourage families to get involved. You can do this by running a special activity, joining the Committee of Management or writing/emailing us about suggestions to incorporate or improve areas of the OSHC program.

This term we will be running a variety of weekly clubs. Monday is Mask Making and Little Chefs, Tuesday is Fun with Paint and Computers, Wednesday is Sewing, Thursday Art & Craft and Computers and Friday Science Experiments.

The Active After School Communities Program will be commencing next week. This term we have Fencing on Monday, Tennis on Wednesday and Circus Skills on Thursday.

We also have 3 VCE boys from Scotch College who will be volunteering their time on Thursdays. This is part of a Social Services Program that the school offers.

A reminder that accounts need to be paid fortnightly in advance. To maintain this two-week buffer a payment needs to be made each Friday, following the

account that is issued on a Tuesday. This ensures that the program is never in deficit.

All casual bookings to be paid at the time of booking or on the day. Please see OSHC staff when making a payment of cash, cheque, or credit card. Eftpos is available at the school office. All cheques are to be made out to Richmond Primary Out of School Hours Care.

Cheers, **Mia and the After Care Team**

Banana Pops Recipe

Peel a banana, dip in orange juice, roll in chopped peanuts, coconut, corn flakes or granola. Insert a wooden stick in the centre of each and freeze.

Children had fun making these on Monday and Wednesday.

MUSIC LESSONS

Singing | Piano | Violin | Cello
Flute | Clarinet | Saxophone
Guitar | Bass & Electric Guitar |

Keyboard

Richmond PS students who enrol this term will receive a **10% discount** on the music fees*

Call on 9427 8049



ABC Music offers quality and affordable music lessons (group or individual) at our music school

295 Bridge Rd, Richmond 3121

(Corner of Bridge Rd & Church St)

Music lessons are available throughout the year from **Monday - Saturday**

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For more information visit our website

www.abemusicgroup.com.au

*this offer applies to new students only
we sell music books and instruments

ROAD SAFETY

ROAD SAFETY

The beginning of term is a good time to remind children of simple safety tips to ensure they cross the road safely.

Teach your child/children to stop at the kerb, look right, look left, look right again, listen for cars coming and think before crossing the road. Ask your child to explain these steps back to you so you can make sure they really do understand what to do.

Encourage children to cross roads where there are traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, or school crossings. Make sure they know to only cross at lights when the green "walk" sign is showing and at pedestrian crossings when cars have stopped for them.

If you use a school crossing, teach your child to follow the rules outlined below.

1. A children's crossing is a legal crossing when two flags are in place.
2. Children and adults who are crossing at a children's crossing must comply with the supervisor's directions.
3. You must always stand behind the yellow line.
4. Never follow the children's crossing supervisor out onto the crossing - Wait! They must go out first, when they have blown their whistle (2 short blasts) it is safe to cross.
5. Do not ride bikes across the crossing, bounce a ball, fight, muck around or run - walk quickly and safely.
6. Always stay within the lines of crossing and walk in front of the supervisor (never behind them).
7. The children's crossing supervisor will always wait until it is safe before the walk out and blow their whistle.
8. Cars are not allowed to park on or around the crossing. It is illegal and you may be fined by parking inspectors.
9. Always be alert and listen to what your children's crossing supervisor says.
10. Remember always cross at the children's crossing when it is in operation.

Your school community is here to help. If you have any comments, concerns or praise, please speak to your child's teacher, the principal or a School Council member

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