



# RPSnews

**NEWSLETTER 4**  
**25th February 2009**

Richmond Primary School  
Brighton Street Richmond 3121

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www.richmondps.vic.edu.au

> EFTPOS facilities available

\$1.50 per transaction

## Dates to Remember

### March

2 Preps begin full week

3 School Council Meeting 6pm

9 Labour Day Holiday

10-20 Whole School Swimming Program

### April

3 Term 1 ends – 2:30pm

20 Term 2 commences

## WALK-A-THON

The school walk-a-thon will be held on Friday 15th May (not Friday 3rd March). More details to follow closer to the date.

## GRADE 3/4 REPORT

The Grade 3/4's are lucky enough to have three grades this year. There is 3/4R with Rod in Area 2 and 3/4C with Chris in Area 3 and 3/4T with Tracey in Area 3 as well. The Grade 3/4's have had a great start to the year; we are already busy working in our reading, measurement and spelling groups. All students have settled into the routine well.

Our topic for this term is "Rules." We have been busily learning about the different sorts of rules at home, school and in the community. Students have been questioning why we have rules and why we think they are important. As part of our topic we are all learning a new sport, "European Handball". All students have been placed into a team and we are currently involved the Richmond Primary European handball championship. To assist us with our skills, we are lucky to have members of the Victoria Handball Team coming out next Wednesday.

Reading is a big focus as well this term and for the rest of the year. All students have embraced home reading and we hope to see this continue. We, the teachers, would urge all parents to encourage their child to be reading every night at home. It is important that the children are able to comprehend what they are reading, spending time with them reading and discussing texts is most helpful to their development.

Thank you to those parents to attended parent teacher interviews and information nights in the last few weeks. It is great to meet you all and all the information that you can tell us about your child can only help us teach him/her better.

Tracey, Chris and Rod

## 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.**

## PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to the 65% of families who have already paid this year's school fees. Payment assists in the purchase of stationery, books, art supplies, computer consumables and sporting equipment that will be used every day by your child. Voluntary contributions enable the school to employ a gardener, maintain buildings and grounds and upgrade outdated resources.

**A reminder that payments are due on Friday 27th February.**

# ANAPHYLAXIS

The School Council has ratified changes to the school's Anaphylaxis Policy. These changes are in accordance with DEECD guidelines and government legislation. The policy can be accessed via the school website at [www.richmondps.vic.edu.au](http://www.richmondps.vic.edu.au). If you would like a hard copy sent home please contact the office on 94281909 or email [richmond.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:richmond.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Community awareness is a major component in preventing anaphylaxis reactions as severe food allergies are a part of everyday life and severe peanut allergies affect between 0.25% and 3% of children. Peanuts and tree nuts are the most common foods associated with food related anaphylaxis and death during childhood.

## What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or insect sting). Although death is rare, an anaphylactic reaction always requires an emergency response. Prompt treatment with injected adrenaline is required to halt progression and can be life saving. Fortunately anaphylactic reactions are usually preventable by implementing strategies for avoiding allergens.

## Common allergens that can trigger anaphylaxis are:

- foods (e.g. peanuts and other nuts, shellfish and fish; and in pre-school age children, milk and egg)
- insect stings (e.g. bee, wasp, jack jumper ants)
- medications (e.g. antibiotics, aspirin)
- latex (e.g. rubber gloves, balloons, swimming caps).



## The severity of an anaphylactic reaction can be influenced by a number of factors including :

- exercise, hot weather and in the case of food allergens, the amount eaten.
- In the case of severe food allergies, an anaphylactic reaction is usually triggered by ingestion of the food.

## How can you recognise an anaphylactic reaction?

Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly at any time over a period of two hours. A student at risk of anaphylaxis will often recognise the early symptoms of an allergic reaction before any other signs are observable. Common symptoms are:

- flushing and/or swelling of the face
- itching and/or swelling of the lips, tongue or mouth
- itching and/or a sense of tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty breathing and/or swallowing
- hives, itchy rash and/or swelling about the face, body or extremities
- nausea, abdominal cramps, vomiting
- shortness of breath, repetitive coughing and/or wheezing
- faint, rapid pulse, low blood pressure
- light headedness, feeling faint, collapse
- distress, anxiety and a sense of dread.



## How can you help?

- Where possible refrain from sending nut products in your child/ren's lunch box
- Discuss with your child/ren the importance of not sharing food with other children
- Provide safe catering for birthday parties by including food alternatives for children with food related anaphylaxis
- Ensure your child/ren's medical information is up to date at the school

## *Bunnings Sausage Sizzle.*

We hosted our first Bunnings sausage sizzle at the new Hawthorn store on Saturday. We cleared more than \$1500 for the day that was a good result. Many thanks to the 30 parents who were able to sacrifice some time out of their busy schedules to make it a really worthwhile day. Thanks to the parents who were unable to put their name on the roster but agreed to chop up onions which was an enormous help. It was terrific to see a few of the new prep parents and teacher Lisa Marsden helping out on the day and keen to contribute. In addition to raising money it was also great to see parents meeting each other and working so co-operatively. We are hopeful of securing other dates on the Bunnings rosters as this is a good way to raise money outside of the school community. Claire Heaney.

# STUDENT ATTENDANCE

It is important for all students to be at school every day. When deciding whether to keep your child home from school, please consider the following:

A child should be at school unless;

- The child is too sick to leave the house. Generally, if a child is not sick enough to need to see a doctor, then the child should be at school.
- The child has an infectious disease like measles, chicken pox or mumps.
- The child has an injury preventing movement around school.
- The child is going on a family holiday that cannot be arranged during school holidays. This must be arranged with the principal in advance.
- The principal is provided with any genuine and acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance.
- A medical or dental appointment could not be made out of school hours (wherever possible, appointments should be made out of school hours)

In the event that your child is away, the school should be notified either by phone call or email or your child's first day of absence. On your child's return, a note must be supplied to explain the days missed (a proforma can be found in the 'Forms' section of the School website at [www.richmondps.vic.edu.au](http://www.richmondps.vic.edu.au)). You should also contact the school in advance if you know your child will be away. If your child has seen a medical practitioner (eg doctor or dentist) a certificate or appointment card will help explain the absence.

# Student of the week

AREA  
**1**

Mia Pagonis for her enthusiasm for everything and fantastic listening skills.

Luke Davies for showing amazing lateral thinking skills and for setting such a great example in class. Well done mate!

AREA  
**2**

Chloe Morgan for working really hard on her home reading. She is motivated to become a better reader.

Tobias Sanerive for the way he takes up every school challenge and particularly his determination to conquer the Maths Lab task 'Stomper.' Just one hamburger to get!

AREA  
**3**

Tiarnan Cleary for having such a fantastic attitude towards maths and continually wanting to improve in this area.

Miya Rakete for always being willing to take on a maths challenge and persisting until she is successful.

Grace Pelchen for her stunning work on her book 'MY PROFILE'.

The pages on her Guinea Pigs and The Planets are filled with personality and high quality thinking. What a start to a school year!

Kevin Le for his enthusiasm for learning and superb listening skills. Well done.

## SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As part of the annual school review process, and in response to the 2008 Parent Opinion Survey results, the School Council seeks your input into how improvements can be made within the school. Please detach and return the form below to the office by Friday 13th March with your suggestions. This form can also be accessed on the school website ([www.richmondps.vic.edu.au](http://www.richmondps.vic.edu.au)) and emailed to [richmond.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:richmond.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au). All suggestions will be considered at a future School Council meeting.

### RICHMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

How can we make improvements in the following areas?

#### Reporting

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#### Extra Curricula Activities

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#### Homework

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#### Other

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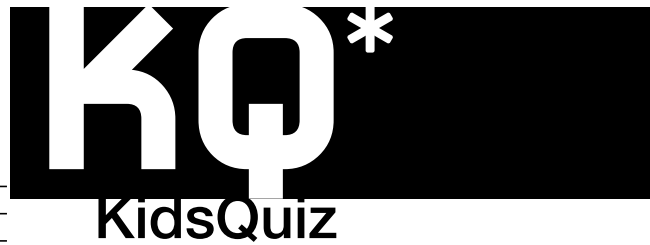
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## GENERAL PURPOSE ROOM AND ART ROOM OFFICIAL OPENING

A special assembly will be held on Friday 27th February at 9am to officially open the GP/Art room development. Richard Wynne MP, State Member for Richmond will be in attendance. Please come along to the GP room for the assembly if you are available.



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:**

**This Area 3 student's name rhymes with something that is very useful when it's raining.**

**Last week's clue:**

**The quiz wasn't solved last week**

## AFTERCARE

Everybody is continuing to enjoy our wonderful new space. Some of this week's highlights include paper mache masks, marble painting, outdoor bowling, quoits throwing plus daily table tennis tournaments. Its great to see parents also getting involved in table tennis rallies. Children love it when you take time to participate or watch as they complete an activity.

Friday is Movie Day. Please bring along a favourite "G" rated DVD to share. We would also appreciate donations of small boxes for construction and old stockings or socks.

Accounts go out via the school mail each Tuesday. Its important that you ask your child/ren if they have received any notices or envelopes to be passed along. You may need to check your child's bag. Occasionally they get misplaced. Please encourage your child to place items straight into their bag. If you do not receive an account please let me know and I will print out another one for you.

Mia & the after care team

## Little Chef's Cooking Club- Starry Hors D'oeuvres

Small star shaped cookie cutters  
Sliced Ham  
Sliced Cheese  
Olives  
Cherry Tomatoes  
Sultanas

Cut out shapes of sliced ham and cheese thread onto toothpicks with olives, sultanas and tomatoes. To add to presentation, place hors d'oeuvres into the shell of watermelon or apples sliced in half.

## UP UP AND AWAY

It's back by popular demand. Jetstar is again running its Collect4Schools program.

Last year we were able to score vouchers to the value of \$1000 for our school and for a rural school. In all the simple task of keeping boarding passes netted both schools about \$1700 of much-needed funds between them.

Again, we are asking you to save boarding passes used by yourselves, family, friends and work colleagues.

Travel to the value of \$100,000 is on offer and, like last year, it would seem that first in will be best dressed.

25 boarding passes equals a voucher for one return domestic flight. 50 boarding passes equals a voucher for two return domestic flights. Last time around we went for the 50 boarding passes and used the prize for the Trivia Night raffle where tickets worth \$1000 were sold.

Boarding passes have to be for travel between 19 February 2009 and 19 May 2009. Vouchers are limited to one per school so that is why extra ones were passed on to Rokewood Primary School.

Please spread the word and start collecting. Passes can be given to me or handed into the office. Claire Heaney



## END OF SEASON CLEARANCE!

**Up to 80% off RRP!**

**Seconds, samples, overruns from \$2 – Summer and Winter – Boys and Girls – Infants to teens**

**197 Swan St Richmond – [www.uberstar.com.au](http://www.uberstar.com.au) – 9428 5655**

**Thurs 5/3 – 2pm-9pm, Fri 6/3 – 10am-5pm, Sat 7/3 – 10am -5pm**



...and more!

Bring in this newsletter and sign up as an Uberstar VIP and receive an additional 5% discount!! This 5% will be donated to the Richmond Primary School for the purchase of airconditioners for Prep and art classrooms!

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