Welcome Back

Welcome back to school. I hope all of our families had a safe break and are now ready to return to our lovely learning environment. A special welcome to our new Kindergarten students, students who have transferred from other schools and to our Opportunity Class students. Also, a warm welcome to our new parents and family members who have joined our lovely school community.

Richmond Public School’s Vision

Richmond Public School is committed to delivering high quality teaching and learning programmes which provide 21st Century learners the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our school culture promotes student engagement, active citizenship, resilience, self-esteem and students who are supported in their strive for excellence.

Congratulations School Leaders

Congratulations to our 2016 Captains, Vice-Captain and Prefects:
Captains: Lachlan Campbell & Alysse Duffy
Vice-Captains: Ebony Cusack & Hugh McKerrell
Prefects: Darcey Toohill, Riley White, Cassandra Steenbeeke & Lachlan Plew

Mathematics Computation Quizzes

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stage</th>
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<td>28 January - 11 February</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Reading and writing numbers to 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Years 3-6</td>
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Working with Children Check

It has been legislated that from 2016 all volunteers, be it sporting, reading helpers, fundraising helpers, canteen workers and the like MUST have a Working with Children Check. The initial Working with Children Check can be accessed at:


Once this check is completed online, volunteers will need to submit relevant paperwork to the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) in order to be issued a WWC number. As a volunteer, there is no cost involved in gaining this WWC number. This number must be given to the school office in order for volunteers to begin service in our school. We understand that this process takes a little time to complete, however the safety of our students is imperative to all concerned.
**Term Planner**

Along with our Term 1 Week 2 Newsletter, our Term 1 Planner has also been distributed. Please take special note of the dates of our Meet the Teacher Evening and our Term 1 Parent / Teacher Interviews. These evenings and interview days were found to be very valuable to all concerned as it provides important information to enhance the students’ learning. Please also note the date for the Touchdown cut-off, the Touchdown Morning Tea and our Parent Tutorials in Mathematics and English which are also occurring in Term 1.

**Welcome to our Staff**

We welcome Ms Maxine Kearney and Mrs Daisy Proskien to Richmond Public School. These staff members come to Richmond Public School with many skills. I know you would join me in welcoming these two new staff members to our lovely school.

**Strategic directions for 2015-2017**

The Department of Education and Communities require all schools to have three Strategic Directions. Richmond Public School’s Strategic Directions for 2015-2017 are:

1. Quality Teaching with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy;

2. Student Welfare / Staff Welfare; and

3. Community Participation and Engagement

The school’s three year plan is available on the school’s website.

**Meet the Teacher Evening**

On Wednesday, 10 February from 6:30pm – 7:30pm there will be ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions for all parents / carers. This is an opportunity for you to hear some of the great things that will be happening for your child in their class during 2016. It is also a chance for the teacher to discuss with you class / student work, behaviour expectations and homework procedures. Please note that this is not a one-on-one interview but a chance for all parents to gather and meet their child’s teacher. We will be splitting the hour session into two 30 minute sessions to enable parents with more than one child the opportunity of meeting most, if not all, of their children’s teachers. This is a great opportunity and is organised in the aim of strengthening the link between home and school for all school members.

As with last year, teachers will be presenting within their own classrooms. It may be wise to ask your child/children where their classroom is prior to the evening to avoid wandering lost around the school.
Richmond Public School App’

In 2015, Richmond Public School initiated its own app titled Skoolbag. There are instructions further into this Newsletter in getting the app onto your phone. Both the Play Store and the Apple Store have the free app. This process was undertaken as part of the school’s Strategic Directions for 2015 under the Community Participation and Engagement direction. The app’ has many options for you to access including Alerts, Events, the school’s website, the fortnightly Newsletter and much more. In addition, the school is now able to notify families through their phones if an excursion is late or early. On the app’, you are able to turn on notifications for the grades your child/ren are in, thus ensuring you don’t receive notifications unnecessarily. In 2015, the app’ proved extremely valuable when Stage 3 was required to return back early from their Canberra excursion due to a number of illnesses. The message of their early return was sent out on the app’ as an Alert and parents/caregivers were fully informed of the incident and their early return.

Thank you to the Community Participation and Engagement Team for their work in this area. I encourage all families to explore this great initiative.

School Uniform

Thank you to the many parents who have sent their child/children to school in our beautiful school uniform. The uniform policy was established by the school and the school community and is discussed on a regular basis at our P&C meetings.

Just a few reminders regarding uniform:

1. Necklaces are not to be worn;
2. Studs or sleepers are permissible in your child’s ear. Any earrings that dangle are not permitted;
3. Rub on tattoos are not permitted as this is not part of the school’s uniform;
4. Nail polish is not permitted. Clear gloss is acceptable;
5. Any lipstick or eye shadow is also against the school’s uniform policy; and
6. Any long hair should be securely tied back (or in ponytails). This is not only for safety but minimises the risk of nits.

The policy was established for the safety of your child apart from the fact that Richmond Public School is not a place to set fashion trends. I thank you for following these simple guidelines.

Mathematics Quiz Competition

At the top of this Newsletter there is a grid outlining a mathematical concept that is being quizzed within classes. This is again continued on from 2015 as staff and parents/caregivers have indicated that their students/children are more confident with mathematics due to the Mathematics Computation Quizzes.

Classes each day will focus on the fortnightly concept and at the end of the fortnight each student will be assessed and the class will calculate an average. During the Monday morning assembly, trophies are handed out for the best available and asking you to list your preferred options.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

It is believed at Richmond Public School that parents need to be informed of their child’s progress early in the year. Therefore Parent / Teacher Interviews are to be held in Term 1 from Tuesday, 29 March through to Wednesday, 6 April. This is also a chance for the teachers to discuss specific programs the student may be working on and how best this work can be consolidated at home. It may also give the parents / carers an opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have in regards to their child’s progress and well-being.

Families will be given a choice of available times, they are then assigned a time to meet the teacher.

I ask that you keep the week (second last week and last week of term) as free as possible so that you may be able to attend the Parent/Teacher Interviews.

A note will be sent home further into the term outlining times that your child’s teacher is
class result and the most improved result. I ask that you quiz your child during the fortnight to ensure their greatest success. Thank you.

Richmond Public School – Nut Free

With the prevalence of anaphylaxis within schools, I would like to remind families that Richmond Public School makes every attempt to be a nut free school. I kindly request that parents / carers do not send their children to school with peanut butter sandwiches, with peanuts or with any nut related item. Our school canteen is very careful with this policy and makes every attempt to purchase items that were not processed on a machine that was used to make a peanut product.

I thank you in advance for you co-operation with this very important policy.

Child Well-Being Policy

As with the beginning of every year, Richmond Public School publishes important sections of the school’s Child Well Being Policy. Below are sections of the policy that students and parents/caregivers should know. Being aware of the policy should ensure the school is a safe, happy learning environment.

“To enhance the Welfare of all students at our school, we have both a Merit Award System and a Consequence / Reward Behaviour Levels System. These systems operate together to support our Positive Behaviour for Learning Program at Richmond Public School.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be a good learner
- Be environmentally friendly

MERIT SYSTEM

The purpose of this system is to recognise positive contributions that are made by the students, to encourage student performance and to improve self-esteem.

Blast Off Award

Students earn Blast Off Awards for demonstrating positive behaviours under each of the four school expectations (Be safe RED, Be respectful BLUE, be a good learner PURPLE, be environmentally friendly GREEN). Specific reasons may include classroom academics, sporting effort, classroom behaviour, playground behaviour, encouragement, completing homework. Teachers are asked to make a conscious effort to hand out on average 5 per day. Students collect their Blast Off Awards.

Orbit Award

Once students have earned 5 Blast Offs, they swap them for 1 Orbit Award. Their five Blast Off awards must come from at least two separate expectations. Classroom teachers will record and administer this on a class list. The Orbit is presented to students by the classroom teacher during class time. Students collect their Orbit Awards.

Touchdown Award

Once students have earned 5 Orbit Awards (25 Blast Offs), they exchange them for 1 Touchdown Award. The school front office will record and administer this process. The Touchdown Award is presented to students by the Executive at a whole school assembly, known as The Touchdown Morning Tea. Students and their families will be invited to The Touchdown Morning Tea where they will receive a congratulatory certificate from the Principal. Students/ families collect their Touchdown Awards.

Voyager Medal

If students earn five Touchdown Awards (125 Blast Offs) in any number of years and one Diamond Award of that current year, they are eligible to receive a Voyager Medal at the Presentation Ceremony at the end of that year.

Once a student earns one Voyager Medal (bronze), they will receive a Silver Voyager Medal once they again achieve 5 Touchdown Certificates, they then move to a Gold Voyager Medal, then a Diamond Voyager Medal. A student must have achieved a Diamond Award (no detentions) for the current year to be eligible to receive a Voyager Medal at the Presentation Day Ceremony.

BEHAVIOUR LEVELS SYSTEM

(Rewards and Consequences)

The policy is a system of 9 levels (four levels of consequences and four levels of rewards) which provide students, parents and staff with a clear understanding of the expectation for student behaviour and procedures for reward or consequence. All students start each year at Level Zero. When poor behaviour is exhibited, students will pass through lower levels. The Principal and Assistant Principals will collaboratively make the decision of student movement between levels,
positive and negative, after consultation where necessary with teachers.

If a student receives no detention for one term, they move to a Bronze Certificate. If a student receives no detentions for two consecutive terms, they receive a Silver Certificate. If a student receives no detentions for three consecutive terms, they receive a Gold Certificate. If a student receives no detentions for four consecutive terms, they receive a Diamond Certificate. These awards will be presented at the end of each term.

Receiving a Diamond Award results in the student being eligible to receive a Voyager Medal at the school’s Presentation Day Ceremony.”

If you would like a copy of the whole policy, please don’t hesitate in contacting the office.

**Money Collecting ~ 2015**

Richmond Public School has continued its registration for the Westpac Parent On-Line Payment System. The site is a secure site and it enables families to pay for excursions / incursions, voluntary contributions or any other necessary school payments at home using their home computer. To access the new Parent On-Line Payment System, families will need to go to the school’s website.


On the home page there is a tab on the right that states, ‘Payment On-Line’. By clicking this button you will be presented with a screen that asks for the student’s full name and date of birth. It will then ask for your e-mail address which will allow for the system to e-mail you a receipt for your payment. It will then require you to indicate what type of card, the number on the card, expiry date and the Card Verification Number (CVC) on the back of the card. It will then ask for you to indicate why you are making the payment eg: Stage 3 Art Gallery Excursion. You then submit the details and a receipt will be e-mailed to you. If a payment is made before 6pm, your payment will be on the next day’s school statement, if it is made after 6pm, the school will be notified two days later.

Cut-off dates at Richmond Public School will still apply. All school notes that are sent home requesting a payment will have a section on the note asking if you had paid on-line and requesting the receipt number. Further instruction on how to make an on-line payment is also on the school’s website under Notes and Forms.

Just a reminder to our new families, Richmond Public School also provides EFTPOS facilities for making payments. Money days at Richmond Public school are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, these are the only days we can take over the counter EFTPOS payments and these need to be done in the morning by 10am.

I hope that this may make systems easier for families and will alleviate some students taking large amount of money to school.

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**Gary Ruzgas**
Principal

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**Café**

Welcome back for 2016. Café will commence for the year on Friday, 19 February at 2:30pm in the Staffroom. All parents/ carers are welcome to join Mrs Stevens for a delicious afternoon tea and catch up every second Friday at Café.
Defence

Welcome back for another year to all our previous defence families and a big welcome to our new defence families. If you have any queries please feel free to come and see me. I look forward to catching up with you all and getting to know all the new families.

Kerri Stevens
D.S.T.A

P&C News

Another year has kicked off and we are ready to run. Welcome to all the new families to the school. What is the Richmond Public School Parents and Citizens Association about? The P&C is an opportunity to provide an interface with the school by working in close cooperation. The P&C also assists by providing facilities and equipment, and to promote welfare and recreation for the students.

The P&C is a representative of the school community and as our community is diverse, so is the P&C. And yet with this diversity we come together in respect of others, to work towards a common goal.

P&C meetings are on Mondays 7-8pm (sharp), Week 4 and Week 8 of each term. The next meeting is Monday 22nd February. All are invited to attend and join as a member. The staff of Richmond Public School provide babysitting if required.

However, we understand that people would like the opportunity to communicate with the P&C but cannot or do not want to attend meetings. For this reason we have developed an email account: richmondpspandc@gmail.com

If you would like provide any feedback, comments, suggestions or be able to put something on the P&C meeting agenda, please use this email.

Lastly, our school canteen is P&C run. It is totally run by volunteers. We would like to keep our canteen running. If you can help out for a couple of hours, half a day or full day, please contact the P&C through the above email, and we will be in touch.

Looking forward to a successful year,
Kellie Lorschy
P&C President

Richmond Reminders

- Richmond Public School Swimming carnival 2016 will be held at Richmond Pool on Tuesday, 16 February for all students 8 years and older. Please return permission slips and payment to the office by Friday, 12 February if your child would like to participate.

- Volunteer Helpers, if you are able to volunteer to assist the students we now require all volunteers to attend a Child Protection Training session. The training session will take place on Wednesday, 10 February at 9:20am in 6L. A Working With Children Check will also need to be done online.

- Scripture notes have gone home with all students, please make sure that you select what scripture/non-scripture class you would like your child to participate it and return the note to the office.

Mathematics Problem Solving

Early Stage 1
At recess Henry had 2 apricots, Zac had two strawberries and Sarah had 7 grapes. How many pieces of fruit did they have altogether?

Stage 1
A tricycle has 3 wheels. How many wheels on two tricycles?

Stage 2
Barbara brought 5 school books for 90 cents. How much did each book cost her?

Stage 3
James and Ling are making up a board game. The board for their game is three squares by three squares in size. What is the total number of squares you find on their game board?
If they increased the size of the board to four squares by four squares, what would be the total number of squares on the board? What if they increased the board to five by five squares?
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smartphones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "Install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "Install".
5. When installed click "Open".
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device.
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
# Richmond Public School

## Family Term Planner ~ Term 1 ~ 2016

(as of Thursday, 28 January '16)

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<tr>
<th>Day / Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>Staff Return</td>
<td>Years 1 – 6 Return</td>
<td>Kindergarten begin</td>
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<td>Yrs 3-6 Assembly - 12:30pm</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>O.C CAMP</td>
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<td>Sport House Meetings – 2:40pm</td>
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<td>8 / 2</td>
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<td>13 - 14 / 2</td>
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<td>Volunteer – Child Protection Inservice – 9:20am</td>
<td>Leadership Camp</td>
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<td>Band to begin</td>
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<td>18 / 2</td>
<td>19 / 2</td>
<td>20 - 21 / 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Tuition Starts</td>
<td>R.P.S Swimming Carnival / School Games Carnival</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 Assembly - 12:30pm</td>
<td>English Parent/Caregiver Tutorial – Parent/Caregiver Tutorial – Number – 2:30pm</td>
<td>RAAF Welcome Afternoon Tea / Café Begins</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>26 / 2</td>
<td>27 - 28 / 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Payments for Music Tuition</td>
<td>Mathematics – Parent/Caregiver Tutorial – Number – 6-7pm</td>
<td>K-2 Assembly – 12:30pm</td>
<td>Mathematics – Parent/Caregiver Tutorial – Number – 2:30pm</td>
<td>52/53 Milo Cricket</td>
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<td>5 - 6 / 3</td>
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<td>Young Leaders’ Conference- Prefects to attend</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 Assembly - 12:30pm</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Café – 2:30pm</td>
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<td>12 - 13 / 3</td>
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<td>K-2 Assembly – 12:30pm</td>
<td>Selective High School Test Day</td>
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<td>19 - 20 / 3</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 7pm</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 Assembly - 12:30pm</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>TOUCHDOWN MORNING TEA – CUT-OFF DATE</td>
<td>Café – 2:30pm</td>
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<td>26 - 27 / 3</td>
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<td>School Photos</td>
<td>Easter Parade – 10:15am</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>PARENT / TEACHER / STUDENT PROGRESS INTERVIEW WEEK</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 Assembly - 12:30pm</td>
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<td>Café – 2:30pm</td>
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<td>9 - 10 / 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARENT / TEACHER / STUDENT PROGRESS INTERVIEW WEEK</td>
<td>TOUCHDOWN MORNING TEA – 9:30AM</td>
<td>School Cross Country 11:30am – 1:20pm</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Service – 10:15am</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
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<td>Public Speaking Display – 11:30am</td>
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