Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 18 March</td>
<td>Touchdown cut-off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 18 March</td>
<td>Cafe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 21 March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 22 March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 23 March</td>
<td>Easter Parade – 10:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 24 March</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 28 March</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 29 March –</td>
<td>Term 1 Parent/Caregiver /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 6 April</td>
<td>Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 6 April</td>
<td>School Cross Country –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 7 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day – 10:15am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mathematics Computation Quizzes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Skill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 March -</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Counting groups to ten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>+4 and -4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>+40 and -40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Years 3-6</td>
<td>X6 and +6</td>
</tr>
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Removing Head Lice and Nits

Lately the school has had an increasing level of students with head lice or nits. This is not an indication of dirty hair but more on the contrary, head lice love clean hair. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. In attempt to avoid head lice the school suggests two methods:

1. Where applicable, tie your child’s head back into a ponytail. This avoids flowing hair and therefore the easy transfer of head lice.

2. Spray your child’s hair with hairspray before going to school each day. Head lice don’t appear to like hairspray or similar hair treatments.

More information on head lice and nits can be found at the following websites:


Last day of Term 1

The last day of Term 1 is Friday, 8 April 2016. Our educational journey recommences for all students on:

Wednesday, 27 April 2016

Thank you to all of our parents/caregivers who have assisted the school and the students during the term. Your assistance and support is indeed appreciated!

I would also like to recognise our senior students who were our Kindergarten buddies during the term and who also took on the role as play buddies to some of our younger students. They have done a wonderful job and certainly demonstrated that they are responsible and caring students. If this is an indication of the youth in our community then we should be very proud.
Whooping Cough

Recently, the school has been informed, after the event, that a family member or a student of our school has had whooping cough. The NSW Health site states that in the event of diagnosing Whooping Cough, a doctor, laboratory or hospital are by law required to notify the local Public Health Unit. Unfortunately, it appears that this does not include informing schools. The NSW Health site also states that students who have been diagnosed with Whooping Cough are to stay away from school for five days while they have antibiotics for those five days. Parents /Caregivers are to inform the school.

I kindly ask that if your child or a member of your family is diagnosed with whooping cough, that you notify the school as soon as possible. This will enable the school to inform the teacher and the families with students in that class.

Thank you

SENTRAL

Our new student tracking program titled, SENTRAL is now being implemented within the school. All student attendance is being logged into the system and staff are now investigating tracking student achievements through SENTRAL. There are many aspects of this program and many schools around the state have either had it for a number of years or are beginning to understand the benefits of such a program. There is an element of the program that will allow for parents/carers to log in an interview time during the Parent/Carer/ Teacher Interview Weeks; this is being investigated for implementation in 2017 by our Community Participation and Engagement Team.

Voluntary Contributions (reminder)

On Thursday 18 February, a notification was sent home regarding voluntary contributions and additional accounts. Some families have indicated that the school should be requesting higher contributions however this is entirely up to each family.

I kindly ask that accounts be finalised as soon as possible

Painting at Richmond Public School – Approved Works

On Monday 7 March, the school was informed that the scope of works outlined in our previous Newsletter have been approved with additional work that was discussed also included into the works. The approved work is as follows:

1. Painting Classroom 5D;
2. Painting Classroom 1/2C;
3. Painting the ceilings of the stairwells in the main building;
4. Painting the hallway upstairs in the main building; both walls and ceiling;
5. Repair and paint the facia boards on the main building; and
6. Repair the concreted area near the gym equipment which includes filling and relaying asphalt.

It is anticipated that this work will be carried out during the Term 2 break.

Library Furniture

Recently, our lovely library has had a furniture upgrade with various stools, tables and lounges being delivered along with high computer tables allowing for the students to stand while doing their work; ensuring easy movement from the computers to their work areas. Later in the year, the library will also have 20 chrome notebooks to add to this reconditioned learning area. The furniture is bright in colour and is certainly not your conventional tables. Some of the tables are made with a special material allowing for students to write on the tables while doing group work or during their planning process. This is the first stage in investigating different learning environments and how it affects student learning. The furniture that was replaced has now been utilised in our Learning and Support room and in our old hall which will be used for art/craft for our Kindergarten and Year 1 students.
App’ Purchasing

Richmond Public School has registered with Apple in purchasing bulk app’s for learning. Many schools are still working through the implementation of Apple and Android devices and how best to download excellent learning app’s for their students. By registering with Apple, Richmond Public School will be able to mark app’s we would like to have downloaded within the school and all devices logged with Richmond Public School, that are on site, will automatically have the desired app’s downloaded onto each device. This will certainly save time for staff and will ensure students can continue their learning without having some devices with/without the required app. There is a cost to the bulk purchase but it decreases with the number of devices requiring the download.

Leaving Children in Your Car

Recently, I have had a visit from local police officers discussing with me the issue related to parents/caregivers leaving children in their car while they walk their other children into the school. They stated that at 22 Degrees Celsius, it takes 40 seconds for a child to become stressed due to the heat and for possible irreversible damage to occur to the child; data I did not know. I kindly request, that you take the time to take all of your children with you when you take your children into the school. Not only is this safe for all concerned, it’s also a great way for your toddlers to transition into our lovely school.

ANZAC Day Service

Richmond Pubic School’s ANZAC Day Service is to be held on Thursday, 7 April 2016. The service is to begin at 10:15am and will conclude by 11:00am. During the service, students place class wreaths at our flag post. These class wreaths are constructed with the flowers that are donated by students on the day. Once again, we ask that parents/caregivers support our ANZAC Day Service by sending in flowers for the wreaths. In addition, parents, caregivers and visitors who attend the service have the opportunity to place a wreath at the flag post as there is a moment in the service when this time is available and they’re invited to lay their flowers. I look forward to seeing many parents/caregivers attend our solemn, yet very important ceremony.

Feeding Families Friday (Reminder)

Thank you to the many families who donated to our Feeding Families Friday which began last Friday 19 February, 2016. This is an initiative started by our Student Representative Council who are supporting a local charity titled, ‘Hawkesbury Helping Hands’. This charity assists the homeless along with many families who are in desperate need of food items. As stated in our note home regarding Feeding Families Friday, the SRC was considering having a class competition but, for now, we would like to impress on the students the gift of giving. The SRC is not asking for donations from each family every Friday. However, if, as you go shopping during the fortnight, possibly purchase one item for this worthy cause. Richmond Public School is such a wonderful school with many good things happening, it is nice to stretch our generosity outside of the school and to those who are needy.

Working with Children Check - Reminder

It has been legislated that from 2016 all unsupervised 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.

Gary Ruzgas
Principal
Earlier this week was the second P&C meeting of the year.

Fundraising has their skates on. Easter Raffle tickets were sent out last week and the Easter Baskets of yummy chocolate eggs are being prepared. You have got to be in it to win it, so get those Easter Raffle tickets in to the office, $1 per ticket. The raffle is drawn at the Easter Parade on Wednesday, 23 March and it is mufti too – gold coin donation. On the day of the Easter Parade parents/caregivers, relatives and friends are welcome to stay for morning tea after the Easter Parade and purchase a cuppa and a Bakers’ Delight Easter Bun. A fun day of celebration for all!

Votes and discussion at this meeting included covering various roles within the P&C; so many hands can make light work. We thank all those who volunteer to help the school function and provide various resources enabling better educational outcomes for the kids.

The committee voted on a spending budget for the school throughout this year. These contributions to the school through canteen funds and fundraising efforts will enable the P&C to support the school throughout 2016 in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library and Reader resources</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School administration support</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and STEM support</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Day</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Project to School</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Fund (administered by the principal)</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous items for School</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just a reminder to the school community, there is a clothing pool of pre loved uniforms located in the old hall. Each item is $2, payable to the office.

Canteen News
Thank you to all for the suggestions regarding menu items. We were pleased with the number of responses. The canteen subcommittee is reviewing the suggestions and looking at what options are viable for a healthy canteen. We also need to consider what is practical with the resources available and how to serve the kids in a timely manner at lunch and recess times. The new winter menu will be launched at the beginning of TERM 2.

Richmond Reminders

- Year 6 students need to return their 2017 Year 7 Expression of interest for High School By Friday, 18 March 2016. All forms must be returned even if your child is going to a private school.
- Café is on this Friday, 18 March. Come and join Mrs Stevens for a delicious afternoon tea and a catch up.
- Harmony Day is on Monday, 21 March. To celebrate, all children are asked to wear orange mufti.
- School Photos are being taken on Tuesday, 22 March. Make sure students are in full summer school uniform and that order envelopes have been returned to the office.

Mathematics Problem Solving

**Early Stage 1**
Mr Ruzgas had 4 Principal awards, he gave out two awards. How many does he have left?

**Stage 1**
You have 6 cookies and your friend has 18. How many more does your friend have?

**Stage 2**
Mitch and Anna held a lemonade stall over the weekend. They sold 25 cups on Saturday and 18 cups on Sunday. How many cups did they sell altogether?

**Stage 3**
A car and a motorcycle are travelling in opposite directions at 60 kilometres per hour. About how far apart will they be seven minutes after they pass each other?
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! ![Like](https://www.facebook.com/skoolbag)