

RGPS CONNECTIONS

'Together We Can for every child, every day'



FEBRUARY ISSUE #2

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Welcome to our second newsletter edition for the term. This term has been full of learning and wellbeing opportunities for our students. I hope to see everyone at our **Term 1 Meet & Greet** on Wednesday 6th March. This is the perfect time to discuss with your child's classroom teacher their learning goals and what you would like your child to achieve at school this year. Great parent partnerships have a positive impact on student learning and make our school better. Meet your teacher to receive a donut. This week we also have commenced our **school review** which will support the development of goals to shape our strategic direction for the next four years. This is an exciting period for our school where we can reflect on our achievements and move forwards continued growth.

Robyn Trzeciak | RGPS Principal

*We will be moving to a monthly publication in 2024...our next edition will be at the end of February.



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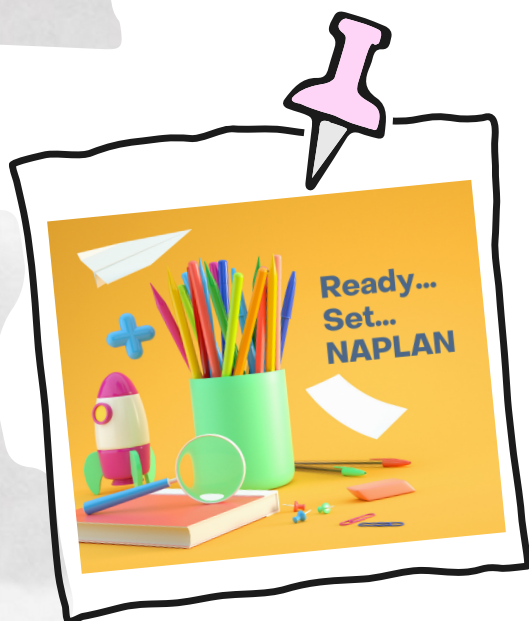
NAPLAN 2024

In Week 7, Year 3 & Year 5 students will participate in NAPLAN assessments. These will take place on the 13th, 14th, 15th & 18th March. **It is important Yr 3 & Yr 5 students attend school on these days.**

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

Reassure your child that NAPLAN is an opportunity to share what they can do and celebrate their successes. We have been getting students ready at school, so that they are well prepared, ready and excited to complete their NAPLAN assessments.

We wish all students the best of luck and are already very proud of the wonderful learners that they are!



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BELL TIMES

Bag Bell: 8.35am
Morning Circle: 8.45am
 Session 1: 8.55am
 Session 2: 9.55am
 Session 3: 10.55am
 Eating Time/Lunch: 11.55am
 Session 4: 12.40pm
 Eating Time/ Snack: 1.40pm
 Session 5: 2.15
Dismissal: 3.15pm

Please be aware of the **Bell times** and arrive at school in time for the beginning of the day for important learning time- we start our day with a Morning Circle so that everyone starts their day with a greeting and a smile.



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SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The nomination period for 2024 school council membership has now closed.

We are pleased to announce we have received five (5) nominations for the Parent Member category. As only four (4) vacancies were advertised, we are commencing a poll to determine the successful candidates. An introduction of each of our candidates is attached on the next page of this newsletter.

Parents are invited to vote if they meet the requirement of being a parent of a student at the school, unless they are a DET employee who is working at, and for, the school.

Ballot papers will be sent home with students today, with instructions on how to vote.

Close of ballot: Tuesday 12th March at 4:00pm

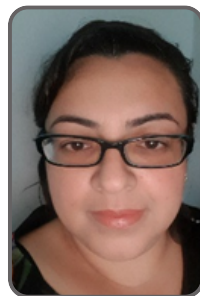
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NAME OF NOMINEE (Self- nominated)
Parent Member Four (4) Vacancies	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026.	Sanja Dinek Yvonne Hall Aziza Hassani Siu Kheng Ly Nicole Miles
DET Employee Member One (1) Vacancy	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026.	Allison King

SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT MEMBER CANDIDATES 2024



Sanja Dinek

Hello, I have been on School Council for 6 years now I would be honoured to continue on. I studied Traffic Technician, I worked in a TAFE office for 3 years, a dancing teacher for 5 years, I was Head Advertiser and Marketing for various companies, festivals, expos including food/wine festivals, I also studied pathology. I worked at the local Community House as the supervisor and bus driver. I'm volunteering at BK2-Melbourne, Lynbrook Community events like: Lantern and Christmas festivals also Doveton Show. I'm a member of the Hampton Park Association Progress. I work as crossing supervisor and enjoy working alongside kids to incorporate their ideas and thoughts into projects. I'd appreciate the opportunity in assisting RGPS to better our school and have the very best outcomes, I look forward to assisting our school to have all our thoughts and ideas put into action for a better future.



Yvonne Hall

Hi! My name is Yvonne Hall and we joined the RGPS community last year. The Teachers and Staff have been Wonderful and have helped my daughter immensely. Joining the Parents School Council would be an amazing way and opportunity to contribute, share ideas and be involved in the school community working towards the common goal to make RGPS even more wonderful than it already is. As well as meeting new parents and working with parents and staff. I am a friendly working mum with Office Administration and Customer Service experience. I have 2 beautiful daughters and enjoy going to the movies and Theatre with my family, swimming (which I actually recently learnt), catch ups and always learning. It would be fantastic to serve the school community through the Parents School Council and appreciate your consideration. Kind regards
Yvonne Hall



Aziza Hssani

This is Aziza Hassani and I would like to be part of parent member category position on school council. I have finished my year 12 and I have business management certificates. I organise really well and I have experience in work. The reason that I want to stand for this election is I can help with students and with their parents, my hobbies are cooking and learning new skills.



Siu Kheng Ly

Hello, my name is Siu and I am Mum to Zakariyah and Aaliyah, who both attend River Gum Primary School. We have been part of the school community since 2019. I believe every child should have the chance to thrive as a learner and that each child has a natural curiosity to learn. It would be wonderful if each child could foster this love of learning at school. I would love to have the opportunity to help River Gum continue to be a place where this happens for all our children. I have always been interested in how children learn and children's literacy. I previously home schooled my older children for ten years. I have a Bachelor of Arts (English). I enjoy spending time with my family and gardening in my free time. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.



Nicole Miles

Hello, I'm Nicole. I am your current School Council President. Prior to this, I was treasurer for our school for several years. I am a mum to several beautiful children. My youngest is in grade 2 this year. I am also mum to two cats, a dog and a couple of chickens. In my spare time I like to read books, do crafts and learn new things. I'm also a volunteer for the local CFA (Country Fire brigade). I've been there over 15 years and have helped raise much needed funds for the fire trucks to fight the fires. I am an active member of the local school community so with my experience and passion, I strongly believe I should be on the school council for further terms. Please vote for me, Together we can achieve great things. Kind regards
Nicole Miles

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BREAKFAST CLUB

The School Breakfast Clubs program seeks to address the impact disadvantage can have on education outcomes by offering free and healthy food for students in 1000 Victorian government schools.

Research shows a child's ability to concentrate in class, self-regulate and learn is negatively impacted if they are hungry.

Everyone is welcome at our RGPS Breakfast Club which runs each morning from 8:15-8:45am.



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CHILD SAFETY

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



RGPS is committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and wellbeing and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways that we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures and practices. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact Robyn Trzeciak - RGPS Principal for more information.

Our policies are available on our school website:
<https://www.rivergumps.vic.edu.au/>

FOLLOW US ON



[WWW.RIVERGUMPS.VIC.EDU.AU](https://www.rivergumps.vic.edu.au/)

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COMPASS EDUCATION

We are moving to **Compass** in Term 2 for school payments, events, excursions and permissions, attendance, first aid and positive acknowledgements.

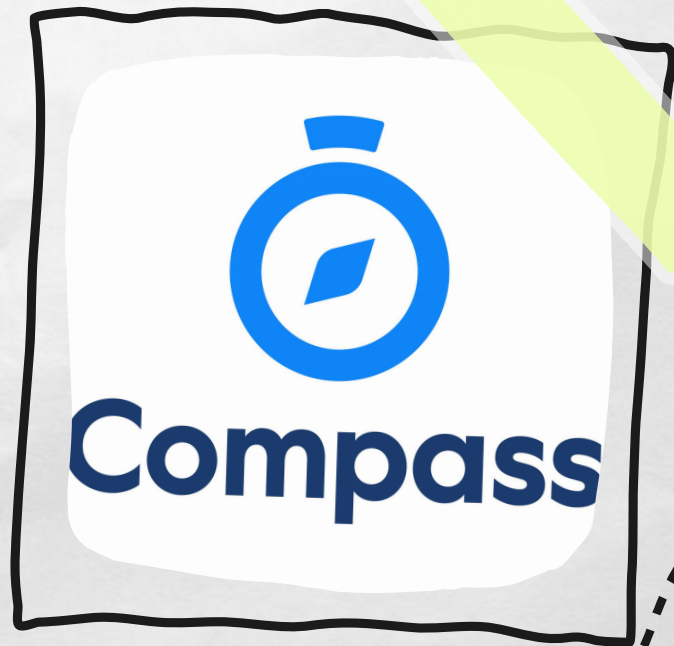
Compass provides a streamlined all on one service and gives our school greater levels of organisation and process.

You will receive an email with details about how to log in and sign up on Friday 1st March. If you need a hard copy please see the office. You can sign up via the app or web browser.

Please keep your username and password for parent use only. Confidential communications will occur through this platform that are not for student use.

Next week at the Meet & Greet our ICT Co-Ordinator will be running sessions half hourly to support families with the sign up.

Download the parent guide



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MOBILE PHONE POLICY

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobiles phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

Exceptions: For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact the Principal if you would like to discuss this.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

School mobile phone policy: A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available here: **[RGPS Mobile Phone Policy](#)**.

Parent support: **[The Mobile phones in schools webpage](#)** provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

If you have further questions, please contact the office.



8 ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day - missing school puts them behind.

There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital, though, that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick. It's also vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided. **Every day counts.**

If you are having difficulty getting your child to school please speak with the school. This link is also a useful resource produced by the Department of Education with tips on how to get your child to school. [Click here for more information.](#)

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Every Day Counts

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but ...

If your child misses ...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of learning
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years of learning
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning

9 PLAYGROUP



Did you know our Playgroup program with Andrea is starting again? Playgroup is for children aged 0-5.

Playgroup provides a safe and happy environment for children to learn, play and develop language, communication and other skills.

Playgroup is an opportunity for parents and children to build friendships and learn about other activities and groups within their community.

Reminder: You need a hat for school every day in Term 1. Visit the office to purchase one. Click here for our school **Sun Smart Policy.**



On the 23rd of February, Mr Taylor (our Design & Digital Technologies teacher) and some Grade 4 students made two kinds of pasta. The project was in preparation for Term 2, when students from multiple year levels will have a go at making their own pasta. Students made an egg-based dough, which they rolled out on a pasta machine and then cut into shapes of their choosing. They also made cavatelli - a ricotta-based pasta that is produced by a hand-cranked machine. The pastas were served with vegetables, which students also had a hand in preparing.

The 'Design and Technologies' curriculum talks about food production, and we've decided we'll explore that by giving students hands-on experience with artisanal flours, masa harina (the corn flour used to make tortillas), and staples such as eggs. The curriculum also sees students learning about tools and mechanisms - hence the mixture of familiar tools (knives and cookie cutters) and less common tools (cavatelli makers and tortilla presses).



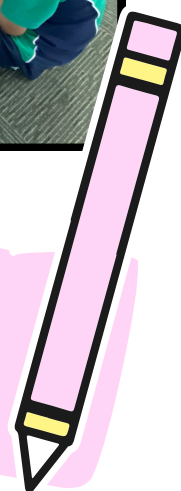
For an overview of the Design & Technology curriculum followed you can see find more information about the aims and purpose here:
[Victorian Curriculum- Design & Technology](#).



Room 3 and Room 13 had their first buddy session last week and it went very well. Each group had an activity prepared by their year five buddies. The year five students demonstrated excellent leadership skills and care in looking after their foundation buddies. They ensured every child was included and some even differentiated their activity so their foundation buddy would enjoy it! Ms Bonnell and Ms Borg were so proud of everyone, and they all had such a fun time together. This activity aligns with the Berry Street Education Model being implemented at River Gum Primary School. Building relationships with peers and teachers helps to foster a sense of connectedness with school and engagement in learning.



The Raising Children Network has resources about general information and strategies to help families support mental health and wellbeing. Find out more by [clicking here](#).



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THEIR CARE

Our school has partnered with an independent provider called **TheirCare** to provide exceptional Outside School Hours Care services for our school community.

The program is available for all children at River Gum Primary School from 6:30am until 8:35am in the morning and from 3:15pm until 6:30pm each school day.

During School Holidays & Pupil Free Days the service will operate from 6:30am until 6:30pm.

Families wishing to use this service can visit the TheirCare website: www.theircare.com.au
Families are eligible for a Government Rebate called the Child Care Subsidy which can reduce the cost per session by up to 90%.

More information can be obtained by contacting the school or ringing TheirCare Support Team on 1300 072 410.

TheirCare provides a stimulating and safe environment for all children. During sessions, children develop life-skills, friendships, confidence and creativity through play-based programs.



**NOW
OPEN**



For more information see:
<https://theircare.com.au/>



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TERM 2 CALENDAR

Keep this handy!

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 15- 20 April	First Day of Term 2	Foundation Fairy tale Incursion			Whole School Assembly @2:15pm Interschool Sports (Home)
2 22- 26 April			School Photos	ANZAC DAY No School	Interschool Sports (Away)
3 29- 3 May			District Cross Country (3-6)		
4 6-10 May			Year 6 Camp	Year 6 Camp	Year 6 Camp
5 13-17 May	Year Level Assemblies this week		Footy Gala Day		Interschool Sports (Home)
6 20- 24 May	Education Week				Interschool Sports (Away)
7 27-31 May				Division Cross Country	Curriculum Day NO SCHOOL
8 3-7 June					
9 10-14 June	King's Birthday NO SCHOOL	Lightening Prem			
10 17-21 June				World Refugee Day	Whole School Assembly @2:15pm
11 24-28 June					Last Day of Term 2 (2:30pm finish)

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COMING SOON

FOODBANK FOODFIGHT



GET READY FOR THE FUNNEST, MESSIEST DAY EVER!

Hi River Gum Families,

We're holding a Food Fight on Monday 25th March (Session 5) to raise much needed funds for Foodbank Victoria, and we're hoping all families will pitch in!

What is the Foodbank Food Fight?

Who doesn't love the idea of a Food Fight? Here's the chance for our entire school to engage in the naughtiest way yet* to boost school spirit and help raise vital funds for Foodbank Victoria. It's just like a school colour fun run, but so much more fun.

The Food Fight fun happens at school and the fundraising happens at home. You get to create your own online profile, set your fundraising target and then choose your target prizes. In your profile you will have a unique cyber safe link to share with your family and friends so they can donate and help get you close to your target.

Money raised will go to Foodbank Victoria so they can continue to feed 57,000 people in need, every day!

No ACTUAL food will be used in this event

What do we need you to do?

All we need you to do this week is create an online profile at foodfight.com.au. The class with the most profiles will all get an icy pole!

Please wear a white tshirt and don't wear your best shoes on the day. You might find a towel handy after the messy part is over.

This is an inclusive fundraiser we would love you to be a part of! If you would like to come down and watch your kids run, we would love to see you there!