

RGPS CONNECTIONS

'Together We Can for every child, every day'



APRIL ISSUE #4

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Welcome back to another exciting term!

We began our term with a Parent Information evening on cyber safety presented by Susan McLean. Susan is a former Victorian Police Officer and expert in this area, presenting to schools and families internationally. She discussed the risks faced by students online and how to minimise potential harm. If you missed this session her website provides a range of facts sheets with useful tips: www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au She is also very active on social media and regularly shares updates. The following week, students in Years 3-6 completed a session with Susan also.

River Gum improves with your feedback and suggestions, please feel welcome at any time to share your positive experiences of our school or ways that we can continue to improve.

Robyn Trzeciak | RGPS Principal

*We have moved to a monthly publication in 2024...our next edition will be at the end of May.



1

SCHOOL VALUES

Did you know that since introducing our positive acknowledgement system for students, that 1299 individual values cards have been awarded?

That's incredible!

Students are eligible to receive a values card when they display any positive behaviour that reflects our school values of Respect, Excellence, Inclusion or Equality.

School wide positive behaviours bring school communities together to develop positive, safe and supportive learning cultures. When implemented effectively they assist with improved social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for students. Students and staff benefit from more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction, while creating predictable learning routines and environments.



2

ROAD SAFETY



Please be mindful when picking up or dropping off your child to school each day.

Getting children to school safely is everyone's job!

- Think before you park, drive, drop off and pick up.
- Be careful around schools, follow signs and obey the road rules.
- Slow down and be alert! Children can be unpredictable.

Click on the links below for some additional resources to support Road Safety around RGPS.

[City of Casey Road Safety Video](#)

[Road Safety Activities and Colouring Sheets](#)

3

LUNCH TIME CLUBS

Looking for something fun to do at lunch time? Look no further!












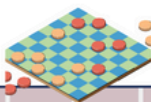


Throughout each week there are currently 14 different clubs that students of all year levels are free to access. This is a great way to have fun, meet new people and escape the cold weather.

Thank you to all staff for volunteering their lunch times to run these clubs!



RIVER GUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

RGPS LUNCH TIME CLUBS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Aslan Club Location: R14 	Friendship Bracelets Club Location: R17 	Yarn Club Location: Digi-Tech Room 	Art Club Location: Art Room 	Colouring In Club Location: R25 
Craft Club Location: R18 	Dance Club Location: R13 	Table Tennis Club Location: R24 	Reading Club Location: R15 	
By invitation only: Chocolate-making Club 	Guided Drawing Club Location: R10 	Board Games Club Location: R19 	Around the World Club Location: R01 	Coming soon: Choir Club 

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ANZAC DAY

On Wednesday 24th April at exactly 11am RGPS stopped to recognise ANZAC Day. This commemoration, ran by our Student Leaders - Dylan, Salam, Tiah and Zech - honour those people who served, and those who continue to serve, in Australia's armed forces.

Students should be commended for the respect shown throughout the reading of the Ode to Remembrance, playing of The Last Post and The Rouse and when observing a minutes silence.



ANZAC DAY
Lest We Forget

5

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

RIVER GUM IFTAR

Breaking of the fast

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE & COME ALONG

We kindly request Halal or Vegetarian options

7:30PM 21st of March, 2024
Located in the River Gum Gym



On Thursday 21st March RGPS held Iftar, a meal held each evening after sunset and evening prayer for those observing Ramadan. During Ramadan, fasting occurs between sunrise and sunset. The fast is broken traditionally by eating a date. Thank you to the staff and families that arranged for this tradition to be shared with our community including: Zohra Hasib, Amira Dwar & staff members Lyn Hempel, Masooma Ibrahemi and Eda Acikyurt.

6

COMPASS EDUCATION

We are moving to Compass from Term 2 for school payments, events, excursions and permissions, attendance, student reports, first aid and positive acknowledgements. Compass provides a streamlined all on one service and gives our school greater levels of organisation and process.

Families who have not yet logged in will receive an email with details about how to log in on Friday 3rd May. (Please check your Junk Mail folder for the automated Compass email if you do not see this come through in your inbox)

If you need a hard copy or would like assistance to sign in, please see the office. You can sign up via the Compass app or web browser.

Note: If you already use the app for a student at another school, you can add the River Gum PS account by:

- a. Selecting the 'More' option from the bottom right side of the home screen
 - b. Select the 'Switch Accounts' tile
 - c. Press the '+' button
 - d. Look up 'River Gum Primary School' (ensure there is a space between River and Gum)
Enter username and password provided by school to log into your family account.
-

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

We have 60 families signed up- 300 to go!



Download the parent guide here:

<https://cdn.compass.education/knowledgebase/CompassParentGuide.pdf>

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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 1,000 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**.



8

MARKET FRESH

Keep your eye out for our upcoming Market Fresh event where students of all Year levels will get the chance to taste an array of different fruit and vegetables.

Check in with your student and see if they tried anything new or different that they liked and consider trialing some new fruits and vegetables as a family.



FOLLOW US ON



WWW.RIVERGUMPS.VIC.EDU.AU



9 ATTENDANCE STARS

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.

So far this year at RGPS we have 18% of our students who have attended school every day this year! 53% of students at 95+% attendance and 71% at 90+%. **This is a fantastic achievement that we would like to keep up!**

This also puts us on track to beat our 2023 attendance rates of students with 10 or more absences for the year.



10 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: As the weather is getting cooler, please make sure students are dressed in full school uniform- no black pants, hoodies, or logo items.



11 LIFELONG LEARNING

RGPS STUDENTS ARE LIFELONG LEARNERS

So far this term we have had the pleasure to have some visitors in the school. These visitors have been here to build our understanding of the world around us.

Experiential learning is the idea that experiences are generated through our ongoing interactions and engagement with the world around us, and learning is an inevitable product of experience.

In Foundation, students have been learning about Fairytales and linking elements of the fairytales to science and cooking experiments in the classroom.



We combined wet and dry ingredients together to make a soft gingerbread. It went in the oven and went solid.
-Isa, R03

Another experience students linked to their lifelong learning included a show coming and performing fairytales and combining the food and cooking in each story. Allowing student to make connections when starting the experiments in class.



Also in April, Year 2 students had to opportunity to meet some furry, feathery and scaly friends.

Wild Action came in and allowed students to experience native Australian animals. Students were able to have the tactile experience to understand what the animals look like, sound like and feel like.



This hands-on experience gives students an avenue to build their language and vocabulary in their learning.

Shared experiences at school and home allow for students to build an understanding of the world around them. Creating and discussing shared experiences build ourselves into lifelong learners.



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WONDROUS WELLBEING

Year 4 CITY CAMP



Keep an eye out for details regarding the upcoming **Year 6 camp**, taking place in Week 4 of Term 2!

Year 4 CITY CAMP STUDENT RECOUNTS



On the 27th of March, the Year 4's went to camp in the city. On the first day of camp we checked into our hotel we didn't go to our rooms till 3 o'clock. We went to the Melbourne Museum, IMAX, Aquarium, Queen Vic Market and had a movie night together. To be honest, I personally thought that the movie night was the best part because we watched a movie that I hadn't seen before and it was Toy Story and it was pretty good. When the movie finished, we each had a cup of hot chocolate.

By Farhan Hasib



On the 27th of March we went to Camp in the City. In the morning, we drove 1 hour. We walked for a long time until we finally reached our hotel, and it was amazing. On the first day, we went to IMAX, it was so fun and it was so big. Then we walked for a long time and reached Melbourne Museum. It was so cool and exciting there. I wish I was there for 12 hours. Then we went to the aquarium and I saw a stingray, eel and a shark and so many other fishes. We also went to the Queen Victoria Market and there was so much stuff there. I saw so many cool things and bought a cool laser which costed me \$5 dollars.

By Omid Rahimi



CAMP

Keep an eye out for details regarding the upcoming **Year 6 camp**, taking place in Week 4 of Term 2!

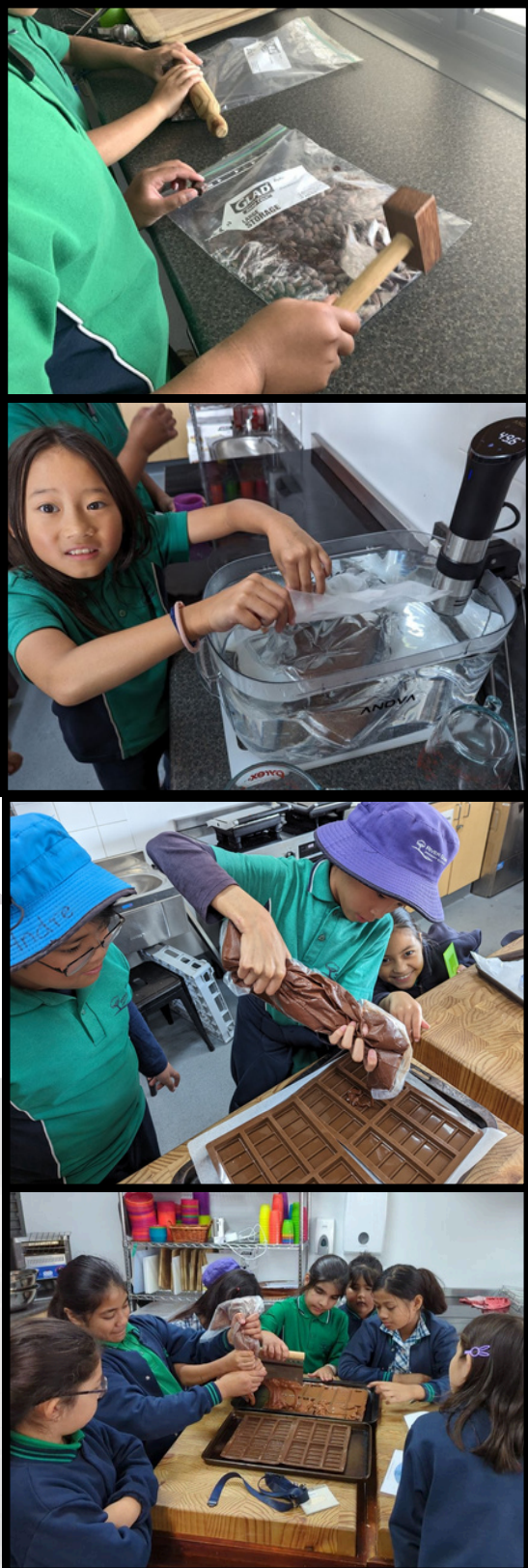
Have you heard the news? RGPS has been making it's very own chocolate!

The chocolate-making group is one our most popular, by invitation-only, lunch time club. Mr Taylor speaks to classroom teachers but also makes choices based on students' engagement with and behaviour in Design and Digital Technologies - this isn't just about being well-behaved, but it's also about being a problem-solver and having the opportunity to do something most people haven't had the opportunity to do.

Students start by tasting a lot of chocolate, and learning about the ingredients used in making chocolate, as well as the different types of chocolate - with a focus on dark and milk chocolates. The idea is to push beyond the simple understanding of chocolate being yum or yuck, or sweet and bitter, and to develop a language for describing how one chocolate is different to other chocolates. Basically, you don't make good chocolate unless you understand the product. There's a lot of maths and science embedded in what we're doing, but it's also about eating chocolate.

Students have been involved in all steps of the chocolate-making process, including cracking the beans, carefully weighing the beans, combining them with cocoa, butter, milk powder and sugar, churning the ingredients, tempering the mixture and then pouring into moulds.

New groups of students will be picked up in Terms 3 and 4.



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TERM 2 CALENDAR

Keep this handy!

Week	Colour Code				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 15/4	First Day of School & Parent Cyber Safety Info Night				
Week 2 22/4			School Photos	ANZAC Day	
Week 3 29/4			District Cross Country		Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
Week 4 6/5			Year 6 Camp	Year 6 Camp	Year 6 Camp
Week 5 13/5			Footy Gala Day		
Week 6 20/5	Education Week	Education Week	Education Week Event & Free Dress Day	Education Week	
Week 7 27/5	Reconciliation Week	Reconciliation Week	Reconciliation Week	Reconciliation Week & Division Cross Country	Curriculum Day
Week 8 3/6					
Week 9 10/6	King's Birthday				
Week 10 17/6	Refugee Week	Refugee Week	Refugee Week & Lightning Prem	Refugee Week	Refugee Week & School Assembly
Week 11 24/6					Last Day of Term. 2.30pm finish



TERM 2

Colour Code

- School Events
- Assembly
- After School Events
- Camps
- Public Holidays
- Curriculum Days
- Sport

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OSHC



TheiCare
Where Kids love to be!

Our school has partnered with an independent provider called **TheiCare** 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 TheiCare website: www.theicare.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 TheiCare Support Team on 1300 072 410.

Join us!

Big Sing 2024

Choral workshops and concert

FREE for school-aged participants, Adults buy tickets

Saturday 18 May

St Margaret's Berwick Grammar

1:00-3:45pm

Workshop sessions

School Years 4-6, School Years 7-12, Adults

4.30pm

Concert featuring workshop participants and special guests

Melbourne Youth Chorale

Daughters of the King

Casey Choir

Emerging soloist Claire Anderson

Big Sing 2024 Presenters:

Marten Visser

Claire Patti

Monika Harris

Timothy Mallis

Hosted by:

Melbourne Youth Chorale

www.melbourneyouthchorale.com.au

St Margaret's Berwick Grammar

Proudly supported by:

City of Casey

<https://mychorale.au/bigsing>





**STEP INTO PREP
AT RIVER GUM
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL TOURS
FOR FOUNDATION
2025**

TERMS 2 & 3

***BEGINNING TUESDAY 16TH
APRIL**

**EVERY TUESDAY AT 9AM
MEET IN THE FRONT OFFICE**



REGISTER TODAY!

Call: 9799 1216

Email: river.gum.ps@education.vic.gov.au
to book!