Last week, Junior school enjoyed a wonderful trip to Puffing Billy in light of our ‘History of Transport’ topic this term. We learned all about steam trains and got a chance to ride on a 115 year old steam train from Belgrave to Lakeside station. We enjoyed the wonderful sites on our ride and got to see the beauty of the Dandenong Ranges. We were lucky to see the engineers at the refilling station, refilling the locomotive and we captured some moments of that. Once we arrived at the Lakeside park, we had a picnic and played in the cool park and had a walk around the lake. We had a BLAST! Enjoy the pictures of our fun day.
Dear Parents,
You can visit our school website www.rivergumps.vic.edu.au for further information about our school vision and how we showcase our students owning their learning.

Student Voice: Congratulations to our School Captains for 2016 Ashley and Kaira from Miss Dumble’s class, and Mary and Mustafa from Miss Holdsworth’ class. Every student who went for the School Captain role for 2016 should be extremely proud of their efforts. I look forward to working with our new School Captains.

To conclude our school year we have a number of events for our students and community members happening in the next two weeks. Our Graduation for our year 6 students will be held on Thursday 10th December. Thank you to the graduation team who are planning and rehearsing with our students to make this event memorable of their days at River Gum Primary. I am looking forward to celebrating with our students next Thursday.

Below are pictures of school captains for 2016 informing their families! Mustafa the other captain is currently overseas.

Community Liaison: Have planned an end of year celebration on Thursday 17th December at the River Gum Performing Arts Centre at 1.00pm for our community helpers on behalf of the Community Liaison Team. We will be sending invites out shortly to members of our school community who have made significant contributions to our school this year.

Preparation for 2016: We are currently preparing the structure for classes for 2016. For our planning, I ask that you let the school office know of any changes in your home circumstances. Also, if you know of families looking for a new school, or have not enrolled their children at our school yet, let them know that we are happy to take them on a tour of our fantastic school to show the learning that takes place. Bookings can be made through the office. Enrolment forms are also available.

Assembly Update: Our final assembly for 2015 will be on Thursday 17th December at 2pm. At this assembly students will be receiving awards for their work in Term 4. We look forward to our parents joining us at our Assembly as we celebrate our successes in 2015.

Roma McKinnon—Principal

“Together we can for every child, every day, in every classroom”
Girls Touch Rugby State Final

On Tuesday the 24th of November, 13 lucky senior girls participated in the Rugby State Finals. The girls met up at the gym at 7:45am, the bus then arrived a few minutes later. Next we had to share the bus with a girls team from St. Kevins. The girls talked, sang, and played games during the ride to Elwood, they were incredibly excited for the finals.

River Gum showed great sportsman-ship and had an amazing day! Unfortunately, they did not come first, however, they still tried their very best and came fourth. When we finished, Mr. Alenson rewarded us by taking us to the beach nearby.

Reading Tip Of The Week

It's that simple: Keep reading, prevent summer slide

Since summer is nearly here, now’s the time to make sure “summer slide” isn’t going to be part of it. Luckily, there’s a simple — absolutely free — way to prevent “summer slide” available in any of Casey’s libraries. There’s 100’s of studies and data showing that when kids don’t participate in some educational activity during the summer, their test scores are lower.

Like other muscles, if the brain isn’t exercised, it isn’t as strong. Kids who start the new school year without exercising their brains during the summer begin behind their peers, for which they’ll be playing the difficult game of catch-up. But the brain exercise anyone can do anytime almost anywhere is reading.

It’s that simple: Keep reading, prevent summer slide.

Aphrodite Vantarakis: S.W.A.N: Foundation & Juniors Reading Recovery Teacher

CATS: The Childhood to Adolescence Transition Study

Thank you so much to the families and school staff at River Gum Primary School for participating in CATS since Grade 3 – we are really grateful for your participation over the last 4 years! We also want to pass on the exciting news that CATS will be continuing in 2016, so keep an eye out for any new information coming your way. Happy holidays everyone!!!

*P.S. Don’t forget that if your contact details have changed, or if you have any questions about the study, please contact the study team on (03) 9345 6732 or email cats@mcri.edu.au

Thank you for participating in CATS!
George Patton (Project Director), Lisa Mundy (Project Manager) and the CATS team
Student Voice Excursion to Boneo Maze

On Wednesday the 2nd of December, student voice went on an excursion to Boneo maze. First, we split into groups. One group played Mini Golf and the second group went to the Adventure Park. At the Adventure Park, there were paddle boats, trampolines and rock climbing. There were also heaps of tricky mazes and lots of fun oversized board games and puzzles. Ms Lanagan, Mrs McQueen, Mr Spence, Hailey and Renee (Eboni’s mum) helped us on the day. We had a really fun time! A massive thank you to Mr O’Reilly for organising the day!