Hopes and Dreams
by Middle/Senior A

This year Middle/Senior A are in the portable classrooms surrounding our lovely new shade sails. We are currently undertaking ‘Getting to know you’ activities to learn about our new friends. Just like the Big Friendly Giant from Roald Dahl’s book the BFG we are collecting wishes and dreams for the future. Each class has their own Wish Jar and we are filling these jars with our ‘Hopes and Dreams’ for 2016. We will re-visit our hopes and dreams throughout the year to see if we are on track.

We value the school-home partnership. Parents are welcome to visit our classrooms and meet the class teachers. We are available each morning before school.

School Gates
Our school gates are open in the morning from 8:10am - 9:00am and in the afternoon from 3:00pm - 3:30pm except on a Tuesday where the gates will be opened at 3:10pm. Visitors to the school who arrive during hours the gates are locked must enter and exit through the Front Office. We thank all our members of the community for their cooperation in this matter.

Dates to Remember

February 8th 9th 11th 15th 18th
Feeling Safe Together 5/6

Tuesday February 9th
Breakfast Club Starts

Wednesday February 17th
Graffiti prevention program for 5/6 students

Thursday February 18th
Breakfast Club Community Event

February 22nd 23rd 25th 29th
March 3rd
Feeling Safe Together 3/4

Tuesday 23 February
School Council-6pm

Monday 29 February
Whole School Assembly at 2.00pm at RPAC

March 7th 10th 15th 17th
Feeling Safe Together 1/2

Friday March 4th
School Athletics Day

Friday March 11th
Curriculum Day (No students required)

Monday 14 March
Labour Day Public Holiday (No students required)

Tuesday 22 March
School Council 6.00pm

Monday 21 March
Whole School Assembly at 2:00pm at RPAC

Thursday 24 March
Last day of Term 1.
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.

Breakfast Club: I am pleased to inform our school community that we have been selected by the Victorian Government to have a breakfast club operating at River Gum Primary School. Students will be offered a range of breakfast food when they arrive at school in the morning. It is planned that your child’s classroom teacher will organize breakfast to be served in the classroom at the bag bell each morning. Breakfast club will start on Tuesday 9th February.

Student Safety: We have a number of policies and protocols in place in regard to keeping our students safe. One way of working together with our Community is to ensure respect for our students at all times while they are on our school site.

Hoax phone calls to Victorian schools: I am writing to reassure you in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days. Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year. Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

2016 School Policy Document: Our 2016 School Policy Document will be sent home today. Please sign this document acknowledging our updated School Policies. Please read and be familiar with this document as it has all information to our policies and school procedures. Please sign and tear off the back page and return it with your eldest child to school ASAP. This document can also be found on our school website under the following link; http://www.rivergumps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/school-policy-and-forms/school-policy-document.pdf

Parents it is your responsibility to read our School Policy Documents and return the signed agreement to school.

School Council Election: Nominations for election to School Council are now being called. Nomination forms are available from the Office, if you would like more information, brochures are available from the office. School Council is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in the River Gum Primary School community. Our School Council president Sherryn Dunmore and School Councillors Vicky Methven, Lynn Fields and Ben Goetjens will be happy to speak to interested parents about their role on our School Council. There are a number of vacancies on the School Council for 2016:

- 5 Parent vacancies
- 4 Staff vacancies
- 1 Community member vacancy

Roma McKinnon—Principal

“Together we can for every child, every day, in every classroom”
Student 2 Student Reading Program

Children need good reading skills to be able to perform well at school and set them up for success in the future. Your child may benefit from taking part in the student2student reading if they need help with reading. This program is run by The Smith Family. It has been able to help many children take big steps forward with their reading skills.

When children can read better, their school marks improve. Their self-confidence improves and they have a stronger belief that they can make a success of their lives. Our school has been working together with the Smith Family in the Student2Student Reading program since 2012 it has proven to be a very successful program with the majority of readers who took part in the program improving their reading age.

If you are keen to participate and would like to further information please see Mrs. Cockerell for an application form. There are no costs involved in participating. These forms need to be back at school by 19 February 2016.
School Nursing Program

Your VISITING SCHOOL NURSE for 2016 is

Kylie Payne

Contact No: 0477 746 399
payne.kylie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

In 2016 the School Nursing Program will continue to offer families and care givers:

- An assessment of any concerns they may have regarding their child’s health and wellbeing via distribution of a confidential SEHQ to all parents of Prep children.
- Advice and information about their child’s health, referral to other services if needed and follow up where school nurse intervention is required.
- Assessment of children referred by parents or teachers (with parental consent) to the school nurse in Grades 1-6.
- Advice, information and support for families and school communities to promote the health and wellbeing of children and families.

The 2016 SEHQ continues to cover general health, dental, speech, vision, behaviour, family issues and development. It provides a clinical tool to assist nurses to prioritise those children who may require further assessment / support in the early school years and enables teachers and nurses to work collaboratively with families to improve outcomes for children.

If you have any concerns prior to or following my visit to the school, please contact me on the above number.

I look forward to working within your school in 2016

Reading Tip Of The Week  Nursery rhyme time

Research in early literacy has proven that regular exposure to rhymes help boost children’s abilities to master pre-reading skills such as rhyme predication and detection. Add rhymes and rhythms to your child’s day. Read nursery rhymes, sing songs with rhyming words, find fun books with rhymes and add chants or rhymes to routine times of your day, such as clean-up time or bath time.

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

Happy Reading