Recipe of the Week

from the Kitchen Garden

‘Cheese and Cherry Tomato Pudding’

This is a recipe that we have been doing with the Foundation students this week. It’s great for kids of all ages and the recipe can be changed to suit tastes and available produce. We included grated zucchini in ours because this was available from our garden.

**Ingredients**

- Margarine or butter
- 6 slices wholemeal bread (sandwich cut)
- Half a cup of diced onion
- 1 ½ cups of grated cheese
- Half a tub of cherry tomatoes cut in half
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup of milk
- A pinch of mustard powder

**Step 1:** Butter all the slices of bread, cut off crusts and cut into quarters. Line a greased oven dish with half of the bread quarters.

**Step 2:** Sprinkle with diced onion (onion can be browned in a fry pan first, if desired), add cherry tomatoes and 1 cup of grated cheese.

**Step 3:** Top off the ingredients with the remaining bread and cheese.

**Step 4:** Beat together eggs, milk and add a pinch of mustard powder, pour over the top. Bake for 20 minutes at 180 degrees or until golden brown.

Enjoy!
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 Community Liaison Event:** Our first event for 2016 will be held on Thursday 18th February between 7.30am and 8.30am starting at the Kitchen Garden and then visiting your child’s classroom. We encourage our community to come along and see our new breakfast club in action, speak to your child’s teacher and meet other members of the school community. We look forward to seeing everyone.

**CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses related to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is: $125.00 for primary school students.

**HOW TO APPLY:** If you hold a current Health Care Card/Concession Card, please collect a form from the School Office.

**SENTRAL for Parents:** At River Gum Primary we use SENTRAL as our main form of communication. Your child’s report is published there, you can send and receive messages from your child’s teacher and also log any absences your child may have.

You will have received a letter with instructions about how to login to the Parent Portal of SENTRAL. It is VERY important, as this is how we communicate with parents if there is an emergency. Parents that already have an account can login using their current username and password at: http://sentral.rivergumps.vic.edu.au/portal/login

**2016 School Policy Document:** Our 2016 School Policy Document has been sent home. 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
- 3 Staff vacancies

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 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 19th February 2016.

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STAR
SCHOOL TRANSITION AT RIVER GUM

Give your child a head start at River Gum Primary School
Join us for educational activities that will help your child grow, develop and transition into school.
⭐ Enrol now ⭐
Every Wednesday and Friday morning
8:45am—11:30am
Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon
12:30pm—3:00pm
Start Tuesday 9th February
Parents are required to stay for the duration of the session.

PLAYGROUP
Come along and join the fun at our Playgroup. Meet other parents and be part of our learning community.

Every Wednesday and Friday morning
9:00am—11:30am
$5 per term
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

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Reading Tip Of The Week

Read it again, and again, and again!

While reading books again and again might be frustrating for parents, children love to have their favourite books read aloud multiple times. The act of re-reading a book helps young children build their comprehension skills and their vocabulary. Consider having special books as parts of your routine, such as a bedtime book you read at the same time every night. Ask questions while you read, can they predict what will happen next?

Aphrodite Vantarakis
S.W.A.N. Foundation & Reading Recovery Teacher
“Eat your breakfast, it’s the most important meal of the day!” Why are parents always saying that?

After a long night of sleeping, your fuel tank is empty.

Breakfast is the fuel for your brain.

come and join the launch of our

BREAKFAST CLUB

When: 18th February
What time: 7:30am - 8:30am
Where: Starting at the Kitchen Garden and continuing in student classrooms

With coffee/tea you will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a Melbourne Storm signed ball.
2016 Photo Day
Envelope and Order Instructions

Dear parents and students,

River Gum Primary School PHOTO DAY IS 1/03/2016
School photo order envelopes have been or will be distributed to every student and it is important that the order instructions (below) are followed.

ONLINE ORDERING Your child’s school photos are now available for secure online purchase, please note if you are ordering online, you do not need to return an envelope to the school
4 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING
   Step 1: Easy Access Link: Click on this link if you are using a supported device: Click Here
   - OR - Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [HDY GK6 P8W]
   Step 2: Enter your student’s details
   Step 3: Choose the package that best suits your needs (all orders will be returned to the school for collection)
   Step 4: Pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page)
Please Note: Late fees will apply once orders are closed (5 days after photo day)

FAMILY / SIBLING PHOTOS No envelope required if ordering online
4 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING
   - Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [HDY GK6 P8W]
   - Family/Sibling photo orders online close on 28/02/2016
   - Orders can be placed by returning an envelope up until photo day with cash or cheque enclosed

ORDERING USING AN ENVELOPE
ENVELOPES WILL BE HANDED TO EACH CHILD, PLEASE SEE THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ONE
   Step 1: Student Details: Complete the student details section on the front of the order envelope.
      Please use black or blue pen.
   Step 2: Purchase Details: Complete the purchase details on the front of the envelope.
   Step 3: Payment Method: Select your payment method.
      Credit Card – Online Only at www.advancedlife.com.au
      Cash – Please enclose correct money – no change is given under any circumstances
      Cheque – Make payable to Advancedlife Photography with your name & address on the back of cheque
      Please allow 60 days for your cheque to be finalised - a $25 fee will apply to any dishonored cheque payments

Please feel free to contact us via email or phone should you have any queries
In regards to your child’s school photo order.
info@advancedlifevic.com.au or 03 9852 1133
Advancedlife Team