

Caring and Sharing

A small school achieving BIG Things

9 February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had the most amazing start to the school year. All students have settled in beautifully and I have been particularly impressed with how well they have connected with new peers and in most instances, new teachers. The first couple of weeks of school are the most important in terms of developing relationships and establishing a positive classroom culture. Teachers work hard during this time to get to know their students and to establish a safe and welcoming classroom environment where activities designed to foster respect, trust, and collaboration feature heavily throughout the school day. All classes have been creating their essential agreements/class rules that clearly outline what learning and behaviour is expected. Once these have been developed collaboratively, time is given to modelling and practising these expectations with students. Many teachers have also started to introduce their classroom rewards system that acknowledges positive and prosocial behaviour and learning. Ask your child about Class Dojo.

On behalf of the staff I would like extend my welcome to every child and family at Richardson Primary in 2018. The leadership team supporting me this year includes: Brooke Calvert -Deputy Principal and Executive Teachers - Roz Mitchell, Ben Smith, Deborah Watling, Nicole Agius and Michelle Smith. All of the leadership team is here to support students, staff and parents. If you have any questions or concerns, big or small, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher. However, there may be times when the teacher is unable to help you or you may feel that you would like someone else to talk to. On those occasions please come to see a member of the leadership team. We want to work in partnership with you and, the sooner we are aware of a concern, the faster we can work together to find a solution.

It may be helpful for you to know which Executive teachers are allocated to each part of the school.

- Preschool: Michelle Smith
- Kindergarten: Nicole Agius
- Years 1 to 2 and LSU: Deborah Watling
- Years 3 to 4 and Arts: - Ben Smith
- Years 5 to 6: Roz Mitchell

The school executive team have been busy working on the school's 2018 Action Plan. We keep our three strategic priorities; to **improve student learning and behaviour, develop an expert teaching team** and **provide a safe, supportive school culture** and the associated key improvement strategies. However, our specific actions to achieve our priorities will be tweaked. This document is underpinned by recommendations from the School Review process, Directorate priorities and school self-assessment against the National School Improvement Tool and National Safe School's Framework. When finalised I will share our 2018 Action Plan via the newsletter and email.

Over the holidays break, there were a number of builders and landscapers on site busily working to complete our new Learning Support Unit classroom and sensory garden. I've shared a few photos of the progress of both with you on Facebook and am delighted to let you know that the project is nearing completion and looks AMAZING! More details to come about the official opening.

In other exciting news, this year, in collaboration with the school board and P&C, we are offering students who would like to participate in competitive swimming a chance to do so. Whilst we won't be doing a 'full blown' swimming carnival as such, although that is the plan for next year, we will be putting out an expression of interest for those students who would like to be timed and considered for the next level of ACT competition. Mr Smith is coordinating this new initiative and will send out a note next week.

Another new initiative we are trialling this year is the introduction of Play Therapy. Tania Long, also our preschool teacher, will conduct play therapy sessions with a number of our students on Thursdays. Play Therapy is relatively new in Australia, and more so in schools, though it is widely used, accredited and valued as an intervention in the USA and UK. Play is the universal language of childhood and Play Therapy is a communication vehicle for children to know and accept themselves and others. Play Therapy is based on the fact that play is the child's natural medium of self-expression; it allows the child to 'play out' their feelings and problems just as, in certain types of adult therapy, an individual 'talks out' their difficulties. Play Therapy provides the opportunity for the child to express their experiences and feelings through a natural, self-guided, self-healing process. The positive outcomes of Play Therapy can be: increased self-esteem, resilience development, improved emotional regulation, improved physical regulation, increased engagement in learning, enhanced peer relationships, enhanced family relationships and reduction in anxieties.

This year, our specialist program has changed from Health and PE to the Arts. The very talented Mr Andrew Fraser will be teaching all students from K-6 visual art, drama, dance, music and media arts. Please be assured that Health and PE will still be taught by all classrooms teachers.

Just a reminder that our election process has opened for two parent positions on the School Board. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to contribute to our school community and be part of the strategic vision of the school. Please see the attached nomination form for you to complete. Once complete please hand to the front office in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Returning Officer brooke.calvert@ed.act.edu.au Nominations close 19 February.

In closing, I would encourage you to attend our Getting to Know You Interviews starting next week. Notes for this went home on Tuesday. Teaching teams will continue to send home term overviews to provide you with information about the teaching focus and learning program for term one. These overviews will be sent out in week 3.

Kind regards,
Anna Wilson
Principal

Richardson Primary School acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to the United Ngunnawal Elders Council and to the Elders, both past and present of the Ngunnawal nation. We also extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community.

Kingdom Kids

When: Every Tuesday during school term
Time : 3:00 – 4:00pm
Where: School Library,
Richardson Primary School
Bible Stories, craft, songs, games....
To register please collect a registration form from the front office.



Richardson Primary has a Facebook page to keep you up to date about things happening at our school on a daily basis. We would love you to "like us" and become part of our RPS Facebook Community.



TERM 1 STAFF 2018

Executive Team & Administration Staff

Principal – Anna Wilson

Deputy Principal – Brooke Calvert

Executive Teacher Preschool – Michelle Smith

Executive Teacher Kindergarten - Nicole Agius

Executive Teacher Year 1/2 – Deborah Watling

Executive Teacher 3/4 and Arts – Ben Smith

Executive Teacher Year 5/6 – Rozlyn Mitchell

Business Manager – Jade Uttley

School Secretary – Stephanie Bermingham

Building Service Officer - Branko Novakovic

Koori Preschool Staff on Mon -Tues

Sue Turtle & Taylor Fitzgerald

Seahorse / Dolphin Preschool Unit Staff

Michelle Smith, Tania Long, Glenise Henderson & Taylor Fitzgerald

Possum Magic Unit Staff

Michelle May, Ashleigh Motbey, Marie Annesley & Taylor Fitzgerald

Kirrang Unit Staff

Barbara Martin, Johanna Barling & Samantha Gilchrist

LSU(Kakadu Unit)

Anne Tow & Kylie Crabtree

Iterika Unit Staff

Kerri Insley & Kylie Lee

Kakadu Unit Staff

Emma Vince, Aaron Scarcella & Liz Burnet

Creative Arts Teacher

Andrew Fraser

Library Volunteer – David Hutchison

EALD – Deborah Watling

School Psychologist – Ellen Sheridan

Chaplain – Hazel Mantani

Indigenous Student Support - Zuzette Fahey

School Band Teachers – Emma Vince, Aaron Scarcella & Evan Thomas from the Instrumental Music Program

School Phone Number: 6142 3630

School Fax Number: 6142 3645

1. Accidents at school:

Any member of our school or local community who has an accident before, after or during school please come to the front office or ring the front office as staff trained in First Aid are available to assist, support and offer First Aid. We certainly want to know about all accidents, offer whatever support we can at the time and follow up as well as rectify any safety risks we are unaware exist around the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

2. Allergy Aware:



We currently have a number of children and staff with Asthma and gluten, nut, artificial colouring / preservatives allergies presenting in our school and the wider community. Our staff supervise eating duties at lunch time every day and train the children to eat their own food, NOT to share food and NOT to borrow or swap food. In particular peanut butter products, fresh peanuts or nutty muesli bars.

Richardson Primary School is a nut aware school. We ask families not to bring nuts or nut products to the school or to school activities in order to minimise exposure to students who do have allergies.

While this is an acceptable strategy to reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens, it is never possible to guarantee a school site is nut free.

Richardson Primary School cannot claim that we are nut or peanut free. Such a claim could not reliably be made and, if made, may lead to a false sense of security about exposure to peanuts and peanut products.

Some food packaging have the words 'may contain' in relation to nuts. The 'may contain' statement is voluntary information provided by the manufacturer in order to inform the consumer that the product may have been inadvertently contaminated during the manufacturing process. It does not necessarily mean that the product will contain the allergen (this information is on the ingredient list). Some children who are at risk of anaphylaxis eat the products that have the 'may contain' statement while others do not. Products with the 'may contain' statement do not need to be removed from the school.

REMINDER

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ACT Public Schools

So much more to offer

3. Medication:

Departmental policy requires schools to ensure that: Any request for administering medications must be in writing. The medication must be accompanied by clear written instructions on the method of administration, timing and dosage, and signed by a doctor. Forms can be provided by the school upon request. **We would be grateful if such letters regarding medication could be sent as soon as possible.**



4. Bikes and scooters:

Bikes & scooters are to be left locked at the bike & scooter racks. The school does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen bikes or scooters. By law, a helmet must be worn while riding.



4. Canteen:

Healthy Kids Association will operate from Calwell High School and deliver lunches to Richardson Primary School every Wednesday. The menu has a variety of freshly made food and drinks that have been approved by the National Healthy School Guidelines. The ordering process has been streamlined using an online service called flexi schools where you can plan ahead and make an order the night before. All orders must be completed online

5.Children arriving after 9.00am or leaving school before 3.00pm:

If you need to keep a medical or dental appointment or for any reason, please come to the front office and sign your child /ren back into/out of school. This is for safety and security reasons so that we know exactly who is on the premises.

6. Containers for food:

Tins (especially lids) and glass containers are dangerous to have in lunch boxes. We encourage you to use plastic containers at all times.



7. Current Contact Numbers:

It is **very important** that we have your current contact numbers and at least one other emergency contact number. If your child is sick or has an accident we need to be able to contact you immediately.

8. Dogs:

ACT Dog laws prohibit dogs from being on the premises (including the grounds) of primary schools at any time. For the safety of our students, dogs should not be on the school grounds. There are obvious problems when

dogs use the playing areas as a toilet. We also have some students who are very frightened by dogs.

9. Information Regarding Events, Excursions and Performances:

Please remember all notes that go home have a definite closing date. Your assistance with returning all notes, along with your permission is crucial to informing us as to whether the event can proceed or not. There is a section in the newsletter advising when notes are sent home and a list of coming events.

10. Liability for the Loss, Damage or Theft of Students' Personal Property at School:

Advice from the ACT Government Solicitor indicates that notwithstanding the merits of each particular incident, schools generally cannot be held responsible for the intervening acts of third parties, resulting in the loss, damage or theft of students' personal property. Parents and students are advised that schools do not provide private insurance cover to automatically compensate for the loss, damage or theft of bicycles or other personal property and nor will they be legally liable for the loss.



11. Lost Property:

Parents are requested to label all items of school clothing, as staff endeavour to ensure all labelled items misplaced are returned to their owners. All lost property is at the front office area in a basket labelled "lost property". At the end of each term, school uniform lost property items **WITHOUT** any identification, are washed and donated to charity. Please visit the lost property area regularly throughout each term to claim items.

12. Mobile Phones and all Electronic Equipment:

All mobile phones and electronic equipment brought to school must be left at the front office in the morning. Phones and any electronic equipment can be collected at 3pm. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

13. Playground Equipment:

The school playground equipment should only be used by students during school hours under the supervision of staff. **In the interests of the safety of all children, parents should ensure that their children do not use this equipment before or after school or when a staff member is not supervising, unless of course you are there providing the supervision outside of school hours.**



14. Retrieving Items from the Roof:

Mr Branko is the only staff member who has undertaken additional training regarding safety with accessing the roof. As a result, he will only be able to access the roof once a fortnight to retrieve any items that have found their way onto the roof.

15. Safety in the Car Parks:



The aim is for people to park in the various designated spaces, which have been designed to minimise the risk for children and adults, particularly as pedestrians, as they move into and out of the car parks. Double and triple parking is particularly dangerous, as children can be hidden as they move between cars. As well as the central car parking spaces in front of the school, please consider using the car parking areas marked out next to the oval or along the side streets bordering the school such as Rohan, Mack, Pritchard or Chauncy Crescents. We appreciate your cooperation, as keeping our Richardson children as safe as possible is our main focus.

16. School Psychologist:

We have a registered psychologist, Ellen Sheridan, who can provide individual support to students, parents and teachers. Parents or carers will always be contacted to give permission for the School Psychologist to work with a child. If you wish to make an appointment contact our Deputy Principal on 6142 3630.

17. School Chaplain:

Our RPS chaplain is Hazel Mantani Hazel works at the school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She provides support and referrals to students, parents and teachers. Parents can contact the chaplain through the school office. Parents or carers will be contacted to give permission for students to participate in the voluntary programs run by the chaplain. She also works with students in class settings. If parents have any questions or comments, please contact the school office.

18. School Uniforms:

We wear GREEN AND GOLD with pride. Uniforms with the school logo are available from Savvy's at Home World Tuggeranong. Alternatively green shorts and gold polo shirts can be purchased from local providers.

19. Smoke Free:



All public school grounds in the ACT are now smoke-free. A government policy, which prohibits smoking at all government schools

came into effect on January 1, 2008. It applies to all staff, departmental officers, students, contractors and visitors, including volunteers. Under the policy, smoking is no longer allowed in enclosed and open spaces, such as ovals and car parks, or in grounds managed by the ACT Department of Education and Training.

20. Student Absences:

Class rolls are marked both morning and afternoon by the class teacher each day. All student absences are recorded using the following code. An **S** for when written advice has been received by the class teacher to explain that the student has been sick or ill for a particular day or for a specific number of days. An **L** for when written advice has been received by the class teacher to explain that the student has been on leave for a particular day or for a specific number of days. If the class teacher does not receive any information regarding a student's absence, then an **A** is recorded for the specific day. All student absences and late arrivals are totalled at the end of each term and recorded on student records. Children arriving after 9.15am are asked to report to the front office and collect a late note to take to the class teacher. Your assistance with providing information for every student absence is greatly appreciated.



21. Sun Hats and Keeping Safe at All Times:

Richardson Primary school recommends that children wear broad brimmed sun hats for Terms 1 and 4. Hats are not required to be worn in Terms 2 and 3. We ask all families to be aware and take extra care regarding safety for your child/ren wearing any earrings other than studs, necklaces, jewellery, clothing or hats which have long cords that could possibly get caught on equipment. At RPS we support the safety of all children at school.

22. Unauthorised Access to School Roofs:

Parents are reminded of the dangers inherent when children climb onto the school roof. Your support in reminding children of these dangers is requested. Signs have been erected at the school warning of dangers of accessing the school roof.



23. Volunteers and Visitors:

All visitors, classroom helpers, and volunteers must come to the front office to sign in electronically and collect a badge to wear while in the school. This



is for safety and security reasons so that we know exactly who is in the building.

24. Complaint or Concerns

Many concerns are resolved quickly and easily by discussing the matter directly with the school. Firstly speak directly to your child's teacher or talk to a member of the executive team. If you continue to be concerned please make an appointment to see your principal.

If you are not satisfied you may lodge a written complaint. The Complaints Policy and Complaints form

are available from the policy section of the Directorate website: www.education.act.gov.au

You have the right to approach the ACT Human Rights Commission. Details are available from the Commission website: www.hrc.zact.gov.au/humanrights.

If you need assistance, or you would like to compliment us, contact the ACT Education and Training Directorate's Liaison Unit on 6205 5429 or visit www.det.act.gov.au/contact_us

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

SCHOOL AGE CARE

Before and after school care is available at Richardson Primary School. Enrolment forms are available from www.ywca-canberra.org.au or from the front office. Once you have completed the enrolment form you will need to scan and email to childcareaccounts@ywca-canberra.org.au. Contact details for the YWCA:

Phone: 6180 5777

Address: Level 2, 71 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra ACT 2601

Postal Address: YWCA Canberra, GPO Box 767, Canberra ACT 2601



EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER

The Richardson Primary School newsletter is emailed to families week 1, 3 ,5, 7 and 9 of each term, paper copies are given upon request. If you have not been receiving the newsletter it means we do not have a current email address for you or the email address we have has been 'undeliverable'. Please return the slip below **ONLY** if you have not been receiving the newsletter.

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DETAILS FOR NEWSLETTER TO BE EMAILED

Name of child/ren:Class:

Preferred email:

Please print clearly and ensure any symbols, underscore or hyphen, that maybe in your email address are clearly identified.

I do not have an email address and require a paper copy. The schools preferred method of sending the newsletter is via email as we have new printing arrangements commencing in 2018. The newsletter can also be found on the Richardson Primary School website <http://www.richardsonps.act.edu.au>

P&C NEWS



Hello and Welcome to Parents, Families and Caregivers,

2018 is looking to be a year of change, growth and development within our school. We have had some amazing new staff members join our community and we would like to welcome everyone. We look forward to getting to know you all.

Across the past years the P&C have been proud to assist with various projects undertaken by the school such as:

- The purchase and installation of new Basketball hoops
- Purchases made to upgrade Preschool play equipment
- Purchasing of Disco lights and smoke machines
- Year 6 Graduation assistance
- The donation of various rides to the Christmas Community Celebration
- Purchase of Chromebook trolleys
- Yearly Mother's and Father's Day stalls

Just to name a few!!

We hope to build on the success we've had over previous years, and give all Richardson Primary School families a chance to be involved in our school community. We would especially encourage families that are new to the area to get involved. Volunteering at the school is a great way to meet people and make friends.

We are very relaxed in our approach to the P&C and fundraising is always about providing the kids with affordable and fun experiences more than anything else. We are here to provide support to families who may need it, we will advocate on your behalf if you require it, or we can just make you a cuppa and lend an ear.

Our first meeting for the year is the Annual General meeting and will be held on Monday 19th February, 3.15pm in the school library.

All positions will be declared vacant and nominations are welcome. We welcome anyone who would like to come along, whether you are interested in a specific role or just being part of the P&C team.

Come and meet the Committee who are committed to supporting you, your children and the entire school community.



Breakfast Club

A great way to start your day!

When: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
And Friday

Time: 8.40am (Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri)
8.15am (Thurs)

Venue: Canteen



Who: All students Preschool to Year 6

We look forward to seeing you there



Stressed about back to school costs? Make next year different.



Saver Plus will match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to \$500.

To join Saver Plus, you must have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, be at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), and have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.

-  laptops & tablets
-  uniforms & shoes
-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions
-  lessons & activities
-  books & supplies

Contact

Kathleen Watson
your local Saver Plus
Coordinator

Phone

0448 730 305
02 6283 7606

Email

kathleen.watson@
thesmithfamily.com.au

Web

www.saverplus.org.au



Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of ST Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.



Canberra Taekwon-Do Academy. Winning Nearly all the Gold and Silver at the National Australian Championships.

Come and Join Australia's No 1 Taekwon-Do School today



Classes every Mon & Weds Night in the school Hall. Classes start at 6pm.

Contact Head Instructor and Australian Representative Ben Mott for details
0431 730 025 or Email Cantkdacademy@gmail.com

Registration Day

When: 3rd March, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Where: Kambah Playing Fields, Chirnside Circuit, Kambah

Come down to either register, meet the committee or just have some general footy fun. There will be drills and a sausage sizzle (gold coin donation)

We are
in a different
league



Tuggeranong Buffaloes

Contact: Tamara Hall
Email: buffaloes.secretary@gmail.com
Phone: 0414 965 183
Home Ground: Kambah Playing Fields
Register at PlayNRL.com/Register



ONLINE ORDERING



- Available 24/7
- Convenient for parents
- Removes paper orders and cash
- FREE registration

Online ordering is more convenient, providing a 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

No more fumbling around for coins in the morning or sending kids to school with excess cash, online orders are faster and more accurate giving parents peace of mind that their order and payment is received accurately at the school.

Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.

EASY, ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Go to www.flexischools.com.au
- Click REGISTER
- Enter your email
- You will be emailed a link to an online form - follow the link
- Choose a username and password and complete the form
- Add each student and their class
- Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard preferred.

www.flexischools.com.au



Place lunch orders from your iPhone, iPad or mobile device!

For help call 1300 361 769

