

2 February 2024

Richardson Primary Reporter

Caring and Sharing

A small school achieving BIG Things

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome back our school community this morning with our BBQ breakfast. Thank you to all of the families who attended and what a lovely way to end a successful first week back at school.

The first few of weeks of school are the most important in terms of developing relationships and establishing a positive classroom culture. Our 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. The DAB box at the front office is almost full with many of our students recognised for being respectful, positive learners and safe; our whole school expectations for behaviour and learning. Each Essential Agreement will be emailed home to families.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to extend my welcome to every child and family at Richardson Primary in 2024, especially to the many new families who have joined our school community this year. The leadership team supporting me includes Sally Alexander - Deputy Principal and Executive Teachers – Natalie Hogan, Ben Smith and Kayla Hayward (returning from maternity leave in week 7). All the leadership team are 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.

- Small Group Program and Specialists: Sally Alexander
- Preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2: Natalie Hogan
- Years 3 to 6: Ben Smith
- Intervention: Kayla Hayward

Preschool

Black Cockatoos (M,T and alternate even week W) – Jasmin Nuzda and Glenise Henderson
Kookaburras (Koori M, T and alternate even week W) – Sarah James and Jenna Hogan
Swans (alternate odd week W, Th, F) – Jasmin Nuzda and Glenise Henderson
Emus (Koori alternate odd week W, T, F) – Nina Leuning and Jenna Hogan

Kindergarten

Sue Turtle

Year 1 /2 and LSU

Barbara Martin and Neelam Rikhi

LSU

Jayne Queripel and Anne Tow

Year 3 /4

Jen Collinson and Cherie Lugg

Year 5/6

Danielle Geeves and Amie Bowden

Specialist Release Role

Andrew Fraser – Arts

Admin Staff/Volunteers

Business Manager – Stephanie Bermingham

School Secretary and Enrolments Office – Marie Annesley

Building Services Officer – Karma Phuntsho

LSA- Tracey Best

LSA – Tamara Blake

LSA – Kian Grainger

LSA – Kylie Crabtree

LSA/Small Group Program – Gabby Blackwell

Small Group Program LSA – Tracey Mitchell

Preschool – Glenise Henderson

Koori Preschool –Jenna Hogan

School Psychologist – Sophie Carroll

Indigenous Education Officer – Barbara Fleming

School Library Assistant – Sharon Wicks

Much needed building works in both our preschool rooms were completed over the break. We now have new bathrooms, handwashing and nappy changing facilities in these spaces. A special thank you to Mrs Hogan and Steph for your leadership and coordination of these upgrades.

This term, eight of our Indigenous senior students are participating in a pilot outdoor, on Country education program run by Yurwan Ghuda. The program is designed to connect First Nations children with culture, Country and community. Under the guidance of local Elders, respected community members and local knowledge holders, our young people will be supported to learn about their roots in a hands-on way. The program begins next Thursday and will continue for the term. A big thank you to facilitators, Dean Jurd and Kai Barrett and to Barb Fleming, who will be supporting our students to learn on Country.

Our Parent Information Sessions will be held in week three. The K-2 sessions will take place on Tuesday 13 February. Kindy will start at 3.15pm until 4.00pm and the Year 1 /2's session will run from 4.05pm to 4.50pm. The 3-6 presentations will be the following day, Wednesday 14 February. Year 3 /4 will start at 3.15pm until 4.00pm and the Year 5/6's session will run from 4.05pm to 4.50pm. Our teachers look forward to sharing with you what the year has in store for your child/ren including classroom routines, expectations, the teaching and learning program and excursions.

The Education Directorate's Mobile Phone Policy is now in effect. Students in Years P-10 may not use or access personal communications devices at school, including recess and lunch, or during school authorised events. If a student brings a phone to school, they need to hand it in to the front office where it will be safely secured throughout the day. Phones can then be collected at the end of the day.

Exemptions can be requested if a student needs their device/assistive technology:

- to manage or monitor a medical condition
- to help meet caring or family responsibilities
- to support adjustments for students with disability as part of an agreed individual learning plan.

Families should complete an [exemption request form \(27 kb Word\)](#), which must be approved by the school principal or delegate.

You can read more about the policy including frequently asked questions on the [Education Directorate website](#).

You may have heard the exciting news that was announced at the end of last year that our school was successful in our submission to the ACT Government's "My Big Little Idea" initiative. We suggested that a dirt pump track would be an excellent use of the \$40 000 on offer for this pilot project and the selection panel agreed! We look forward to working with our students and community members to plan and design the bike track in the space behind our school. We also look forward to the new track connecting families in our community and offering an enjoyable fitness option for our young people. The project will be led and maintained by Richardson Primary School, with opportunities for the Richardson community to be involved in all stages of design and construction. Planning support will be provided for the community-built track through the ACT Government's *Bumps and Berms* program.

Once again the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will occur in Term 1 this year. The testing window is from 13-25 March (Week 7 and 8). If you do not want your Year 3 or your Year 5 child/ren to sit the tests, please contact the front office.

Kind regards,
Anna Wilson
Principal

