

Richardson Primary Reporter

Caring and Sharing

A small school achieving BIG Things

Dear RPS Families,

The 2024 school year is off with a bang and the students have settled well into new routines and classes. Many of you will already have noticed that the school terms for 2024 are a little different this year.

ACT School Terms 2024	
Term 1	11 weeks
Term 2	10 weeks
Term 3	10 weeks
Term 4	9 weeks + 2 days

All ACT schools also have 4 student free days across the year. Our first was on Monday 29 January. The remaining student free days for the 2024 school year are:

Student Free Days 2024	
Term 1	Monday 29 January
Term 2	Monday 29 April
Term 3	Monday 22 July
Term 4	Monday 14 October

This summer we have seen a myriad of weather conditions, from hot and humid through to cool and damp. Throughout these differing weather conditions, the UV index has remained high. Richardson Primary School is a recognised SunSmart school through the Australian Cancer Council and we are proud to report that the majority of the Richardson students have been practising SunSmart behaviours; wearing their broad brimmed hats, using the sunscreen available in all classrooms and seeking shade under the trees and our playground shade shelters. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a broad brimmed hat. Hats can be purchased from the front office for \$10.00.

Improve learning and achievement for all students

The first few weeks at Richardson Primary School have been jam-packed full of learning. One very important part of establishing a successful learning community is building trusting and collaborative relationships. When the culture is right, our students feel safe and willing to take risks with their learning. Here at Richardson we do this in many ways:

- All classes have worked together to create essential agreements. Essential agreements aim to set the tone for learning.
- Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) expectations have been reintroduced. Teachers unpack the expectations with our students and then reinforce desired behaviours by rewarding DABs (Displaying Amazing Behaviour) tickets.
- Teachers explicitly teach our students about social and emotional wellbeing. Classes across the school have been discussing self-esteem, emotional regulation, forming and maintaining supportive friendships and setting positive goals.
- Across the year, teachers will also teach protective behaviours. Protective behaviours is a framework for teaching personal safety. It aims to have students understand that it is their right to feel safe and to become more in tune with their bodies, recognising early warning signs, knowing what actions to take if they feel unsafe, and identifying a safe support network.

When we invest early and establish a positive, caring and trusting school culture, our students are provided with every opportunity to succeed.

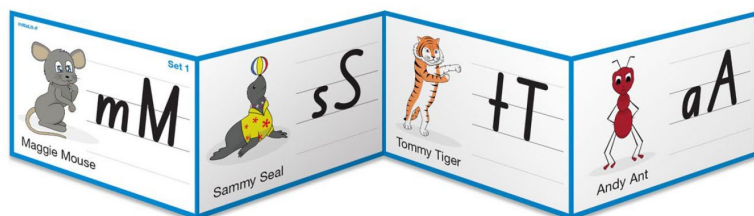
This Friday our new year 5/6 leaders of Richardson Primary School will host the first school assembly. At this assembly, the year 5/6 students will officially welcome the newest members of our primary school, the KT Turtles. We welcome all families to join us for this special occasion.

Term 1 Assemblies		
Date	Host	Time
Friday 16 February	5/6 welcome Kindy	9.15am
Friday 8 March	1/2	9.15am
Friday 12 April	3/4	9.15am

Kindergarten students have completed their BASE testing for the beginning of the year. BASE is conducted by all Kindergarten children across the ACT at the beginning of the year and again at the end. It provides teachers with information about students' literacy, numeracy, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development. Parents will receive a copy of the BASE report towards the end of the term.

In 2024 our Initialit journey continues! Initialit is an evidence-based, whole-class literacy program which provides students from K-2 with essential core knowledge and strong foundations to become successful readers and writers. This year, some of our year 3 students will also be accessing the Initialit program and/or the MiniLit program. The program consists of whole class explicit instruction, groups and independent activities, storybook lessons, games, spelling, grammar and vocabulary, and handwriting lessons. Teachers will also be supplementing the program with additional writing lessons. Initialit focuses on teaching students phonics skills they need to read as well as vocabulary, oral language and listening comprehension.

Initialit will run Monday to Friday in the morning session. Please ensure that your child/ren arrive to school on time so that they do not miss any of their Initialit lesson.



Between 13 -25 March, students in years 3 and 5 will participating in NAPLAN assessments. NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar, and punctuation) and numeracy. Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. Teachers will be supporting students to prepare for NAPLAN by completing practice tests and working to build their stamina in writing with timed writing sessions over the next few weeks. Please see the attached flyer for additional information about NAPLAN.

Develop an expert teaching team

Monday 29 January 2024 was a student free day for all ACT schools. Here at Richardson Primary School, all staff were participating in their third day of Berry Street Education Model Training. The Berry Street Education Model equips both mainstream and specialist schools with practical, classroom-based strategies to increase the engagement of all students, including those with complex, unmet learning needs. The education model enables schools to support students' self-regulation, relationships, and wellbeing to increase student engagement and significantly improve academic achievement.

The preschool team have recently attended professional learning hosted by the ACT Education Directorate, with early childhood education expert, Kelly Goodsir. Kelly is a consultant who supports educators to improve pedagogical practice. All preschool educators across the ACT will continue to attend network sessions across the year with a focus on strengthening documentation to support early years teaching and learning.

Provide a safe, inclusive, and respectful culture

Thank you to all families for coming along to our first Community Breakfast of 2024 on Friday 2 February. Mr Smith had the music pumping as he and Mr Fraser were turning the snags on the BBQ. It was lovely to see so many families come along for a chat, and we even managed to get ACT Public Schools Photo of the Week on Facebook!



This week we hosted the Parent Information Sessions. Families were provided with information about classroom routines, expectations, the teaching and learning programs and what the year has in store for students. We thank all families who came along. The slideshows that were presented at each session will be emailed home to families as will a curriculum document that provides information about the learning in your child's class.

Included in this newsletter is our term calendar with known activities/dates for you to pop into your diary.

Kind regards,
Natalie Hogan
Executive Teacher

Student Awards

The following students will receive an award on Friday 16 February 2024

NAMES	CLASS
Phoebe Wicks	KT
Nelly Kalachoff	KT
Djanarah Simpson	1/2M
Michael Byrne	1/2M
Clea Morosi	1/2R
Jayden Bonaccorso	1/2R
Urwah Saeed	3/4C
Evie Bosak	3/4C
Sarah Flaherty	3/4L
Tyler Shillabeer	3/4L
Chloe Wicks	5/6B
Asha Jolley	5/6B
Benjamin Waters	5/6G
Ongo Mataele	5/6G
Annabelle Bonaccorso	2-5Q
Malakai Kelly-Higgins	2-5Q

NAPLAN testing will occur in our school between **13 and 25 March 2024** for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9.



Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

NAPLAN provides valuable information to schools and parents about literacy and numeracy achievement. It supports school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor student progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.

All eligible students are encouraged and supported to participate in NAPLAN testing. Visit www.nap.edu.au to see interactive versions of the test and for more information.

DAB Awards

Displaying Amazing Behaviour

Congratulations to the following students who received their DAB Award at Friday's Assembly. These students have consistently displayed our signature behaviours of being Respectful, Positive Learners and Safe

Students awarded a Silver Wristband

NAMES	CLASS
Jed Oliver	1/2M
Luke Morosi	1/2M
Haira Fitrawan	1/2R
Zara Meldrum	5/6B

Students awarded a Rainbow Wristband

NAMES	CLASS
Lilly Konemann-Fister	1/2R
Chloe Champness	3/4C

Students awarded a Silver Certificate

NAMES	CLASS
Pippa Wicks	3/4C
Isabel Burger-Ciechan	3/4C

Students awarded a Gold Certificate

NAMES	CLASS
Lawson McCurley	3/4C

A big welcome to our newest members of the school community - Preschool Kookaburras, Black Cockatoos, Emus and Swans!

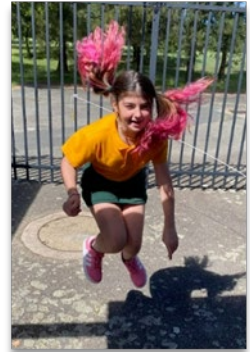
Belonging, Being, Becoming

Mob, Place, Way



2-5Q

We have spent the start of the school year getting to know each other and building connections. Students have explored the learning space while experiencing a variety of learning activities. They are also integrating into their respective 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 units at different times throughout the week to participate in inquiry learning. On Fridays, students have enjoyed cooking with Mrs Tow.



Hello everyone,

I'm Renate, a passionate and dedicated new teacher joining the Richardson community. I'll be working three days a week in an 'In Built Relief' role, which means I'll have the opportunity to get to know all of the classes.

My teaching journey began in 2012 at Black Mountain Specialist School. After taking a break to spend time with my children, I had the privilege of working as a relief teacher at Weetangera Primary last year. Now, I am thrilled to be a part of Richardson Primary School.

One of my greatest passions is student well-being and health. In my spare time, you can find me enjoying bike rides and bouldering (when I'm not busy chasing after my kids).

Over the next few months, I'm looking forward to getting to know each student and their parents and carers. If you're having trouble pronouncing my name, just pretend there's an 'a' on the end, like Renata.

I'm eager to contribute to the Richardson community and create a positive learning environment for all students. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or if there's anything I can assist you with.

Warm regards,

Renate



FLEXI SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS

Healthy Kids Association welcomes you to another year of providing your school with healthy lunches.

We are a not for profit organisation and our mission is to promote and influence healthy food choices for children.

Your lunches will be delivered every Friday for the 11.00 break, lunch orders will need to be placed by 8.30am.

Order lunches online at [Flexischools.com.au](https://flexischools.com.au) or you can download the new Flexischools App.

REMINDER: Please ensure you update your child's new classroom for 2022.

Looking forward to continuing our service to you.





Canteen team - Kerry & Lucy

Could \$500 help with next year's back to school costs?

Learn tips and tricks to grow your budget and saving skills. Save for 10 months. Get up to \$500 of matched savings for school expenses. Just in time for 2024.

Must meet all eligibility criteria:



-  Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card AND an eligible Centrelink payment*
-  Be studying yourself OR have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
-  Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)*
-  Be 18+ years old

*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible



For more info, visit saverplus.org.au or call 1300 610 355.

Community Services at Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre 2024

