

10 November 2023

# Richardson Primary Reporter

## Caring and Sharing

*A small school achieving BIG Things*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are officially half way through the last term of the year with only five weeks to go until we break for the Christmas holidays! In the coming weeks, families will receive information about book packs for 2024 and the eagerly awaited Year 6 Leadership shirts for our 2024 Year 6 cohort.

### **Improve learning and achievement for all students**

Transition programs are now in full swing to support our students who will be making the move from preschool to kindergarten next year, as well as for our students who will be venturing off to high school for the next step in their educational pursuits. The preschool students have been enjoying the opportunity to visit Mrs Turtle in the kindergarten classroom each Wednesday, participating in literacy-based learning activities. Mr Smith has been liaising with high schools to coordinate visits before the end of the year. More information will come home to families in the following weeks.

Last week the Year 5/6 students hosted a fabulous Kakadu Fun Day! Kakadu Fun Day is a culmination of a rich financial literacy program where students work through the process of planning, product design, profit and loss projections, promotion, and advertising. Students worked collaboratively to plan, promote, and operate their stalls. All the students' hard work resulted in a fantastic day where fun was had by all, while fundraising for the Year 6 graduation. A huge thank you to Mr Smith, Mrs Geeves, Mrs Lugg and Miss Kylie for supporting the students.

The Koori Butterflies preschool group continue to learn on Country each fortnight. Next week they will visit the ACT Legislative Assembly to view an art exhibition called, 'The Re-loved Revolution'. The art exhibition is part of National Recycling Week and our Koori Preschool have been working hard on their art pieces which will be on display. Congratulations to Miss James and Aunty Manda for facilitating this opportunity for our students.

Last Tuesday, we sent two 5/6 teams comprising of both boys and girls, to the Tuggeranong Soccer Gala Day. Both teams competed well against several different Tuggeranong schools. The students had a great day out with very positive feedback about the children's fantastic sportsmanship and encouragement other each other. A big thank you to all parents who helped on the day and to Mr. Behrendorff for managing the teams.

Over the coming weeks, students in Year 2-6 will be participating in online PAT testing. PAT tests are a way in which we assess and monitor student growth. Teachers will support students to complete the online assessments, guiding students step by step through the process using the Chromebooks.

On Thursday 23 November, we will be presenting the 2024 Richardson Art Show, transforming our school hall into a spectacular exhibition. All students from Preschool to Year 6 will have artworks on display, showcasing students' developing skills, techniques and processes as they explore a range of forms, styles and mediums. There will be more details to come in the weeks ahead.

### **Develop an expert teaching team**

Teachers have been busy upskilling in the Team Teach program, a professional learning suite which guides teachers to support all students to participate in learning by meeting their needs with positive behaviour support. All teachers and support staff participated in this invaluable professional learning which focuses on safety and de-escalation techniques. As the term progresses, our teachers are busy preparing to report on student learning. Teachers spend a considerable amount of time collecting assessment data, looking at areas of improvement and development for all students.

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Student reports are just one way that teachers reflect on and share student achievement. On Wednesday, we again opened our classrooms to families for 'Drop-in' day. Drop-in days allow families to come and see firsthand what teaching and learning looks like in each classroom. Thank you to those family members who were able to come and visit. If at any time you have feedback that you'd like to share with us, please reach out via our front office or email - [info@richardsonps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@richardsonps.act.edu.au).

The ACT Education Directorate has recently announced that next year there will be a student free day each term. These are the first day of each school term:

- Term 1, Monday 29 January 2024
- Term 2, Monday 29 April 2024
- Term 3, Monday 22 July 2024
- Term 4, Monday 14 October 2024.

We use student-free days for staff development, enabling us to plan in a student-free environment. Student-free planning days have been expanded from 1 to 4 days from 2024 as part of our new Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement which prioritises better teacher workloads for educational leadership, teaching and learning.

### **Provide a safe, inclusive, and respectful school culture**

The sun is shining, the weather is warming up and the UV index is on the rise. This term our SRC have been working on raising awareness of SunSmart practices at school. All students need to be protecting their skin by wearing a SunSmart hat such as a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style hat that protects the face, back of the neck and ears. To encourage students to wear their hats, the SRC have been keeping a tally of students wearing hats each day. At the end of each week, the class that has had the most students wearing hats on the playground over the week are awarded the SunSmart Sombrero to display in their classroom for the following week. Congratulations to the 3/4 unit who took out the win last week.

Kind regards,

Natalie Hogan

### **SCHOOL AGE CARE**

Before and after school care is available at Richardson Primary School. Enrolment forms are available from [www.ywca-canberra.org.au](http://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](mailto: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

### **MEDICATION**

#### **DEPARTMENTAL POLICY REQUIRES SCHOOLS TO ENSURE THAT:**

Any request for administering medications must be in writing. The school **will not** administer medication without required documentation. **No medications can be left in students school bags.**

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 documents regarding medication could be sent to the school to ensure we are following the departmental policy and medical records are up to date.**

### **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 2023.

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](https://saverplus.org.au) or call 1300 610 355.**



### **Grants for women returning to work**

Did you know there's a Women's Return to Work Program that supports Canberrans looking to get back to work or study?



The Office for Women provides grants of up to \$1,000 and can connect you with a mentor to support you on your pathway to employment.



Grants can be used for courses and training that increase work skills, study equipment such as textbooks or a laptop, clothing, transport and childcare costs to help you return to work.



Workshops are run regularly and cover resumes, applying for jobs and interview skills. You also get free individual sessions with a career mentor!



Who can apply? ACT women on low incomes who have been out of the workforce for more than 6 months.



Scan the QR code with your phone camera to get information about the Return to Work Program.

You can also email [rtw@act.gov.au](mailto:rtw@act.gov.au) to ask questions and get advice.

PARENTLINEACT.ORG.AU

## **TELEPHONE PARENTING COUNSELLING**

Professional Counsellors are now just a phone call away!  
(02) 6287 3833





## Welcome to 2-6T! (A Small Group Program)

We're half-way through term 4 already and so much learning has been happening in 2-6T as our students continue to develop their academic, social and emotional skills. Take a look at some of the things we have been doing this term...



Developing  
gross motor and  
social skills  
each day.



We're developing  
functional skills, such as  
making toasted  
sandwiches and wraps  
from a choice of healthy  
ingredients, and social  
skills when some of  
students made and  
decorated cakes for Miss  
Tracey's birthday.







Wow! Just look at all those bread rolls! Each student made their own and we enjoyed one each with a bowl of pumpkin soup that was jointly made...for Halloween, of course!



We've also been creating and presenting our own books, learning about symmetry, 'Me on the Map' and so much more!



Plus it's always been good to find time to chat with special people! 😊

