HELP US REDUCE PAPER USE ACROSS OUR SCHOOL BY RECEIVING YOUR COPY OF OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!

To subscribe to our weekly email distribution list simply email: great.ryrie.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au and post "Subscribe Newsletter" in the subject line.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:

(Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!)

WHAT UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER!

Melbourne weather is very unpredictable and therefore with the rain that we had on Monday and the forecast of showers on Tuesday I made the call to defer to our ‘Back Up’ date of Thursday. The concert will go ahead tonight whatever the weather and our apologies to those parents if it conflicts with another function. Our ideal is to have the End of Year Christmas Concert on the oval, where so many more families have the opportunity to enjoy the environment and be entertained by our wonderful students. If it does rain tonight, we will be in the Sports and Performance Centre. The End of Year concert brings with it a time to relax and be entertained. The staff have whipped up a little item we hope to entertain the crowd with. The content of what we are performing is unknown, as we don’t fully know what is happening! You will have to be there to be surprised.

STAFF CHANGES

Over the past week many staff have been busy on Selection Panels interviewing new staff. We are pleased to announce that we have Michelle Waterson and Joseph Kim who will be taking up teaching positions at our school and that Ann-Maree Bosomworth will be sharing the Visual Arts position with April Nicoll. We are excited with our appointments and also send our congratulations to Jason Brown who has picked up an ongoing position at Mt Evelyn Christian School and Alison Clark who is off to Weeden Heights PS.

A BUSY TIME OF YEAR:

At this busy time of year, it is important to stop and remind ourselves to stay ‘sane’. Teachers have been busy writing reports that will show student progress across the year with the two sets of dots indicating student growth from last year’s scores. A ‘C’ score indicates that your child is working at the required level for their grade. ‘B’ indicates 6 months ahead and
‘A’ is 12 months ahead. In the same way, ‘D’ means six months behind and ‘E’ is 12 months behind.

The written comments are a summary of progress across the semester and should not come as a surprise to parents. Our process of keeping parents informed through 3 Way Conferences in Terms 1 and 3 and reports in Term 2 and 4 helps to space the occasions when staff feedback to parents to improve student learning.

The Last Week of Term

Next week, we have many things planned to end the year on a high note.

Tuesday night is the last School Council meeting for the year and we will have a short meeting followed by a dinner to celebrate with subcommittee members our achievements for the year.

Wednesday is a special night for our Year 6 students with the Graduation starting at 5.15pm with the students’ arrival, followed by dinner in the Brain Allen Hall at 5.45pm. The Graduation ceremony will be in the Sports and Performance Centre starting at 6.45pm. Parents will then have supper while the students ‘dance the night away’.

Thursday our students are celebrating their year with Level 1 going to Healesville, Level 2 will have games and a party at school. Level 3 are going to Cranbourne gardens and Level 4 Funfields. We know all the students will have a great day! Reports, portfolios and class lists will be sent home.

Friday the students will have an assembly at 9am to congratulate the Year 6 students on their achievements and also draw the Christmas raffle. At 11.15am all students will go to their new classes for 2014 and meet their new teacher. School finishes at 1.30pm.

2014:

In 2014 the school year commences for all our students on Thursday, January 30, 2014

Wishing you a great weekend.

Barb Nicoll
Assistant Principal

“Every Child, Every Opportunity, Everyday, Everyone’s Responsibility!”

Fundraising

Thank you to the parents that volunteered to help out at the End of Year Christmas concert tonight. This is our last Fundraising activity, so my thanks also to all the people that have helped make this another successful year of fundraising.

Christmas Raffle

A reminder that raffle tickets need to be returned by Wednesday 18 December and the raffle is to be drawn at the last assembly on Friday 20 December.

LIBRARY

Borrowing has now ceased and the Library Stocktake has begun. Overdue notices have been sent home. Could you please send the books back to school as soon as possible? Thank-you!
Great Ryrie Chess Club
Strikes Again!!!

On Thursday December 5, 2013 at Kangaroo Ground Primary School
Great Ryrie participated in the 2013 Primary School Teams Chess Championship winning the Runners up Trophy.
The scores were:

Sam Rhodes:
10 points, High Distinction, Table 1 Silver Medal
Duncan Birt:
8 points, Distinction, Table 2 Bronze Medal
Jordan Armstrong:
10 points, High Distinction, Table 3 Gold Medal
Ethan Mulligan:
6 points, Table 4, Credit
Finlay Hughes:
3.5 points, Reserves Division, 2 points towards Great Ryrie’s team score.

Community Notices
Is there some good news in your family that you would like to share with the rest of GRPS? A new addition to the family, a win in a Grand Final, a great sports game …. Let Yvonne at the office have the details by Wednesday morning and we’ll let everyone know!!

A little birdie told me that certain bright students at Level 4 have won academic scholarships to attend private schools in 2014.
One of these was Sam Rosa, who won an academic scholarship to attend Billanook College in 2014.
Congratulations, Sam!!!

Chaplain’s Spot Term 4 Week 10 2013
Ways to build bonds with your children
(Generation Next Blog)

Clinical psychologist and Generation Next speaker, Andrew Fuller says a sense of belonging “is the most powerful protective factor. It is the most powerful remedy for loneliness, hopelessness and loss of meaning in all our lives. In research on Australian young people, three forms of belonging dominate: belonging to and feeling loved by your family; belonging to a diversity of friendship groups; and belonging to and fitting in at school.”

Acceptance: every child is different. So it is important to adjust to a child’s personality. A child who feels accepted for who they are, feels secure and at ease with themselves.

Time: this is the greatest investment a parent can make. If a child feels you always have time for them, then as teenagers they will feel they can come to you and you will listen and help. Time does not have to be entertainment filled. It is the small ordinary time that makes all the difference.

Life lessons: teaching children life lessons is vital if they are to be equipped for life. It is important to acknowledge both your child’s negative and positive emotions. Teaching them to manage difficult emotions such as anger and disappointment, as well as celebrating successes will help them manage their life. The best way to do this is by having them see us live out those principles and guidelines. Remember, they are constantly watching and learning.

Resilient families: keeping communication open and setting clear boundaries helps make a stable secure home. How we handle life stresses also helps teach resilience. We need to see things through and keep going in the tough times. It is OK for children to see that everyone faces things they find difficult in their life. The trick is to resolve them rather than ignore them.

Patience: this is a great quality for kids to learn as early as possible. A parent’s patience towards a child allows them to work through issues at their own pace and still feel loved and valued no matter how frustrating situations can be.

Family rituals: these are important in bringing the family together and giving them a sense of belonging. They can be as small as having regular evening meals together, or a family outing. Make it a time of fun and relaxation where you can catch up with what is going on in each other’s lives.

I would like to thank the school community for the great support of the Crazy Socks & Tie Day last Friday for Chaplaincy. As many of you will know, Federal funding provides for almost 2 days of this pastoral care service, the school contributes the balance for the 2 days, and donations enable a third day for the program. It was also a fun time, and I especially thank the JSC for their efforts, including the lunch-time games and dance.

Alan Silverwood – Chaplain
[silverwood.alan.a@edumail.vic.gov.au]
Pastoral care for our community, dealing with issues of emotional, financial, spiritual, physical nature. [The Chaplaincy program is funded through the Federal Government & Community support. This is a voluntary program in our school community.]
PERFORMING ARTS
INSTRUMENTAL/ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

INSTRUMENT HIRE
Instruments that have been hired from the school are now due to be returned. Please return the instrument by the end of this week to the office. Your bond will then be returned. Alternatively you can choose to hire it over the holiday period for $60. Either arrangement needs to be made by this Friday 13th December.

ENROLMENT FOR INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM
Enrolment forms for learning an instrument at school during 2014 will be available from the office from Thursday 5th December. (Foundation students cannot start lessons till Term 3 in 2014).
Please note that students are only able to learn one instrument during school hours at Great Ryrie Primary School.
Great Ryrie Primary School has qualified teachers who are able to teach a variety of instruments including:
- Bass Guitar *
- Drums/Percussion
- Trumpet *
- Trombone *
- Euphonium *
- Saxophone *
- Clarinet *
- Flute *
- Violin
- Piano
- Contemporary Keyboard
- Guitar (All styles)

* A limited amount of these instruments are available for hire from the school at $60.00 per term and a re-refundable $60.00 bond. Asterixed (*) instruments only.
If you would like to enrol your child and possibly hire an instrument from the school please return these forms as soon as possible to the office.
Acceptance into lessons and hiring instruments will be taken in the order that they are handed in. EXISTING 2013 STUDENTS MUST ALSO RE-ENROL AND FILL OUT A 2014 ENROLMENT FORM.

Holiday Program enrolments for January 2014 are also now open. The program will operate from Mon 13th Jan through to Wed 29th Jan. Please visit our website for more information.

Week 10 of Term 4
For the final week of school, it’s going to be a Christmas celebration and a “Childs Choice” week.
OSHClub also have extended hours for the final day in line with the school end time.

No Hat or Sunscreen = No Outdoor Play (Sunscreen provided by OSHClub)

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call, email or pop in for a chat.

Some Activities to look forward to next week
** Arts & Crafts ** Ball Sports ** Brain Teasers ** Science Experiments ** Music ** Cooking
* Do you have an idea that you’d like us to follow up on? Please let us know. *

Coordinator
Jeffrey Michaels

Staff
Adam Kelly
Laura Pavone
Amber Somerville
Katrina Tsopanis
Shazan Marikar

Program Phone 0418 571 136
OSHClub Head Office 03 8564 9000
Website www.oshclub.com.au

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au. All bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator directly at the program.

Weekly News
Welcome to the OSHClub newsletter, and welcome to the final edition for 2013. Who believes that the year has already gone.

OSHClub are gearing up for the 2014 year, with many enrolments already for the Holiday Program. Parents are reminded to that bookings for the 2014 school year are now also open.