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Welcome!
Welcome to the 2014 school year. We certainly hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable festive season and we are all looking forward to a wonderful school year. We are especially excited to welcome all the new families who have children starting school for the very first time this year or who have transferred from other schools. A warm welcome back is extended to all those who are returning to Great Ryrie after the summer break!

YES: The Canteen is Open!
Natalie and Danielle, our wonderful canteen managers, are pleased to let everyone know that the school canteen is open for business as usual, as of today, Thursday, January 30!

School Information Package 2014:
Today your child will have brought home a package of forms, including permission forms, enrolment and contact information. Each of these forms needs to be completed or updated if information is incorrect.
All forms must be returned to the school, even if no changes are required, so that we can double check our records. Some of this information will not have been updated since enrolment.

Payments Made via BPAY
If you make a payment via BPAY for less than your statement balance, please advise the office which specific charges you would like payment allocated to.

Activities Charge:
Reminder: If you wish to pay upfront for your child’s incursion/excursion fees for the year, the Activity Charge is due by Friday Feb 28th. After this date, if you have not paid you will be required to pay for each incursion/excursion as it occurs.

Year 5/6 Final Camp Payment:
The Year 5/6 final camp instalment and/or balance is due Monday February 10th!

Staff Changes:
We are very pleased to advise that Miss Kemke will be returning to work in term 1 after an extended absence due to illness. She will be teaching as a Year 3&4 Classroom Teacher in a job share arrangement with Mrs Jenkings.
Jill and Min will continue in their job share until Mignon returns full time in term 2. On the days that Miss Kemke is on duty, Mrs Jane Horrabin will be working with her in the classroom as a teacher aide.

Please Don't Walk Through Our Car Park:
Parents are reminded that we seek their support in not walking across the car park so that children do not copy this behavior. Even though our staff car park is closed at drop off and pick up times, there is always a
chance of vehicles passing through the car park due to deliveries and the arrival or departure of part time staff, consultants and visitors to the school.

Pick Up and Drop Off

The five parking bays in Great Ryrie Street just outside the school office are designated as being for drop off and pick up only, at the start and end of the school day.

Parking is limited in Great Ryrie Street at peak times and will continue to be further impacted upon by the building works at Aquinas College throughout term 1 this year. Illegally parked cars will be fined by local traffic officers. Parents are encouraged to park further afield in peak times and walk to school.

Double parking is illegal in all sections of Great Ryrie Street, including outside the school and even if the driver is in the vehicle and the motor is running.

Sunset Drive School Crossing Discontinued:

We have been advised by Maroondah Council that this crossing no longer has operating as a supervised school crossing in 2014. Council advise that this crossing no longer has enough activity to allow it to be continued as a supervised crossing.

Monday Assembly:

Next Monday we will welcome new staff, students and their families to the Great Ryrie Community at our morning assembly in the quadrangle.

As usual, there will be an opportunity for parents to join Barb and myself for a ‘Cuppa and Chat’ in the staffroom immediately following assembly.

Connections groups will be meeting for the first time in 2012 on the morning of Monday, February 10.

School Awards For 2013:

Our congratulations go to Paw Eh Plar Noe, who was the winner of the Bendigo Bank Citizenship Award for 2013 and to Blue House for again being the overall winner of the House Points Competition in 2013. Blue House has now won this award three years in a row!

Staff Assignments for 2014:

The Office Team: Doug Elliott - Principal, Barbara Nicoll - Assistant Principal,
Janine Wallace-Smith - Office Manager, Yvonne Davies - Human Resources, Rowena Broderick - Finance Officer.


Foundation: Ryan Jacobs - FdJ room 9, Victoria Stamatonikolos - FdS room 10, Di Gordon - FdG room 11, Erin O’Connor - FdO room 12.

Years 1&2: Andrew Shattock – 1/2S room 1, Penny Nicholls – 1/2N room 2, Michelle Waterson – 1/2W room 3, Kris Headland & Lisa Moon – 1/2H room 4, Rob Greaves 1/2G room 5 and Helen Abbott – 1/2A room 6.


OSHClub Staffing Changes:

I am pleased to advise that Mary Karipis-Chrysis has commenced in the role of OSHClub Coordinator at Great Ryrie Primary. Mary worked in the program over the summer break and is keen to develop our program into one of the best in the state!

Many of the other staff, permanent, casual and part time, remain with the OSHClub Team at GRPS. Remember, to contact OSHClub call 0418 571 136.

Can You Help Out In Our Gardens?

Thank you again to those parents who help out in our gardens, thinning, pruning and weeding around the school. If you are able to join this team of helpers please pass your name on to the office.

There are lots of jobs that can be done between working bees and each job helps us to improve and maintain our grounds as well as saving us money on paying to keep the grounds safe and free of hazards. Parents who register at the office are included on our ‘Working Bee’ lists and removed from the $40 annual grounds levy that is offered to those families who can’t help out at working bees.

Security Around The School!

Our school has CCTV installed around the buildings. We work closely with the police, the Department Of Education and local security firms to maintain security around the school after hours.

You can help us by calling 000 if you are aware of unwanted persons being onsite after hours. (During school hours, please contact the office.)

Parents are welcome to bring their children onto school grounds for recreational purposes after hours, however children are not allowed on school grounds outside of school hours unless they are under the direct supervision of a responsible adult. Trespassing notices are placed around the school.

The school’s facilities are used by several groups outside of hours and children on the grounds at these times must not interfere with these programs.

Have a great weekend,

Doug Elliott

Principal

“Every Child, Every Opportunity, Everyday...”