NEWSLETTER

Watch this space for notices sent out each week.
If you have not received any of the following notices, please ask your child’s teacher or contact the school office.

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Chocolates are coming!
The GRPS Annual Chocolate Drive will be happening this term.

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 Principal
It has been a great start to the school year. Thank you to all those parents who have already offered to help with our many programs and congratulations to all our students for getting into the swing of things so well. A special thank you goes Karen Barr for tidying up garden areas around our buildings in preparation for the start of the year.

I know our staff have also been working hard over the past few weeks to ensure a well-organized beginning to school!

We Are Nut Free:
Parents are reminded not to send nuts or nut products to school as part of their child’s lunches or snacks. Already in Victoria this year we are hearing reports in the media of children suffering life threatening reactions, which can result from contact with minute particles or even indirect contact with these foods. We have several children who suffer from anaphylactic reactions and by far the majority are at risk from nuts products. Thank you for supporting us in trying to minimise the risks these children face on a daily basis.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up:
After discussions at our morning ‘cuppa’ following assembly last Monday, the school and Maroondah City Council have had further discussions relating to parking in Great Ryrie Street. Council will be making

(Foundation Students in 2014, Hard at Play! Check out our new rubberized soft fall zones!)
further studies on the traffic congestion in Great Ryrie Street, at the start and end of the school day.
At the same time, they are currently working on extending the ‘No Waiting, Drop Off and Pick Up Only Zone’ in Great Ryrie Street, outside the school office, by a further three bays. This follows discussions held with the Traffic Engineer in 2013.
**Trial Drop Off Zone:**
As a result of Mondays chat, over the next few weeks we are also trialing allowing parents to drop off children in the bus parking circle in the staff car park, at the start of the school day only. Parents will be permitted to stop in this area for a few seconds to allow their children to exit their vehicle between 8:45 and 8:55am only.

Drivers are not to exit the vehicle when dropping off children and are to drop off in the area marked ‘Bus Stop No Parking’. Drivers are then to leave the staff car park immediately and are not to park in the staff car park.

Please be aware that staff and visitors to the school, including Canteen, OSHClub and Cleaning staff, deliveries, tradespeople and professionals, need to access the staff car park at different times during the school day, including the start and end of school.

The trial ‘Drop Off Zone’ covers the section marked ‘BUS STOP NO PARKING’ only. At times, this section will still of course be required for bus parking.

The section of the semi-circle beyond this is reserved for OSHClub and Cleaning staff at the start and the end of the day and Canteen staff during the school day! The section marked ‘KEEP CLEAR’ must be kept clear at all times for disabled access and for deliveries.

**School Council Election:**
On Monday, we sent out information about School Council Elections for 2014-15. The current School Council will meet as normal on Tuesday, February 18. The newly elected School Council will meet for the first time on Tuesday March 18! We highly value the input and support of the volunteer parents and staff on our School Council.

School Council Sub-Committees meet at the following times. Please feel free to come along to observe or join one of these groups.

**Facilities:**
Tuesday, 11 February at 4:00pm in the Staff Room

**Policy & Planning:** Tuesday, 11 February at 6:00pm in the Staff Room

**Fundraising:** Wednesday, 12 February at 7:00pm in the Staff Room

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School Council: Tuesday, February 18 at 7:30 in the Staff Room

Chaplaincy (AGM): Wednesday, 26 February at 7:00pm in the Staff Room.

Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek & Slide:
In Victoria average UV levels are three and above from September to the end of April. That’s when it’s important to use the SunSmart Countdown and, “Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide, whenever you go outside!”

Our school runs its SunSmart Policy from the beginning of September through to the end of April each year to ensure that children are protected during these months.

**Slip on a polo shirt,** to protect the neck and shoulders.

**Slop on some sunscreen** at regular intervals. Parents are encouraged to send sunscreen to school in their child’s bag. Teachers are asked to provide time for children to slap on some sunscreen at lunch times and other times when required.

**Slap on a broad brimmed hat!** Children are required to wear school SunSmart hats as part of their uniform all through Term 1 and until the end of April in Term 2. As this is part of our school uniform, it is essential that this is a school hat only and that it is in good condition. This requirement extends from September each year through to the end of April in the following year and includes Year 6 students throughout Term 4!

Hats can be purchased from the school Uniform Store for $11.50. The Uniform Store is open on Tuesdays: 8:30am-10:00am & Wednesdays: 3:00pm-4:00pm. Purchases can be made by cash or eftPOS at the store or by leaving an order at the office with cash or credit card details.

Children who do not have school SunSmart hats are required to play under cover outside rooms 17 and 18 during recess and lunch breaks.

**Seek shade!**

**Slide on a pair of sunglasses!** Please ensure that these, along with hats, are labelled with your child’s name and class.

**UV and Vitamin D:**
The sun’s ultraviolet (UV) radiation is both a major cause of skin cancer and the best natural source of vitamin D. In Victoria we need to balance the risk of skin cancer from too much sun exposure with maintaining adequate vitamin D levels. We do not require children to wear SunSmart hats when outside for short periods of time before morning recess or at the end of the day.

**Foundation Playground!**
Parents are asked to remind their children that the play equipment under the ‘circus tent’ is for Foundation children only, during the month of February. Other children can play in that area again in March. They can also play there on Wednesdays during February, when the Foundation students are not at school.

**Special Religious Instruction:**
At GRPS we offer Special Religious Instruction (SRI) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform Act. The school is obliged to provide SRI if...
approached by an accredited and approved religious instructor.

According to Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policy, principals must obtain parental advice on the prescribed form (as per the pack sent out last week) for their child to participate or not participate in SRI.

Generally, this form is completed on enrolment or when SRI is introduced into the school, but as the prescribed form has changed, the new form is being circulated to all families.

Due to changes in DEECD guidelines, SRI is now offered on an ‘opt-in’ basis. This means that if you do not indicate that you want your child to participate, they will not attend the class.

SRI is ‘instruction provided by churches and other religious groups and based on distinctive religious tenets and beliefs’. This is different to General Religious Education, which is ‘education about major forms of religious thought and expression characteristic of Australian society and other societies in the world’.

At GRPS, the only SRI currently available is ACCESS Ministries’ agreed Christian syllabus Religion in Life® and Bahai.

SRI is not delivered by teachers, it is delivered by volunteers. Classes run for 25 minutes each week and take place during school hours.

Children who do not participate in SRI classes participate in a range of teacher-led activities, including revision. The activities offered depend on the number of students that are not participating in SRI classes. The school and teachers also do their best to ensure that children who do not participate in the SRI classes are not made to feel that they are doing anything wrong or are missing out.

Please ensure you complete and return the Form GC 566 (Revised 2011) included in the pack sent home last week, if you wish for your child to participate in SRI. You may withdraw your child from SRI classes at any time by notifying the school principal in writing.

**Monday Assembly:**

At assembly last Monday, we welcomed new students, families and staff to GRPS. Connections groups will be meeting for the first time in 2014 next Monday morning.

**Wishing you a great weekend,**

Doug Elliott

Principal

“Every Child, Every Opportunity, Everyday…”

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

If you currently receive our newsletter electronically or would like to, please complete the form below so that we can add you to the distribution each week.

Child’s Name ...........................................Grade ..............

Email address:

Reminder our newsletters are available to read on-line via the school website www.greatryrieps.vic.edu.au

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**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!!

It is with great sadness that we advise our school community of the death of Lisa Moon’s baby. Beautiful ‘Ebony Marie Moon’ was taken from this world prior to birth, at only 21 weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are sent to Lisa and her family at this very difficult time. Lisa, who teaches 12H on Fridays will be absent for a few weeks.

**Welcome to Fundraising for 2014**

This will be a big year with our fete coming up on Saturday10 November. Notices have gone home to all parents to complete about what you are happy to help with throughout the year. Please ensure you send them back to school by Monday 10 February. The core group coordinating the Fete has already met to get things under way. Do you have ideas on how we can make our School Community Fete a success? Some skills to donate to our community? All welcome to the Fete meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 12 February in the library. You won't have to commit to attend a lot of meetings or do more than you can. Let's share the load and have a bit of fun while we're at it! See you there.

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**ENROLMENT FOR INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM**

Enrolment forms for learning an instrument at school during 2014 are still available from the office. Please get these forms back asap as lessons for Term 1 will be starting next week. (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 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.

Helen Francis and Peta Murray
From the Assistant Principal

Welcome back everyone and so good to see that many people had a happy and safe holiday. The children have settled in very well to their classes and we are promoting the building of positive relationships in classrooms and having high expectations of our students. It has been very pleasing over the break to hear some amazing results achieved by our past students. Great Ryrie is all about children achieving their personal best and being encouraged and supported in their learning in all areas of the curriculum areas and extra curricula activities.

This year we are looking at having Classroom Reps for every class that would be there to promote home/school/community relationships. Some ideas that have been put forward but not yet exhausted are that the Class Rep might help with organisation of Morning Teas, catch ups, excursion helpers, cooking, displays, book covering etc. If you are interested please see your class teacher. The Class Rep does not have to be the Fete Rep though we will be looking for parents to take on this role later on.

Looking forward to a great 2014!

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.


Welcome Back!

It’s the start of Term 1 2014. We are all very excited to have you back! We have a new Coordinator at OSHclub. Mary is looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you and is happy to answer any questions you may have. We would like to welcome all the new families and welcome back to the families that have returned. We hope you have a great Term 1 with OSHCLUB and look forward to all the fun activities that are in store.

No Hat, No Play

Please remember to bring a hat with you to after school care as we are a sun smart program. If you do not bring a hat you will be asked to do quiet activities in the shade instead. We know how much you all love playing outside so please don’t forget your hats!

New Foundation

Welcome to Great Ryrie and welcome to OSHClub. During Term One all the prep that attend OSH will be taken to their classrooms in the mornings and picked up from their classrooms in the afternoons. We will not forget you so please don’t wander off. You will see us in our bright red vests waiting for you.

Coordinator – Mary
Staff. Adam, Laura, Amber, Radhika, Katrina
Program Phone: 0418 571 136
OSHClub Head Office – 8564 9000
OSHClub admin: admin@oshclub.com.au
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](http://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 direct at the program.

LIBRARY

Welcome to 2014, borrowing has begun in the Library with children busy reading, browsing and taking home books.

All children need to have a Library bag so that the books will be protected, especially from leaky water bottles, etc.

The Foundation students borrow 1 book for 1 week.
Year 12 students borrow 2 books for 2 weeks.
Year 34 students borrow 3 books for 2 weeks.
Year 56 students borrow 3 books for 2 weeks.

BOOK CLUB

The first Issue of Scholastic Book Club has been distributed to the grades with all orders and payment due back to school by next THURSDAY 13th February, once the orders are placed online delivery should be within 5 – 7 working days.

Scholastic sends out 8 Book Club Issues a year, 2 per Term, there are some great buys and Scholastic gives a commission back to each grade teacher who orders.
Year 6 Bomber Jackets
Students who didn’t order 2014 Year 6 Bomber Jackets at the end of last year will be given an opportunity to order one this year, at no extra charge. Order forms will be given to students this week. They MUST BE RETURNED, with correct payment, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Student Banking
Once again we are offering students the opportunity to save their pocket money using the Bendigo Bank. Bank Day is Wednesdays. If students already have accounts they may bring their books to school on Wednesdays, give them to their teacher and we will deliver them to the bank. Books will be returned each Thursday. If you would like your child to take advantage of this offer but they don’t have an account, please call at the office for an information pack.

Chaplain’s Spot Term 1 Week 1 2014
Treasure Each Day
One of my favourite movies is ‘Dead Poets Society’, and one of its memorable moments is when the teacher John Keating [played by Robin Williams] challenges his new students to ‘Seize the day’. Michael Leunig [cartoonist] wrote the following in response to this phrase. “Hold the day carefully, give thanks for the day – the day is a precious and beautiful thing. Embrace the day tenderly, share the day among yourselves and enjoy it, remembering that our days are numbered.”

I am certain that there have been significant events, some exciting, some difficult, for some of our school families over the school holidays. When major events occur, especially sad ones, it can bring a different perspective to our lives, changing our priorities. Some aspects of life are more important than others, particularly our relationships.

May 2014 be a year of significance for you and your families, and may you be able to treasure your days, making the most of them in your families, at school, and in your other activities.

Welcome to all new students and families. I am available to meet with students, family members and staff. Feel free to contact me in person at school or via the email address below. My office is in the library, and I am at Great Ryrie on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. I also have brochures for network services in our community for those with specific needs.

On Wednesday 26 February at 7.30pm in the staff room, we will be having our Annual Meeting. All are welcome to come and hear about, and be encouraged by the report of the Chaplaincy program in our school. We also would appreciate one or two new members for our Chaplaincy Committee. We meet just once or twice each term. We look forward to seeing you there,

Alan Silverwood – Chaplain
[silverwood.alan.a@edumail.vic.gov.au] Pastoral care for our community, 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.]

Community Spot
Run For Kids - Sunday 13 April
Would you like to participate in a run which supports the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal? The annual Herald/Sun/City Link Run For Kids is being held in the middle weekend of the term 1 holidays, on Sunday 13 April.
This could be a fabulous fundraising activity to share with many others from our schools and the community.

I will run the shorter distance, the 5.5 kms in the second group [purple] for semi-active runners and joggers, and have created a ‘Being a Kid is Fun’ group. You can go to the above web-site to join this group, or opt for another level.

Entry Fees:
15km event – $52 of which $31 is donated to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal
5.5km event – $47 of which $29 is donated to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal
Team entries close on March 21, 2014 at 5pm – there are a minimum of 6 participants in a group.

Information from Alan - Treehouse
Is your child uncomfortable in social situations?
Does your child worry about making a mistake or being embarrassed in front of others?
Does your child sometimes sit alone at lunchtimes/avoid interacting with classmates?
Does your child not want to participate in after-school activities?

Treehouse is a therapeutic play-based program for primary-school aged children, who need some extra support with social skills, self-esteem, managing strong feelings and developing resilience. By being creative and learning through play, children are able to develop their relationship skills in a non-confrontational way, while also allowing them to safely think about how they might cope with their own worries.

WHO: TERM 1 for Year 2/3s
TERM 2 for Year 4/5s
TERM 3 for Year Foundation/1s
TERM 4 for Year 6s
~Age groups for each term subject to change depending on referrals ~
Please note: only one child is accepted into the program from each school. This is to ensure children gain the most of the program.
WHERE: EACH - 10 Silver Grove Nunawading
WHEN: Wednesday 19th February—2nd April (7 weeks)
A parent/carer Celebration Night will conclude the program.
TIME: 4 - 5.30pm
Parent/carer involvement is scheduled at the end of each session from 5.15pm.
COST: FREE ~ Afternoon tea is provided
Please call 8878 3800 or email
youthandfamilvic@each.com.au for more information!
COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
We would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their support throughout 2010.
(For more details please see our website!)

ALL SMILES
Sorrento Ocean Beach & the Yarra Valley
Donate vouchers for all fundraising events
Phone: 9876 4044
www.allsmiles.com.au

AMAZING TRANSFORMATIONS
COSTUME HIRE kindly donate all the wonderful costumes we use for school functions.
33 High Street Glen Iris, 9885 4714

BEAUTY ON RYRIE donate many beauty products and vouchers for all school fundraisers and events.
41B Great Ryrie St Ringwood, 9870 6766

The Roberts family offer a DRY CLEANING SERVICE to the GRPS community, with a percentage going to school fundraising.
Please call at the office for details.

BENDIGO COMMUNITY BANK (Heathmont & East Ringwood Branches) sponsor our school and along with Student Banking donate the following amounts for services taken out.
The amounts are
$200 for a Bendigo home loan greater than $110,000
$100 for a Bendigo home loan less than $110,000
$50 for a Bendigo equipment finance loan
$50 for a Bendigo personal loan

Heathmont branch: 9870 6654
East Ringwood branch: 9870 3655

2014 Player Registration Day
Sunday February 23rd, 2014
10am – 12 noon
Heatherdale Reserve
For more information or to register now contact
John on 0422 417 229 or
Andrew on 0407 530 363