Welcome to the 2016 school year. We have been very busy over the break with eight new staff being inducted to our team of forty-four and the surprise retirement of Mrs. Frith.

Gardeners have been busy working around the school. Many people will have already seen the improvement along the fence line, where the visitors car park meets Great Ryrie Street. This continues from work started at the end of last year, with more work to follow shortly.

On the inside, the Canteen, Brian Allen Hall foyer, student toilets and the Art and Indonesian rooms were all painted. We even had the basketball court floor in the Sports and Performance Centre sanded right back to a smooth surface and re-sealed with fresh line marking.

Also our new cleaning contractors “Roncan Property Services” started work with a major cleanout across the whole school. We finally had the new cricket pitch installed on the school oval, with further earth works still to be completed in this area.

Update on Staffing:
We have mixed emotions in announcing another impending retirement. Mrs. Davies, who has worked in our school office as part of the Administration Team, has announced her intention to retire at the end of this term.

Yvonne has been a key contact for all of us, staff, students and parents alike, being one of the friendly faces that greet and assist all visitors to the school.

Yvonne stared at Great Ryrie when the school first opened in 1998, coming over with other staff from Southwood Primary School. We congratulate Yvonne as she prepares for her next big adventure in life, knowing that we will miss her greatly!
On a happier note, many parents will be aware that Mrs. Welsh has returned to Great Ryrie after nearly eighteen months absence. Di works in First Aid supporting the office team and also in the Refuge Transition program.

**New Kids On The Block:**
A special welcome is extended to the one hundred and two children who have started school at Great Ryrie for the first time this year. Seventy children have commenced school for the first time ever in Foundation and thirty-two have started with us in years 1-6!

We know that teachers and classmates are going out of their way to ensure all our new students have a smooth and happy transition to our school community!

**School Council**

Our School Council, which is comprised of both parents and staff, meets twice each term and oversees our school’s policies and the direction we take as a learning community. We will be having elections very soon for 2016, however the current school council and sub-committees meet one more time, this February to ensure we have continuity from last year.

We encourage all parents to consider nominating to join school council for 2016 and you are invited to attend and observe our first meeting on Tuesday, February 23 in the staffroom at 7:30pm.

**Our Sub-Committees:**
Parents are also invited to come and observe or join in on one of our sub-committee meetings being held early next week.

**Facilities:** Tuesday, 9 February at 5:15pm in the Staff Room

**Policy & Planning:** Tuesday, 9 February at 6:30pm in the Staff Room

**Fundraising:** Tuesday, 9 February at 7:30pm in the Staff Room

**Chaplaincy:** Wednesday, 24 February at 7:00pm in the Staff Room.

**Young @ Art:**
One of our parents is involved in a creative arts program for pre-school and primary school aged children, that is designed to enhance children’s creative potential in a structured, safe and supportive environment. Brochures are available from the school office and more details can be obtained from Fresh Theater for Social Change at [www.freshtheatre.org](http://www.freshtheatre.org), via info@fresh theatre.org and on 0432 400 844.

**Monday Assemblies:**
Our first assembly last Monday was held in the quadrangle, where the whole school greeted new staff and students. This was followed by a ‘cuppa and a chat’ with our new assistant principal and myself in the staffroom.

Next Monday we will meet again in the quadrangle and parents are again invited for a cuppa and a chat afterwards. We can talk about anything that is of interest during these chats and will answer all your questions.

Both ‘new and old’ parents are encouraged to drop in for a quick ‘cuppa’ after assembly.

*It’s been a great start to the year, wishing you a great weekend also.*

Doug Elliott
Principal

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

**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!!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*8 February 2016*

00A  Jaden Teo
00B  whole class
00C  whole class
00D  whole class
12A  Max Kirchner
12B  Jesse Coney
12C  Sarah Shaw
12D  Leo Li
12E  Paige MacDonald
12F  whole class
34A  Jaxxon Blakemore
34B  Ronny Cramner
34C  whole class
34D  Tyler Murphy
34E  Brayden Collins
56A  Chloe Nicol
56B  Sandra Cai
56C  whole class
56D  Jess Suares, K’aiya Green
56E  whole class

Performing Arts – Sam Beer, Jess Suares
Visual Arts – Sandra Cai
Indonesian – Tara Liu, Arwen Hughes
PE  Daisy Lal Par, Kodi Montebrown

These will be presented at assembly on Monday!
From the Office - Reminders:

- Years 5&6 families are reminded that the next installment for the 2016 Camp is due on Monday, 8th February.
- To access the $10 discount per student, families that have elected to pay their school fees in full are required to pay by Tuesday 16th February.
- For families on monthly instalments, your next instalment is due or debited on Tuesday 16th February.
- Families that have not returned their completed 2016 School Charges and Contributions form please do so immediately. Copies available from the office.
- Families wishing to pay for their child’s excursions/incursions upfront are required to pay the activities charge by Friday 26th February.
- Camps, Sport & Excursions Fund (CSEF) applications for 2016 close on Monday 29th February.

Applications forms available from the office. Please present your concession card for copying.
For more information, please refer to the attached flyer.

**Camps, Sport & Excursions Fund (CSEF)**
In 2015 the Victorian Government unveiled a new $148 million initiative to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

CSEF applications are open for term one 2016. Applications close on Monday 29th February. Applications are available from the office.

Parents or legal guardians are required to submit a new CSEF application form each year.

For those students in grade 3-6 who are keen to try out for the district swim team, please follow the instructions on the sheet you were given last week! Please give your swim times to Mr Henson by Monday 15th February.

Interschool sport starts this week and we are looking for parents/family members who are keen to help out on a Friday morning between the hours of 9:15 – 10:30! If you are keen to help out please contact Mr Henson or your child’s classroom teacher. For interschool sport to work successfully we do need parent helpers as every team needs to have a GRPS adult with it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 5 February v Holy Spirit</th>
<th>CRICKET Rounders and Basketball</th>
<th>GRPS</th>
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<tr>
<td>T-Ball Volleystars and Hot Shots</td>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
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**LIBRARY**
Welcome back, the teachers and students are already enjoying the library and are busily reading, listening to stories and borrowing books.

Every child in the school should bring a Library Bag so that the books are protected going to and from school. FOUNDATION children visit the library on MONDAY and borrow 1 book for 1 week. GRADE 1 & 2’s visit the library on TUESDAY and can borrow 2 books for two weeks. 5A, 5B and 5C visit the library on WEDNESDAY and can borrow 3 books for 2 weeks. 34A and 34B visit the library on THURSDAY and can borrow 3 books for 2 weeks. 34C, 34D, 34E, 56D and 56E visit the library on FRIDAY and can borrow 3 books for 2 weeks.

**BOOK CLUB**
The first Book Club of the year has been handed out and all orders and payment to the school is due back FRIDAY 12th February. The orders will then be placed online and delivery will be around the 19th – 22nd February.

Book Club is now issuing one brochure and inside you will find books for ALL AGES. Enjoy perusing the brochure.

Our school is on LOOP so if you wish to pay by credit card then go to scholastic.com.au/LOOP and place your order/child’s order online.

The Loop will be closed Sunday 14th February, you can still order after this date and you will have to pay postage and the order will be delivered to your address.

Interesting fact about the author R. L. Stine- When writing new books he always starts with the title.

**R. L. Stine Fun Fact**
R. L. Stine has written 174 books in the Goosebumps series, that’s 22,620 pages! When laid end-to-end, this would be double the height of Mount Kosciuszko!

**Head Lice**
A reminder to parents to be vigilant with regard to head lice. Please check your children’s heads regularly.

If your child has had lice and you have treated it, don’t forget to re-treat about 10 days later to ensure any residual eggs are also destroyed.

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**Lunchtime Tennis lessons will start on Tuesday 9 February. $87.00 for 7 x 40 minute sessions.**

Details and Registration Forms are available at the office or contact Cameron on 0412 887 244

“PE News”
PERFORMING ARTS
INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM
The Instrumental Program at Great Ryrie P.S. will commence next week, the week starting Monday 8th February. If you have submitted your enrolment form last year or in the last week your child should have received a ‘Commencement Form’ this week, stating which day the lesson will be on. If your child hasn’t received a form please contact the Performing Arts department asap.
Enrolment forms for learning an instrument at school during 2016 are still available from the office. However, please submit these asap as there are already limited places. There are no places available for violin. (Prep students cannot start lessons till term 3 in 2016) Please note that students are only able to learn one instrument during school hours at Great Ryrie Primary School.

We welcome back our valued staff from previous years:
- Carolyn Bialecki – Piano
- John Milton – Drums/Percussion and Bass Guitar
- Tahereh Rouhipour – Piano.
- Delaney Stewart – Acoustic Guitar and Bass Guitar

We also welcome 3 new staff members. We are excited to have these very experienced and dedicated musicians join our team:
- Alyce Yeoman – Woodwind and Keyboard
- Vicky Howse – Violin and Cello
- Stef Carmichael – Brass

Instruments taught at Great Ryrie are listed below:
- 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-fundable $60.00 bond. Asterixed (*) instruments only.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR ORCHESTRA
Auditions for Senior Orchestra were held this week. Senior Orchestra will commence next week on Wednesday 9th February. If your child has missed these auditions please contact Helen Francis or Peta Murray in the Performing Arts room. Junior Orchestra will commence on Wednesday 23rd February

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR
This week in Performing Arts lessons we have been reinforcing the words and meaning of our National Anthem, Advance Australia Fair. We have enclosed a copy of the words in this week’s newsletter to assist your family in singing the correct words of this very important song.
Helen Francis and Peta Murray

Chaplain’s Spot Term 1 Week 1 2016
Changes – Loss and New Beginnings

Welcome back to a new school year. There are a variety of emotions experienced at this time as students commence a new class, or school, with a new teacher, missing friends in different places, anxious about the unknown – and that’s only the parents! This theme is one of several that I will feature from a book called ‘Life Lessons’ by Kubler-Toss and Kessler.

For me, I usually feel a balance of excitement and nervousness as I begin a new adventure. Change and loss are a part of life. We can’t stop them. Often people who suffer great loss become stronger as a result. The only way out of the pain is through the pain. We heal in our own way and in our own time. Our priorities are realigned, and sharpened to what matters most. Our life is filled with endings and new beginnings. It is part of the cycle of life.

I was also thinking about loss as I led a funeral for a much-loved grandfather during the holidays. It is a privilege to share with people as I lead weddings and funerals, as well as share people’s journeys at school. Grieving losses and celebrating new beginnings are a very necessary part of life.

I trust you have a great 2016. If you ever need to download about life, I am happy to be the trusted confidant. Feel free to see me, email me or call me at school to make an appointment. I am available between 8am and 4pm. This year I will be at Great Ryrie on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

If we don’t download ..... we explode!

Alan Silverwood – Chaplain
(silverwood.alan.a@edumail.vic.gov.au) Pastoral care
for our community.

[The Chaplaincy program is a voluntary program funded through the Federal Government. Feel free to contact me if you have something you would like to discuss.
This year we welcome 6 new teachers to the GRPS community

Melissa Roberts (Assistant Principal)
I feel very lucky to have landed at Great Ryrie as Assistant Principal and am excited to get to know all the students and parents in the community. I taught at my previous school, Park Ridge, for 13 years and was Assistant Principal for the past two years. During this time I’ve taught a range of different year levels and thoroughly enjoyed my teaching experiences. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with family and friends, holidaying by the beach, shopping and going to see my AFL team, Essendon, play, however, I’m not sure how well they will do this year!! I’ve been overwhelmed with the welcoming and friendly nature of all staff, students and parents at Great Ryrie and have enjoyed learning about all the fantastic facilities and programs that Great Ryrie has to offer. I look forward to meeting all of the school community in the coming weeks and being part of this great school.

Natasha Tymensen (34C Teacher with Mrs Moon)
My name is Natasha Tymensen and I am looking forward to joining the community at Great Ryrie Primary School and getting to know the students and families! I will be teaching 34C with Lisa Moon and you can find me at the school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I am returning to teaching from family leave, having previously taught at Belgrave South Primary School in grades one, three and four. Teaching gives me an opportunity to work with students and their families to achieve success. It also gives me the opportunity to take on new experiences and continue my own learning. I’m also mum to three children, who keep me busy when I am not at school!

Andrea Dell’Orso (Years 5&6 Support)
Hi my name is Andrea Dell’Orso and I have been teaching for 15 years. I have 3 girls, twin 9 year olds and a 6 year old. My teaching experience includes specialising in Literacy, working with ‘at risk’ children and mentoring teachers. I am a dedicated, supportive and caring professional with an enthusiasm for learning and teaching. I am looking forward to working with the Years 5&6 students in encouraging and motivating them to achieve success. I am very happy to have been given the opportunity to learn and grow alongside students, staff and the wider community of Great Ryrie Primary School.

Alison Dresser (34D Teacher)
I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received from the Great Ryrie community. Everyone has been welcoming and supportive.
I am a mature age teaching graduate. Most of my teaching experience has involved working with grade 3 and 4 students. I am passionate about guiding students to develop an understanding of how they learn best as I believe this will encourage them to be lifelong learners and will assist them to achieve their dreams.
Before I began teaching I was employed in administration and customer service positions both in the private and public sector and for several years I owned and operated my own café.
Once I had children I decided to follow my passion for education and working with young people, which lead me to undertake a Bachelor of Education. This was a little daunting for someone who hadn’t studied for almost 20 years!
I am looking forward to a successful year working with the Years 3&4 students at Great Ryrie.

Julia Broughan (Years 3&4 Support)
Hello, Great Ryrie! My name is Julia Broughan. I will be working with the Years 3&4 grades in a numeracy support role this year. I have always worked with children, here and in the UK, as a nanny, social worker, nursery and kindergarten teacher and primary school teacher. I am lucky enough to have travelled the world though I’d love to explore more of Australia. I’ve always wanted to host Playschool or be like Miss Frizzle from The Magic School Bus. I have a special interest in kids on the spectrum and helping every student to feel good about school.

Cassandra Williams (56A Teacher with Mrs Steer)
Hi everyone, I am Miss Cassandra Williams. I completed my three month placement at Great Ryrie in 2015, and became very familiar with the school, and fell in love with its students and teachers alike. I am looking forward to teaching English, and especially keen to incorporate drama into any areas possible in the classroom. I will be teaching 5/6A up in the Annex this year, which I’m sure will be fun! When I’m not teaching I also love to run and go to the gym, or get out in the yard and play with my dog. I am very keen to get the school year rolling and get to know all of you in the school.
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COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
We would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their support.
(For more details please see our website!)

ANT RENOVATIONS
Insurance Repair Specialist
Donate services for maintenance around the school.
Phone: 9720 7450
www.antrenovations.com.au
email: info@antrenovations.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

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:
$400 for a Bendigo home loan greater than $250,000
$200 for a Bendigo home loan less than $250,000
$50 for a Bendigo equipment finance loan
$50 for a Bendigo personal loan
$20 for a Bendigo credit card
Heathmont branch: 9870 6654
East Ringwood branch: 9870 3655

Players wanted - Junior Basketball – Winter Season
Spirit Magic Basketball Club is holding its Winter Season Registration day at Ringwood Basketball Stadium (The Rings) on Saturday the 13th February from 8:30 to 3:30. Spirit Magic caters for all skill levels for both boys and girls from Under 8s through to Under 18. For further information, visit our website www.spiritmagic.com.au, email the registration Secretary, Joe Egan on jmegan_2@bigpond.com or call on 9879 9859.

Southwood Netball Club...... 2016.
APPRENTICE SQUAD AVAILABLE NOW.
Apprentice Squad sessions are FREE!
3.45pm to 4.30pm each Tuesday at Great Ryrie Primary School commencing 16th of February 2016 (we don't train in school holidays, long weekends).
Coaches - our older players take these sessions and are supervised by our senior coaches.
Sessions are for players who want to have fun while learning some basic netball skills - throwing, catching, footwork.
Come along and have some fun, learn some skills and see if you would like to join our club (no obligation to join)

Want To Play Netball in 2016………………
Our club season commences on Saturday the 13th of February and will still have limited vacancies in our U11, U15 and Open teams.
If you would like to join our club then please fill in an Expression of Interest Form located on our website - www.sportingpulse.com/southwoodnetballclub - forms can be found under the “more menus” tab.
If you require any further details, please contact Lynda Spicer (President) 0403 023 899 or Tracey Crisp (Secretary) 0403 004 643.

Ringwood Swimming Club
Encouragement Meet
Sunday 14 February at Aquanation, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Entries close Monday 8th February 2016 or earlier if maximum limits are reached. No late entries will be accepted.
Meet program and timeline will be available to download by Thursday 11th February 2016 at www.ringwood.swimming.org.au. Programs will not be available on the day. Ringwood Swimming Club reserves the right to cancel or alter events according to entries.
Enquiries to: RSC Competitions Officer competitionsrsc@gmail.