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

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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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>Years 5&amp;6 Information Session</td>
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<td>7 March</td>
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From the Principal:

Monday 21 March
Dress up in a costume from another country or wear orange to celebrate Cultural Diversity Week

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.

Friday March 25: Term 1 finishes at 2:30pm on Thursday, March 24. Friday March 25 is the Easter Good Friday Holiday.

Monday April 11: Pupil Free Day. School resumes for children at 8:55am on Tuesday, April 12.

Monday April 25: The ANZAC Day Holiday is Monday April 25.

Captain Active Visits Great Ryrie:

What an entertaining morning we had when Captain Active helped us launch our Active Travel Plan. All the children (young and old) were entertained and educated about the ease and the importance of being active every day and eating healthy!

Thank you to everyone involved in organizing and participating in the launch. Especially to all those outside individuals and groups who helped us out, including the parents, staff and students on our committees, our neighborhood schools, Maroondah...
City Councilors and council staff, Cycles Galleria, Officeworks, Aquanation and Eastern Access Community Health.

Our next big step will be to convert part of the Big Shed into an undercover, lock-up bike and scooter shelter!

3 Way Conferences In Term 2:

Teachers will be running 3 Way Conferences through the afternoon, evening and night of Thursday, April 21, in week two of Term 2 this year. Parents will be able to book a ten minute, time-slot through Compass. Parents requiring an interpreter will be allocated a time-slot on the afternoons of Wednesday, April 28 for Years F-2 and Wednesday, May 5 for Years 3-6.

Years 3-6 conferences will be held with each students new class teacher. Arrangements can be made for a follow up meeting for those families who find that ten minutes is too short a time to cover additional areas that wish to discuss.

Children will bring home their Term 1 Portfolio Pieces in readiness for the 3 Way Conferences, where Individual Learning Plans for the remainder of the Semester will be established between students, teachers and parents.

Class Restructure in Years 3&4 and 5&6:

Thank you to all the parents who have contacted the school expressing their overwhelming support for our decision to move to six grades, instead of five, in Years 3&4 and in Years 5&6.

In restructuring the classes we know that most children will be affected in some way, however parents and children can rest assured that their teachers are working hard to ensure that come next term, we will have six well-matched and evenly balanced grades in each team.

We are well on the way to recruiting the additional teacher in Years 3&4 and although the re-structure will mean a significant change for everyone, we are confident that we will have a very supportive transition program in place.

I am very confident that each teacher can deliver a tailored program for every student and that this will be greatly enhanced with significantly smaller numbers in each grade. The term 1 teachers will continue to stay in regular contact with their original home groups and the children will still have plenty of opportunities to work together with the students with whom they have already formed strong connections.

Teachers will maintain a pastoral care role with their original students throughout the year and they will also work to ensure that all the teachers in the team are well informed about each new student in their class.

Staff are already working with all the children to prepare them for the change and we know that parents are doing the same. We hope to be able to announce the new classes on Tuesday, March 22 ready for the start of the new term on April 12.

Monday's Assembly:

On Monday we held our first Aussie Of The Month Assembly for 2016. This was followed by a parent discussion in the staff room, where we talked through the rationale behind the re-structure planned for term 2 and the factors that forced us to delay this decision until the end of February.

Wishing you a great long weekend,
Doug Elliott
Principal
"Every Child, Every Opportunity, Everyday, Everyone’s Responsibility…"

School Captains Reports:

Olivia for Years 5&6, Lachie for Years 3&4, Emma for Years 1&2 and Ashley for Foundation.

Ashley for Foundation: Last week in Foundation, students have been learning the letters ‘O’ for ‘Oscar Orange’ and ‘N’ for ‘Noisy Nick’. In Maths, the students have been learning to use the numbers 1 through 3. This was Foundation’s first full week of school and they coped very well! On Friday, the Foundation students had a picnic with their Years 5&6 buddies. The Years 5&6 appreciated the parents coming along so the buddies could get to know each other better. It’s been a fun week for Foundation!

Emma for Years 1&2: This week the Years 1&2s had two community walks to the Heathmont shops and around the Ringwood sport and playground area. In Literacy they have been revising the sounds they have learned this year. In Integrated Studies they have been looking at the different workers in our community and what they do. They are excited about the Active Travel Launch and meeting Captain Active! Great job Years 1&2!

Lachie B for Years 3&4: In Years 3&4 students are getting excited about Cross Country on Tuesday. In Literacy the focus has been the letter ‘O’. Students have been looking at capacity and volume in numeracy. Overall, teachers are very impressed with the work students have been producing. Very well done Years 3&4!

Olivia for Years 5&6: This week in Years 5&6 the students have been focusing on rounding numbers in Maths and in Literacy we have been working on our free choice writing. We have also been focusing on the comprehension strategy ‘Visualisation.’ All of the students were excited to do cross country and are looking forward to the Active to School launch.

From the Office - Reminders:

- Reminder: Years 5&6 FINAL Camp payment was due Monday 7th March.
- Families that have not returned their completed 2016 School Charges and Contributions form please do so immediately. Copies available from the office.
- Camps, Sport & Excursions Fund (CSEF) applications for 2016. Applications forms are available from the office. Please present your concession card for copying.
Music is a universal form of expression shared by cultures across the globe. This year, the Victorian Multicultural Commission has chosen ‘Together we stand in harmony’ as the theme for Cultural Diversity Week to celebrate the mesmerizing sounds of music from around the world and reflect the way music can promote harmony across our society.

All Victorians are encouraged to appreciate and enjoy the many wonderful sounds, instruments, costumes and dances representative of the various cultures found in our state. Teachers will be exploring songs, music and instruments from around the world.

HARMONY DAY is on Monday 21st March. The theme is ‘Everyone Belongs’. We are encouraged to recognize each other. Being recognized is good for your self-esteem, it energizes you and allows you to see the best in others.

At GRPS we are encouraging students and teachers to dress-up in a costume, or part of a costume, from any country for the day. Alternatively, a student can choose to wear some orange on the 21st March instead of a costume. Students can wear orange socks or a ribbon or a wrist band or a t-shirt. Orange is the colour of harmony.

Chris Breen
(Indonesian Language and Cultural Teacher)

PERFORMING ARTS
PARENT HELP IN PERFORMING ARTS LESSONS
A large part of our ongoing Performing Arts program at school involves every student from Years 1 through to Years 6 learning the recorder and subsequently leaning to read and write music. We have found, especially with new students enrolling in our school, that in each class we have a wide variety of knowledge and experience in playing the recorder and reading music. We would therefore value any parent or adult family member who has some experience in these fields to assist with our weekly lessons in every year level in Performing Arts lessons. Of course you would need an up-to-date ‘Working with Children Check’.

If you fall into this category and feel you have the time to contribute with our lessons on a weekly basis, please come and see us in the Performing Arts Room at your earliest convenience. Alternatively you could phone the school and ask to speak to us. Many thanks to those parents who have already volunteered to help in these lessons.

CONGRATULATIONS
This year we will include a section in the Performing Arts part of the newsletter that acknowledges achievements that students have made outside of our school in the area of Performing Arts. If your child has made any achievements in this area please let us know. This week we would like to acknowledge the following students:
• Jade Cheung in 3/4D for passing her Grade 4 exam in piano with a credit.
• Jessica Suares in 5/6D for achieving 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings in a variety of dance styles in the Victorian Open Ballroom Dancing Competition.
• Becky Jackson in 5/6D for representing Australia in the National Cheer Association in America. Her team came 4th in their competition.
• Ella Leaevy in 5/6C for successfully auditioning for the State Schools Spectacular organisation and gaining a position in their special performance choir. She will now perform in the State schools Spectacular event in September at Hicense Arena.

Congratulations and well done to these students. Helen Francis and Peta Murray.

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!!

Last weekend Ashley Newnham won the Under 13 Boys Victorian Criterium Cycling Championships held at Albert Park on the Grand Prix Circuit. Congratulations Ash, a great result and loads of fun.

Good Friday Appeal
Stall 2016
Brigid Parkinson and former student Emilie Young are holding a stall to raise money for the Royal Children’s Hospital. They did this in 2014 and managed to raise over $700!

Where Outside 4 Viviani Crescent, Heathmont.
Time 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.
Date 25th March 2016 (Good Friday)

Please feel free to come along, pick up a few treats and support the Good Friday Appeal. They are selling cupcakes, honey joys, lucky dips, lolly bags, pot plants and much more!

Hope to see you there!
 Congratulations to Abbianca Tang
Aussie of the Month

This Aussie of the Month is a Year 6 student who demonstrates a strong commitment to learning. Her work habits are exemplary as she gives her absolute best effort in all she does. She consistently upholds class and school values and always displays excellent behaviour, both in and outside of class. In this way, she is a fantastic role model for younger students. She participates keenly in the Buddy Program, Interschool Sport, Senior Vocal Group, Dance Group, and in State Schools Spectacular. She is also a dedicated and responsible Indonesian Captain. With her friendly, helpful manner, great sense of humour, infectious laugh, artistic and creative thinking skills, she is a valued class member and wonderful asset to Great Ryrie Primary School.

The Aussie of the Month for March is Abbianca Tang.

“PE News”

Congratulations to Olivia Tolliday who represented GRPS at the Regional Swimming Competition at Aquanation on Monday this week. Olivia achieved an equal 3rd place finish in her 50m backstroke heat. This was good enough for her to qualify 4th quickest for her Regional Final! In the final Olivia achieved a 3rd or 4th place finish. The pool was having some problems with their times so they will be letting the school know soon what Olivia placed exactly. This was another amazing achievement by Olivia to reach the Regional Finals for the 2nd year in a row! If you see Olivia around school, make sure you congratulate her. Well done Olivia, we are very proud of you and your achievements!

Years 3-6 Athletics day is on Monday 18th April at Bill Sewart Reserve in Burwood East! We need a lot of parent helpers for this day to be able to run smoothly. If you are available to help for the day or parts of the day could you please write your name on the parent helper sheet which is located on the PE notice board just outside the first aid room. Mr Henson will contact you before the day to let you know what job you can help GRPS teachers with on the day.

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the Years 3-6 Cross Country on Tuesday. It was a great morning to be out and running. A big thankyou to all the parents who put their name down and offered to help out on the day with standing at a check point or helping on the start/finish line. Below are the house results from the day.

1st Place – (184 Points) - Moneghetti House (Green)
2nd Place – (146 Points) - O’Neill House (Gold)
3rd Place – (115 Points) - Perkins House (Red)
4th Place – (110 Points) - Freeman House (Blue)

Students in the 9/10 year old age group will be continuing running their athletic heats next week on Tuesday after lunch! We have had to cancel these heats the last couple of weeks due to hot weather. Hopefully next week we will be able to get out and get them done!

Friday 11 March Interschool Sport is v Kalinda
Cricket, Basketball and Rounders at Kalinda Primary, Kalinda Road, Ringwood (Melway Ref: 50C2)
T-Ball, Volleystars and Hot Shots at GRPS

Summer SPORT SCORE SHEET 4 March 2016
Great Ryrie PS v Antonio Park

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<tr>
<th>Hot Shots Tennis</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Mixed</td>
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<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Girls</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-ball Mixed</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-ball Girls</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rounders Mixed</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rounders Girls</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.
Easter Raffle

Thank you to all the families that have donated chocolates for the Easter Raffle. This year is set to be the biggest Raffle yet with fantastic prizes up for grabs.

Just a reminder that you must return your tickets by TUESDAY 15TH MARCH. The raffle will be drawn at assembly on Monday 21ST March.

Chaplain’s Spot Term 1 Week 6 2016

Helping your anxious child

‘Anxious children believe that the world is a dangerous place … and they will often interpret very innocent events as examples of danger. We need to teach them to think more realistically about the world, and to encourage them to approach the situation they fear in a gradual and consistent manner.’ These words come from a book ‘Helping your anxious child’, published by New Harbinger Publications.

Here are some of their helpful statements:

- In any situation it is possible to have more than one thought about what is happening.
- Thoughts can lead to different feelings, such as calm or worried.
- Worried thoughts are often unrealistic, but we can find evidence to help discover a more realistic thought.

Unhelpful strategies may include:

- Giving them excessive reassurance
- Being too involved or directive
- Becoming impatient with them

Some of their helpful strategies include the following:

- Rewarding brave, non-anxious behavior
- Ignoring anxious behavior
- Modelling brave, non-anxious behavior

Developing stepladders can be a constructive way to face fears. An example is when someone is fearful of making a speech at school. Steps might include [1] preparing a talk, not to be delivered; [2] prepare a short talk and record it; [3] give a short talk to parents; [4] give a talk to friends and family; [5] give a 2 minute report in class; [6] give a longer talk in class; [7] make an announcement at assembly. With stepladders, the fear is broken down into small steps.

This is a highly recommended book, written by a team of senior Australian psychologists. You could look at booko.com.au to see for comparative prices and where to purchase this book.

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.

HOLIDAY CLUB

Holiday club bookings are now open for those of you who would like to book for the upcoming holidays. We have a lot of fun games and activities planned for the 2 weeks including a trip to the Melbourne Aquarium and going to watch "Zootopia" at the movies. For more information you can go to our website or just drop by for a flyer and a chat.

Program Details
To find out more about our program, view fees and to register visit www.campaustralia.com.au

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(For more details please see our website!)

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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
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SECRET EMPIRE

Fiona Balthasar & Dean McReown
m: 0427 905 666
w: myspace.com/secretempireduo
ACOUSTIC
ROCK DUO
ALL OCCASIONS

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SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM WITH A DIFFERENCE

Sick of the kids sitting inside and playing video games all School Holidays?

Bring them down to 4th Ringwood Scout Group and try Scouting

Where: Mines Road Ringwood East (opposite the Karralyka Centre)
When: Thursday 7th April 2016 – 10am to 3pm
Who: Boys and Girls 6 to 10 years
Cost: $25 includes lunch (which will be credited towards your fees if you join)

Program: Crafts, games and fun activities

4th Ringwood is offering an exciting program for your child and provides a safe, fun learning environment for both boys and girls that will help them develop important life skills, confidence and become an important part of the community.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

For more information and to book, please contact Andy Mafrici, Group Leader
9727 4611
andmaf@bigpond.com

ALL LEADERS HAVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS
Come and join The Friendship Circle!
The Friendship Circle runs activities for children aged 6-8 years old designed to broaden and strengthen friendships outside of the school environment.

We are delighted to be partnering with Jamie’s Academy of Dance for this event.

In addition to the obvious physical benefits of dancing, it’s also been proven to increase mental functioning, improve general and psychological wellbeing and lead to greater self-confidence, self-esteem and social skills particularly in children.

What: Jazz Dance Class for 6-8 year olds
Where: Jamie’s Academy of Dance, H.E Parker Reserve, Heathmont Road, Heathmont, Victoria, 3135
When: Friday the 18th of March, 2016, 5:45pm – 7pm
Cost: Free of charge
Numbers are limited so please RSVP to thefriendshipcircle@outlook.com.au by the 15th of March, 2016

For more information visit our Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/thefriendshipcircle2016/