

RGPS CONNECTIONS



MAY ISSUE #5

'Together We Can for every child, every day'

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us for Education Week with our Fantastic Flying Festival. The theme this year was a "Spotlight on STEM". Students and families had fun participating in paper plane competitions with winners taking home prizes including The Guinness World Book of Records. Students also selected an education focused charity to raise money for with our free dress day on Wednesday 22nd May- they chose to give this money to The Smith Family who help young Australians to overcome educational inequality caused by poverty.

A reminder that **Friday 31st May is a student free day.** Our staff will be completing their final Berry Street session. Please ensure you make arrangements for your child on this day. Their Care is available on this day.

Our final assembly this term is on **Friday 21st June @ 2:15pm** in the RPAC. We welcome you to attend this assembly as we celebrate student learning and wellbeing achievements.

Robyn Trzeciak | RGPS Principal

*We have moved to a monthly publication in 2024. Our next edition will be at the end of **June.**



1

RGPS STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028

Our Review process that we began in Term 1 has concluded and we now have an endorsed Strategic Plan for 2024-2028.

Our review highlighted the many strengths of RGPS and areas for improvement. A panel consisting of an external reviewer, our Senior Educational Improvement Leader, x2 external Principals, our School Council President & the RGPS leadership team participated in four days of classroom observations, focus groups and discussion.

Our broad goals are focused on improving student learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy, and strengthening the wellbeing of all students. Over the coming weeks we will share with you a summary of our strategies that we will use to reach these targets.

Thank you to Nicole Miles our School Council President who supported our school through the review process and contributed towards these new goals.

GOALS



2 ONLINE SAFETY

Parents and carers play a key role in guiding their children as they first encounter the online world and begin to learn through exploration, play and social interaction.

When is your child old enough to take their first online steps and begin to explore on their own?

How soon are they ready for smartphones and social media accounts?

It is a good idea to protect younger children from online risks such as encountering harmful content, contact with strangers or missing out on physical activity. But it is up to you to decide when and how they take these first steps, and how best to support them as they begin their online journey.

The eSafety Commissioner is Australia's independent regulator for online safety. Their role is to support individuals and promote online safety for all Australians. This includes providing information and tools to help manage online safety risks, and administering schemes to tackle cyberbullying material targeted at children, the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and harmful online material.

To read more, head to; <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/are-they-old-enough>



3 LUNCH TIME CLUBS

Looking for something fun to do at lunch time? Look no further!

Throughout each week there are a huge range of clubs that students of all year levels are free to access. This is a great way to have fun, meet new people and escape the cold weather.

Thank you to all staff for volunteering their lunch times to run these clubs!

RIVER GUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

RGPS LUNCH TIME CLUBS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Auslan Club Location: R14	Friendship Bracelets Club Location: R17	Yarn Club Location: Digi-Tech Room	Art Club Location: Art Room	Colouring In Club Location: R25
By invitation only: Chocolate-making Club	Craft Club Location: R18	Dance Club Location: R13	Table Tennis Club Location: R24	Reading Club Location: R15
Thursday Morning Before school: Run Club Location: Oval	Guided Drawing Club Location: R10	Board Games Club Location: R19	Around the World Club Location: R01	Coming soon: Choir Club

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STUDENT FREE DAY

Please be aware that we have a Student Free Day coming on **Friday May 31st**.

This day will allow staff the time to complete their final professional development session on the Berry Street Education Model.

Please ensure that you make arrangements for your child on this day. Their Care is available on this day.



5

MORNING CIRCLE



Did you know?

Every school day at RGPS commences at **8:45am**, always starting with 'Morning Circle'.

The first 5-minutes of class are critical for setting the tone for the rest of the days learning. During this time students review key values and expectations, celebrate any announcements and successes, and have positive interactions with their peers and teacher.

Please make sure that you are allowing enough time in the morning to arrive to school on time to avoid your child missing out on Morning Circle.

To read more about Berry Street routines:

<https://www.berrystreet.org.au/news/rhythms-for-success-trauma-informed-routines-to-centre-culture-and-strengths>

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COMPASS EDUCATION

We are moving to Compass from Term 2 for school payments, events, excursions and permissions, attendance, student reports, first aid and positive acknowledgements. Compass provides a streamlined all on one service and gives our school greater levels of organisation and process.

Families who have not yet logged in will receive an email with details about how to log in on Friday 3rd May. (Please check your Junk Mail folder for the automated Compass email if you do not see this come through in your inbox)

If you need a hard copy or would like assistance to sign in, please see the office. You can sign up via the Compass app or web browser.

Note: If you already use the app for a student at another school, you can add the River Gum PS account by:

- a. Selecting the 'More' option from the bottom right side of the home screen
 - b. Select the 'Switch Accounts' tile
 - c. Press the '+' button
 - d. Look up 'River Gum Primary School' (ensure there is a space between River and Gum)
Enter username and password provided by school to log into your family account.
-

Please keep your username and password for parent use only.
Confidential communications will occur through this platform that are not for student use.

We thank those families who have already signed up!



Download the parent guide here:

<https://cdn.compass.education/knowledgebase/CompassParentGuide.pdf>

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BREAKFAST CLUB

The School Breakfast Clubs program seeks to address the impact disadvantage can have on education outcomes by offering free and healthy food for students in 1,000 Victorian government schools.

Research shows a child's ability to concentrate in class, self-regulate and learn is negatively impacted if they are hungry.

Everyone is welcome at our RGPS Breakfast Club which runs each morning from **8:15-8:45am**.



8

FOOTY GALA DAY



On 15th May, River Gum went to Livingston Reserve to participate in the Footy Gala Day. Both the mixed and the girls' team played really well. The mixed team had a couple of close losses, and the girls' team won their final game.

In true River Gum spirit, the players tried their best, played hard, and most importantly, showed their fantastic sportsmanship!

FOLLOW US ON



WWW.RIVERGUMPS.VIC.EDU.AU



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ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day - missing school puts them behind.

As it currently stands, as an entire school we are on track to have every child attending almost 2 days more than that of 2023, and over 4 days more than 2022! This is a fantastic effort and helps to maximise student learning outcomes.

This week we celebrated the cohort with the highest average attendance. Congratulations to Year 5 for taking out this challenge, beating out Year 3 and Year 1 respectively. All students in Year 5 were acknowledged for their consistency in attending each day with an icy-pole.

Please remember to contact the RGPS absence line, or your child's classroom teacher, should your child be away for any reason.

**ABSENCES
ADD+UP!**

**MISSING JUST 2 DAYS
A MONTH MEANS YOU MISS
10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!!!**

REMINDER: As the weather is getting cooler, please make sure students are dressed in full school uniform- no black pants, hoodies, or logo items.



10 RECONCILIATION WEEK

As part of Reconciliation Week, a selected group of Year 2 and Year 3 students represented their class at an incursion lead by students and teachers of Hampton Park Secondary College.

Students listened to a Dreamtime story titled 'How Wombat Lost his Tail' and created their own badges with the help of HPSC students.

Thank you to HPSC for coordinating the event!

Classes have been engaging in various reconciliation activities throughout the week, and hearing music by First Nations musicians during the lunch and recess bells.



11 YEAR 4 EXCURSION

On 27 and 28 May Year 4 students had a wonderful day learning about Australian history at the McCrae house.

They learned about what life was like for European Settlers, for the indigenous community and how household chores were completed.

Students had the opportunity to churn butter, wash clothes and sweep the home. You will also see them playing games such as skittles and skipping rope. The students had lots of fun!

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Fantastic Flying Festival

Education Week's theme this year was 'Spotlight on STEM'.
Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics

Last week, River Gum Primary School held a Fantastic Flying Festival. Encouraging students to build, create, engineer and test their paper plane making skills. We were lucky with the weather as it was sunny and no wind at all. Perfect flying conditions!

There were three flight areas for junior, middle and senior students. In the hour students could fly their planes in as many races as they wanted. The top three winners in each race going into win some STEM prizes at the end of the afternoon. Student's also had an opportunity to go to the plane making station to make new planes or improve their current models.

Thank you to all that attended. It was great to see the community come together and share their different plane types using their STEM skills.

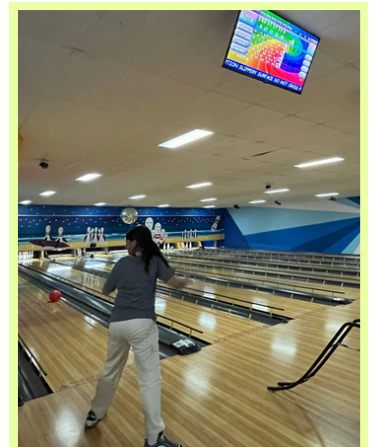
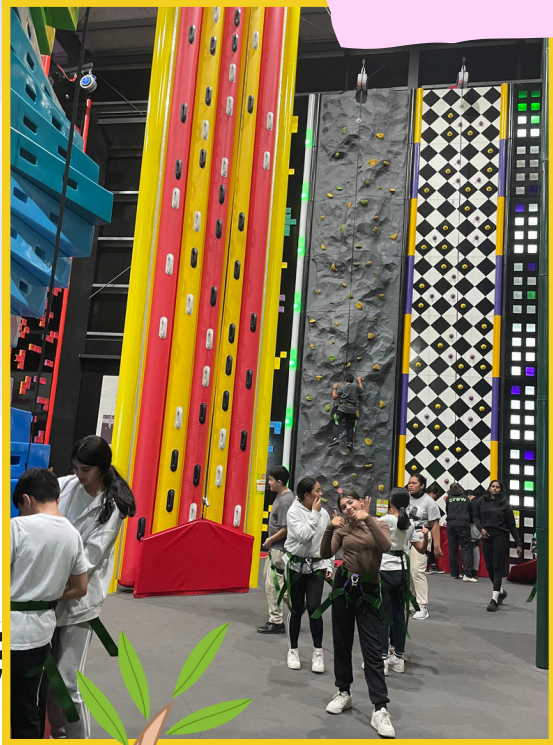


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WONDROUS WELLBEING



Year 6 Phillip Island Camp



Year 6 Phillip Island Camp

STUDENT RECOUNTS

First Day Of Camp

7:20 am: Had to get up fast to pack everything and make sure that nothing is forgotten because Year 6's would be away for 3 days for an amazing camp that improves team building and sportsmanship.

8:15 am: In the gym the Year 6's waited for the buses to come so everyone got in the classes and some were giving the office their medication while they were away on camp.

8:30 am: One by one every class was loaded on to the buses with their things, heading off towards our first destination.

9:00 am: We arrived at the Cranbourne Botanical Garden with the weather being very hot but we all went looking around the place, seeing a water place and gardens that were very beautiful and smelled very nice.

11:30 am: We all arrived back to the bus and had our eating time and we all sat down eating our food while talking with friends.

12:00 pm: We crossed a big bridge and stopped at the foreshore where there was a stingray. Here we learnt fun facts about them, then getting to play with the sand then we made sure we washed our hands before we ate our lunches.

1:30 pm: We all finally got to the camp accomodation, where boys rooms were on the first floor and the girls on the second. Most rooms had 4 to 6 people, with everyone having their own key cards to get in their rooms.

3:00 pm: We headed to the Nobbies boardwalk to the most beautiful sight of a beach and took pictures, then tried to get everyone together because other visitors were everywhere. We then headed towards the penguins! We walked all the way to their waterfront where there were so many little penguins, but we couldn't touch them because of the oil on us humans. Then while there, we learnt facts and many came in groups walking while some came just one or two together. When we were done seeing the penguins so we got dinner inside. Most people had fish and chips or a burger and fries that were both very tasty and warm.

8:00 pm: Heading back we talked on the bus but some were a little too loud with excitement. Most took showers and everyone played in the common room and had fun. An hour later we brushed our teeth and the headed to our beds. Some slept at 12:00 am because they didn't want to sleep, but everybody still went to sleep.



By Quadria Fulani (R18)



Year 6 Phillip Island Camp STUDENT RECOUNTS

Second Day Of Camp

The second day of the year six camp was the most exciting because it was the day that we had the most activities planned. It was all the fun ones too!

The activities were; tenpin bowling, laser tag, pool table, clip n' climb and the koala sanctuary. The food that day was also good. That night I had a really good night as it was a movie night too! I also had a really nice sleep too.

My favourite thing about camp was that I could spend time with my friends! All the credits go to all the amazing teachers and Mrs Hempel and Mr Legg for organising the whole thing! I liked tenpin bowling because I was really good at it and I didn't even know! I also liked rock climbing. I wasn't very good but I still had a go and really enjoyed it! At the koala sanctuary, my friends and I saw a koala sleeping on a tree. Thank you again for all the amazing teachers who organised the whole thing!

By Sajjad Ali (R18)



CAMP

Camps will take place for Year 4 and Year 6 students again in 2025. Further information will be given later this year.

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EPIC ENGAGEMENT



Student Name:

The River Gum Primary School value that I demonstrated was (please circle):

Respect	Equality
Excellence	Inclusion

As you may have seen flooding your email inbox, 'value cards' are sweeping RGPS!

A value card is awarded by any member of the RGPS community for a student who demonstrates one of the RGPS values: **respect, excellence, equality or inclusion**. Each value card earns house points towards the House Cup and enters them into a draw to win some exciting prizes at the end of each Term.

We would like to acknowledge the following students who have earned the most value cards in their year level so far this year. We are so proud to have them at our school!

- Foundation:** Samira A, Isabeau T, Rabi W
- Year 1:** Maria D, Hannah C, Azita M
- Year 2:** Sayeda S, Lusiana F, Zailey Iva P
- Year 3:** Arzo A, Ishal K, Anya H
- Year 4:** Aisha D, Mohammad Yousaf N, Amir A
- Year 5:** Mehnaz F, Ruben T, Ruby L
- Year 6:** Masooma P, Lydia P, Fiana W



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TERM 2 CALENDAR

Keep this handy!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
						Sport
						Public Holidays
						Curriculum Days
						After School Events
						Camps
						School Events
						Assembly
						Colour Code
						TERM 2
Week 1 15/4	Monday First Day of School & Parent Cyber Safety Info Night	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Week 2 22/4			School Photos	ANZAC Day		
Week 3 29/4			District Cross Country		Whole School Assembly 2.15pm	
Week 4 6/5			Year 6 Camp	Year 6 Camp	Year 6 Camp	
Week 5 13/5			Footy Gala Day			
Week 6 20/5	Education Week	Education Week	Education Week Event & Free Dress Day	Education Week		
Week 7 27/5	Reconciliation Week	Reconciliation Week	Reconciliation Week	Reconciliation Week & Division Cross Country	Curriculum Day	
Week 8 3/6						
Week 9 10/6	King's Birthday					
Week 10 17/6	Refugee Week	Refugee Week	Refugee Week & Lightning Prem	Refugee Week	Refugee Week & School Assembly	
Week 11 24/6					Last Day of Term. 2.30pm finish	



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OSHC



TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

Our school has partnered with an independent provider called **TheirCare** to provide exceptional Outside School Hours Care services for our school community.

The program is available for all children at River Gum Primary School from 6:30am until 8:35am in the morning and from 3:15pm until 6:30pm each school day.

During School Holidays & Pupil Free Days the service will operate from 6:30am until 6:30pm.

Families wishing to use this service can visit the TheirCare website: www.theircare.com.au
Families are eligible for a Government Rebate called the Child Care Subsidy which can reduce the cost per session by up to 90%.

More information can be obtained by contacting the school or ringing TheirCare Support Team on 1300 072 410.

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PLAYGROUP



Did you know our Playgroup program with Andrea is starting again? Playgroup is for children aged 0-5.

Playgroup provides a safe and happy environment for children to learn, play and develop language, communication and other skills.

Playgroup is an opportunity for parents and children to build friendships and learn about other activities and groups within their community.



**STEP INTO PREP
AT RIVER GUM
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL TOURS
FOR FOUNDATION
2025**

TERMS 2 & 3

***BEGINNING TUESDAY 16TH
APRIL**

**EVERY TUESDAY AT 9AM
MEET IN THE FRONT OFFICE**



REGISTER TODAY!

Call: 9799 1216

Email: river.gum.ps@education.vic.gov.au
to book!