



Heights Happenings

30 November 2017

No. 20

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Major School Upgrade Announced

We were very excited to announce to the community at a recent assembly the news that Ringwood Heights Primary School will receive 2.744 million dollars in 2018 as part of the Permanent Modular Schools Building Program. We are receiving a new architect-designed modular building to replace the current middle school, art room and library spaces. We are currently in the concept phase. Having started our conversations this year with school council committees, staff and students we have been able to quickly provide our vision for the spaces which will support our **Instructional Teaching Model of Integrated Inquiry**. The timelines will be quick with demolition scheduled for the April school holidays and completion set for October.



The classroom spaces for the beginning of 2018 are still being decided, with the least disruption for students being the highest of considerations. Where possible students will begin the year in classroom spaces that they will work in for the entirety of 2018.

Chess Set

A giant outdoor electronic chess set constructed from salvaged local waste by local jobseekers was unveiled by Envision Employment and donated to our school last week. The Maroondah leader were onsite to take some photographs for an article soon to appear in the local paper. The students were all present for the unveiling and have already shown great excitement and interest in this new addition to outdoor play! Thank you to the many people involved in providing this fabulous chess set to further enhance the opportunities for our students to “Think Big”. Please keep a look out for the article and we will ‘post’ it as soon as it is published.



2017 Diary

December

- Fri 1 • 2018 Prep Transition session
• Whole School Transition Session
- Tue 5 • Parent Helper Morning Tea
- Fri 8 • Crazy Hair Day
- Tues 12 • Grade 6 Transition
Government High Day
- Wed 13 • Carols Concert
- Tues 19 • Grade 6 Graduation Night
- Wed 20 • LT4 Big Day In
- Thur 21 • LT4 Big Day Out
- Fri 22 • Last Day for the Year
1.30pm Finish

Library Books

Library books are now due to be returned. Could we ask that you help your children to check out all the great hiding spots at home and send any library books belonging to the school back in the next few days.

Uniform Shop Roster

December

- Mon 4 Kellie & Bec L
- Wed 6 Liz & Simone
- Mon 11 Shelly & Pedda
- Wed 13 Rikka & Mary

Class Formation

Over the next couple of weeks our teachers will begin the task of forming our 2018 classes.

At the end of every year we can expect some changes in teaching arrangements and generally we can say that students are often less concerned about these as they have had every opportunity to engage in enjoyable and productive transition activities.

Parents can support their children by maintaining a positive mindset and trust in the professional judgements of our highly skilled and dedicated teaching team.

The *preference* for students to remain in the same class grouping for 2 years is a ‘preference’, not a promise. With the movement of teachers across year levels, taking leave or moving schools this option cannot always be guaranteed. I can however guarantee that your child’s best interests in regards to their learning needs will be considered as outlined in the guidelines of our ‘*formation of classes*’ policy. This policy is located on our website for your reference.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of listening to sixteen of the Year 5 students who presented their School Captain 2018 speeches. The students who presented speeches persuaded us of the reasons why they would be a great leader and ambassador for the school. Congratulations to all of the students who embraced this opportunity for your courage, diligence in the preparation of your speeches and the confidence you showed in the delivery. The school values and their importance were articulated well and all students demonstrated a deep understanding of what the role entails. Two 2018 School Captains and 2 Vice Captains will be announced at assembly on Monday 4 December.

Parent Helpers Morning Tea

A Parent Helpers’ morning tea will be held in the multi-purpose room on Wednesday December 6 from 10.40 - 11.30. The overwhelming volunteer support and assistance we receive from our parent community is greatly appreciated by our staff and students and we really want to say thank you! We would be delighted if our helpers could join us for morning tea as a small token of our thanks for all the wonderful work you do to support the students and enrich the curriculum programs here at Ringwood Heights.

Working Bee

This is the final working Bee for 2017.

The tasks and priorities for this Working Bee are changing daily as we consider the building upgrade and what we can begin in preparation.

At this stage, the tasks are to erect a fence along the

driveway in the main staff carpark, utilising some of the fencing that was recently taken down. There is some weeding to be completed in the Prep outdoor area, soft fall to be raked, tidying of the large storage container and the beginning of relocating some resources and materials that are being kept.

Safety of Students walking to school

This morning we had a report from an adult that two students just missed being hit by a car as they crossed Aurum Rd. I gathered all students who walk through the paddock area and chatted to them about being safe pedestrians. Could I ask all parents whose students walk to school to reinforce the importance of crossing the roads safely.

The recommendations provided by Vic Roads for Children 5 Years up to 12 Years are;

For parents and carers to help children by providing plenty of practical supervised experience in using the road safely, as a part of the journeys taken every day. Research shows that children under age 12 do not have the skills and experience to be safe in traffic. Teach them safe traffic behaviour and set a good example.

Here are some tips and a link to some picture story books online that you may like to share.

Stop, Look, Listen, Think

Follow the safe road crossing procedure – STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK.

- STOP one step back from the kerb or shoulder of the road if there is no footpath.
- LOOK in all directions for approaching traffic.
- LISTEN in all directions for approaching traffic.
- THINK about whether it is safe to cross the road – when the road is clear or all traffic has stopped.

When crossing, walk straight across the road. Keep LOOKING and LISTENING for traffic while crossing. This information is particularly relevant to young people learning to cross roads. But it also provides a useful reminder to everyone particularly to those who may be distracted when crossing the road.

Try this link;

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-safety-education/primary-schools/storybooks-and-apps>

Reminders:

- * Family Movie Night on Friday evening which promises to be a whole lot of fun!
- * Final prep/ whole school transition sessions – tomorrow morning

**Kim Bride
Principal**