



Heights Happenings

28 January 2021

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We would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land and Waters and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome Back

Welcome back for the 2021 school year. I hope that you all had a fabulous holiday break and were able to spend quality time with family and friends. We have had a terrific start to the new year welcoming 267 children.

I would like to extend a very special welcome to the many new students and families who have begun their Primary School journey with us here at Ringwood Heights Primary School.

Our new Prep students will have commenced school either today or will do so tomorrow.

Along with our new students and families we also welcomed several new staff members:

Ms Marley Downey who joins our LT3 team and Mrs Karen Rogers who returns from leave.

It seems that everyone has returned refreshed, excited, and looking forward to a very big year of learning.

Our new entry ramp is close to finished and will ensure all community members feel welcomed and able to access our buildings.

“Getting to know you Chats” will be offered during the week of February 15. The online booking information and process will be distributed via Flexischools which will allow you to make appointments with your child’s teacher. These scheduled 10 minute chats are offered for parents of children who are new to a particular teacher, or who would like to touch base with their child’s teacher to update or provide information that will support their learning. The information may include their interests, special qualities, learning style, medical concerns or other general information that will support the teacher in getting to know your child. Some online chats can be made available for parents who prefer this method of communication and the options will be communicated with you shortly.

These chats are not to answer questions regarding the class program – this is covered at the Information Sessions in Week 5 (Feb 22-26)

Our **Parent Information sessions** this year will again focus on communicating with parents the expectations we have of students at each particular Learning Level, ways you can help your child at home and outline any new or emerging curriculum initiatives.

The dates for these evenings are:

Tuesday 23rd February – LT1 (6pm) & LT3 (7pm)

Thursday 25th February – LT2 (6pm) & LT4 (7pm)

More information to follow..

2021 Diary

January

Thur 28 • Term 1 commences
Prep - Group 1
Level 2,3 & 4

Fri 29 • Prep - Group 2

February

Mon 15 • “Getting To Know
You Chats” week
commences
• Australian Dental
visit commences
(whole week)

Tue 16 • School Council
Meeting 7.30pm

Tues 23 • Information Sessions
LT1 - 6pm
LT3 - 7pm

Thurs 25 • Information Sessions
LT2 - 6pm
LT4 - 7pm

March

Mon 8 • Labour Day Holiday

Tutoring Program

Many of you will have already read about the tutoring program due to commence this year in order to support students with their learning after the disruptions of 2020. Teachers will spend the first few weeks settling their students into class routines which will include some collection of assessment data. This will support our identification of students who will require this extra support, together with the teacher assessments from the end of last year. Teachers will communicate with those parents whose children will be monitored and supported through this program. Formally, tutors will begin working in classrooms and with some small groups from late February.

Staffing

2021 Team Leaders

Specialists	Vicki Cunningham
Prep	Emma Pengelly
Year 1 & 2	Samantha Cadman
Year 3 & 4	Jude Ridley/Karen Trease
Year 5 & 6	Jess Morgan

2021 Staff

Specialists

Performing Arts	Vicki Cunningham
Library	Karen Trease
Visual Arts	Zena Goodman
PE/Sport	Amanda Dean

Classroom Teachers

Learning Team 1

Mrs Emma Pengelly	Prep P
Mr James Lumsden	Prep L

Learning Team 2

Ms Samantha Cadman	2C
Mrs Hayley Davison	2DC
Mrs Alex Clark	2DC
Mrs Karen Rogers	2R
Ms Georgia Schumann	2S

Learning Team 3

Mrs Jude Ridley	3R
Ms Eliza Wood	3W
Ms Marley Downey	3D

Learning Team 4

Ms Jessica Morgan	4M
Mr Robert Bennett	4B
Mrs Donna Ramage	4RD
Mr Ken Darby	4RD

Assistant Principals

Ken Darby
Jo Parry (Wed, Thurs)

Integration Aides

Mary Clarke
Carol Godden
Josh Gibney
Cory van der Jagt
Rebecca Hayes

Office Staff

Kay Gardner
Michelle Stringer
Leanne Smart

Communication : Flexischools and Newsletter

We currently use **Flexischools** as our main form of communication. Regular notifications and reminders will be posted and will include all excursions, activities at school, reminders and the newsletter. Please be reminded about the use of the, 'absences' form to alert teachers of your child's absences.

We are gradually moving to a new platform called XUNO. More information will come to get you all onto this new platform, but until we are completely transferred over we will continue to use Flexischools. Stay tuned for information throughout Term 1.

The **newsletter** is compiled fortnightly on a Thursday and then posted to Flexischools (soon to be XUNO) and will contain regular features such as News from the Principal, Parents Club and OSHClub.

If at any stage information is missing from Flexischools please alert the office staff who will very happily ensure that information is always as up to date as possible.

Assembly

School assemblies will begin for **staff and students only** until capacity limits on indoor venues are changed. At this stage we will gather on a Monday. We will offer invitations to parents (up to 2 per family) for students who are receiving awards, recognition or who are presenting. The class teachers or the office will communicate this invitation with you via email.

**Kim Bride
Principal**

School Privacy Policy Annual Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website - <https://www.ringwoodheights.vic.edu.au/school-policies>.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy (<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools-Privacy-Policy-information-for-parents.aspx>) - information for parents. This information is also available in nine community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese.

Student Drop off/Pick up arrangements and School Access

All parents are welcome on site in the mornings and afternoons to drop off and collect students. We do however ask parents not to come into the buildings unless attending the office or by prearranged appointment with a class teacher. Masks will be required if adults are unable to distance the required 1.5m.

In the morning : as per the end of 2020, children are encouraged to wander into the classrooms from 8.45 to get themselves set up for the day – children will not be asked to line up.

In the afternoon : all students will be dismissed at 3.30 and teachers will walk out with their students so that you may touch base with their class teacher if you need to.

All teachers will share an email address with you as a means of communication, remembering this is not to be used for any urgent matters. For any communication of that nature please continue to use the school email or ring the office directly.

If you are a prep parent, you will receive a separate email from the prep teachers outlining the protocols for the drop off of our prep students – particularly for this week, please refer to this email.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. A copy of your valid Health care card/Pension card is also required as soon as possible.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 9870 3050 and ask for an application form. This application must be submitted before 25th June 2021.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page. Forms can also be collected from the school office.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.





State Schools' Relief provides support to any Victorian student attending a government school, on the advice of the school.

Who is eligible?

State Schools' Relief provides support to any Victorian student attending a government school (primary, secondary or specialist), on the advice of the school.

Schools are able to submit an application directly, via our online portal, whenever they believe there is a need to support a student whose family/carers are facing difficulty in providing the appropriate uniform, footwear or educational items for attending school.

Situations include, but are not limited to:

- Unemployment
- Health issues/illness
- Financial difficulties
- Independent living and/or homelessness
- Natural disasters, house fires
- Bereavement
- Domestic violence

Please contact Kay Gardner 9870 3050 if you wish to discuss further.

