



Heights Happenings

03 April 2025

60 Summit Crescent
Ringwood 3134
Principal: Kim Bride

Ph. 9870 3050
Fax 9879 6616

Outside School Hours Care
Mobile 0417 768 636

No. 05

Email :ringwoodheights@oshcampaustralia.com.au

Web: ringwoodheights.vic.edu.au Email: ringwood.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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.



2025 Diary

April

- Fri 4 • Last Day Term 1 Finish 2.30pm
- Mon 21 • Easter Monday Holiday
- Tues 22 • Term 2 commences
- Fri 25 • ANZAC Day Holiday
- Tues 29 • Storytime session 9- 9.30am

May

- Fri 2 • LT4 Girls AFL Gala Day
- Sat 3 • Election Day BBQ & Cake Stall
- Mon 5 • Community Catch Up
- Tue 6 • Mother's Day Stall
- Wed 7 • LT4 Camp starts
- Thur 8 • LT3 Hootime
- Fri 9 • LT4 Camp returns
- Tue 13 • Whole School Photo Day
- Thur 29 • Junior School Aquarium Excursion



Log in details are below:

<https://schools.happyfamilies.com.au/login/ringwood>

PASSWORD: happyrhps

Uniform Shop

Opening Hours

Monday: 8.30-9am

Wednesday: 3.15-3.45pm

What a magnificent day we had for our cross country run yesterday. Except for the smoke in the air, the sun was shining and the playlist supplied by Mr Gore added a wonderful festive vibe to the day. Thank you to all our rostered volunteers for helping us out and all parents and family members who came along to cheer everyone on. This is by far my favourite day of the year as we witness so many acts of kindness, goodwill and acknowledgement of the efforts of others. I feel proud of the way the children give everything they've got and participate with such enthusiasm. They show pride in themselves for completing the course and equally celebrate with and congratulate others for their winning efforts. I admire the big kids having already run their own race, who get back on the track again to show the younger kids the way. They cheer them on, encourage them to keep going and deliver high fives to all.

A huge thankyou to Alex Clark for her organization of the event, and all the teachers who started arriving at school from 7.15 am to set up the course. Thankyou to the House Captains who did an amazing job for the entire day!

Thankyou Parent's Club

It has been a fabulous week of celebration. Our Parent's Club have once again run a very successful Easter Raffle which has added great excitement to the end of each day. Thank you to the families for your generous donations, we had over 80 prizes to draw. Congratulations to our daily raffle winners.

Federal Election

You will all be aware of the Federal Election being called for May 3. Parent's Club are already on track for a Super Saturday of fundraising. Please see the Parent's Club section of this newsletter to see how you might be able to help with this fundraising effort. With two weeks of school holidays leading into this period, time is of the essence! Thank you in advance for any support you may be able to give.

Happy Easter

I'd like to wish you all a very happy Easter. For those of you fortunate enough to get away to enjoy a holiday break, travel safely and we will see you back on Tuesday 22nd April for the first week of term two which is only 3 days long due to the first Friday, also a public holiday on April 25th being Anzac Day.

Reminder: Term 1 concludes tomorrow at 2.30pm

**Kim Bride
Principal**

Wellbeing @ RHPS



On Tuesday 1st April, our Grade 6 **Peer Support Leaders** participated in an MPEN Student Leadership Workshop facilitated by

Andrea Jackson from **Maroondah Council**. During the workshop they identified personal **values**, learned

about the **qualities of a leader** and shared their thinking about how to use their **passions** to make improvements in their communities. Here are some of their reflections from the sessions:

“We watched a video about a boy named Campbell who makes toys for sick kids in hospital. It was heartwarming seeing the faces of the kids when they received a handmade bear. Campbell inspired me to help people feel happy.” - **Grace**

“I like how Campbell went out of his way to make other people feel happy.” - **Kensi**

“I found it helpful to think about what I really value. I realised that I value ‘seeking adventure’ more than other things.” - **Lee**

“I enjoyed the activity where we had to agree or disagree with a statement and explain our reasons. I learned about respecting other people’s opinions and understanding them better.” - **Jessie**

We also had a rich conversation in response to this prompt: “You should always see the good in people, even if they are doing something mean or wrong.” Students showed **empathy** and **compassion** in their discussion. Maybe you could have the same conversation at home! Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Why?

We look forward to our **Peer Support Leaders** putting their learning into practice as they develop in their leadership roles.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

After a busy Term 1, I hope your family enjoys a time of rest and restoration over the holiday break. I have included a **Happy Families** article in this newsletter titled, “**The Best Ways to Spend the Holidays.**” It’s a few months old and was written with the summer holidays in mind, but I think the advice is still valuable.

Jude Ridley
Wellbeing Leader

Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge 20 Years of Words and Wonder



Ringwood Heights PS will once again be participating in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge, which this year marks its 20th birthday!

The Challenge is for all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition, but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by the **5th September 2025** (during Term 3).

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or experience 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR THE CHALLENGE:

To register your child for the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge, please complete this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/95nPFsK2yYfZCnCj9>. Registration is due by **Friday 2nd May**.

If you need assistance with registering, please speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

Please note, it is up to families to log the books read during the Premiers’ Reading Challenge on the VPRC website: <https://vprc.eduweb.vic.gov.au/home>.

For further information about the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge, please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge>.

Happy reading everyone!

Michelle Freeman
Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge
Super Coordinator

Junior School

JH End of Term1 Reflections

It has been an exciting beginning to school for JH students. Throughout this term, we’ve focused on our School Values (Friendship, Respect, Responsibility, Creativity & Teamwork) as well as introducing skills in literacy and numeracy. It’s wonderful to see new friendships forming, and the students’ enthusiasm, creativity and curiosity as they settle into the routines of school life. Here are JH’s reflections of Term 1!

Ben- I feel good when I play maths games. I like numbers!

Becky- I like playing with my friends. I like having my friends near me. My friends are Hazel, Willow, Skyla, Ben and Riki.

Essie- I am happy during Wonder Workshop. I show the value of Friendship and let people join in my games.

Hazel- I like going into the library. I play with the Lego. I also like playing with my friends.

Hugh- I feel happy because I go to school every whole week of my life. I love learning about school, maths and all the learning. I like my teacher. I love my school!

Hudson- Maths is my favourite thing to do at school. I like numbers.

James- I like school because I like learning. My favorite thing to learn about is maths.

Matthew- I like school so much. I show Friendship by sharing when I play games. I love my school, my buddy and I love my friends so much.

Riki- I like maths because it's fun. I feel happy writing and making numbers. The number I love the most is 8!

Skyla- My favorite thing about school is my teacher. I like the things you plan for us.

Thomas- Hi my name is Thomas, I like playing shops in Wonder Workshop because I like being a shopkeeper. I like playing in the playground too.

Victor- I feel happy at school. I like learning new stuff. My favourite thing at school is Wonder Workshop because I can build things.

Willow- I really like art and library.

Yusra- I like playing with my best friend Skyla. I let others join in my games.

Learning Team 3

In LT3 we have been exploring figurative language, and we used our senses to write some creative autumn snapshots to capture the attention of our readers and keep them interested. In art we have looked at construction and using x-slots to make beautiful autumn trees with collage which all ties in nicely together.

I slowly walked on the crunchy leaves, dodging every branch as I went. I see the magpies trying to find breakfast too, I haven't eaten in days, lucky I'm still hydrated from the drink bottles I packed before mum left for Sydney. I walk past the birds trying not to scare them. 'Is that what I think it is?' 'Grapes!' I grab a giant handful from the grape vine. I sit and rest on the side of the tree.

I can still taste the sweet juices from the grapes. A few minutes later I woke up to the sound of a rattle, a lizard was climbing on my knee. Warm liquid started coming out of the lizard. "Ewww!" I say. A flock of cockatoos fly right behind me. One baby cockatoo got lost and banged into a tree. 'Poor little one.' I whisper.

The trees were dancing in the wind. And that was the end of autumn day. The moon leads me home.

River ~ 3CB

I stare at the glorious sight ahead, my eyes dazzling with wonder. The mossy green trees whispering in low rustles, the emerald green leaves putting on a show. Birds singing songs of nature through their uniquely high pitched voices. The ground is smothered in golden leaves. As I take a step forward I submerge with the tree vines brushing my face, it feels soothing on my skin. I blink, but as I open my eyes I'm still here. It's as though I'm in a fairytale. Suddenly an ice cold chill runs up my spine. My face shakes in the wind, like an earthquake.

Gemma ~ 3CB

As I walked into the forest, I felt the leaves crunching under my feet. It was autumn, and it was warm. The happy leaves floated down to the ground, then quietly turned brown. I walked as quietly as a mouse, trying not to step on anything living. Whoosh! The wind blew my hair. The trees were so beautiful, it was as if they were shimmering in the sun. The trees were as tall as houses as I walked by. I closed my eyes, took a deep breath in, and the air smelt fresher than ever before. It was beautiful. Everything was beautiful on this sunny autumn day.

Bonnie ~ 3F

The leaves dance with the wind, the breeze colder than an iceberg, leaves crunching on my lower feet. The sound of a lovely autumn breeze could be heard. I was walking slower than an old turtle. "Tweet, tweet, tweet," the birds chirped louder than anyone could yell. Branches lose their leaves quicker than I can count.

The good feeling of running through the cold crunchy leaves, every step I take. Everything was great on this cold crunchy day.

Harvey ~ 3F

WHOOSH went the green leaves as I started to walk along a path that had brown dirt and dark and light green leaves scattered along it in the direction I was headed. I could hear the leaves whispering quietly to each other in the wind. Then I froze and watched in amazement. Up in a tree, taller than a sky scraper in the city, were two birds feeding their baby. But I kept on walking.

Then the sun hit me, it was blazing and I loved it. The walk then suddenly came to an end. I was so



disappointed, but I had an amazing time on a beautiful autumn day.

Eliana ~ 3F

I feel the dirt with big roots coming out from the soil. CRUNCH the big and small leaves crunch again! I can smell the fresh air beneath my face. I can hear the cute, soft hummingbirds cheeping all the way through the forest, nothing else in the distance. I hear absolutely nothing except birds in the distance. I can't see the birds but I can hear them very clearly CHEEP.

Lucy V ~ 3F

As I walk through the magical forest I heard the leaves crumbling that have fallen from the trees. I felt the breeze blow gently onto my face. As I keep on walking through the amazing forest, a big gust of wind and a big batch of beautiful autumn leaves blows beside me. The trees leaning over me, I feel the hot autumn sun on my back. I was sad to leave the peace and quiet of the lovely autumn forest.

Bassy ~ 3S

The tree's leaves danced to the ground, whispering as I entered the forest. Raindrops fell gently on top of my head and I felt cold and shivered slightly. The sun beating down on my back made me feel warm. Wings of colour filled the air and the birds had chirped in the breeze. The clouds were in a weird shape and the sky was blue like nothing I'd seen before. A fresh morning air appeared and some dragon breath floated out of my mouth. The sun peeped through the trees as it bounced off the sparkling water in the lake.

I looked up at the sky and the clouds connected into more clouds then even more clouds. The clouds angrily boomed and the sun went down into the other world. The happy birds chirped as they flew away. I made a shelter and the rain poured down on me. I felt refreshed and happy, my face was wet and the dirt had turned into mud. My face was soaked and water dripped down from my face. I laid my head down on the leaves under a tree, it was not a comfortable way of sleeping and I felt cold. I grabbed my food and water from getting them wet, then I finally closed my eyes and the world disappeared.

The damp of fire filled my nose as I rubbed my eyes tiredly. The trees whispering away - and a way out! I grabbed my backpack and ran towards the exit. I turned around and I knew I couldn't stay. My smile faded and I looked all around. I turned around as a rabbit bounced past and a fox leaped through the bushes. The water sparkled as I turned around. It was a fun autumn day and somehow - night. "Good bye, forest," I whispered as I ran towards the light.

Georgie ~ 3S



Learning Team 4

Earlier this term, Kath Murdoch (our inquiry consultant) visited our school and spent time in classrooms during Wonder Workshops and iTime.

Some Junior School students wrote Kath a letter, asking her some questions about her book 'The Wonder of Winsome' which they had been exploring in class as they inquired into curiosity.

Here are some of their questions, and Kath's responses. Thank you Evie and Amaya!

Dear Evie and Amaya

A few weeks ago, I visited your classroom during your wonder workshop. It was lovely to meet you! You wrote these WONDERful questions for me and you must be WONDERing why I have not replied.

I have been WANDERING around the world since my visit to Ringwood Heights Primary School and working with children and teachers in many different countries. Sadly, I left your questions at home and I have only just found them again!

So ... I am finally going to answer them, in the order you write them:

1. I did not do the pictures for 'The Wonder of Winsome' on a computer. A very clever artist called Sharryn Madder did the drawings for me and then the designer scanned them into the pages before printing. I still have the original art works. Maybe I could bring them to show you next time I am at your school?
2. I sometimes think about writing another book about Winsome. If I did, what do you think the story should be about?
3. I think the thing I like most about the book is the design. I like the way the letters have little animals and symbols from the art work on them



and I love the way the designer has used colour and size to make the text stand out.

4. I love the name Winsome because it sounds good with the word ‘Wonder’. And the name actually has a meaning that is a little like ‘wonder’ ... Winsome is an old fashioned word that means something like ‘enchanted’.
5. Thank you for your compliment about the pictures. I love them too. As an author, it is always great when the illustrator understands the message you want to communicate. I think Sharryn’s pictures and my words go really well together.



Thank you so much for your questions. I loved getting them and again, I am sorry it took me so long to answer!!

Love from
Kath Murdoch

Public Speaking

Last Thursday, students celebrated the culmination of their Advanced Presentation Skills 8-week course by holding their final Public Speaking session in front of their families and peers. Students reflected on their learning with Sandra de Geest this term:

- * I learned a lot from being an evaluator because I have never done it before, and it was a very new experience. **Liv**
- * As a communicator, I can speak loudly and confidently, not too fast and not too slow. **Lexie**
- * The role I enjoyed the most was Meeting Organiser because I liked using the gavel and handing out and collecting the votes. **Abigail**
- * I learned a lot from Mrs de Geest because she taught me in the Off the Cuff questions to mention the past, present and future. **Ned**
- * I learned a lot from evaluating because it taught me how to properly view people’s work and acknowledge it and them. **Archer**
- * As a speaker I can now speak louder and clearly, and look up more instead of only looking at the paper. **Veronica**
- * I enjoyed asking people Off the Cuff questions because I liked listening to what everyone says. **Stella**
- * I can now talk in front of a group and feel better about it. **Daisy**
- * I learned a lot from my class because they

showed me what to do and encouraged me. I was really nervous but then I built up my courage.

Lee

- * I learned a lot from the educational segments because it taught us how to refine and add meaning to our speeches. **Reece**
- * As a communicator, I can now share my ideas confidently with others. **Mitch**
- * I learned a lot from my first speech because I got lots of constructive feedback. **Sophie**
- * At the beginning of the course I felt nervous, but now I feel confident. **Goldie**
- * I learned a lot from this course, I’m now less scared to speak in front of everyone! **Mia**
- * At the beginning of the course I felt nervous but it ended up being a really great experience for me. **Isaac**
- * I learned a lot from Mrs de Geest because she gave me very good feedback and was very honest. **Sabryna**

Report of the Youth Leadership Graduations on Thursday 27th March 2025

Congratulations to all the level four students who graduated from the Advanced Presentation Skills Youth Leadership Course. All students impressed their teachers and families with a very high standard of prepared and Off the Cuff Speeches as well as evaluations. It was pleasing that so many mums, dads and grandparents were able to attend. We were very impressed with how well the students interacted with their audiences and made them feel included and entertained, with much laughter and applause.

This year we changed the format a little by using the last lesson as a demonstration to the parents of how well the students can perform in front of a larger and more mature audience rather than just speaking in front of their peers.

The students who delivered planned, prepared and rehearsed speeches were:

4N	4H	4DR
Lily	Zoe	Harrison
Sam	Olivia	Reece
Macsen	Lachlan	Ollie
Ashton	Charlie	Nia
Ashlee	Archer	Mia
Harry	Isabelle	Chloe
Miles	Summer	Harrison
Mitchell	Lola	Hunter
Isaac		

The prepared speeches were amazing. Not only did the speakers have lots of eye contact with the audience, many of them memorized their whole speech and did not refer to their notes at all!

The Off the Cuff speakers were strong and made it look easy. When the Off the Cuff Presenters asked for a parent volunteer to answer a question there was much hesitation. In the end Hunter's dad, Charlie's mum, and Ashton's dad all answered a question and had to work really hard to try to get to the sixty seconds.

Evaluations were very impressive, giving detailed feedback to the speakers.

Special thanks to all the Master of Ceremonies, Judah, Ned and Luke who showed their leadership skills and kept each meeting running to time. Our Off the Cuff Presenters Stella, Blake and Imogen were all very capable and delightful.

I hope all participants enjoyed the whole experience as much as I did. You certainly did your school proud. I am already looking forward to working with the Level 4s again next year with the debating program.

Sandra de Geest
Advanced Presentation Skills.

House Cross Country

The sun was shining, the music was pumping and the students were abuzz with excitement.

Congratulations to all students who competed in our annual House Cross Country event yesterday.

These events don't run without the support of our community, so we would like to thank the following adults for volunteering their time yesterday.

Laura Bode, Rachel Schijf, Catherine Rosalion, Estelle Michaelides, Amy Lewis, Kate Locastro, Andrew Bissett, Meg Newham, Sue Dixon, Jess Stephens, Scott McJannett, Melanie Gordan, Anna Hinkeesing and Josh Dunne.

Shout out to the year 6 leaders and year 5 helpers for organising our warmup, running alongside the JS classes and packing up the track so efficiently. You embodied our school values and demonstrated great leadership. Thanks to Mrs Clark for organising and overseeing the event, and all the teachers and ES staff for their support leading up to and on the day.

House points are currently being calculated and the winning house will be announced at assembly next term. Senior school top 10 place getters will be invited to compete at the district level on Tuesday May 20th. Please keep an eye on Compass for more details around this event.



Parent's Club

Easter Raffle thank you

Thank you to all the generous families who donated Easter gifts and purchased tickets in the raffle. We raised just over \$800. What an amazing effort! A big thank you to Bec E, Rachel H and Sarah M for organising, wrapping and sorting the wonderful raffle prizes.

Election Day Fun Day



RHPS will be hosting an Election Day Fun Day including a Sausage Sizzle BBQ, Cake Stall and Second-Hand Book Stall. Volunteer roster link is below. We would love to see lots of support! Please donate any pre-loved books by dropping them into the office. All funds raised will go directly to our school!

Here is the link to the rosters for the BBQ and Cake Stall.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/je97z>

Mother's Day Stall

The Mother's Day Stall will be held Tuesday 6 May, which is early next term. We are gratefully accepting donations of handmade and new gifts to sell at the stall, and these can be dropped into the office. The notice will be sent home soon.

Next PC meeting is Monday 28 April 2025

Agenda includes preparing for Term 2 events and the major fundraiser.

RHPS Parent's Club General Meeting:

Monday, April 28, 2025

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (AEST)

Meeting link: [RHPS Parents' Club General Meeting | Microsoft Teams | Meetup-Join](#)
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 934 404 915 390 6

How To Contact Parent's Club

Join our Facebook group for regular reminders of upcoming events and fundraising activities:

<https://www.facebook.com/RingwoodHeightsPrimarySchool/>

Call Sarah Marsh, President on 0409 009 542 or email: sarahmarsh11@hotmail.com
Or leave a message at the office.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TRINITY NETBALL CLUB

NETSETGO SKILLS PROGRAM



2025 Autumn Season (Feb to Jul)

We run a club based skills program located at two primary schools in Mitcham & North Ringwood.

3:45PM - 4:30PM

MONDAYS
RINGWOOD HEIGHTS
FRIDAYS
ANTONIO PARK



REGISTER NOW



trinitynetball.com.au/netsetgo
enquiries@trinitynetball.com.au

FREE TRIAL LESSON



HAWKS ACADEMY

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

AFL PLAY

MON 7 APR Anderson Park Hawthorn East	WED 9 APR Kilsyth Recreation Reserve Kilsyth
TUE 15 APR Eildon Park Rowville	THUR 17 APR Heatherdale Reserve Mitcham

In partnership with AFL Victoria, join us in the April school holidays from 9am-3pm, for our Hawks Academy School Holiday Program.

NORWOOD AUSKICK

STARTS 2ND MAY 2025
FRIDAY NIGHTS 5.30PM

The Norwood Auskick program caters for both girls and boys turning 5yrs and up in 2025. We focus on AFL skills training/development for all levels, applying exciting & fun games to ensure your child is engaged during our clinics. It's also an amazing pathway to junior football.

Use QR code to register

Norwood JFC, Mullum Mullum Rd, Ringwood North
E: njfc.auskick@gmail.com

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