Ringwood Heights Primary School - No 4911

Heights Happenings

05 February 2026

No. 01

60 Summit Crescent
Ringwood 3134
Principal: Kim Bride

Ph. 9870 3050

Outside School Hours Care
Camp Australia - 1300 105 343

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.

2026 Diary

February

Fri 20 • Prep Nurse Visit

Mon 23 • District Swimming Event
• Dental Van Visit Week

Fri 27 • Prep Nurse Visit

March

Mon 2 • Division Swimming Event
• Community Catch Up morning

Mon 9 • Labour Day Holiday

Tues 31 • House Cross Country

April

Thur 2 • Last Day Term 2.30pm Finish

Fri 3 • Good Friday

Mon 20 • Term 2 Starts

Tues 28 • Whole School Photo Day

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Monday:	**8.30-9am**
Wednesday:	**3.15-3.45pm**

Welcome Back

Welcome back for the 2026 school year. We have had a very settled start to the new year welcoming 198 children.

Have you noticed the change of name for our Parent's Club? Now known as the Parent Community Group. The name reflects a great sense of community and belonging which is your invitation to reach out and join if you are interested in making this connection. I hope you were able to indulge in coffee from the coffee cart on Tuesday morning!

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 have commenced school with much joy and excitement.

Along with our new students and families we also welcomed back Mrs Caccioppoli and Ms Eddington.

"Getting to know you Chats" will be offered during the week of February 16. The online booking information and process will be distributed via Compass shortly and will be open from Tuesday 10 February from 9am until Monday 16 at 9am allowing 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.

These chats are not to answer questions regarding the class program – this is covered at the Information Sessions in Week 5 – see details below (Feb 24th or 26th)

Our Parent Information sessions this year will focus on communicating with parents the expectations we have of students at each Learning Level, ways you can help your child at home and outline the curriculum for 2026.

The dates for these evenings are:

Tuesday 24th February	**Thursday 26th February**
LT3 @ (5.45pm)	Junior School
LT4 @ (6.30pm)	(P-2) @ (5.45pm)

The teachers will communicate these dates, times and provide further reminders closer to the dates.

Staffing

Team Leaders

Prep	Georgia Schumann
Junior School	Michelle Freeman
Year 3 & 4	Alex Clark
Year 5 & 6	Dalal Nehme

Specialists

(Performing Arts P-6)	Mr Harry Gore
(Physical Education P-6)	Ms Morgan/ Class teachers
(Auslan P-6)	Mrs Laura King
(Library P-6)	Ms Katherine Butcher
(Visual Art P-6)	Mrs Read
Health and Wellbeing Leader	Mrs Jude Ridley

Junior Team (X 4)

(JS)	Ms Georgia Schumann
(JHK)	Mrs Donna Hey & Mrs Laura King
(JF)	Mrs Michelle Freeman
(JRC)	Mrs Donna Ramage & Mrs Vicki Cunningham

Learning Team 3 (X 3)

(3CG)	Mrs Alex Clark & Mr Harry Gore
(3BE)	Ms Katherine Butcher & Ms Stephanie Eddington
(3S)	Mrs Mel Shackelford

Learning Team 4 (X 3)

(4N)	Ms Dalal Nehme
(4H)	Mrs Bronte Hallam
(4DR)	Mrs Hayley Davison & Mrs Stephanie Caccioppoli

Office Staff

Kathryn Hands - Business Manager
Michelle Stringer
Carolyn Manning

Education Support

Mary Clarke
Jocelyn Lyons
Sarah Palumbo
Chantelle Swan
Celine Cai

Assistant Principals

Mr James Lumsden
Mrs Jo Parry (Wed, Thurs)

Communication :

Compass / Email/ Website/Instagram

We currently use **Compass** 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 to log absences quickly so that we are aware of your child's absence early.

The **newsletter** is compiled fortnightly on a Thursday and then posted to Compass and will contain regular features such as News from the Principal, Parent Community Group, Kelly Club, Learning Team news and activities.

Please find us on Instagram which has regular snapshots of happenings at school that we will share with you.

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

The **Parent Payment Information** was sent home earlier this week in hard copy and on Compass. You may utilise either Compass or the paper copy to make these contributions.

School Council

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Essentially at Ringwood Heights, each school councillor belongs to a sub committee through which discussions, decisions and directions are discussed, and these are then brought to the School Council Body to be confirmed or discussed further. Meetings are scheduled 8 times per year on a Tuesday.

Thinking about it? If you are keen to participate and contribute and you are not sure of the expectations or commitment required, please come in and have a chat.

School Council Elections 2026
a call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council for Ringwood Heights Primary School. All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of the school within centrally provided guidelines.

There are 3 possible categories of membership:

* A mandated elected parent category,

* A mandated elected Department employee category. The principal is automatically one of these members,

* An optional Community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences

The Notice of Election and call for nominations for School Council is included with this newsletter. Interested members of Ringwood Heights Primary School community are asked to consider nominating for vacancies on School Council for the next two year period. All you need is the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Vacancies:

* 4 parent members of council

* 2 Department of Education and

Nomination forms for the vacancies on School Council are available from the Office. If you are interested and cannot come to the school to collect forms, we would be pleased to receive a telephone call from you requesting a form and we can send it home with your eldest child.

Please note that nominations must be in by

4.00pm on Friday 13 February.

In the event that there are more nominations received than there are vacancies, a ballot will be conducted with the ballot closing at 4.00pm on Friday 27 February.

If you are interested in becoming a School Councillor or require further information about the process, please contact me.

Kim Bride
Principal

FORM 2: NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

(Formerly **Schedule 4:** Notice of Election and Call for Nomination)

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of

Ringwood Heights Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on:

13/02/2026

The ballot (if required) will close at 4.00 pm on:

27/02/2026

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted by the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Principal
Kim Bride

At this time of the year it is important to remind our parents and carers about some important information.

Student accident/property insurance

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents/ carers of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs. Ambulances will be called for students who require them without hesitation.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. We ask that you consider carefully the need for students to bring any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Staff car parks

Our school has three carparks for employees only. The car parks might not always be full, but that does not mean they are available to parents for parking. Please ensure you do not drive into the carparks at any time and respect the need for safety over convenience.

Dogs in the school ground

A reminder that dogs are not permitted in the school ground – even on a lead. Whilst we know that dogs are very much part of the family and require their daily exercise, not all people are as fond of them as others. Dogs can snap at any time when feeling threatened and small children are not always able to sense a dog's stress and respond in time. We truly appreciate your support in keeping our school grounds safe and accessible for all.

School Hours

Students are welcome in their classrooms *from* 8:45 am, and the music sounds at 8.53 to signal that all students should join their grades in their classrooms. At 9:00 am a second bell rings to signal the start of the school day. It is an important practice for students to be punctual, providing a smooth start to the day. Students are encouraged to be at school from 8.45 am. Whilst teachers are at school prior to this time, we are not actively supervising the yard. **Please book your child/children into Kelly Club (Out of Hours Care) to ensure their safety and comfort if you need to drop them off before 8.30.**

The Daily Timetable

Students begin arriving in classrooms from 8.45 am
Music plays 8:53 am
School commences 9:00 am
Morning Recess 10:40 - 11:10 am
Lunch eating time 12:50 - 1:00 pm
Lunch Recess 1:00 - 1:50 pm
Dismissal 3:30 pm

We stress the importance of collecting your child promptly at the end of the school day.

If, however circumstances delay you, please notify the school as staff are on yard duty until 3.45pm only. Students in the yard after 3:45pm who are not supervised will be sent to Kelly Club.

Kim Bride
Principal

Cyber Incident

Information below regarding a cyber incident that impacted some student data across all Victorian government schools as advised by the Department of Education.

What has been accessed

A Department of Education database with current and past student information was accessed by an external third-party.

The third-party accessed active and inactive past school student accounts, consisting of:

- student name
- school-issued email address and encrypted password (for those that use them)
- school name
- year level

The third-party did not access other student data such as birth dates, home addresses or phone numbers.

Your child's safety

The safety and wellbeing of students is our priority. If you have safety concerns about your child's school location being known, please contact me and notify Victoria Police or The Orange Door as necessary.

What's happened to the accessed data?

There is no evidence to suggest that the data accessed has been released publicly or shared with other third parties.

Steps we are taking

All student passwords have been reset. All students will be issued a new password at the start of the school year.

The department has identified the cause of this incident and has put protections in place. They will continue to provide me with updates as we enter the 2026 school year.

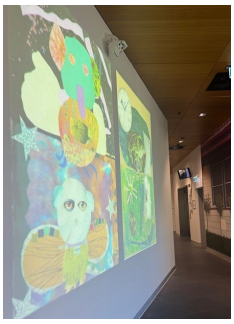
If you wish to speak with someone from the Department of Education about this, please call 1800 338 663.

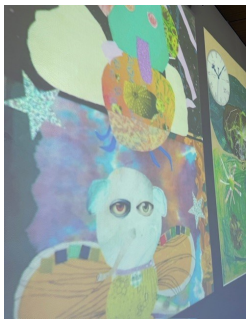
As always we are ready to support your family in any way.

Come and see our LT3 Artwork at REALM Eastland

Beyond the Known – Collective Curiosities.

You may have seen this artwork projected in our stadium during our 60th Anniversary Arts in Schools evening last year. Now, our much-loved C+AARP collaborative artwork is on display, projected onto a wall inside REALM at Eastland.





This project brings together young artists from the LT3 cohort in 2025 and University of Melbourne students to explore the idea that scientists believe only 5% of our world is truly known. What might exist in the other 95%?

Last year, over 100 child and adult artists were paired to imagine unknown creatures, habitats and wonders. Beginning as shared collages, these playful exchanges were re-imagined into a single, flowing animation using AI Deep Dream technology, a celebration of curiosity, imagination and shared creativity.

For well over a decade, RHPS has proudly worked alongside the University of Melbourne on this project, and we eagerly look forward to many more creative collaborations!

On display: 2 February – 15 March 2026
Where: REALM, Eastland

Eliza Read

Office News

Dear Families and Carers, information regarding 2026 school contributions have been sent home with your child on Monday.

This year, the following payment options are available:

- Direct Deposit
- Credit/Debit Card
- Payment Plans – set up by the office by request or self managed
- CompassPay – Parent Portal

Regardless of the payment option you choose, we kindly ask that you return **Form 1 and Form 2** to the school office by 26th February. This helps us accurately track payments, issue receipts where required, and assist families who are using payment plans.

Please note: CompassPay amounts will be uploaded to Compass after forms are collated, so payment amounts may not be visible to you on the portal until early March. Also you will be able to access your Library donation receipt through the parent portal for tax purposes.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community, your contributions play a vital role in allowing our school to continue offering opportunities beyond the standard education and support provided to students. These funds help us deliver high-quality programs, maintain and develop our school grounds, upkeep computer devices and sports equipment, ensure effective first aid, and provide essential student and classroom bulk supplies.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please don't hesitate to call or email the office anytime.

Kind regards,
Kathryn Hands

CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or

sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

See attached to the newsletter the application and information forms or you can collect them from the office.

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' privacy policy and the Schools' privacy collection notice.

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy , describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' privacy policy: information for parents. This information is also available in eleven community languages:

Amharic	Arabic	Chinese
Dari	Gujarati	Mandarin
Somali	Sudanese	Turkish
Urdu	Vietnamese	

Dental Van Visit

We are again being visited by the Dental Van the week starting 23rd February. Forms have been sent home this week. If you would like your child to be seen by the Dental Van please return the form by Friday 20th February to ensure your child/ren will be included on the list.

Wellbeing @ RHPS

At Ringwood Heights, we value **respect**, **responsibility**, **friendship**, **teamwork** and **creativity**. These concepts anchor our whole school approach to wellbeing, and there is already evidence of our values being unpacked by students as they discuss how to create positive learning environments.

In the Junior School, students understand that showing our school values means "Speak(ing) to others with **kindness** and **respect**."

In Learning Team 3, students came up with statements about how they could demonstrate **friendship**, such as "I will encourage the achievements of others," and "I will include people and share."

Learning Team 4 students have shared their thinking about **responsibility** by defining how the school, teachers, friends and themselves all play a role in their success.

Parenting and family support

Anglicare's ParentZone program offers many valuable opportunities for parents and families to access meaningful advice and support. Please have a look through their Term 1 brochure here. A few programs of particular interest may be:

✶ Page 7 - **Strengthening Parents Support Program** for parents and carers of neurodivergent children.

✶ Page 10 - **Tuning in to Kids** for any parent or carer who wants to build better communication with their child.

Community catch ups

We will continue to provide regular opportunities for parents and carers to connect after the first assembly of each month. The dates for these Community Catch ups in 2026 will be:

* Term 1 - 2nd March
* Term 2 - 4th May, 1st June
* Term 3 - 3rd August, 7th September
* Term 4 - 5th October, 9th November, 7th December

Junior School

PREP – A Wonderful First Week

What a wonderful first few days the Preps have had! We have been amazed at just how ready for school they all are. This is a huge testament to the kindergarten educators, the parents and carers, and of course the children themselves!

As a reminder, during the first six weeks of Prep, children may take Wednesdays off if you notice they would benefit from some extra rest. Please feel free to use this option and log the absence through COMPASS as Parent Choice (leaving the comment 'Prep Rest Day') if you feel it would best support your child's wellbeing.

Thank you so much for supporting your children to have such a successful first week of school.

PREP – School Nurse Program

This week, your child will have brought home information about The Primary School Nursing Program; a free health and wellbeing service offered to all Victorian students in their first year of school.

The program aims to assist with the early identification of children with potential health, wellbeing or development concerns which may impact on their education and offers screening which may include hearing, vision, speech, dental, motor skills and/or behaviour and social skills. The Primary School Nurse also provides advice, information and referrals to other health and support services.

Students have been provided with an envelope containing information about the School Entrant Health Questionnaire (SEHQ).

We ask that you please complete the Online School Entrant Health Questionnaire by Sunday 15th February. The School Nurse is due to visit the following week.

Please reach out if you have any questions or issues in accessing the Questionnaire.

Georgia Schumann

Learning Team 4

It has been a settled start for Learning Team 4 students as we investigate what makes a successful learning community. Students have been identifying their roles and responsibilities when it comes to ensuring effective learning for both themselves and their peers. We have co-constructed classroom norms and expectations so that students can feel safe in our learning environment and ensure that everyone's right to learn is respected.

Leadership is an important part of being an LT4 student. Year 5s were excited to meet their Prep buddies this week and the Year 6s are in the process of applying for leadership positions within the school. We look forward to hearing their speeches and reading their application letters in the coming weeks.

Students have been practising gratitude to boost wellbeing and here are some of their reflections on the first week of school:

* 'I really appreciate my friends who are there for me when I need them most.'
* 'I am grateful that I got my first preference for Interschool Sports!'
* 'Thank you to my classmates who have been welcoming and friendly to me.'
* 'I am grateful that our Year 6 tops turned up!'
* 'I am grateful for the teachers for being so kind.'
* 'I appreciate the teachers for all the learning we have received.'
* 'I appreciate how welcoming LT4 has been.'
* 'I'm really grateful I have a great class.'

Parent Community Group

Welcome back to 2026! It was wonderful to see so many from our school community pop in and grab a coffee at the coffee van earlier this week. We are looking forward to a great year ahead.

Wine and Cheese night - 12th February

The RHPS Parent Community Group (PCG) are hosting a Wine and Cheese night in the multipurpose room (OSHC) at RHPS on Thursday the 12th of February at 7:30pm.

A great opportunity to catch up and connect with others, hear about the amazing events we have planned for 2026 and find out more about how to get involved. Everyone is welcome, however please note it's an adults only event.

Please RSVP your attendance for catering purposes ASAP to Jade on 0432 631 344.

AGM Update

Our Parent Community Group AGM will be held shortly (date to be confirmed) at RHPS. All positions will be declared open. Nomination forms and role descriptions will be provided in a separate Compass post.

Positions available are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer.

General committee membership nominations (unlimited) are invited to support the PCG in delivering on the events, activities and fundraising

that we undertake across the year, including:

* Special lunch days,
* Bunnings's BBQs,
* Special Person stalls and
* events as well as our major fundraiser for the year.

In addition to election for executive positions for 2026, a revised constitution, with minor amendments, for the PCG will be proposed for adoption. This has been updated to reflect the current model constitution requirement for Parent Clubs and Associations as outlined by the Department of Education.

If you have any questions please contact our current president Sarah Marsh. Hope to see you all there, everyone is welcome.