



# Heights Happenings

31 January 2019

No. 1

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## Welcome Back

Welcome back for the 2019 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 270 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 and we will expect them at our first assembly on Monday.

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

Mrs Amanda Dean joins our specialist team and will teach PE, Mr Joshua Gibney and Mr Cory van der Jagt also join our Integration team.

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

Thank you to our wonderful community for your support and vigilance over the holiday break. We have dealt with some unnecessary ‘extra tasks’ in order to be ready for the student’s first day today and I am pleased to say that we won!!

I hope the adjustments to the front of the school was not too great of a shock today. We sadly needed to remove many trees in order to safely rectify the area after removing the brick wall which was deemed to be unstable. Over the next couple of days you will see the landscaping take place and some established trees, grasses, plants and large rocks added. A concrete path will wind its way down to meet the area leading to the front steps and then we can assess the area for future work. We must add shade and we are currently seeking quotes for shade sails – very similar to the double mini top that we already have.

“**Getting to know you Chats**” will be offered during the week of February 11. The online booking information and process will be distributed via Flexibuzz next week to 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. These chats are not to answer questions regarding the class program – this is covered at the Information Sessions in Week 5 ( Feb 25-28)

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. A note will come home shortly with a tear off slip for your input as we are keen to make sure these sessions meet your needs (a copy of this form is also included in this newsletter). The dates for these evenings are:

Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup> February –	LT2 (6pm) & LT4 (7pm)
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup> February –	LT1 (6pm) & LT3 (7pm)

**Staffing  
2019 Team Leaders**

Specialists	Vicki Cunningham
Prep	Stephanie Gibney
Year 1 & 2	Jessica Morgan
Year 3 & 4	James Lumsden
Year 5 & 6	Alison Harvey

**2019 Staff**

**Specialists**

Performing Arts	Vicki Cunningham
LOTE Indonesian	TBC
Visual Arts	Zena Goodman
PE/Sport	Amanda Dean

**Classroom Teachers**

**Learning Team 1**

Ms Stephanie Gibney	Prep G
Mrs Emma Pengelly	Prep P

**Learning Team 2**

Ms Jessica Morgan	2M
Mrs Hayley Davison	2MD
Mrs Kath Maher	2MD
Mrs Jude Ridley	2R
Ms Samantha Cadman	2C

**Learning Team 3**

Mr James Lumsden	3L
Mrs Karen Rogers	3R
Ms Katherine Butcher	3B

**Learning Team 4**

Mrs Alison Harvey	4TH
Mrs Karen Trease	4TH
Mr Robert Bennett	4B
Mrs Donna Ramage	4RD
Mr Ken Darby	4RD

**Integration Aides**

Mary Clarke
Anne Taylor
Josh Gibney
Cory van der Jagt

**Office Staff**

Kay Gardner
Michelle Stringer
Leanne Smart

**Communication :  
Flexibuzz and Newsletter**

Ringwood Heights PS uses the Flexibuzz App (previously called Tiqbiz) as the main form of communication.



**There is a requirement for schools under Student Attendance to contact parents/guardians as soon as practicable on the day of a student's absence.**

With this in mind, we request that you send a Flexibuzz notification if your child will not be at school. If you are aware of an upcoming absence including holidays that are taken during the school term, this can be entered in advance or early on the day of the absence. We strongly urge families to use Flexibuzz rather than telephoning the school for absences.

A friendly reminder to returning families - please update your child's year level on Flexibuzz to make sure you receive the correct information relevant to your current year level.

If you haven't already downloaded the App, can we please request that you do so as soon as possible? You are able to find Flexibuzz in the App store (iTunes or Play Store) or at [flexibuzz.com.au](http://flexibuzz.com.au). Please check you have your settings to allow notification. It is an easy process to download the app onto your phone or any other internet device. This will be our way to communicate with families and keep you informed of any changes or updates that you will need to be notified about. eg: camp arrivals, cancellation of interschool school sport, newsletter or enrolling into extracurricular events to name a few.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring communication continues to be effective.

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

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

**Assembly**

School assemblies on Monday morning aim to gather students, staff, parents and other members of the community so that we can present awards, showcase talents or welcome guest presenters and celebrate significant community events together. Our School Captains assist the Principal to run



assembly as part of their leadership role. I hope you can find some time throughout the year to join us. Our first assembly will be held on Monday February 4. We'd love to see you there!

**Kim Bride  
Principal**

**The form below will also be sent home with each child. Please return it to your child's class room teacher by Friday 15 February.**

**Help us make the beginning of year communications address your needs.**

Let us know what you are thinking.....The beginning of the school year holds a great window of opportunity for getting to know our students and families. It is these relationships we build on throughout the year as we continually work on developing strong home-school partnerships that are an essential part of the learning culture at Ringwood Heights.

**“Getting to know you Chats”** provide you with the opportunity to talk with your child’s teacher about information that will support your child’s 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 program – this is covered at the Information Sessions the following week.

**Parent Information Sessions** for each Learning Team will 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.

**PARENT RESPONSE**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**For the Getting to Know Chat:** What is the most important thing you would like me to know about your child?

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**For the Parent Information Evenings:** A topic or question I would like addressed is:

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