



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

31st October 2025



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

NOVEMBER

Monday 3rd	Student Free Day
Tuesday 4th	Melbourne Cup (Public Holiday)
Wednesday 29 th	Foundation 2026 Transition
Monday 10 th	Year 6 Metro Incursion Year 5/6 Boys Softball Region
Thursday 13 th	Foundation 2026 Transition
Friday 14th	Colour Run
Tuesday 18 th	Year 6 Reach Incursion
Monday 24 th	Foundation 2026 Transition

Thursday 27 th	Year 2 Fun Night
Friday 28 th	Subway Lunch

DECEMBER

Monday 1 st	Foundation 2026 Information Night
Tuesday 2 nd	Foundation 2026 Transition
Thursday 11 th	Christmas Concert Art Show
Friday 12 th	Baker's Delight Lunch
Tuesday 16 th	Year 6 Graduation
Friday 19th	End of Term 4 (1:30 pm Dismissal)

Principal's Report

Colour Run- Friday 14 November

The excitement is building for our upcoming Colour Run, with planning well underway. For those who haven't taken part in a Colour Run before, the aim is to make your way around an obstacle course while avoiding (or not avoiding!) the coloured powder stations—and perhaps a little water along the way. The course is suitable for all family members, so families and younger siblings are warmly invited to join in. It promises to be an action-packed, fun-filled afternoon for everyone!

A big thank you to our Family and Friends team and the parents who have already volunteered to assist on the day. We are still in need of additional parent helpers. If you're available, please use the link sent out on Compass earlier this week or contact the office.

Subway and Bakers Delight

Due to availability, the dates for Bakers' Delight and Subway needed to be changed. The dates on the Family and Friends newsletter sent home previously are the correct dates. Please see another copy enclosed in the newsletter.

Planning for 2026

If your family is moving out of the area and won't be returning to Ruskin Park for the 2026 school year, please let either myself or the office know for classroom planning purposes.

Foundation Transition

Our Foundation transition sessions are underway, and the student and parent turnout for both the meet-and-greet and the Music and Library session was wonderful to see. These sessions are designed to help our future students feel comfortable and excited about starting school. These sessions provide children with an opportunity to explore their new learning environment, meet the teachers, and make new friends. It also gives parents the opportunity to build relationships with other parents. Through fun activities, games and storytelling, we aim to ease the transition into school life and build confidence for the year ahead. The dates of the remaining sessions are listed below:

- Wednesday 5 November - Number Fun Transition Session
- Thursday 13 November - Japanese & Physical Education Session
- Monday 24 November - STEM & Art Session
- Monday 1 December - Parent Information Night
- Tuesday 2 December - Foundation Orientation Morning

All sessions begin at 9:15 am.

Student Free Day

A reminder that our Term 4 student-free day is **Monday 3 November**.



Shannon Young
Acting Principal

Foundation

Literacy



In Reading, Foundation students have been focusing on non-fiction texts. We have explored a range of print and digital texts to identify the differences between fiction and non-fiction, and that non-fiction texts convey facts about the world around us. As a little practice, ask your child which of these sentences and images might be from a non-fiction or fiction text and why?

<p>Some fruits grow on trees.</p> 	<p>He has terrible tusks and terrible claws.</p> 
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In Writing, students are building on their understanding of non-fiction texts to begin writing their own information reports. Students have chosen their own topics to write about and have ensured that they include the essential elements of this text type: a title, a diagram with labels, and several written facts.

Foundation students have also continued to hone their transactional writing skills by writing letters to their class's V.I.P. for each week. We have been impressed with the continued effort and thoughtfulness that students have put into their writing, making their letters meaningful and enjoyable to read.

Maths

Following on from our focus on addition, Foundation students have been practising their subtraction skills using a range of different materials. We have practised making numbers smaller by subtracting using hands-on manipulatives, role-playing subtraction story problems and drawing pictures to represent our thinking about subtraction. We have also discussed that, as excellent mathematicians, we must be able to draw and write our thinking carefully and accurately, which helps us to explain our thinking to others.



Geography

We have started our Geography unit and are discussing the important places in our local area. We shared about the places that are special and important, and that are close to where we live. We then explored a map of the school to identify the various significant places that we move to and from throughout our school week.

Junior School

Year 1

We have had a fantastic fortnight of amazing learning experiences. The Year 1 teachers have been so impressed with how focused and determined our students have been so far this term. Before we know it, the end of the year will be here, and our students will be heading into Year 2.

Just a reminder that on Monday 3rd November, there is a curriculum day when students are not required to attend school. Tuesday 4th November is Cup Day. On Friday 14th November, we will also have our Ruskin Park Colour Run! It is going to be an amazing event full of fun and laughter. The students might even get the chance to throw some paint on the teachers! Don't miss the fun.

Please keep an eye on Class Dojo and Compass throughout the term to ensure you don't miss any important information.

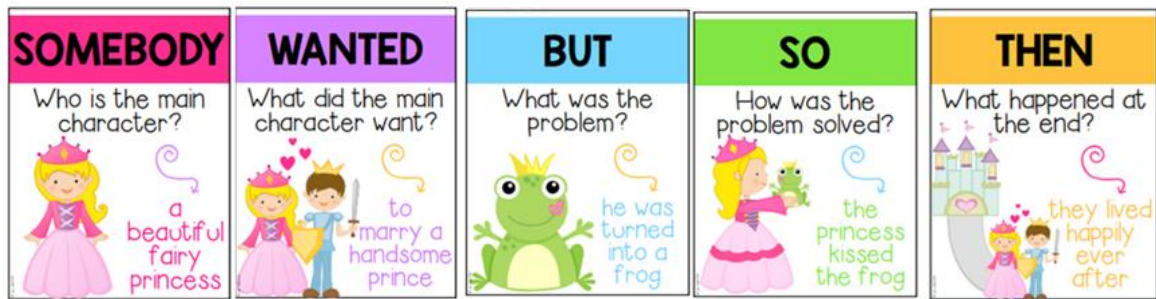
Program-a-bot Incursion

On Tuesday, our Year One students took part in an exciting incursion where they became little engineers and coders! Working together in small groups, students designed and built their own mazes before programming mouse bots to navigate through them. Using simple algorithms with commands like forward, back, left, and right, students experimented, problem-solved, and celebrated when their bots successfully reached the treasure.



Literacy

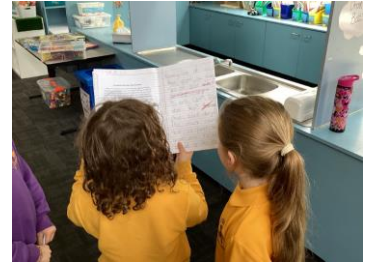
In Literacy, we have continued to focus on narrative writing, reading a variety of different texts by Julia Donaldson and some other rich mentor texts. The students have enjoyed learning about the reading strategy of 'Summarising' using the SWBST Strategy (Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then). The students have had multiple opportunities to practise the taught strategy using a range of passages and their own 'Just Right' texts. When reading with your child at home, encourage them to summarise the text using the SWBST strategy. The more they practise, the better they will become! Have a look at the parts of the strategy below.



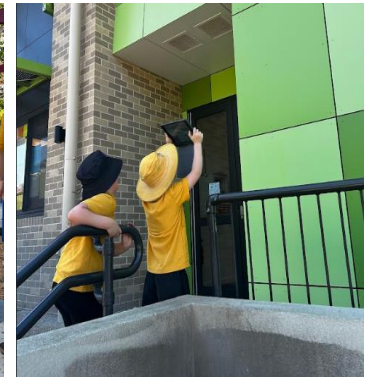
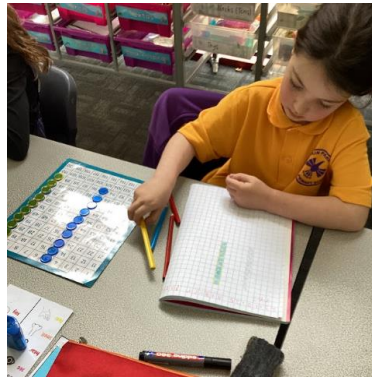
The students have loved using their imagination and creativity to write detailed problems and solutions to pre-written narrative starts. We have discussed and implemented our knowledge of 'building up' to the problem and 'sliding down' to the solution. Students have been identifying and recording interesting and descriptive vocabulary and have been encouraged to incorporate these ideas into their writing to make it more engaging and interesting. The ideas that the students have come up with, along with the incredible language they have been using, have been very impressive!

Maths

In Maths this fortnight, Year 1 students have been exploring number patterns and capacity. We have been identifying, continuing, and creating number patterns using skip counting and looking for patterns around the school. We had the opportunity to walk around the school, and students shared an iPad with a partner, taking numerous photos of the patterns they could see around the school. Students realised that patterns really are everywhere!

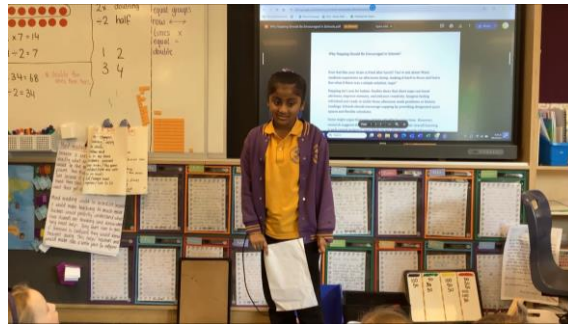
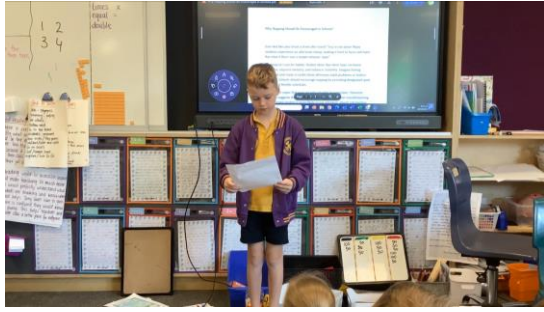


In our capacity lessons, we have been comparing and ordering containers to see which holds more or less, using hands-on activities with water, sand, and classroom materials. The students have had lots of fun estimating, testing, and discussing their results while building their mathematical language and reasoning skills.



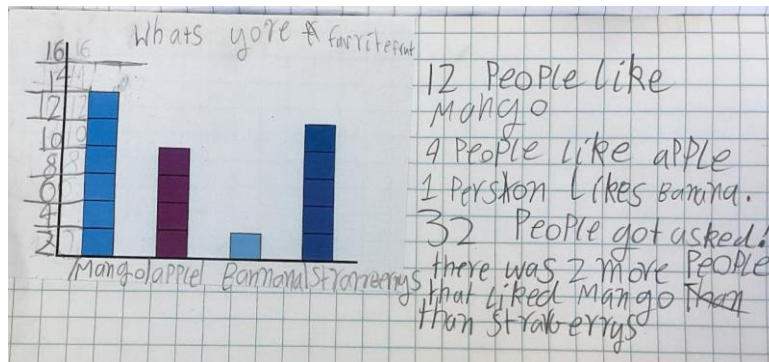
Year 2

What a busy and exciting fortnight it's been in Year 2! Students have been working hard and having lots of fun while continuing to grow in their learning across all areas. We are so proud of the effort and enthusiasm they bring to each day. Congratulations to our recent Principal's Award recipients who have been recognised for their positive attitude, perseverance, and commitment to doing their best. It's wonderful to see everyone embracing new challenges and celebrating their successes together!

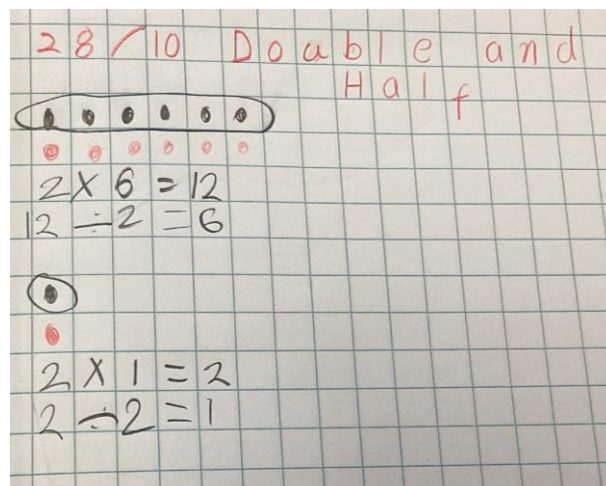


Maths

In Mathematics, Year 2 students have been learning how to collect, record and interpret data in different ways. They have explored using tally marks to organise information in tables and have enjoyed reading and comparing data shown on bar and picture graphs. Students have been developing their understanding of what this information tells us about the world around us.



We have also been focusing on multiplication facts for twos, exploring the connection between doubling and halving through hands-on activities and games. It's been fantastic to see the students having fun while deepening their understanding of these important number concepts!



Digital Technologies

It's an exciting time in digital technologies as we begin coding in Year 2! Students have started to explore and learn simple coding procedures using the Dash robots. This involves listening to and reading a set of instructions to program into the robot using iPads.



Middle School

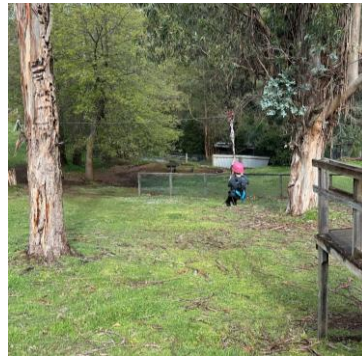
Year 3

Camp Adventures

On Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st of October, our Year 3 students set off on their very first school camp to Wombat Corner in Emerald — an exciting milestone for everyone! The students had a fantastic first day taking part in a range of fun and challenging activities, including hut building, canoeing, the flying fox, low ropes course, mini golf, and an Indigenous cultural art session. There was plenty of excitement as students discovered their cabin groups and enjoyed some free time, making the most of the gaga pit, trampolines, and sports equipment with their friends.

It was wonderful to see the student's demonstrating teamwork, cooperation, and care for one another throughout the camp. On the second day, they completed a scavenger hunt around the campsite before heading off on a short walk to board Puffing Billy — a memorable highlight to end the camp. We are incredibly proud of how our Year 3 students embraced new experiences, supported their peers, and demonstrated great independence on their very first school camp!





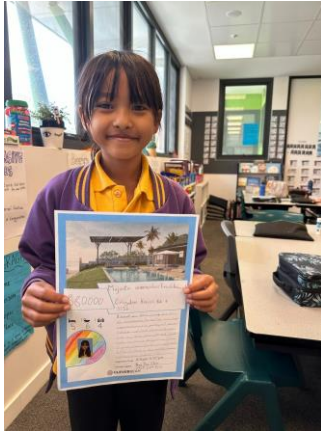
Literacy

In Literacy, our Year 3 students have been exploring persuasive writing. They selected their own topics, planned their arguments with supporting evidence, and then drafted and published their final pieces. These wonderful works are now proudly displayed downstairs in the new building and on our Writer's Walls —be sure to stop by and have a look!



To connect their learning to the real world, students examined real estate advertisements to identify persuasive language used to sell properties. They then created their own real estate ad, complete with an eye-catching title, sale price, inspection times, and property address. To top it off, students designed their very own floor plans to match their imaginative listings!

In Reading, Year 3 has also been developing the strategy of synthesising, combining what they already know about a topic with new ideas gained from reading, to build deeper understanding.



Maths

In Maths, Year 3 students interpreted maps of familiar environments, locating key landmarks and objects relative to each other using coordinates. They redesigned their camp cabin by ruling up their own grid and recording the coordinates to locate items. They also hid a mystery item, where they then had to write a set of directions from the entrance to the mystery item using directional language.

This week in Mathematics, students have been exploring the concept of chance and probability through fun and practical activities. They've been identifying everyday situations that involve chance and discussing whether outcomes are *likely*, *unlikely*, *certain* or *impossible*. Students have also conducted their own chance experiments, such as flipping a coin, rolling some dice or using a spinner. They recorded their results and noticed how outcomes can vary each time. Through these hands-on investigations, they are developing a deeper understanding of how probability works in real life and learning to use language to describe and compare different chances of events happening.

Digital Technologies

In Digital Technologies, students have been learning to code Spheros to create different shapes and navigate challenges. Using block coding, they programmed their Spheros to move in a square, and some students extended their learning by experimenting with triangles and circles. They also explored the relationship between distance and speed, using their coding skills to navigate mazes successfully. Along the way, students recorded their data and reflected on how changes in speed and direction affected their results. This hands-on learning has helped them build problem-solving skills, creativity, and a deeper understanding of how coding connects to real-world movement and measurement.



Year 4



Gundiwindi Camp

With our camp experience at Gundiwindi Lodge complete, we have a lot to celebrate and reflect on. From the moment we arrived at camp on Wednesday morning, right up until the end on Friday afternoon, our Year 4 students challenged themselves, supported each other and developed greater independence. They embraced the camp experience, taking on some adrenaline-based activities, such as the giant swing and flying fox, and worked on their communication skills as a team at the low ropes course. They challenged themselves to improve their accuracy in archery and enjoyed some freshly made damper cooked over a fire. Our days at camp were filled with adventure and opportunities to step beyond our comfort zones by trying new things or working together to find solutions. Evenings at camp were also filled with fun, with the students being taught some bush dancing steps on the first night and tackling a range of trivia questions on the second.



Alongside all the fun, planned activities at camp, we were delighted to see the students enjoying the freedom of time outside in the sunshine during the breaks. With a beautiful old oak tree to climb, a reptile area featuring yabbies to catch, and a much-loved volleyball court, our students enjoyed coming together to explore the novelties that our lovely camp setting had to offer. We were spoiled with beautiful weather for camp and a friendly, fluffy companion to brighten our days. While our goodbye with Amy and Jess from Gundiwindi was sad, they reminded us of all the awesome things we had achieved during our time with them and left our students feeling proud as they hopped onto the bus and pulled out of the gates. The fun didn't stop there, though! Our final day of camp was wrapped up with endless fun at Rush HQ and a picnic in the sun at Ringwood Lake on the way back to school.

We hope that you enjoyed hearing the excited (or perhaps exhausted) recaps of our time away when your children returned home to you. While some students wish that camp had gone on for longer, we can confidently say that we returned home with lasting memories and excitement about future camps! A huge thank you to Russell O'Brien and Brenna Matthews for joining us for the camp experience. We hope you enjoyed some restorative sleep when you returned home!

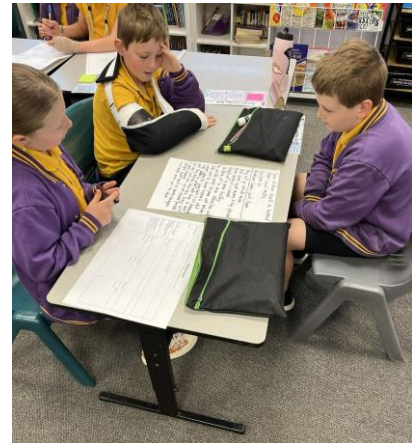


Literacy



Over the past fortnight, students have read a range of persuasive texts in Reading. They have worked to develop a greater understanding of the genre by exploring the structure and a range of persuasive techniques used. Students explored techniques such as rhetorical questions, statistics, and emotive language, and evaluated the impact that these choices have on strengthening persuasive arguments. In class each day, we analysed a persuasive text together and discussed the strength of the arguments presented. A different persuasive technique was set as a focus for students to identify examples in copies of texts, ranging from topics like the benefits of reading to the fair treatment of animals in captivity. It has been fantastic to hear our persuasive device detectives sharing their findings with increasing confidence from one session to the next.

In Writing, each class applied their developing persuasive skills to some mock debates. Students were organised into small groups and given a role of the affirmative or negative team. Within their groups, students brainstormed key arguments they could present about their topics. Options of debate topics included: country versus city living, camping versus hotel holidays, travelling Australia versus travelling the world, and more. Each class voted to select their debate topics before setting to work to gather research and prepare their arguments. In class this week, each debate group has presented their views and had opportunities to pose counterarguments against their opponents. Whilst our classrooms have been filled with passionate points of view being presented this week, we warn you that we have some **very** convincing students among us. Prepare yourself for an increase in persuasive arguments in your households over the coming weeks!



Numeracy

The past fortnight has seen the completion of one mathematical concept and the beginning of another. Having previously investigated equivalent number sentences before camp, students spent Week 3 consolidating their understanding of 'balance'. They applied knowledge of the four operations and number facts to find unknown values within equivalent number sentences. Students worked to solve problems and create some of their own, with a highlight being a game where they created equivalent number sentences with a partner in a game. They made one part of the equivalent sentence and gave their partner a clue as to which operation they had used. Partners were able to ask three yes or no questions to gather more information about what the first part of the equation could look like. After narrowing down some possibilities, they aimed to generate three possible equations that would be equivalent to their partner's original number sentence. This led to some engaging discoveries of the many ways in which we can find equivalence by aiming to 'balance' both sides.

Week 4 saw students transitioning to an investigation of problems involving time. We began with an open-ended question for students: What do you know about time? After a short period of reflection, students shared a wide range of ideas and connections about the various ways we can measure and represent time. Each class was able to generate an extensive anchor chart of prior knowledge, which has been built upon throughout the week. As our focus shifted to converting between units of time and calculating duration, students participated in time trial scenarios. Using the stopwatch feature on iPads, they set out to complete challenges with a partner, such as timing how long it took them to complete 25 star jumps or read a page of a 'just right' text. From there, students were posed with problems to extend their thinking by applying their timed results to a longer period of time. For example, if they ran two laps of the oval every day for a week, rather than the original prompt of 2 laps in one day. At home, we encourage you to take some *time* to explore what the concept of time looks like in your everyday life. How many minutes does your child spend on their homework? Perhaps, how many minutes do they spend avoiding it? If you converted this to seconds, what could this look like? We hope *time flies* while you have some laughs working this out with your child! We look forward to seeing how their understanding of time develops next week.

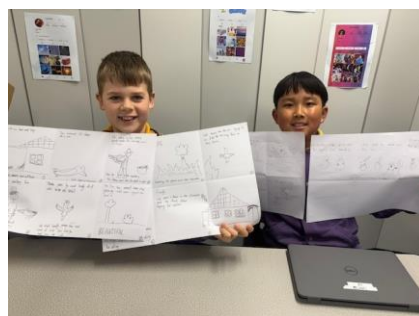


Senior School

Year 5

Reading and Writing

In Reading and Writing, we have continued learning all about the Australian author Jackie French. We analysed many of her books, examining her word choice, sentence structure, the use of images and text placement. We used this learning to help write picture story books that are in the style of Jackie French. After carefully writing the story using storyboards and considering text placement and image choices, students used Canva and Magic Media to create illustrations. These books look fantastic and demonstrate careful consideration of word choice, sentence structure, text placement, and the use of images. We are so proud of the effort put in!



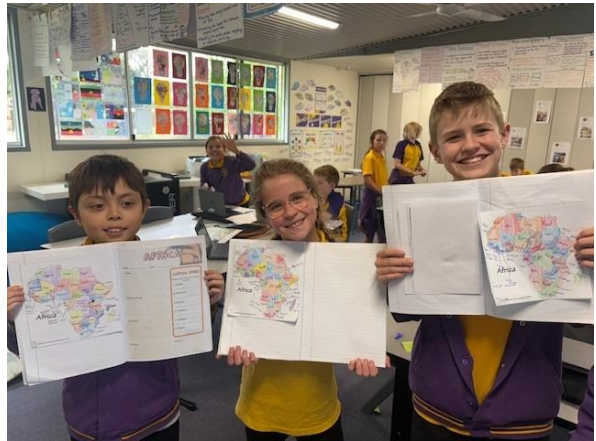
Maths

In Maths, we have been revising our understanding of multiplication and division. Last week, we revisited factors and multiples by playing a range of different math games, including 'The Factors and Multiples game', 'Factor Flood', and 'Factor Triangles'. Students then solved a range of multiplication problems using both the lattice and vertical multiplication strategies. This week, we have examined short division with both remainders and without remainders. We finished off the week solving some word problems.



Geography

The Year 5 students have been learning all about the different continents around the world. So far, we have learnt about Asia and Europe, and this week we have dived into Africa! Students were challenged to name all 54 countries within the continent of Africa and then had fun choosing a country to research using the CIA World Factbook. Students researched the climate, population, economic data, and landmarks of their chosen country.



Buddies

Last week, we had a wonderful session with our Foundation Buddies. Our Buddies sat with us at assembly, with the Year 5 students being excellent role models. Afterwards, we returned to our classrooms, where we enjoyed some quality time together, playing a range of math games.

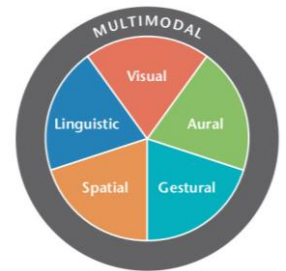




Year 6

Reading and Writing

In Reading and Writing, we have been learning about multimodal texts, which contain more than one mode of communication. In Reading, students have analysed a variety of texts, including the miniseries 'What's for Dinner?' and short advertisements. They examined the various modes used and their impact on the reader. In addition to this, they have also analysed carefully how the background music/sound effects, frames, brightness, etc., affect the message for the viewer.



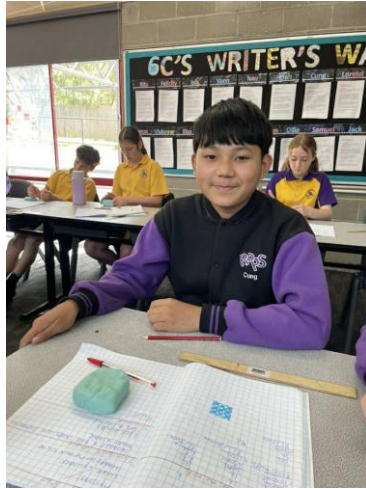
In Writing, students have been learning how to create a website, which is a form of multimodal text. Students researched a place of interest within Australia that would be the topic of their website. Students planned their layouts and selected the modes of communication they would use. They considered their target audience and the purpose of their website, using this information to guide their draft. This week, students commenced creating their websites using Google Sites.

Maths

Last week, we were learning all about 3D shapes, using playdough to help. Students created various 3D shapes with playdough and then designed the associated nets for each shape. Students also used playdough to explore the cross-sections of 3D shapes. This was an engaging, hands-on unit, with many students enjoying the chance to play with playdough again while building a stronger understanding of 3D shapes.

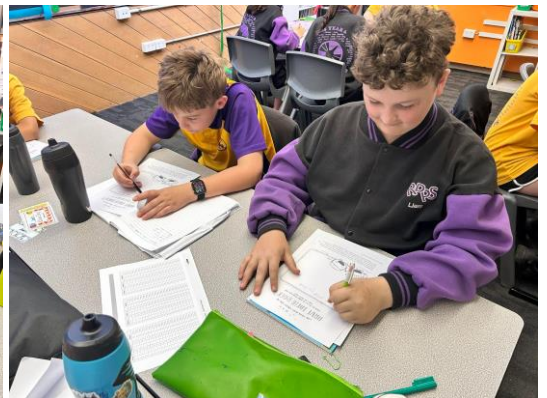
This week in Maths, we have started a unit on Chance and Probability. Students conducted an experiment based on the game of *Rock, Paper, Scissors*. Through this activity, students learned about possible outcomes and how to represent them as fractions. Students then extended their skills by learning how to calculate expected frequencies and compare them to the observed frequencies.





Wellbeing

In Wellbeing, students are learning about the importance of trust. Students discussed what trust looks like, feels like and sounds like. They considered the various actions that help build trust and those that can break it. They also discussed what it feels like to be trusted and what it feels like when you have trust in someone else. We explored the impact trust can have on friendships and other relationships.



Physical Education

Region Hooptime - 3/4 Future Stars Girls

Congratulations to Amelia, Ayra, Emerson, Georgia, Harper, Ivy, Sage and Tilda who represented Ruskin Park at the Region Hooptime Finals at Kilsyth Stadium last week. The girls had a brilliant day, winning four out of five matches to earn their spot in the finals. Unfortunately, they just missed out on making it to the state finals, going out by 6 points! We are so proud of your effort, persistence and sportsmanship. Well done!

Thank you to all the parents who came to coach, manage and support our girls. We can't do it without you!

5/6 Boys Region Softball - Monday 10th November

The Year 5/6 Softball A-Team has progressed to the Eastern Metropolitan Region Competition. This will be held at Waverley Softball Centre, Jells Road, Wheelers Hill, on Monday, November 10th. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m, so we will need to leave Ruskin Park in our carpools around 8:15 a.m. Please refer to the Compass event and Dojo chat for additional information.



Molly Marshall
Physical Education

Visual Art

Foundation

This term in Art, Foundation students are enjoying getting messy in our clay unit. So far, we have been experimenting with clay and discovering all the various things we can do with it. This week, we will use our pinch pot clay technique to start creating our unique teacups and saucers inspired by the Alice in Wonderland tea party scene. The students are all very excited!



Year 1 and 2

This term in Art, Year 1 and 2 students have been having a great deal of fun exploring all the different ways they can use clay. For our clay project this term, to celebrate spring, we have been exploring flowers. Students are currently working on their clay flower bowls, where they have been rolling, cutting, and adding details to create their beautiful bowls.



Years 3 and 4

This term, students have been busy developing their clay skills while creating their own bobblehead sculptures. They have been practising techniques such as pinching, rolling, and joining using the score and slip method. Students are now carefully constructing their characters out of clay and considering weight and balance to ensure their bobbleheads can move successfully.



Years 5 and 6

This term, students have been putting the finishing touches on their textile plushie projects before moving on to working with clay. They have been refining their back stitch technique, adding individual features, and stuffing their plushies to bring their designs to life. We've had so much fun, and the plushies are looking AMAZING!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

These Students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Seth
Indi

Ashwin
Archie

Olivia
James

Hayden
Hunter

Evelyn
Thomas

Roo
Sienna

Sadie
Ashley

Jayden
Auk

Bailey
Jessica

School Vision

Every student at Ruskin Park Primary School is encouraged to develop their natural curiosity and imagination through new and engaging approaches to teaching. We believe a positive attitude toward learning in a friendly community promotes success today, tomorrow and into the future.

Our values are:

Respect

Honesty

Persistence

Resilience



TheirCare Newsletter



SERVICE HOURS

Before School Care: 6.45am - 8.45am

After School Care: 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Holiday Program/Pupil Free Day: 6.45am - 6.30pm

ROUTINE

Before School Care

6.45am - 9.00am - General Play/
Activities

8.15am - Breakfast Closes

9.30am - Pack-up & Mini Meeting
(Group games, show & tell, roll call)

8.45am - School Time!

After School Care

3.30pm - 3.45pm - Sign In/Mini Meeting

3.45pm - Afternoon Tea

4.00pm - 5.30pm - General
Play/Planned Activities

5.30pm - 6.30pm - Room Pack-
up/Quiet Play + Home Time!

Notices!

☀️ Sun Safety Reminder ☀️

As the weather continues to warm up, it is important we all stay sun safe at TheirCare! Please ensure your child brings their hat everyday. If you think they might forget it at home or school, you're welcome to send a spare hat to stay at TheirCare. Please ensure it is named as we have lots of hats in our hat tub!

We provide generic brand sunscreen, but if your child has sensitive skin, please supply sunscreen that is clearly labelled with your child's name to stay at the service

🪸 Lost Property Overflowing!

Our lost property tub is overflowing again! If your child has misplaced an item, please take a moment to have a look through the pink tub located underneath the sign-in/sign-out desk.

We'll be clearing out unclaimed items and taking them up to the school office lost found property by the end of next week, so please check soon! ☀️

Week 2

Crazy, Fun Week 🎉



Week 3 -

Diwali Week 🪔



Learn music

here at school

Give Your Child the Gift of Music

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, drums, trumpet, here at Ruskin Park Primary School.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 4.

Interested parents should call Karen during office hours on 9818 2333 or email karen@creativemusic.com.au



www.creativemusic.com.au



Join our



GRADUATION

**TO CLUB
BASKETBALL**

for 2026 Clinic

BOYS + GIRLS

ALL skill levels

TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER, 2025

MELBA COLLEGE STADIUM

5:30PM - 6:30PM

Court 4

**For more information or to RSVP please
contact Peter Cunningham on 0400 577 476**

WWW.MAROONDAHMAGIC.COM.AU



Maroondah Magic Basketball Club Inc



Maroondah Magic Basketball Club



Free Footy Clinic & Registration Day

Sunday 9th November, 10am - 1pm
Kiloran Park, Mooroolbark



Free Footy Clinic 10.30am - 12pm



Join our Senior Men and back to back to back Senior
Women Premiers for a free skills clinic and sausage sizzle
All abilities welcome - just scan to register!!!



Mustangs Registration

Sign up and join the stable to play football and meet new friends
Mooroolbark Junior Football Club are currently accepting registrations
for all girls and boys age groups U8s to U18s

For further details, please call or sms Warren on 0405 550 000