



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

14th November 2025



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 18th Year 6 Reach Incursion
 Monday 24th Foundation 2026 Transition
 Thursday 27th Year 2 Fun Night
 Friday 28th Baker's Delight Lunch

DECEMBER

Monday 1st Foundation 2026 Info Night

Tuesday 2nd Foundation 2026 Transition
 Thursday 11th Christmas Concert
 Art Show
 Friday 12th Subway Lunch
 Tuesday 16th Year 6 Graduation
Friday 19th End of Term 4 (1:30 pm Dismissal)

Principal's Report

Colour Run

It is with great excitement that we look forward to welcoming everyone this afternoon for the Ruskin Park Colour Run. The action is due to kick off at 4:30 pm on the oval. The event will involve participants completing a basic obstacle course and passing through 'colour stations', where the coloured powder will be applied.

Last minute reminders:

- Bring an old towel to cover the seats in your car. The powder WILL get all over them.
- Participating adults may wish to put phones and keys in a sandwich bag to keep the colour from staining their case or getting into the fine cracks.
- Have fun and enjoy your time with the Ruskin Park community.

It is important to acknowledge the Family and Friends Team for the many hours of work that have gone into preparing this event. Their dedication and commitment to the Colour Run and many other school events are truly valued and incredibly important. Thank you also to the parents who have offered to assist at the event.

Remembrance Day

Each year in Australia, on the 11th of November, we pause to commemorate the end of the First World War and remember the sacrifices made by those involved. At Ruskin Park, we recognise this day in a number of ways. In addition to classroom discussions, we hold a special student-led assembly. This includes reading poems, discussing the Armistice and laying of wreaths. This year, the choir sang to conclude the Assembly, and at 11 am, students observed The Last Post, The Rouse, and a minute's silence. It was a special assembly that reminded those in attendance of the sacrifices made by many brave men and women.

Whole School Transition Program

Towards the end of this term, students currently at Ruskin Park Primary School will participate in our whole-school transition program. On Tuesday, 25th November and Tuesday, 2nd December, students will spend an hour in their new year level. They will move as a group and will not be separated into their 2026 classes. These sessions are designed to create a sense of excitement and ease any nerves students may have about entering a new year level. Students will find out their 2026 classes and teacher on Tuesday, 9th December.

Christmas Concert and Art Show- Thursday 11th December

Preparations are underway for this year's Art Show and Christmas Concert. The Art Show will open at 5:30 pm in the Art Rooms and the new building foyer. Families are then invited to bring a picnic dinner to the oval, with the Christmas concert to begin at 6:30 pm. This is always one of our favourite events for the year.

Shannon Young
Acting Principal

Foundation

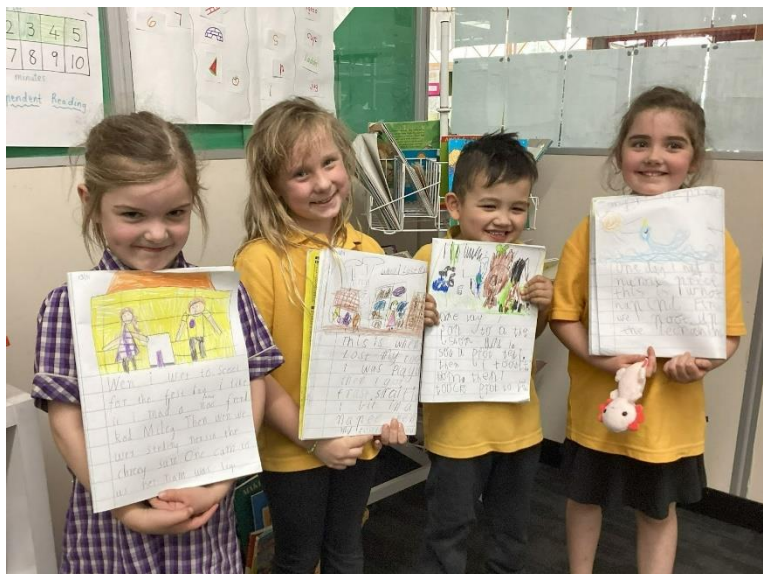
We've had a busy and exciting few weeks in Foundation as we continue our learning journey together! Here's a snapshot of what we've been exploring in class:

Mathematics

Students have been practising subtraction, focusing on clearly setting out their work and carefully following the rules of subtraction. They have been using hands-on materials and number stories to help make sense of taking away and finding "how many are left."

Literacy

In Writing, students are learning to write recounts of personal experiences. They are developing their understanding of using the important details — who, what, when, and where — to make their writing clear and interesting for the reader.



Our phonics focus has been on CCVC words (such as *stop*, *flag*, *trip*). Students are practising segmenting the sounds and blending them together to read and write these words accurately.

Students have also been exploring base words and how adding the suffix *-s* can change a word's form from singular to plural. This is helping them strengthen both their spelling and their understanding of how words work.

Geography

In Geography, students have been exploring Australia and identifying its main features, such as the bushland, coasts, and oceans. They have also been learning about special landmarks, such as Uluru, and recognising that we learn and play on Wurundjeri Country. The children have enjoyed working with maps and discovering the locations of various landmarks and places.



Exciting News!

Over the next fortnight, we will be visited by firefighters who will teach the students about fire safety — an important and engaging learning experience for all!

Reminders

Please check that jumpers are clearly named, as many names have faded after washing, and we want to make sure they can be returned to the right owners.



Foundation Graduation

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the parents and families of our Foundation students and invite you to attend the 2024 Foundation Graduation ceremony in the morning.

Date: Wednesday, 10th December 2023.

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Location: School Gym

The ceremony will run from 9:15 am to 10:30 am and will be followed by a celebratory morning tea in your child's classroom for parents and students from 10:30 am to 11:00 am. Students are to wear their school uniform and are asked to arrive at school promptly so we can begin on time. We look forward to seeing you there! Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support at home — it makes such a difference in the students' learning.

Junior School

Year 1

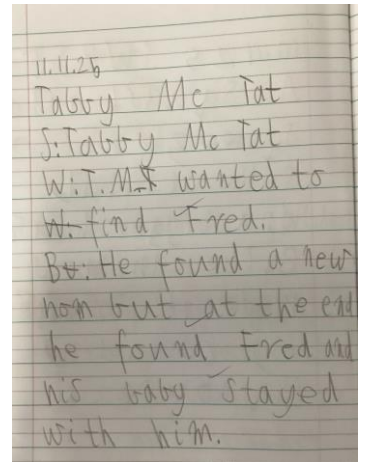
We can't believe it is halfway through Term 4! We still have some exciting events to look forward to! Such as the Colour Run and the Christmas Concert. We'll also celebrate the end of the year with special end of year celebrations. It's going to be a joyful and memorable time!

As the weather warms up, please ensure your child applies sunscreen before school and brings a water bottle. We also have sunscreen in the classroom for use throughout the day as needed.

Stay tuned to Classroom Dojo and Compass for important updates and information.

Literacy

In Year 1, we've been having lots of fun practising our summarising skills using the *Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then* (SWBST) strategy! This strategy has helped us understand stories more deeply by thinking about the main character, their goals, any challenges they face, and how things get resolved. We've practised this skill using Julia Donaldson books as our mentor texts, which have helped us explore rich and engaging stories. The students have also enjoyed summarising their own books, bringing their unique perspectives to the characters and events. This strategy has not only improved our comprehension but also our ability to talk about books in a clear and thoughtful way.



The students have been working hard on narratives, focusing on how to craft captivating stories from start to finish. We've learned the magic of an amazing sentence starter to hook our readers right from the first line. Whether it's a sound, a question, or a description of the setting, Year 1 students have been exploring creative ways to open their stories. They've also been building up to a problem, adding excitement and keeping readers guessing, and finishing with an ending that wraps up the story nicely. It's been wonderful to watch each student's ideas come to life on the page. We can't wait to share some of these fantastic stories with you soon!

Maths

In Maths this week, we have been exploring capacity through lots of hands-on activities. Students enjoyed using sand and water to compare and measure the capacity of different containers. They made great predictions and tested them out to see which containers had the greatest capacity.

We also revisited length, with students using non-standard units to measure and compare objects around the classroom. They worked collaboratively, discussed their findings and practised using language like longer, shorter and taller.

It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they investigate and make discoveries in Maths.





Wellbeing

In Wellbeing, Year 1 students have been learning about the concept of community, what it means, and why it's so important. We discussed the different communities each of us belongs to, from our school community here at Ruskin Park to our neighbourhoods and sports teams. Students reflected on how communities are made up of people who support and help one another, and they shared stories about their experiences in these groups.

We discussed the important people in our Ruskin Park community, including teachers, friends, and school staff, who all play a crucial role in making our school a welcoming and supportive environment. Students are gaining a stronger understanding of their connections to others and the ways we can contribute positively to our shared communities.

Year 2

Year 2 students have continued to apply themselves across all areas of learning, with fantastic results.

Congratulations to this week's Principal Award recipients.



A few reminders about our upcoming 'Fun Night'. Please return your medication form to your class teacher. Don't forget to make payment and provide consent on Compass.

We had a great time helping our Year 6 students raise money for graduation and wearing our pyjamas to school!



We have been listening to stories about Remembrance Day and discussing the significance of the day, as well as the meaning behind the poppies. Take a look at the wonderful artwork we've created.





Literacy

We have loved exploring the genre of persuasion. We are busy writing class speeches that use a lot of convincing words and persuasive devices. We have been very clever and are using our computer skills to write these on Google Classroom, which we know we will need when we are in Year 3! We have watched lots of examples of how to give a persuasive and engaging speech and are practising using these on our own. We are ensuring we have a loud enough voice and remembering to consider our audience. We are also considering other ideas, such as incorporating gestures and involving our audience to make our speeches more engaging. We can't wait until these are finished and ready to present!

Mathematics

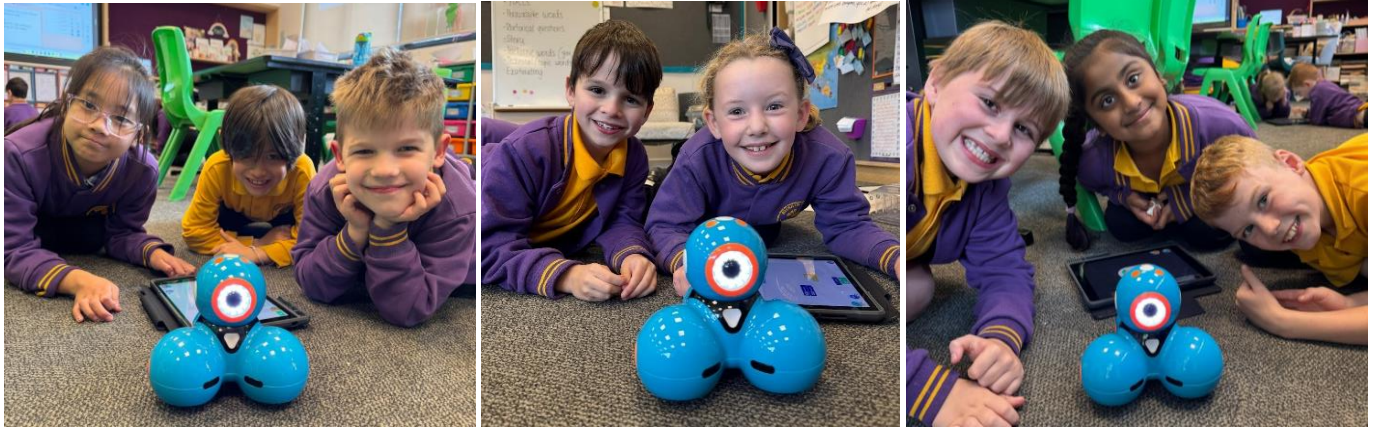
In Maths, we have been busy thinking about the connection between addition and subtraction, so that we can use this as a strategy to help solve problems efficiently. We have enjoyed getting out the counters and using lots of thinking strategies to help us see how they go together.



Digi Tech

We have had lots of fun learning to code our robots using the iPads to help us. We have worked on developing our team skills to collaborate and solve a range of different problems. It has been so much fun!





Middle School

Year 3

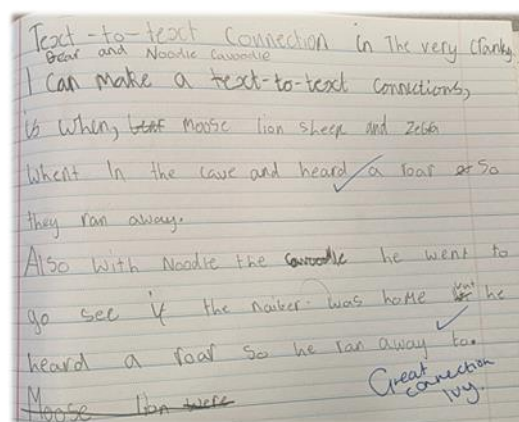
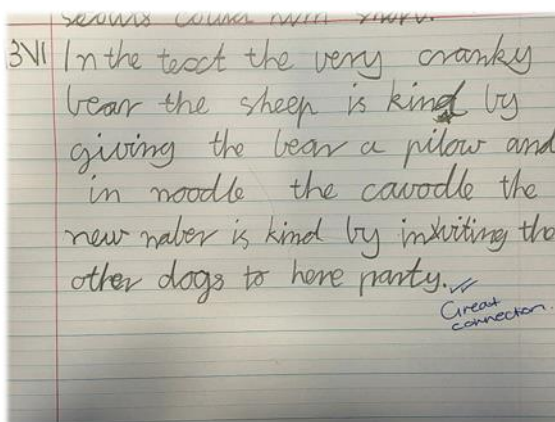
Where has the time gone! Well done to all of Year 3 for getting this far into the year while working so well! Everyone should be proud of their efforts and look to continue this as the year winds down!

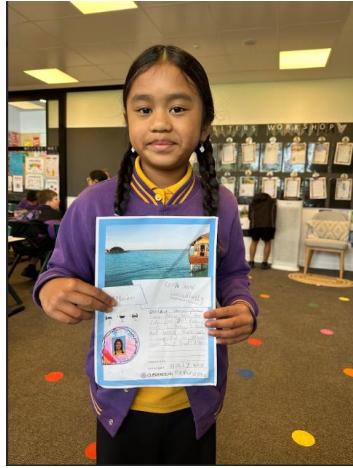
We have plenty of events to look forward to, with our Colour Run this week and Christmas Carols coming up.

Literacy

We have been exploring connections between texts and ourselves, as well as between texts, in Reading this week. The ability to make connections is an important one, as it enables students to find books they are interested in reading and helps them utilise their other comprehension strategies to recognise important aspects in books. Year 3 has been working very hard at brainstorming and recording their connections, developing high-quality understandings and sharing them in front of the class.

In Writing, students have been practising writing persuasive texts using the correct structure to convince readers of their opinions. We have focused on using high-quality and persuasive words and devices to engage our audiences in the goal of persuasion. This has culminated in everyone typing up their favourite persuasive piece so far to publish on Google Classrooms, connecting to their Digital Technologies skills.





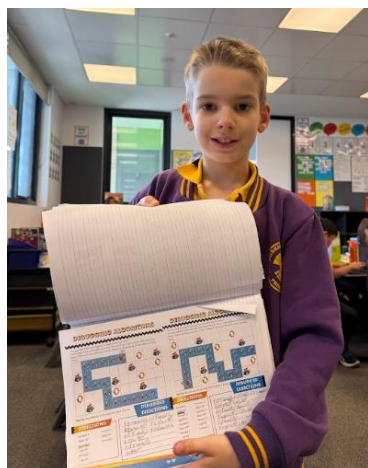
Numeracy

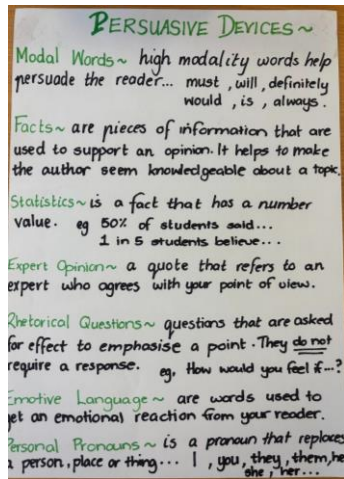
In Numeracy, Year 3 has been focusing on estimating and problem-solving using Ruskin Park's very own Colour Run as an example. Students have been working extremely hard on these tasks, and it has caused everyone to become even more excited for the colour run than they already were. Students have been using a variety of strategies to estimate and solve these problems so well that they could even organise one themselves!



Digitech

Year 3 have been using their Digital Technologies skills and knowledge to improve their abilities in debugging, identifying errors in code/algorithms and fixing them. Students have been working on recognising and defining what a computer bug is and why it is important to recognise these and fix them when possible. Everyone has done a great job connecting examples or things they already know about technology to further improve their debugging confidence.

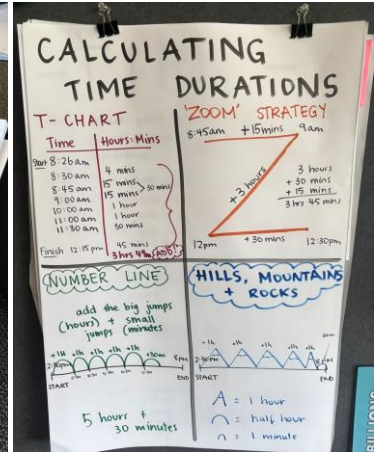
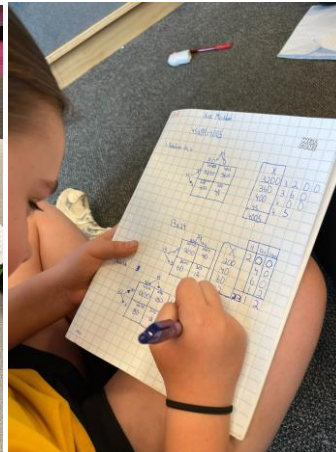
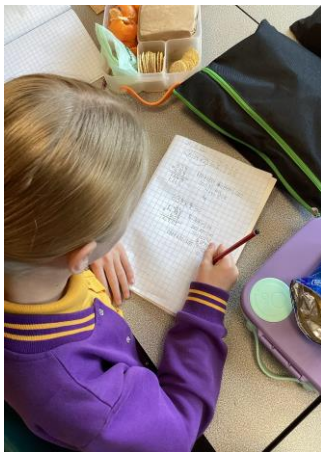




Mathematics

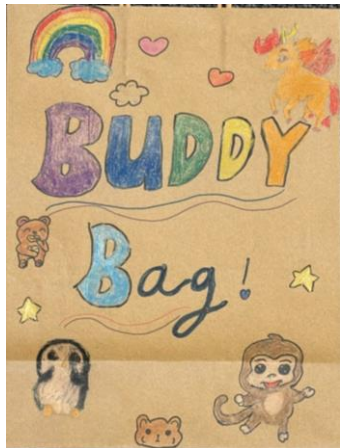
In Mathematics, students have been learning to solve problems involving time. They have explored how to convert between units of time, such as minutes and hours, and how to calculate durations to plan events or activities. Students have also been working on using am and pm notation accurately. To support their understanding, they have used a variety of strategies, such as T-charts, zoom time, and number lines, to help visualise and calculate time more effectively.

Students have also spent time developing their skills in multiplication, focusing on solving problems that involve larger numbers. They have explored different strategies, including partitioning (breaking numbers into smaller, more manageable parts) and the box method, to simplify their calculations and deepen their understanding of how numbers work together. Students have been encouraged to think flexibly and choose efficient strategies when solving multiplication problems.



Buddies

Our Year 4 students are eagerly preparing to meet their new buddies at the end of the term. As part of the preparations, they've been designing special "**buddy bags**" filled with fun surprises and activities. Each student has put great thought and effort into creating puzzles and activities their buddies will enjoy. This project has sparked plenty of excitement while helping students reflect on how to show kindness, be positive role models, and make a wonderful first impression. We're looking forward to watching these new friendships grow!



Senior School

Year 5

We can't believe we are already in Week 6! There has continued to be a lot of great learning happening, and we are demonstrating our school values in all that we do. Well done to the 5/6 Softball team for doing their best at the regional competition! The students had lots of fun and learnt a few new skills on the day. The SRC did a fantastic job running the Remembrance Day assembly on Monday, with Year 5 students Olivia Matthews, Ryder Collings and Scarlett McNamara reading aloud clearly and confidently.

We hope to see lots of you at the Colour Run tonight!





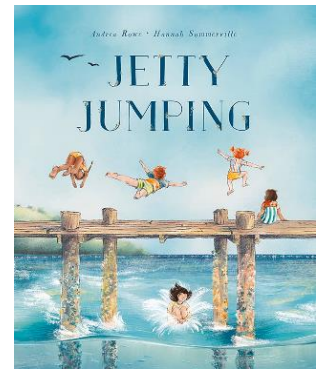
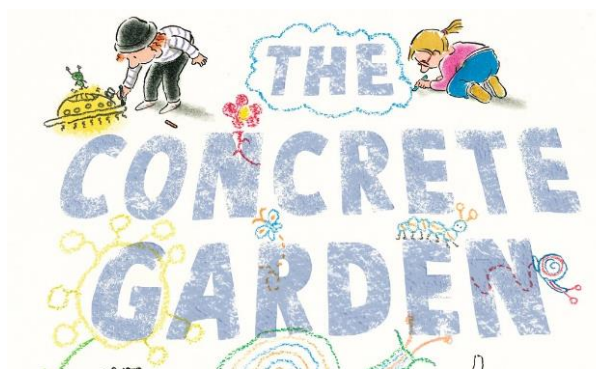
Leadership Position Reminder

Please remember that any application letters are due to Miss Rouda, Ms O'Halloran, or Mr T by November 18th. This letter needs to be addressed to Mrs Clarke and explain why students would like to be considered for a Year 6 leadership position!

If you have any questions, please chat with your classroom teacher.

Reading and Writing

In Reading, we have been exploring a range of Australian authors, including Bob Graham, Jane Godwin, and Andrea Rowe. We have been analysing their texts, looking for connections, inferring the deeper messages, and examining text placement and images to support us in creating our own picture storybooks. Students have had the chance to refresh and work on their learning goals, providing evidence and expanding on what they have learnt in their Reader's Notebooks.



In Writing, we have continued and are almost finished with our very own picture storybooks based on a Jackie French text. Students have loved using Canva to bring their ideas and stories to life. We have focused on editing our texts to ensure text placement, image consistency, and that the story flows and remains clear throughout.

We are so excited to print and read our texts to our Buddies and younger students!



Maths

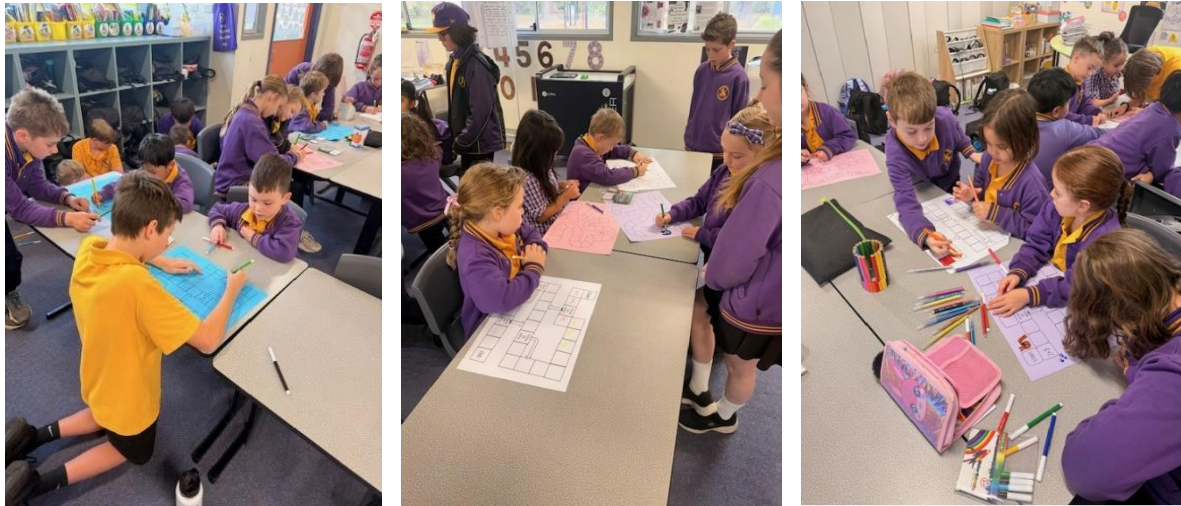
In Maths, the Year 5 students have begun learning about mapping and coordinates. Students had a lot of fun playing Battleships with a partner, making sure to read the letter first from the horizontal axis and then the number from the vertical axis. We had lots of hits, misses and sunk battle ships! Students were also interested to learn about the difference between grid reference systems and grid coordinate systems. Did you know that grid references are used when reading and creating maps, but grid coordinates are used when making line graphs? Fascinating!



Buddies

We have had some wonderful sessions with our Foundation Buddies. Our Buddies have spent some entire mornings with us! The Year 5s enjoyed showing the buddies how Year 5 routines work and how we use and move around our classroom. We created our own Maths games using addition and subtraction. Some of the board games had cool themes, such as Candy Land and Christmas Land. This week, we participated in a Scavenger Hunt outside, first exploring the five senses, then finding items from each letter of the alphabet.





Year 6

This fortnight, students participated in an informative incursion run by Metro Trains. This was a great opportunity for students to learn about Melbourne's public transport system. In this engaging and interactive session, students learnt about trains and the train network, as well as how to be responsible public transport users. They also learnt many different ways to be safe while using public transport and what to do if they need assistance. Students were also reminded that public transport will be free for all under 18 year olds from January 1st.



Literacy

Our investigation into various multimodal texts continued as we explored different websites, including AFL, Melbourne Zoo, National Geographic and Kid's Helpline. Students practised analysing the structure and layout, images, text and any other visual or audio features and discussing the effect and impact of these features. In Writing, students enjoyed completing their websites on a chosen place within Australia. Once complete, students self-assessed their work against a supplied rubric and made any necessary edits. They then assessed each other's websites using the rubric and provided feedback to one another in a professional and concise manner. We hope you enjoy viewing their websites at home!



Maths

Year 6 Mathematics - Exploring Probability

Over the past two weeks, our Year 6 students have been exploring the fascinating world of probability—the mathematics of chance. Through a range of interactive and hands-on investigations, students have explored the likelihood of different events occurring and developed their understanding of key concepts, such as ‘impossible,’ ‘unlikely,’ ‘likely,’ and ‘certain.’ They have also identified odds using fractions, decimals, and percentages.

Our investigations have included analysing the popular game Rock–Paper–Scissors, where students explored the fairness of outcomes and began to recognise patterns and strategies in repeated trials. They also enjoyed conducting experiments with dice rolls, recording outcomes, and comparing theoretical probability with experimental results to see how chance plays out in real life.

To connect their learning to real-world events, students discussed the Melbourne Cup, considering the role of probability in predicting race outcomes.

Through these engaging activities, students have learned that probability isn’t just about numbers — it’s about reasoning, prediction, and understanding uncertainty in everyday situations. It’s been wonderful to see their curiosity, collaboration, and critical thinking shine through as they tested their ideas and shared their discoveries.

Fun Sports

On Friday afternoons, students across Years 5 and 6 participate in sports training for various fun sports, including Competition Downball, European Handball, Ultimate Frisbee, Kickball, and Softball. While we don’t have any Interschool Sports Gala Days this term, it has been great fun learning about different sports and playing some friendly matches against each other.



Physical Education

Borrowed Singlets and Jerseys

Please ensure all borrowed singlets and jerseys are washed and returned to Miss Marshall or classroom teachers as soon as possible so they can be sorted and stored ready for next year’s events.

5/6 Boys Region Softball

Well done to Archer, Cade, Jack K, Jai, Joel T, Josh, Liam, Ram Bawi, Ryder, Thomas and Toby who represented Ruskin Park at the Eastern Metropolitan Region Softball Tournament at Wheelers Hill. You made us proud with your resilience and persistence! Thank you to all the parents and Miss O’Halloran who supported, assisted and transported students on the day.



2025 Physical Education Events

I will keep families updated regarding Physical Education events through the Newsletter, Class Dojo, and the calendar in the gym window as more event dates are finalised.

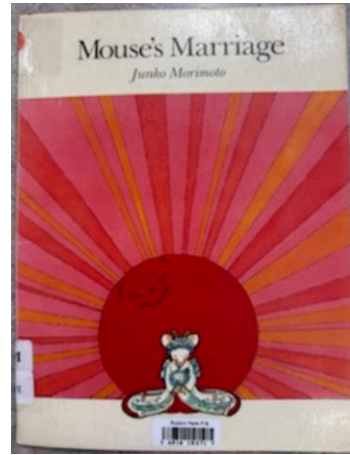
- **Term 1 Week 9 Thursday 26th March - RPPS Athletics Carnival**
- **Term 2 Week 2 Tuesday 28th April - RPPS Cross Country**

Molly Marshall
Physical Education

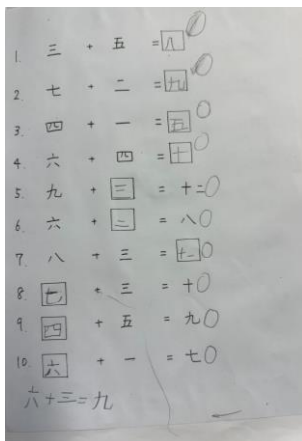
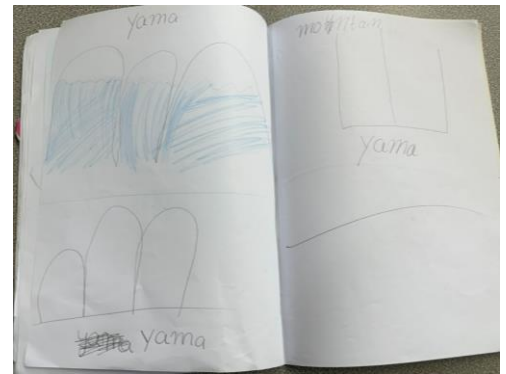
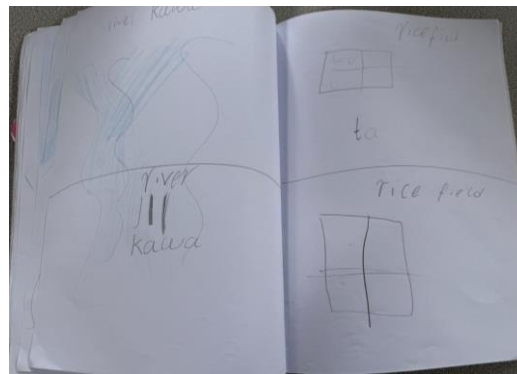


Japanese

During Term Four, the **Foundation** students have been learning about farm animals. They sang along with the Japanese version of “Old Macdonald Had A Farm” and created their own origami farmhouse. Students taped the farmhouse into their books and created their own farm, complete with ten different farm animals. They learned the names of these animals in Japanese. Students enjoyed listening to some famous Japanese stories, including “The One Straw Millionaire” and “The Mouse’s Marriage”.



The **Year One** students learned about Japanese body parts and played some games, such as “Sensei Says”, to help consolidate their learning. They also learned some simple kanji characters for sun, moon, months, dates, river, tree, book, Japan, mountain, rice field and completed some simple kanji maths.



The **Year Two** students have continued to learn new hiragana words, including the twelve animals of the Japanese Zodiac. They created an origami book featuring these animals and learned to write their names in hiragana.

The **Year 3, 4, 5 & 6** students started Term 4 with a fun Ninja Orienteering course around the school, using their knowledge of Japanese directional words to find the clues hidden around the school. They learned to make sentences describing the times they do daily activities, such as getting up, going to school, and eating lunch, etc.

Students have begun creating a Japanese calendar for 2026, which includes Japanese kanji for days and months, as well as pictures of festivals and other cultural events that occur in each of these months.



Japanese Club has continued on Monday lunchtimes, and students have participated in many Japanese cultural activities, including reading Japanese books, singing Japanese songs, and creating fun cultural items using craft or origami skills. Students got to play with some Japanese toys, created Halloween origami, and made new origami planes.

Thank you to Chieko San and Ms Roche for helping to run the Japanese Club this year.



JAPANESE FILM CLUB

In Film Club, students have been using their growing film-making experience to write, film and edit their own films. I look forward to seeing their completed films.

We are waiting to find out the results of the Video Matsuri competition. Fingers crossed that this year's entry, "Reflections", wins a prize, as we did last year.

BLACK, BROWN AND PURPLE CARD TESTING

Students in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 have all been tested on their ability to write hiragana, katakana and kanji characters. Many students received excellent scores and qualified for the highest card levels by completing extra study and testing during lunchtimes.

Congratulations to all the students who attained a higher card level, especially the five students who were awarded the highest black card level of achievement. The black card students are David Y and Hana K in Year 6 and Olivia M, Sophie M & Luca S in Year 5.

These students got to be “Sensei” for a class and teach something Japanese to their classmates.



FAREWELL YUI SAN

Sadly, at the end of term, we will be saying goodbye to Ms Yui Kunimatsu, who has worked as our Japanese assistant for Terms 2, 3 & 4.



Yui always worked with a smile and prepared many interesting presentations, games, activities and lessons to help teach our students about Japanese language and culture. Our students have loved having Yui at Ruskin Park PS, and she will be greatly missed.

After leaving Ruskin Park PS, Yui would like to travel and work in other areas of Australia before returning to Japan to complete her university studies. She would like to become a Flight Attendant in the future. She would also like to revisit Ruskin Park PS in the future.

Hosting a Japanese assistant is a significant benefit for our Japanese program and is only made possible by the generous support of our host families—a huge thank you to the Page, Abiyar and Shijo families who hosted Yui during her stay.

We are always looking for more host families. Please contact Mr Brown if you are interested in hosting. Families are paid a fee for hosting, so it isn't a financial burden for families. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the Japanese language and culture while teaching the assistant about Australian culture and lifestyle. We want to host another assistant next year, so please contact Mr Brown if your family can help.

Greg Brown

Japanese Teacher

Their Care

Thank you for your generous donation Their Care

A huge thank you for organising and donating the sausages, drinks and bread for our Colour Run. Your support helps make the day such a fun and successful event for our students and school community. We truly appreciate your kindness and contribution.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

These Students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Maddox	Luke	Jack	Dex	Mirko	Joel	Logan	Imogen	Zedd
Samara	Theodore	Nathaniel	Rose	Miley	Ayra	Cung	Zara	Van
Jordy								

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

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

