



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

20th March 2026



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

MARCH

Thursday 26th House Athletics
Friday 27th Curriculum Day
Tuesday 31st Regional Swimming
Monday 30th 5/6 Summer Sports

APRIL

Thursday 2nd Easter Raffle
Free Dress Day (Gold Coin Donation)
Good Friday Appeal
Last Day Term 1 (2:30 pm Dismissal)
Monday 20th Term 2 Commences

Principal's Report

Term 1 is passing incredibly quickly, with only two weeks remaining! It has been a very positive and productive term, and we still have many exciting activities ahead to celebrate and enjoy.

This will be my final newsletter message as Acting Principal before Tim Mulhall steps into the role of Principal. I would like to sincerely thank our community for your support over the past almost three terms. It has been a privilege to work alongside our students, staff and families during this time, in this role.

Strike Action

A reminder that on Tuesday 24 March our school will be impacted by strike action. More information will be sent through on Compass when available.

House Athletics- Thursday 26 March

Our Athletics Day has grown into one of our major whole-school events, with students from all year levels involved. Students in Years 3 to 6 will take part in traditional track and field events, while our Foundation to Year 2 students will join us during the middle part of the day to enjoy activities such as egg and spoon races, parachute games and tunnel ball.

It is always a wonderful day full of school spirit, teamwork and fun. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours, support their classmates and do their very best in each event. Parents and families are warmly invited to attend and cheer on the children throughout the day.

Curriculum Day

Please be reminded that Friday 27 March is a Curriculum Day.

Family and Friends

With the final weeks approaching we have many fundraisers to finish the term.

*** Easter Colouring Competition**

\$1 entry - Due back Monday 23rd March.

Winners announced at the final assembly

*** Easter Raffle**

Raffle tickets \$1 each - available at the office. Money and Raffle tickets due back Monday 30th March

*** Easter Donations**

We are seeking Donations of Easter items example chocolates, books, soft toys to use in the hampers

* Free Dress Day

On the last day of term (Thursday 2nd April) students can wear free dress and bring a gold coin donation that will go to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal

2027 Foundation Tours

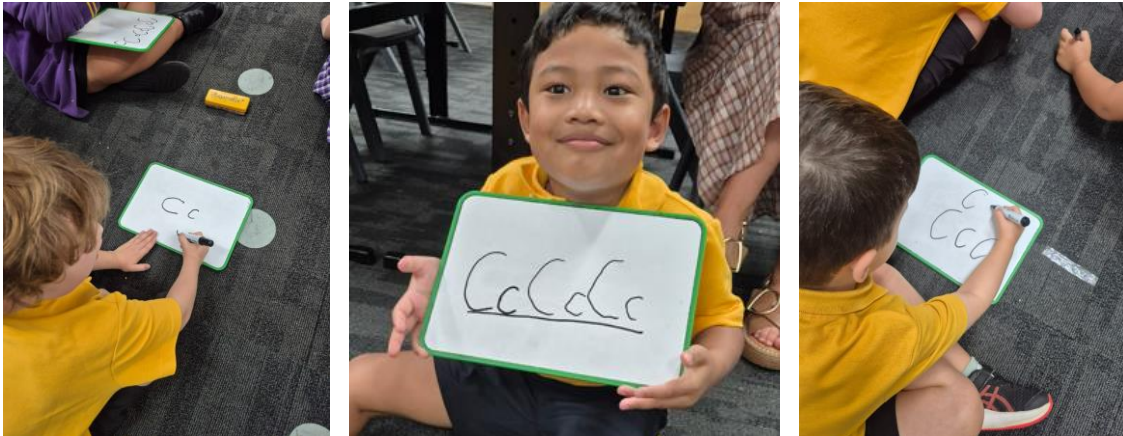
It is hard to believe, but tours for Foundation in 2027 have commenced. If you know any new families considering our school for next year, please encourage them to register for a tour. For our current families with siblings starting in 2027, the Department will open enrolments through the Student Insight portal on Monday 20 April. More information will be provided shortly.

Shannon Young
Acting Principal

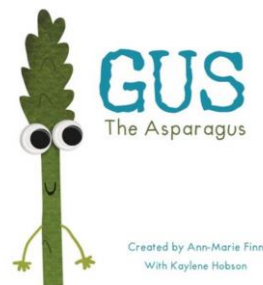
Foundation

Literacy

During Phonics sessions we have continued to consolidate our knowledge of the letter sounds s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c and f through a range of activities, with a strong focus on segmenting and blending sounds in words (e.g. got is made up of the sounds for g, o and t). We have been so impressed with how well our Foundation students are learning the routine of Phonics sessions and using their mini whiteboards to show their thinking. We have also added k, e, r and u to our learned letter sounds and explored several words that include these sounds.



In Reading, Foundation students have been learning about sentences. We have discussed that we know it's a sentence when it starts with a capital letter, ends with a full stop and the words have a message when we read them in order from left to right. This focus on sentences through the picture story books 'Gus the Asparagus' and 'Mozzie and Midgie' has given our students opportunities to continue developing their concepts of print and support their emerging reading skills.

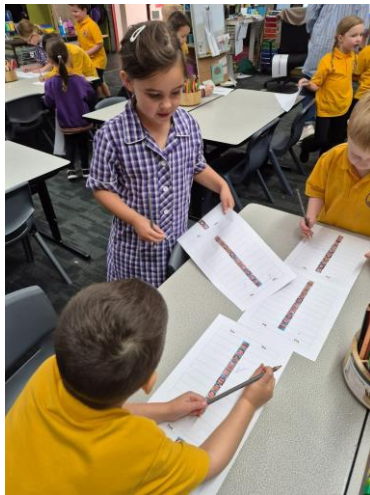


In Writing, we have continued to work on our pencil grips as part of 'what good writers do', setting us up for our beautiful handwriting. Students have been writing on a range of topics and are beginning to incorporate their learned letter sounds into their writing pieces.

Maths

Foundation students have been learning to sort and collect data. We really enjoyed asking our classmates yes/no questions! We recorded the answers and discussed what we noticed about the information we gathered.

We have also continued to develop our understanding of numbers, with a focus on the 'teen' numbers. We used a range of maths tools and manipulatives to show our thinking about how to count, write, name and make teen numbers and discussed teen numbers as being "10 and some more". Have a go at practising counting forwards and backwards between 0 and 20 at home!



Wellbeing

Our Friendology sessions have involved lots of discussions about the 'green zone' and 'red zone' - healthy and unhealthy - friendships. We have also begun to talk about Friendship Fires and ways we can solve our friendship issues. Identifying positive and negative feelings and emotions has been a key part of our discussions, as well as using the vocabulary of 'friendship fires', 'green zone' and 'red zone' to help us have conversations when friendship problems arise.

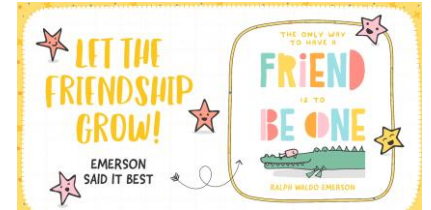


Junior School

Year 1

Wellbeing

During our Wellbeing lessons, we have been learning about how to make new friends, and how to be a 'magnet'! Students explored different strategies to start conversations and interact with new people. It was wonderful to see students role play using these strategies in the classroom, and we can't wait to see them apply this learning when they're out in the yard to make lots of new friends!



Friday the 20th of March is Harmony Day. Harmony Day is where we celebrate Australia's cultural diversity. In class, we have been participating in a range of celebratory activities, meaningful discussions related to diversity and what makes us unique.

Literacy

In Reading, we have begun exploring the comprehension strategy of 'Questioning.' Students have enjoyed making wonderings using their very own 'Just Right' books. They have been focusing on using correct punctuation when recording their wonderings, ensuring each one ends with a question mark. When reading with your child at home, you might like to create some wonderings together to deepen their understanding. We have practised using sentence starters like 'I wonder...' or 'Why did...'.

In Writing, we have continued developing recounts by including all the essential elements - the 5W's and sequencing words. We had a go at writing a 'remarkable recount' where students applied their recount learning to what **could** have happened if we went to space for a day. Check out some of our remarkable recounts!



Pirate Day

We had a fantastic time celebrating Pirate Day with our Year 6 buddies! We worked together with our buddies to design and create our own pirate hats, before we headed outside to follow a series of clues that led us on an exciting treasure hunt. There was lots of teamwork, problem solving, and smiles along the way. It was wonderful to see the students so engaged and having so much fun with their buddies!





Maths

This week in Maths, our Year 1 students had a go at using tally marks to collect data by asking each other questions, before creating a pictograph to display the data. We asked questions about each other's favourite ice cream flavours, and also created a graph about what we wore for school photos too!



This week in Maths, our Year 1 students have been learning to partition one- and two-digit numbers using a range of concrete materials, such as connector cubes and counters. They then practised thinking creatively to deepen their understanding of numbers. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they explore different ways to break apart and combine numbers!



Geography

This week in Geography, we explored Dreaming stories and their importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We read "Bangarang" and discussed its meaning, focusing on the deep connection First Nations Peoples have with the land, sky, water, and nature. Students created drawings to illustrate the events in the beginning, middle and end of the story and developed a deeper understanding of how creation stories help share culture, beliefs, and history.

Year 2

Literacy

In Reading, we've been exploring the work of Alison Lester and looking closely at how her books are organised. Students have been learning to identify key elements such as settings, characters, and the language she uses, including rhyming patterns, descriptive adjectives, and interesting verbs. We've also been noticing the structure of her texts, such as her use of repeating patterns and the use of imagination. This has helped students begin to make text-to-text connections and compare her books with others they've read.

In Writing, we then used what we have noticed about how Alison Lester writes so that we can try these techniques in our own work. Using 'The Magic Beach' as inspiration, students planned, drafted, and published their own versions of the story. They explored the sentence structures used in the book and used these as a guide to shape their own writing. There has been a strong focus on adding descriptive adjectives and interesting verbs to bring their ideas to life. It's been wonderful to see the students' creativity shine as they create their own imaginative versions!

At our house

At our magic house

We sit in the large lounge room

Lying and sitting and stretching until we get comfy

Snoring and giggling with sleepiness

Black big fish are swimming past

Trying to get out of the tank

Jumping and splashing and spinning around

Then fading away in the light

At our house

At our magic house

We jump on our bouncy bed

Rolling and laying and jumping in the bed

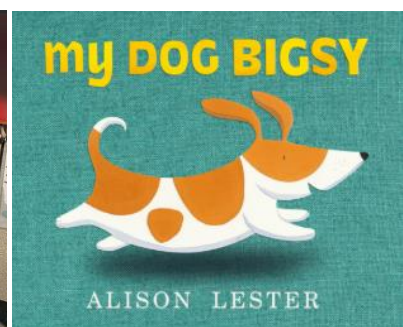
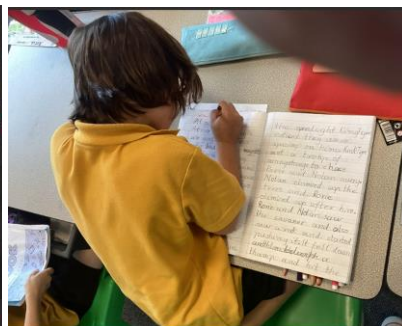
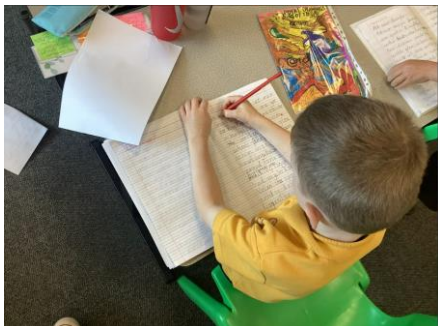
Yelling and laughing with cheekiness

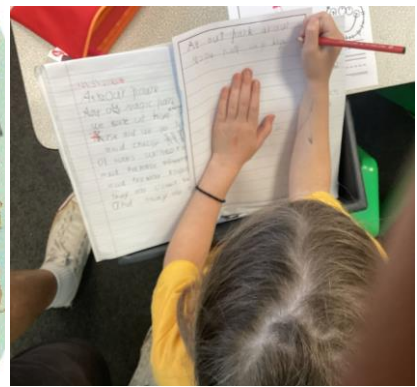
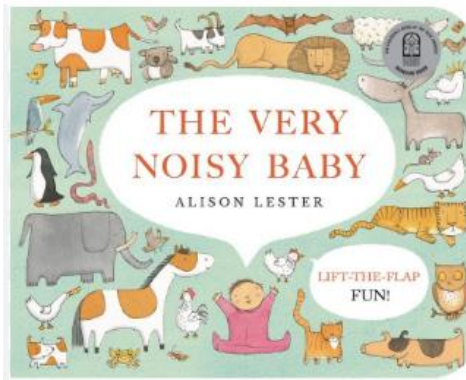
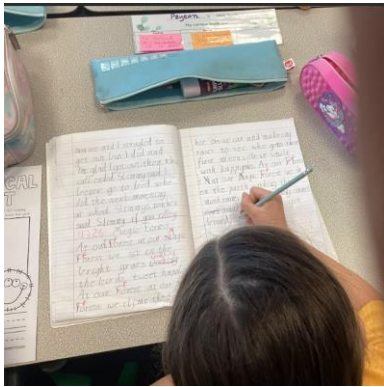
Giant green monsters are stomping past

Trying to eat us

Moving and scaring and making us frightened

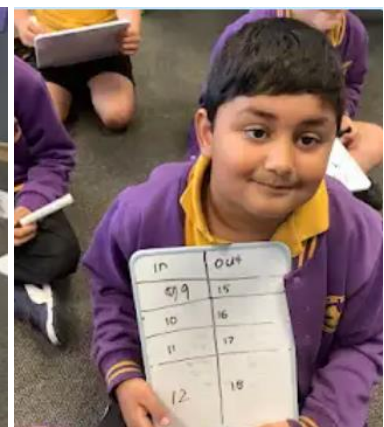
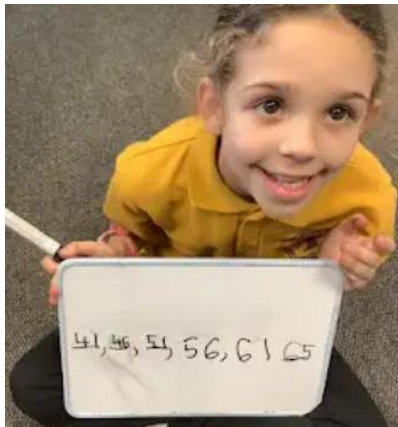
By Zaylah 2P





Maths

In Maths, we've been focusing on recalling addition and subtraction facts to 20 to help us solve number problems more quickly and confidently. Students have been learning about fact families and how they are connected. We explored this through a range of strategies, including part-part-whole, where students rolled dice, represented the numbers, and then wrote the related fact families. We also used number clouds, where students searched for and identified numbers that work together to form a fact family. These activities have helped build confidence and understanding with number facts.



Wellbeing

In Wellbeing, we have been focusing on problem-solving skills. Students worked through different scenarios together and discussed what someone could do in each situation. They thought about the possible outcomes of different choices and discussed that there is often more than one way to solve a problem. We also talked about how sometimes we need to try a few different strategies before finding one that works.



Geography

In Geography, we have begun a new project called *Our Special Place*. Students started planning their work by thinking about a place that is important to them. They discussed and recorded where their special place is, why it is meaningful, what activities they enjoy doing there, and how they can help look after it. We look forward to continuing this project over the coming lessons as students develop and share their ideas.

Middle School

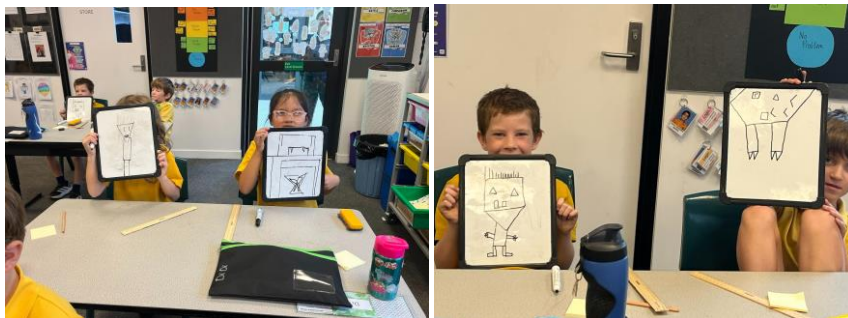
Year 3

NAPLAN

Well done and congratulations to all Year 3 students for completing NAPLAN for the very first time! It has been incredible to see everyone using their growth mindset and trying their best, just as they have all year. Amazing work completing this to every person in Year 3 and thank you to all the parents for your ongoing support!

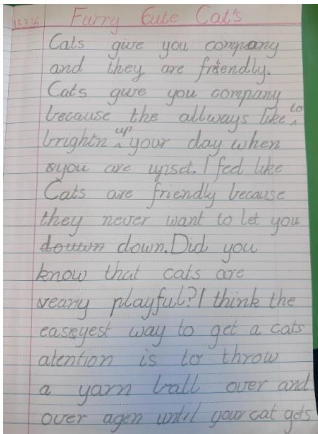
Numeracy

Students practised their skills in breaking down questions using different strategies to help their problem solving and maths understanding skills to assist them in NAPLAN. We have also been exploring the topic of measurement, exploring both angles and length and how to measure items using formal and informal units. Year 3 has enjoyed measuring a variety of objects around their classrooms to help develop their knowledge of length and why it is important. They have also been creating 'angles monsters' which have looked incredible with all students showing their best effort to make these look so good.



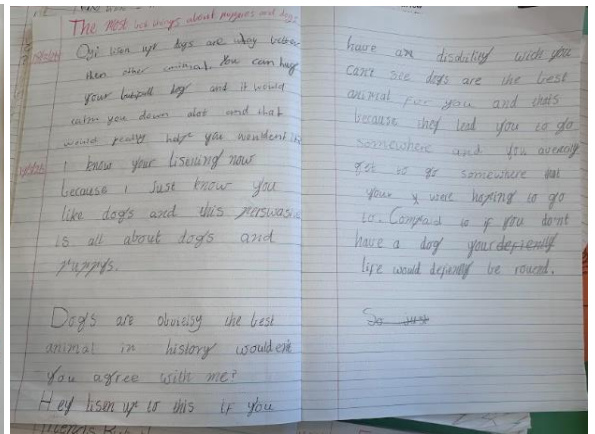
Literacy

In Reading and Writing we have been exploring persuasive texts and how to understand and create these effectively to convince the reader of various opinions. Year 3 has been looking at the difference between fact and opinion and the structure of body paragraphs in our persuasive pieces. Everyone has enjoyed writing about a variety of different topics they enjoy, leading to engaging and interesting persuasive writing and a developing confidence in writing the different types of paragraphs in persuasive writing, using the acronym of REER (reason, explain what you mean, examples and repeat your reason) which has been a strong tool for creating their body paragraphs.



Shade one box in each row to check what you did well today and what you can level-up next time

Sentences	One long sentence.	Two or three sentences.	Four or more sentences.
Reason	More than one reason.	Just one reason, but not in the first sentence.	Just one reason, but not in the first sentence.
Explain	I forgot to write what I mean or why it's good.	I wrote what I mean or why it's good.	I wrote what I mean or why it's good. AND I used a tool to help: - Exaggeration - Repetition - Rhetorical question.
Examples	No examples.	Examples do not match the reason.	Examples match the reason.
Reason at the end	I repeated my reason by copying the start.	I repeated my reason by copying the start.	I repeated my reason using new word choice.



Spelling

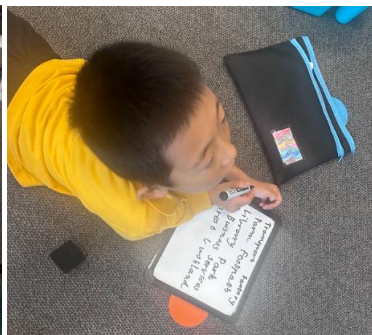
Over the last two weeks we have been exploring the 'igh' letter pattern and the 'ough' letter pattern. Students have been looking through the various sounds these patterns make and discussing various words that use these patterns. All classes found it interesting that many words with 'ough' in them make words that are past tense (such as 'bought' or 'sought'). It has been great to see all of Year 3 so engaged in spelling so far this year!

Spelling List - ough

<small>makes short 'er' sound</small>	bought	<small>makes 'off' sound</small>	rough
	ought		tough
	thought		enough
	fought	<small>makes long 'o' sound</small>	dough
<small>makes 'oo' sound</small>	through		though

Geography

In Geography, we have continued to explore how towns and places where people live are laid out and why this is the case. It has been extended through thinking about an environmental issue in a town and proposing a solution for this problem. Year 3 showed their ability to think about the environment and how to problem solve using what they know about their own town and community. This has displayed their connection to where they live, allowing students to connect sustainability to their lives.



Year 4

Literacy

In Literacy, students have been actively engaged in our unit on information reports. They have followed the writing process—planning, drafting, editing and revising—to create reports on Australian landmarks (both natural and man-made) as well as the Wonders of the World. Throughout the unit, students have been researching their chosen topics and considering how to use this information to produce an engaging piece of writing.

During reading sessions, students have explored the various text features commonly found in information texts. They have examined how authors use elements such as labels, diagrams, timelines, captions and tables to present information clearly and in an engaging way.

MCG Excursion

To celebrate our Information Report unit on Australian landmarks, our Year 4 students were fortunate to visit the MCG earlier this week. During the visit, students took part in a guided tour of the MCG and explored the Sporting Museum, where they learned more about Australia's rich sporting history and participated in the interactive Game On activities. It was a highly engaging experience, and students had a fun and memorable day.

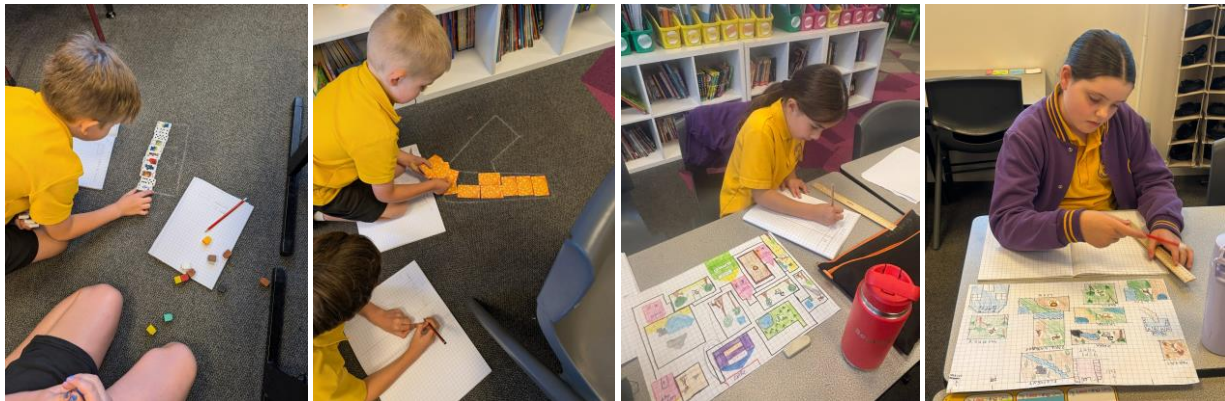
We would like to sincerely thank Sharna (Flynn's mum), Kylie (Dominic's mum), and Cat (Lachlan's mum) for generously giving their time to assist with student supervision on the day.



Numeracy

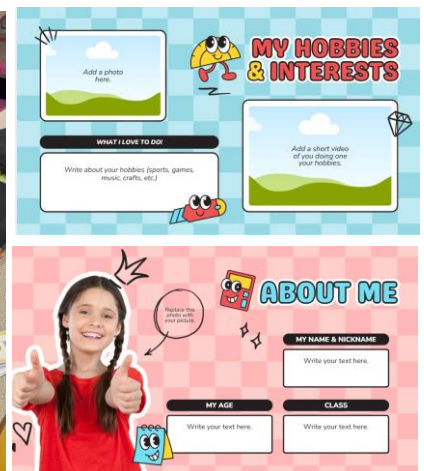
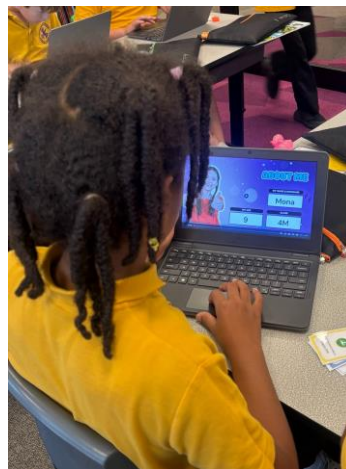
Last week in Maths, students explored the area of different shapes using both informal and formal measurements. Through hands-on investigations, they discovered how to calculate area using the formula $\text{length} \times \text{width}$. To put their learning into practice, students were challenged to design their own zoo, creating animal enclosures that met specific criteria. They loved applying their knowledge of area to plan and shape each enclosure.

This week, students have been learning about perimeter. They have explored how to measure the perimeter of a variety of objects accurately and have applied this new knowledge to their zoo designs. Using the enclosures they created last week, students calculated the perimeter of each space and then used this information to work out the cost of fencing. This required them to combine their maths skills with a 'real world' problem solving experience.



Digitech

In Digitech, Year 4 students have been using Canva to create their own "All About Me" presentations. They have been exploring the different tools, elements, and features Canva offers to make their presentations engaging and visually appealing. Students have been sharing information about their hobbies, family, friends, and favourite activities, while learning how to combine text, images, and design elements to communicate their ideas clearly and creatively.



Senior School

Year 5

The Year 5s did a fantastic job completing their NAPLAN assessments over the last two weeks. They all tried their best and got through the technical difficulties we faced during the Writing session. Well done to all the Year 5s!

The Teddy Bears' Picnic was a huge success on Thursday 5th of March. The Year 5s really shone in terms of their maturity, initiative and their ability to help out their Foundation Buddies when needed. Everyone had so much fun completing the obstacle courses, playing under the parachute, running in egg and spoon races and tackling the tackle bags! Everyone then relaxed while eating their picnic lunch in the shade with their teddy bears.



Literacy

In Reading the Year 5s have been improving their ability to write stop-and-jots while reading a range of texts. Students have worked hard to record clear and succinct thoughts on sticky notes, and then choose which thoughts are worth keeping and which ones can be discarded. Students then expanded on their stop-and-jots in their Reader's Notebooks. In Year 5 students aim to write half page to full page expansions, and they have been doing a fantastic job! Students unpack their stop-and-jots in much more detail, allowing others to see their thinking. The Year 5s have recently been working on making connections to texts. This involves making text-to-self connections, text-to-text connections and text-to-world connections.

In Writer's Workshop sessions students have continued working on their persuasive writing. We have examined the features and structure of persuasive texts, with students spending time creating engaging arguments that follow a PREP structure: Point, Reason, Example, Point. We have also begun including a range of persuasive devices into our texts. Some of these devices include rhetorical questions, exaggeration, repetition and alliteration. Students have been passionately explaining why basketball is the best sport, why chocolate is the best food and why homework should be banned!

Maths

The Year 5s have begun a Maths unit on the four processes. We have recently been revising our understanding of subtraction, with a specific focus on vertical subtraction using regrouping. We used MAB blocks to help visualise the process and showed our working out clearly in our Maths books. The Year 5s were challenged with the following problem. See if it works for you at home and if you can figure out what seems to be magic!

Pick any three digit number.
Reverse the digits, so write your number back to front.
Subtract the smaller of your two numbers from the larger one.
Now reverse the digits of the answer you get.
Add the answer to its reverse.

$$\begin{array}{r} 723 \\ - 327 \\ \hline 396 \\ + 693 \\ \hline 1089 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 856 \\ - 658 \\ \hline 198 \\ + 891 \\ \hline 1089 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 392 \\ - 293 \\ \hline 099 \\ + 990 \\ \hline 1089 \end{array}$$

Choose some three-digit numbers of your own.
(Make sure the first and third digits are different)
Is there a pattern to all the answers?

Civics and Citizenship

Students have discussed what it means to be a global citizen. We then discussed the different issues that global citizens must deal with. Some of these issues included animal extinction, poverty, keeping the environment clean, deforestation, and equal education for boys and girls. The Year 5s chose a topic that they felt passionate about and have begun researching their chosen topics in groups. Each group will aim to explain what causes these issues, who is mostly affected and how these issues might be solved. Students will present their findings to their class at the end of the term.

Wellbeing

The Year 5s have been revising their knowledge of the URStrong program. We began last week by refreshing our memories on the 'Friend-O-Meter', and what a 'green zone' friendship looks like and feels like. Students then learnt about the concept of a 'go-to friend' - someone who you can go to for specific purposes. One of those friends was the 'Cherry on Top' friend, who always brings fun into your life. Students then had fun creating their own go-to friend. We have also been revising how to deal with friendship fires.

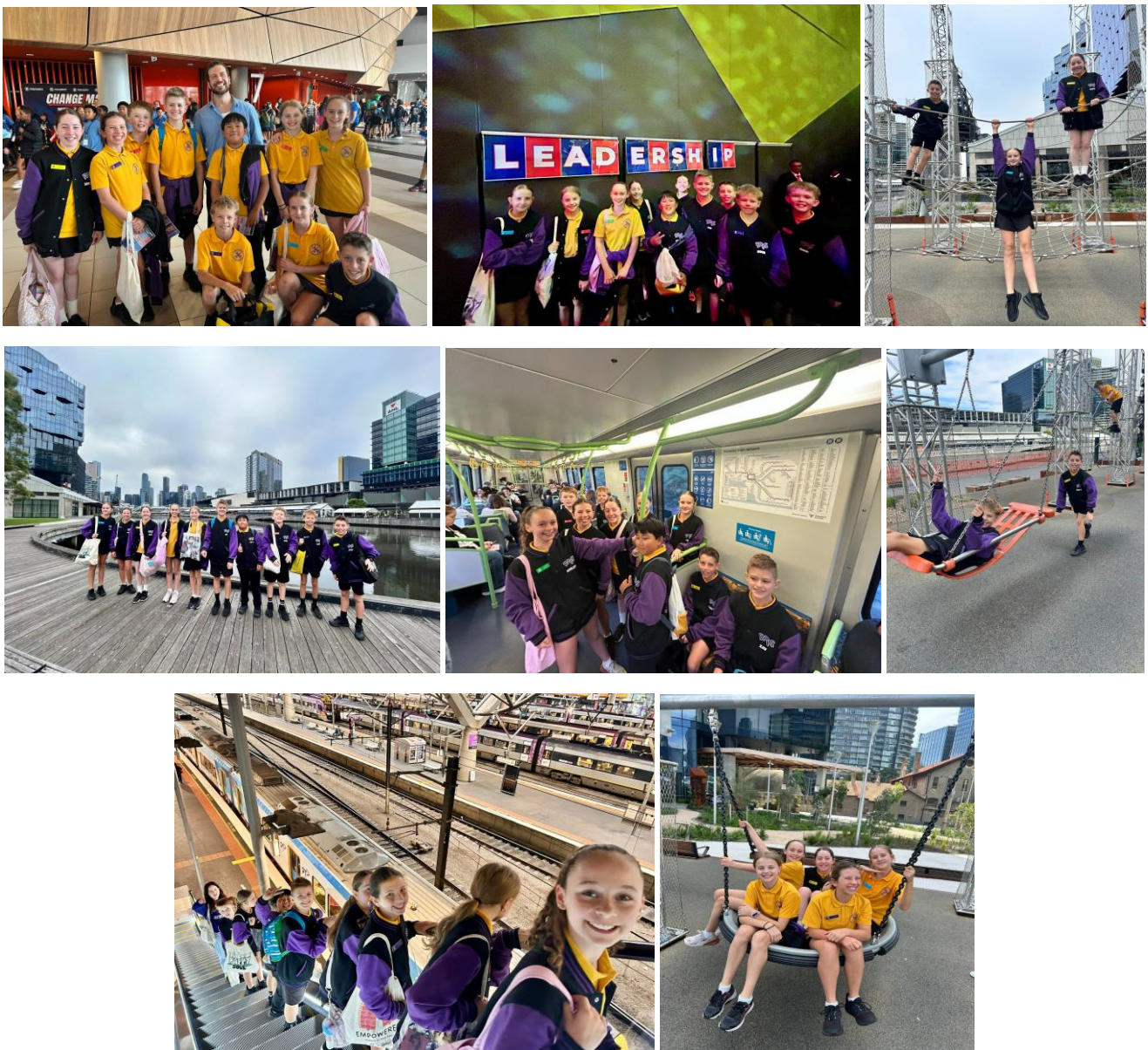


Students discussed the different reasons we sometimes have disagreements with our friends, and that it's ok to not always get along. We spoke about using 'quick comebacks', and how it's really important to talk situations through and let the other person know how you feel.

Year 6

Youth Leadership Conference

On Wednesday 18th March, our two school captains and 8 house captains ventured into the city to attend a Youth Leadership Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre. This was an amazing opportunity for our young leaders to learn more about leadership, be inspired by leaders in the community and network with other students from a range of primary schools across Victoria. Some of the presenters included Senator Charlotte Walker, the youngest member of parliament in Australia's history; Maddy Prespakis, an AFLW Bombers player, Josh Reid Jones, the founder of *Just be Nice Project* plus some inspirational and engaging MCs. Well done to Matilda, Ryder, Aidan, Grace, Harley, Sophie M, Ashley, Joel, Sophie C and Xavier for representing RRPS with pride and passion.

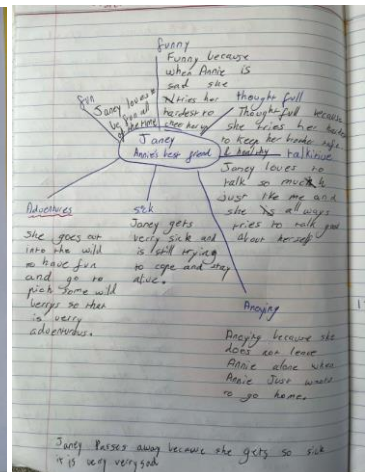
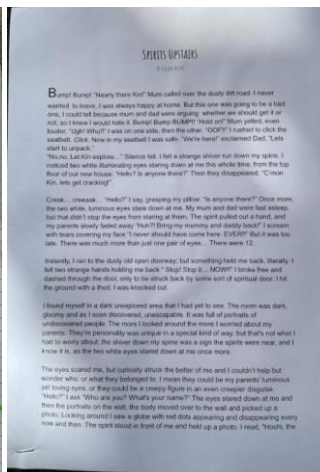
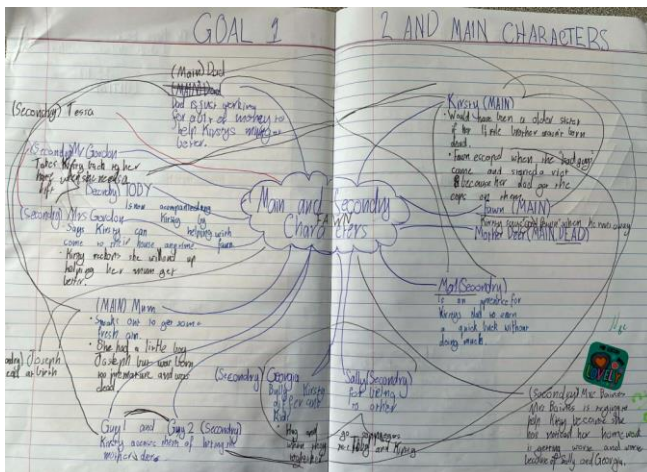
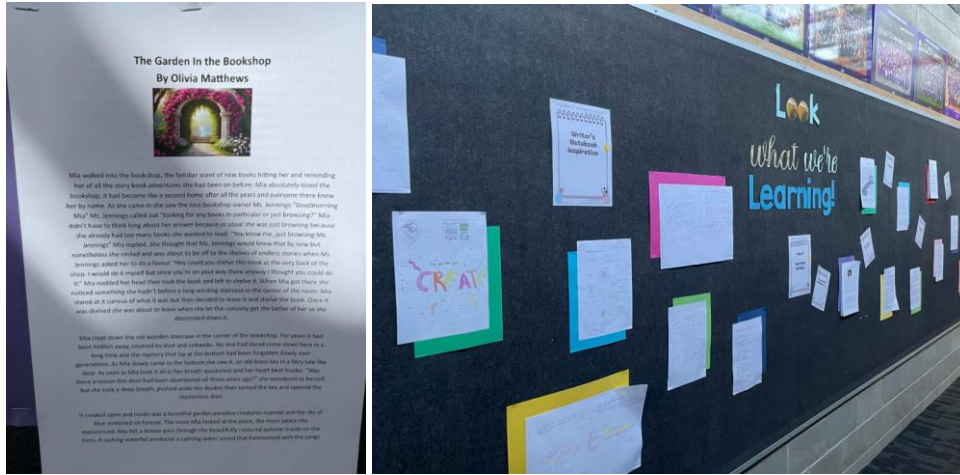


Literacy

We have continued with reading our class novel *Malala: My Story of Standing up for girls' rights*. The students have enthusiastically questioned, connected to and discussed the events of Malala's life, her journey of becoming an educational activist and her emotional development through difficult and inspiring times. This novel analysis has seen students challenging themselves in their learning and thinking, while listening to one another's views and

building upon each other's ideas. We look forward to continuing our exploration of Malala's life journey with the students.

Students have also continued with writing narratives. They have written another narrative on a topic of their choice and also wrote a narrative using the prompt **"The Day Everything Changed"**. Through the writing process, students have continued to develop their skills in literacy devices such as vivid vocabulary, figurative language and sentence fluency.



Digital Technologies

In Digital Technologies, students have been developing their skills in Cyber Safety. One of the lessons focussed on identifying what personal information is considered personal. Students identified that personal information such as their name, school, birthdate, passwords and address should all be kept private and not made visible online. Students were left with the statement, *'Being responsible means protecting personal information and thinking before we share any information about ourselves online.'* We encourage you to sit down and discuss this with your children.

Following on from this, students learned about scams and identified what makes a scam. A common misconception is that scammers are only after your money. For example, they may target your personal information for ID theft. This linked well to not oversharing information online and having students pause and consider, 'is it safe or a scam?'. Students were immersed with a variety of situations and had to identify what made it safe or a scam, using the TRICKY poster.



Maths

Our Year 6 students have been developing their understanding of angles through a range of engaging and hands-on learning experiences. Throughout this unit, students have been identifying and naming different types of angles, including acute, obtuse and reflex angles, while also learning how to accurately measure both internal and external angles using protractors.

To help bring this learning to life, students have explored angles beyond the maths classroom. They have searched for angles in their everyday environment—spotting them in playground equipment, buildings and classroom objects. Students also examined angles in artworks, discovering how artists use lines and angles to create shapes, patterns and interesting designs.

These real-world connections have helped students see that angles are not just part of mathematics lessons, but an important feature of the world around us. It has been wonderful to see students becoming more confident using mathematical language and applying their skills in creative and practical ways.



Physical Education

Region Swimming Competition

Good luck to our open girls relay team, who made it through to the Eastern Metropolitan Region Swimming Competition; Sophie M, Olivia F, Grace W and Everley B! Everley will also be swimming in the backstroke event. We are so proud of your persistence girls!

F - 6 Ruskin Park House Athletics Carnival

On Thursday 26th March, our whole school will head to Morrisons Reserve in Mount Evelyn to participate in the athletics carnival. The Compass event is now live, where you can give consent for your child's attendance. Event schedules have been posted on Class Dojo. Students are to wear their house colours, appropriate running shoes and shorts. I can't wait to see everyone working hard to achieve personal bests and have fun challenging themselves!

Year 5/6 Interschool Summer Sport

On Monday 30th of March, Year 5 and 6 students will participate in softball, volleyball, cricket or hot shots tennis against other schools in the Montrose District in friendly competition. The Compass event holds more information, and I will post fixtures on Class Dojo when I receive them.

F-6 Cross Country

Early in Term 2, on Tuesday 28th of April, all Ruskin Park students will participate in the House Cross Country competition. Students in Foundation to Year 2 will run around the track on the school's oval and students in Years 3-6 will run around the surrounding streets Please complete your child's walking excursion permission on Compass before the event.

We need lots of helpers to stand around the track, guiding students. I will always put you on the track in a position where you can see your child/children run. Please make contact if you can help on this day between 11:15 am and 1:00 pm.

Year 3 - 6 Hoop Time.

Students who opted in to Hoop Time will begin lunchtime training and team selections in Term 2. The Compass event will go live early next term.

2026 Physical Education Dates:

Term 1

Week 9 Thursday 26th March - RPPS Athletics Carnival

Week 10 Monday 30th March - Year 5/6 Summer Interschool Sports

Week 10 Tuesday 31st March - Eastern Metropolitan Region Swimming Carnival

Term 2

Week 2 Tuesday 28th April - RPPS Cross Country

Week 3 Friday 8th May - *RPPS Athletics backup date in case of bad weather in Term 1*

Week 4 Friday 15th May - Year 3-6 District Cross Country

Week 7 Tuesday 2nd June - Year 3-6 Division Cross Country

Week 8 Thursday 11th June - Year 3-6 Region Cross Country

Week 9 Tuesday 16th June - Year 5/6 Winter Interschool Sport

Week 10 Monday 22nd June - Year 3/4 Hoop Time @ Kilsyth Basketball Stadium

Term 3

Week 1 Thursday 16th July - Year 3-6 State Cross Country

Week 3 Monday July 27th - 5/6 Hoop Time @ State Basketball Centre, Wantirna

Week 5 August 10th - 14th - Year 4-6 Swimming Program @ Aquahub

Week 6 Friday 21st August - Year 3-6 District Athletics

Week 8 August 31st - September 4th F-3 Swimming Program @ Aquahub

Week 10 September 18th - Footy Day

Term 4

Week 1 Thursday 8th October - Year 3-6 Division Athletics

Week 3 Thursday 22nd October - Year 3-6 Region Athletics

Week 6 Friday 13th November - Year 5/6 Interschool Fun Sports

Molly Marshall

Physical Education Teacher

STEM

At the beginning of the year all students completed a creativity challenge. We all had a number of circles that needed to be changed into something recognisable. The Middle and Senior School had 3 minutes to complete the task while the Junior School had the full lesson. This challenge promoted problem solving, creative thinking and brainstorming solutions quickly, which are essential skills for STEM careers such as scientists, computer programmers, engineers and mathematicians.

We saw a range of circles transform into donuts, planets, fruit and clocks. Some of the very creative ideas included Sonic the Hedgehog, Pokemon poke balls, an hourglass and reading glasses.



Foundation

In Foundation, we have been investigating the weather and seasons discussing how it feels and looks. We had a fantastic stormy day a while ago, which was perfect to help us describe a storm. Students have identified appropriate clothes to match the weather, ensuring we are not too hot or too cold. They have explained that we wear gum boots and a rain jacket when going outside in the rain but when it is sunny, a hat, t-shirt and shorts are much more appropriate. Students have enjoyed discussing the changes that the seasons have on plants, identifying that trees go through many changes during the year; big leaves, the leaves change colour and fall off, no leaves on the tree, and then small leaves start to grow again.



Year 1 and 2

This term in STEM, Year 1 and 2 students have been learning about living things and their basic needs. They explored how plants and animals need air, water, food and shelter to survive and discussed how different environments help meet these needs.

Students investigated a range of habitats, including lakes, rainforests and deserts, making predictions about the plants and animals that might live there and comparing their ideas with what they discovered. They also enjoyed an outdoor learning activity, searching for insects and animals around the school grounds and thinking about what those living things need to survive.

Later in the term, students created their own class 'pet shop,' designing a pet based on a real animal and identifying the care it requires.

Students have now begun designing animal habitat collages, showing how an environment can support a living thing's needs. It has been wonderful to see students exploring, questioning and developing their understanding of how living things depend on their habitats to survive.



Year 3 and 4

This term in STEM, Year 3 and 4 students have been exploring life cycles and once-living things. Students began by learning about fossils and how scientists called palaeontologists study fossils to learn about plants and animals that lived long ago. They explored how fossils form and created their own fossil displays using natural materials and dinosaur models.

Students then investigated the life cycles of animals, including frogs and lions, and discussed how living things grow and change over time. They also explored the idea of metamorphosis, learning how animals such as frogs, butterflies, bees and newts transform through different stages of their life cycle. Students created and shared their own life cycle diagrams for different animals.

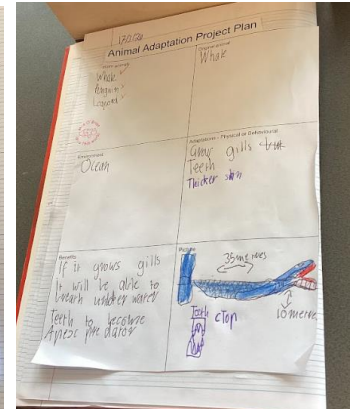
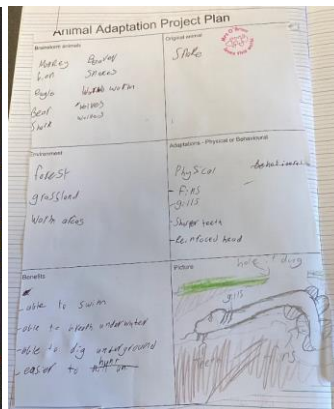
Later in the term, students explored how offspring are similar to their parents, looking closely at features that are passed down. They used clues to investigate which adult dogs could be the parents of a puppy named Luna and discussed how young animals can be alike and different from their parents.

To finish the unit, students learned about the life cycle of a flowering plant, from seed to flower. They watched videos, discussed each stage of the cycle, and created their own life cycle diagrams to show how plants grow and reproduce.



Year 5 and 6

In Year 5 and 6, we have been having scientific discussions about evolution and how animals have developed physical or behavioural adaptations to survive different environments. Students have analysed the fossil remains of Pakicetus (a descendant of the modern whale) and discussed the various physical changes they noticed over millions of years as it changed into the modern whale we know today. As well as discovering that the whale and hippo are closely related, this was a fact that most students were very surprised to learn. Students are enjoying thinking creatively when designing an animal adaptation that would help an existing animal. They are documenting this adaptation as a new discovery and writing a news article about it, including how this adaptation benefits the animal.



School Production

Ruskin Park Primary School is excited to present our bi-annual school production, featuring the talented students of Years 3-6. Join us for an evening of entertainment, laughter and mystery as the town of Happy Valley is turned upside down by a puzzling crime wave. With so many mysteries to solve, the question is: *can you help uncover the truth?*

When trouble strikes, there's a whole caseload of curious happenings. Who stole Ma Hubbard's treasured recipe book? Who kidnapped Marigold the cow? And what secret is Papa Bear hiding behind his famous porridge empire?

It's up to Private Detective Jack Spratt to piece together the clues and reveal what's really going on in this hilarious tale of mystery, mayhem and breakfast cereal.

Along the way, Jack is joined by Goldie Locks and a cast of wonderfully quirky characters, including barmy billy goats, loopy lumberjacks, a slightly chaotic police squad and one very determined runaway cow. Packed with music, comedy and plenty of surprises, this musical comedy brings familiar fairytale characters to life in ways you've never imagined.

Come along, enjoy the show and see if you can solve the mysteries of Happy Valley before Jack does!

Tickets are now available and can be purchased via the following link:

<https://www.theround.com.au/RuskinParkPorridge>

Ticket prices:

- Adults: **\$26**
- Children: **\$14**

Please note that **all students in Years 3–6 are involved in the production and are required to attend both performance nights**. Families are welcome to attend one or both evenings. **Students performing in the production do not require a ticket.**

Families of students in **Foundation–Year 2** are warmly invited to attend and support this wonderful whole-school event.

We look forward to **two fabulous nights of entertainment** and to seeing the students' hard work shine on stage! 🎭

The poster features a blue background with a brick wall illustration. At the top, it says 'Ruskin Park Primary School Presents' in white. Below that, the title 'PORRIDGE' is written in large, yellow, bubbly letters, with a wooden spoon and a splash of porridge integrated into the letters. The central illustration shows two characters: a police officer in a blue uniform and a bear in a purple suit and hat, both holding briefcases. The bear's briefcase is labeled 'TOP SECRET'. At the bottom, there is a yellow banner with the text 'Tickets Now Available'. Below this, on a blue background, are the dates 'Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th May', the venue 'The Round, 379-399 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading', a QR code for tickets, and the prices 'Adults \$26' and 'Children \$14'. The website 'www.theround.com.au/RuskinParkPorridge' is listed at the very bottom.

Ruskin Park Primary School Presents

PORRIDGE

Tickets Now Available

Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th May

The Round
379-399 Whitehorse Rd,
Nunawading

Scan for tickets:

Adults \$26
Children \$14

www.theround.com.au/RuskinParkPorridge

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

These Students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Hamish	Patrick	Jordyn	Ayden	Beau	Cohen	Luna	Jonathan	Leo
Koby	Lily	Oliver	Emmanuel	Lucas	Aiden	Zaylah	Obed	Ava
Alexis	Riley	Joel	Nathaniel	Aisling	Nun Tha	Bridget	Layla	Julia
Ryder	Sophie	Harvey						

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 1, 2026.

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



www.creativemusic.com.au





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CODING PROGRAM

RUSKIN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Time to code.
Think Creatively.
Solve Problems.**



TERM 2 2026 - 8 weeks

Years: 2 to 6

Day: Mondays lunchtime

Time: 1:10pm – 1:55pm

Fees: \$255 (incl. GST)

JOIN NOW!

www.digimaker.com.au/enrol



OPEN NIGHT 2026



Mooroolbark Campus
Tuesday 31 March
5.00pm-7.00pm

Information Session at 5.45pm

Mount Evelyn Campus
Thursday 26 March
5.00pm-7.00pm

Information Session at 5.45pm

Self guided tours of the college.

yarrahills.vic.edu.au

RESPECT ENDEAVOUR ACHIEVEMENT PRIDE