



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

29th May 2026



• RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

June

Tuesday 2nd Division Cross Country

Thursday 9th Year 5 Interrelate Begins

Monday 8th King's Birthday (Public Holiday)

Tuesday 16th Year 5/6 Winter Sport

Monday 22nd Year 3/ 4 Hooptime

Wednesday 24th Year 6 Market Day Stalls

Thursday 25th Disco

Friday 26th Bakers Delight

Free Dress (Gold Coin Donation)

End of Term (2:30 pm Dismissal)

Principal's Report

Cybersafety 4-6

As technology and online communication become an increasingly important part of children's lives, we continue to work proactively with students on cybersafety, respectful online behaviour, and seeking support when online experiences do not feel safe or appropriate.

Over the past fortnight, our Year 4–6 students participated in a cybersafety incursion focused on online behaviour, safe use of technology, social media awareness, gaming and communication platforms, and strategies for seeking help when needed. The sessions encouraged students to think critically about their digital footprint, engage in respectful online interactions, and speak with trusted adults when concerns arise.

For our older students in particular, we encourage families to regularly check in with children about their online activity, including social media use, group chats, gaming platforms, and messaging apps. While these spaces can provide opportunities for connection and fun, they can also create challenges that impact friendships, wellbeing, and students' sense of comfort at school.

Families may also be aware of the Australian Government's planned changes regarding social media age restrictions. Regardless of platform age requirements, we strongly encourage parents and guardians to remain actively involved in monitoring online activity and discussing safe and respectful behaviour online.

The eSafety Commissioner website provides a range of practical resources for families on online safety, social media, and supporting children in navigating online environments safely: [eSafety Commissioner Parent Resources](#).

As always, if students experience online behaviour that impacts their wellbeing or their ability to feel safe at school, we encourage them to speak with a trusted adult either at home or at school.

Events

Over the past two weeks, our students have participated in a range of exciting learning experiences beyond the classroom. Our Foundation students enjoyed a visit to the zoo, our Year 3 students explored Scienceworks, and our Year 5 students visited IMAX and the Melbourne Museum.

These experiences provide valuable opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of the curriculum through real-world learning, hands-on exploration, and shared experiences with their peers. We thank our staff and volunteers who supported these events and helped make them such positive learning opportunities for our students.

Public Holiday Reminder

A reminder that we have the King's Birthday public holiday on the 8th of June. This is a student-free day.

Reports

As of this semester, the reporting format will be adjusted to align with updated Department of Education advice ahead of future changes to semester reporting requirements. Families will still see many of the familiar features within the report, including information about your child's progress and achievement against the expected learning standards. However, there will be a reduction in the number of written comments provided across specific curriculum areas.

These changes are designed to support teachers to spend more time doing what they do best: understanding students' individual learning needs, planning responsive learning experiences, and delivering high-quality teaching in the classroom.

Due to current industrial action related to statewide negotiations for the next Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, reports may look slightly different across classrooms this semester. I want to acknowledge that staff who have chosen to participate in industrial action are doing so as part of a broader statewide response, while continuing to care deeply about their students and the learning progress of every child. Many staff have found this situation difficult, particularly when it impacts an aspect of communication with families that they value highly.

As always, if you have any questions about your child's learning progress, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher.

Tim Mulhall

Principal

Foundation

We've had another exciting 2 weeks in Foundation. The students have been building their confidence in many ways and are always keen to learn new things as we come to the middle of Term 2.

Literacy

In Reading, students have been learning how to select a 'just right' book that matches their reading level and interest. They have been encouraged to consider whether they know most of the words, understand the story, and find the book interesting enough to keep them reading. Students are also learning that a 'just right' book may still have a few tricky words, but they can continue to enjoy and make sense of the text while building their confidence as readers. Alongside this, students have continued exploring nonfiction texts and recording interesting facts in their reader's notebook. They have also been encouraged to think deeply about texts by sharing questions as they read.

In Writing, students have continued to create non-fiction texts using facts they have learnt from books and classroom discussions. They have been developing their ability to share information clearly through drawings, labels, and simple sentences. Students have also been practising 'free choice' writing, in which they generate their own ideas and topics to write about independently. This encourages creativity, confidence, and the development of their writing skills as they learn to plan and express their own thoughts and ideas.

Phonics

In Phonics, students have added the letters 'y' and 'z' to their growing phonics knowledge. They have been practising recognising letters, learning their sounds and identifying words that begin with or contain these sounds. Students have continued to revise previously learnt phonics concepts to strengthen their understanding and build confidence in applying their knowledge during reading and writing activities.

Maths

In Maths, students have been working on partitioning and combining collections up to 10 through a range of hands-on activities and games. They have been practising subitising small collections and learning how different numbers can be broken into different parts, such as partitioning 5 and 10 into two groups. Students have also been exploring combinations of numbers that add up to 10 and developing their understanding of how numbers can be represented

in different ways. These activities help strengthen students' number sense, counting skills, and confidence when working with numbers.



Other

This term, students have planted seeds and enjoyed observing their growth over time. They have been recording the changes they notice through drawings, pictures, and simple words, helping them develop their observation and communication skills. Students have also been learning about cyber safety, including what the internet is and how to keep personal information, such as passwords, safe and secure.

Junior School

Year 1

This year is flying by; we can't believe it is already Week 6! It has been wonderful to see how much our Year 1 students have grown and achieved so far. Over the past fortnight, students have been involved in many exciting learning experiences, and we are excited to share some highlights with you.

As we enter Winter, please remember to send your child to school with appropriate clothing. If it is going to be cold, send them in with a jacket. It may be warm in the classroom, but outside it could be freezing! This could also include packing a pair of spare socks, just in case their shoes and socks get a bit wet.

Literacy

In Literacy, students have been reading familiar texts such as *The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland. They have been learning about the key elements of a narrative and identifying the important parts of a story. Students particularly enjoyed finding and recording the OOH (interesting characters), AHH (descriptive setting), UH-OH (exciting problem) and PHEW (solution) within the texts. Using *The Very Cranky Bear* as inspiration, students have had the opportunity to create some fantastic retells of their own.

In Phonics this fortnight, we have been exploring the different sounds that 'ou' and 'ow' can make. We have discussed where these spelling patterns are usually found in words, and students have enjoyed practising sounding out and writing words using them.

Maths

In Maths, we have been diving into the world of 2D shapes. The students have learnt the features of 2D shapes through open-ended tasks. Students had the opportunity to explore different shapes using concrete materials and discuss with peers what they noticed about them. You can support your child and their learning at home by seeing if you can spot any 2D shapes around you and describing their features. This week, students have been learning about grouping and sharing collections equally. They used hands-on materials to make equal groups and explored how objects can be shared fairly between people. Students enjoyed working collaboratively and explaining their mathematical thinking during activities.



Wellbeing

In Wellbeing this week, we have been practising our resilience and problem-solving skills while working in a team. Students were challenged to build a card tower, which helped them develop their collaboration skills, perseverance, and confidence in trying new strategies. We very quickly found out it is much harder than it looks, but the students did such a great job working as a team!



Year 2

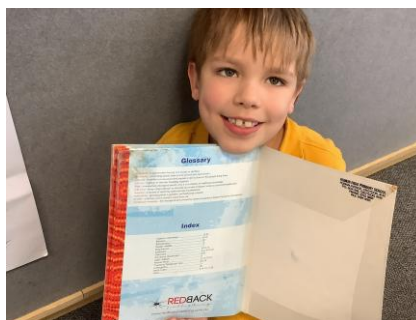
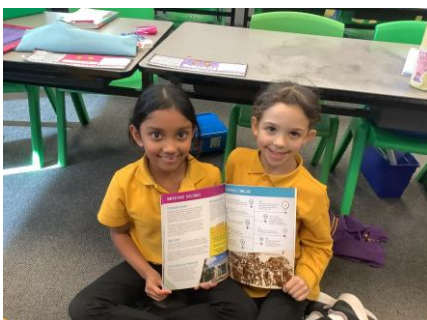
What a wonderful couple of weeks it has been in Year Two, with the term continuing to fly by and so many engaging learning experiences! It has been great to see students showing enthusiasm, curiosity and a strong commitment to their learning across all areas of the curriculum—a big congratulations to our superstars who received the Principal Award this week. We are so proud of the effort, persistence and positive choices being demonstrated. We know that everyone is working hard and always doing their best, and we encourage all students to keep up the excellent efforts.



We would also like to warmly congratulate Mr Taratuta and his wife on the safe arrival of their beautiful baby son, Harley. We are thrilled for their family and wish them lots of joy during this special time.

Literacy

During Reading sessions, students have been exploring a range of nonfiction texts to identify and understand different text features. They have been learning how authors use headings, diagrams, maps, captions, labels and photographs to help readers gather extra information and better understand a topic. Students are also considering how information texts are organised, discussing why authors group information into sections and how this helps readers quickly locate specific facts when needed.



In Writing, students continue to create their own informational texts on topics they consider themselves 'experts' on. It has been wonderful to see the variety of topics students are passionate about and eager to teach others about! Students are focusing on using clear facts and detailed information to educate their readers, while also thinking carefully about how to organise their writing into logical sections. They are experimenting with headings and topic-specific vocabulary to make their writing more informative and engaging for their audience.

Please continue to read with your child each night, as this regular practice plays such an important role in developing fluency, comprehension and confidence. Your child does not always need to be the one reading independently to benefit from this time together. Reading activities may include taking turns reading, reading together, discussing

pictures and predictions, or listening to you model fluent and expressive reading. Don't forget to record books read in your child's yellow reading log and continue tracking their progress towards reading awards!

Numeracy

Our current focus in Numeracy is on students developing a range of strategies to solve one- and two-digit addition and subtraction problems. We have been focusing on strategies such as the *jump strategy*, where students use number lines to make jumps forwards or backwards; the *split strategy*, where numbers are broken into tens and ones to make calculations easier; and the *compensation strategy*, where students adjust numbers to create 'friendlier' sums before correcting the answer. Students are building flexibility in their mathematical thinking and learning that there are multiple ways to solve a problem efficiently. They are also encouraged to explain and justify the strategies they choose, which helps strengthen both their understanding and confidence in mathematics.

Geography

This week in Geography, we have continued exploring how familiar places are named. Students have been learning that places are often named after important features of the area or significant historical figures. We investigated the origins of names such as Victoria, Mooroolbark, Maroondah and Croydon. Students were especially excited to learn that Ruskin Park was named after John Ruskin, a famous writer from the 1800s.

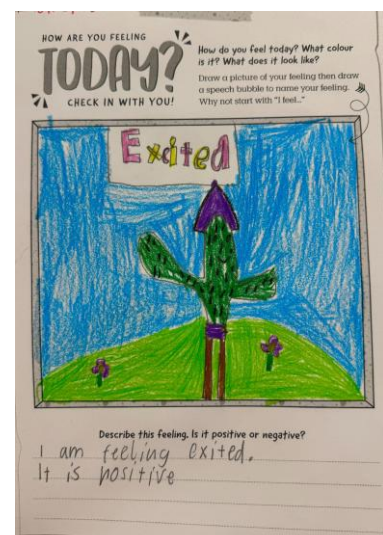
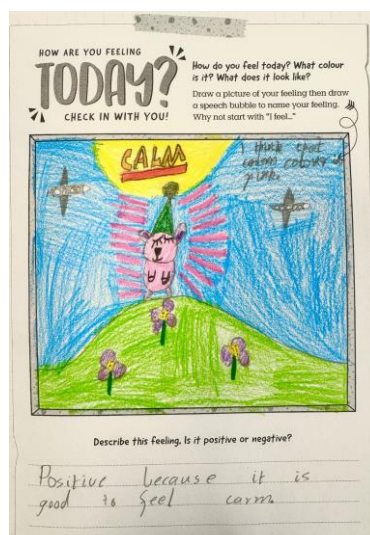
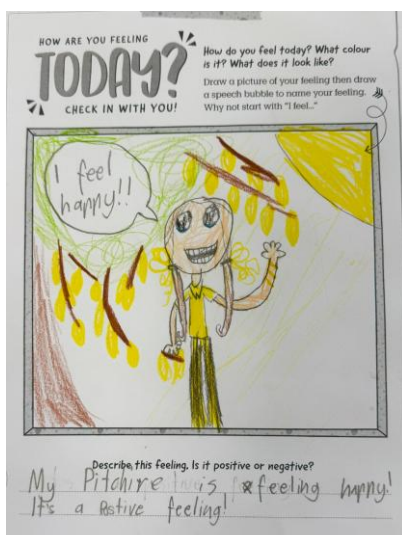
Digital Technologies

In Digital Technologies, students have continued building their confidence and independence when using computers. They have been practising important touchpad skills, including accurately clicking and dragging icons, while also strengthening their text-processing skills.

Wellbeing

In Wellbeing, students have been learning to recognise and understand positive and negative emotions by interpreting facial expressions and body language. The students worked on identifying the emotion they were feeling and then deciding whether it was positive or negative.

They explored how different feelings can be conveyed through small changes in the eyes, eyebrows, and mouth, and considered what might be happening in friendship situations based on these cues. This learning is helping students build empathy, emotional awareness, and strategies for supporting others in positive, caring ways.

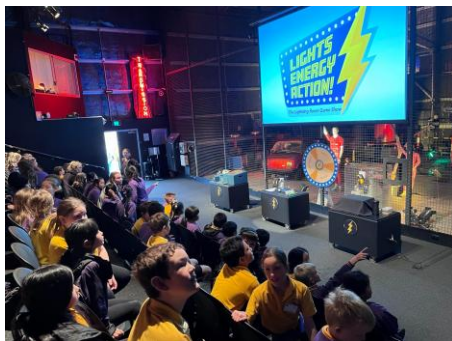


Middle School

Year 3

The Year 3 students have had a wonderful two weeks, with the highlight being our exciting excursion to Scienceworks. Students enjoyed learning about the constellations visible from Melbourne and discovered what living things need to survive during their interactive trip to Mars in the Planetarium. They were amazed by the experiments in the Lightning Theatre and had lots of fun exploring the Sportworks exhibition, where they challenged Cathy Freeman, tried rock climbing, and played AFL and soccer. Students also explored the Think Ahead exhibition, learning about sustainability, space and future technologies, with the disappearing tube proving to be a favourite attraction!

A huge thank you to our parent helpers for their assistance on the day.

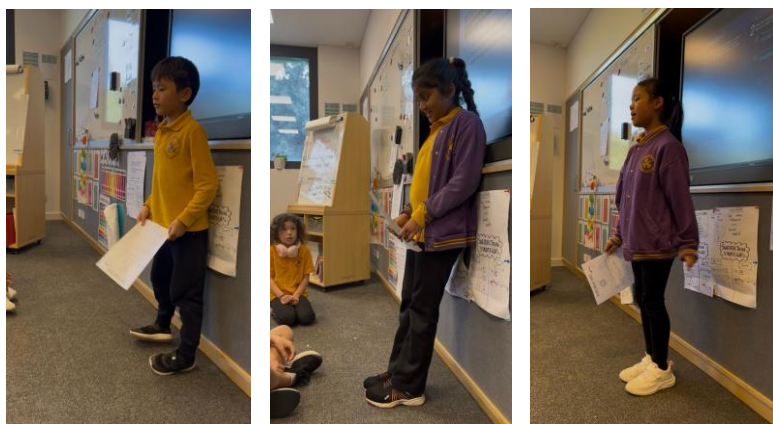


Literacy

Over the last fortnight, Year 3 students have been exploring biographies as part of our Information Reports unit. In reading, students have been drawing on their prior knowledge and what they have read to pose thoughtful questions and reflect on their understanding of texts.

As part of this learning, students interviewed a classmate about their life and then wrote a detailed biography. They then selected another person to research, posing questions and gathering information as they work on drafting their biographies. A key focus in writing has been carefully selecting words to engage readers and share information clearly and accurately. Over the coming weeks, students will create a Google Slides presentation about their chosen person and present their learning to classmates.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed listening to students' Inform Me presentations. Over the past few weeks, students have had valuable opportunities to develop and strengthen their presentation skills. Their presentations have been informative and entertaining, and it has been wonderful to see our Year 3 students' growing confidence as they speak in front of their peers.



Maths

In Maths, we have wrapped up our unit on fractions, where students explored the meaning of numerators and denominators and learnt how to recognise and identify fractions in a variety of shapes and collections. Through hands-on, open-ended learning experiences, students investigated fractions in shapes and on number lines while developing their understanding of how to compare fractions with different denominators.

This week, students have begun exploring 3D objects, focusing on recognising, describing, and naming different 3D shapes and identifying their properties. Students identified properties of 3D Objects and sorted objects depending on their features. This learning activity promoted the development of mathematical vocabulary and reasoning skills.



Digi Tech

In Digital Technologies, students have been learning about online integrity. Through exploring different online scenarios, they considered the perspectives and feelings of people involved in digital interactions. Students discussed the impact of online choices and worked together to suggest positive and respectful actions that could lead to better outcomes.

Humanities

In Humanities, we have continued learning about the environment, focusing on sustainability and caring for our world. They have discussed how our actions can have positive or negative effects on the world around us. Students have explored how First Nations Peoples have used a variety of practices over time to care for Country and maintain a strong connection with the land and environment.

Wellbeing

In Year 3, students have been learning about positive and negative emotions and the factors that can cause them. They have explored how their actions can affect others, as well as how others' actions can influence how we feel. Students have participated in a range of collaborative games that promote teamwork, respectful communication, and reflection on how their choices and behaviours impact the group.



Year 4

Literacy

In Reading, students have continued exploring the mentor text 'The Land of Stories' and have been thoroughly engaged in the adventures of Alex and Connor as they journey to collect the items needed for the Wishing Spell. As we near the novel's conclusion, students eagerly anticipate whether the twins will successfully escape the Land of Stories.

During our mini-lessons, students have been reading and analysing key sections of the text, focusing on how Chris Colfer encourages readers to infer character traits through characters' actions, dialogue, and decisions. These discussions have supported students in developing deeper comprehension skills and a stronger understanding of how authors craft characters within a narrative.



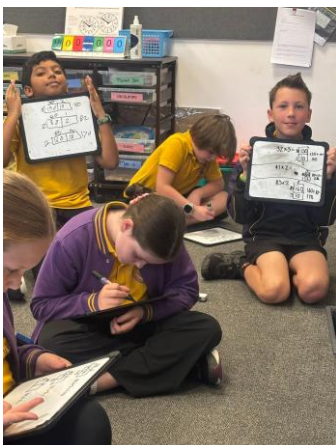
In Writing over the past fortnight, students have worked hard to complete drafts of their fantasy texts. We have loved seeing students draw upon the magical potions, fantasy maps, and portal doors they previously created, using these imaginative ideas to inspire their writing. Their stories have included a range of magical elements, adventurous settings and creative characters that have brought their fantasy worlds to life.

As part of the writing process, students have also been learning to distinguish between revising and editing their work, carefully improving both the content and the accuracy of their writing. Students have now begun publishing their fantasy texts in a special book format and are excited to share their finished pieces.

Maths

In Mathematics, students have continued developing a range of efficient strategies to strengthen their problem-solving and mathematical thinking skills. During our recent subtraction lessons, students revisited familiar strategies that also support addition, including using number lines, breaking equations into smaller, more manageable parts, and aligning numbers vertically to apply their understanding of place value. Students were challenged with a variety of multi-step problems that encouraged them to carefully interpret questions, select appropriate strategies, and explain their thinking.

This week, our learning focus has shifted to multiplication. Students have been building confidence by recalling known times-table facts and using them to develop more efficient strategies for solving problems. In class, we explored visual representations such as arrays, where students organised dots into equal rows and columns to model multiplication facts, for example, 4 rows of 5 dots to represent $4 \times 5 = 20$. As the year progresses, we will continue strengthening times table fluency to support students as they begin working with larger numbers and more complex multiplication concepts. We look forward to seeing students' confidence and knowledge continue to grow through regular practice at both school and home.



Cyber Safety Incursion

Last week, we were fortunate to welcome the educators from the Cyber Safety Project to work with our Year 4 students. During the sessions, students explored what it means to be safe, respectful and responsible online users. Reinforcing the values of Strength, Empathy, Responsibility and Integrity, students discussed the importance of seeking help from trusted adults, considering how others may feel online, protecting personal information and understanding how their online actions contribute to their digital identity.

Students also learned about the three different online spaces — public, private and personal — and discussed what types of information are appropriate to share in each space. A key message reinforced throughout the sessions was that even information shared in a “private” space can still be screenshot or shared with others. Students were encouraged to regularly check their privacy settings, think carefully before posting online, and continue to demonstrate safe and responsible digital citizenship.

District Cross Country

Last week, several Year 4 students proudly represented Ruskin Park Primary School at the district cross country event. We are incredibly proud of the persistence, determination, and positive attitude that students demonstrated throughout the cross-country event. Congratulations to all students involved for giving their best effort and representing our school so positively.



Senior School

Year 5

The Year 5 students had a ball at IMAX and the Melbourne Museum yesterday! The excursion was part of our English unit on documentaries. Students enjoyed viewing 'Jane Goodall - Reasons for Hope' and 'Extreme Weather', taking note of the music used, scene changes and the general mood of both documentaries. We then had fun exploring the museum, including the Forest Walk and the Bugs Alive exhibit.





Literacy

In Reading, students have been learning about objective and subjective language. Students have learnt that objective texts generally present facts that can be proven, whereas subjective texts are more about opinions that can differ from person to person and can change. We have also begun identifying tier 1, 2 and 3 vocabulary. Tier 1 words are common and high-frequency; tier 2 vocabulary is robust and more academic; and tier 3 vocabulary is technical and topic-specific.

In Writing, the Year 5s have begun researching their chosen topics for their documentaries. Students are learning all about pink dolphins, William Shakespeare, Malta, sharks, Maltese Terriers, Ned Kelly and so many more! Students are carefully following a rubric to ensure their research is relevant and interesting.

Maths

We concluded our unit on data this week, with students creating 'fair' and 'unfair' spinners and testing them by spinning them 20, 50 and 100 times! Students also had fun surveying their peers and collecting data on topics that interested them. Students had the option to collect data that was 'nominal' or 'ordinal'. Students then turned their raw data into column graphs and pie charts and drew conclusions based on their findings. We also learnt how to identify the 'mode' of data, with students ordering their data and identifying which values appeared most often.



DigiTech

Last week the Year 5s attended an incursion run by the Cyber Safety Project. Students identified different ways to protect our identities online and how to show respect when interacting with others online.



Year 6

Literacy

In Reading, we have commenced our new unit, an author study of the popular and well-known author and illustrator Shaun Tan. Shaun Tan's books are designed for Senior School children and require a mature understanding of the texts, which delve into themes such as loneliness, anxiety, belonging, hope, and forgiveness. Students have been eagerly discussing each text's themes, tone and mood, contributing insightful and thought-provoking ideas. So far, we have read and analysed the books 'The Rabbits' and 'The Rules of Summer'. Already, students are noticing literary features unique to Shan Tan and are building their confidence in analysing texts using sophisticated vocabulary.



In Writing, we have been learning how to write a text response. A text response is a form of writing where you analyse and respond to a particular text, such as a novel, film, or play. Students have been writing text responses to picture storybooks by Shaun Tan. They have developed their ability to summarise a text and to discuss its themes, symbolism, and the author's techniques. We will continue to enhance these skills throughout our Author's Study Unit while supporting students in completing an essay-question written response.

Mathematics – Mastering BIDMAS and Decimal Operations

Our Year 6 students have been developing their understanding of the order of operations by applying the BIDMAS strategy (Brackets, Indices, Division, Multiplication, Addition and Subtraction) to solve increasingly complex number problems. Students are learning how mathematicians follow a specific sequence of steps to ensure calculations are accurate and consistent.

Alongside this work, students have been strengthening their ability to multiply and divide decimals by powers of 10 without a calculator. By applying their understanding of place value and confidently recalling multiplication facts, students are becoming more efficient and flexible mathematicians.

Students are also using estimation and rounding strategies to check whether their answers are reasonable. This important skill encourages students to think critically about their solutions and build confidence in identifying errors independently. It has been wonderful to see students explain their mathematical thinking and apply these skills to challenging problem-solving tasks.

Humanities

Students are hard at work developing their businesses in preparation for Market Day, which will be held on Wednesday 24th of June. Students are actively engaged in market research, product design, advertising, budgeting, and determining a reasonable selling price to ensure profitability. Through this project, students are also developing their skills in collaboration, time management and organisation. We look forward to showing you some of the goods and services students are developing for the Market Day.



Physical Education

Cross Country

Good luck to Everley, Ivy, Rosie, Ava, Yasmine, Dane, Marley, Eleanor, Emerson and Bobbie, who will be competing in the Yarra Division Cross Country next week. We are so proud of the effort you put in to get there. Go, Ruskin Park!

Year 5/6 Winter Interschool Sports

On Tuesday the 16th of June, Year 5 and 6 students will participate in netball, soccer, AFL 9s and t-ball against other schools in the Montrose District in friendly competition. If you can assist with managing your child's team on the day, please make contact.

Year 3 - 6 Hooptime.

Students in Years 3 and 4 have begun training in their teams, with the help of Year 6 leaders. Years 5 and 6 will begin training in Week 7. The Compass events are now live with more information about the days.

2026 Physical Education Dates:

Term 2

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

These Students have recently celebrated their birthdays:

Athalia	Stephanie	Nely	Eleanor	Bobbie	Teddy	Thawng Tha	Lincoln	Morris
Olivia M	Levi	Abi	Elly	Harvey	Kelly	Shinsuke	Tristan	Harry
Simon	Olivia H	Kyron						

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

Give Your Child the Gift of Music

Learn a Musical Instrument

here at school

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

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 this term.

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



Creative Music

www.creativemusic.com.au

