



WHAT'S ON Dates to Note

Book Week Assembly
27th August

School Council Dates

Tuesday, 14th September

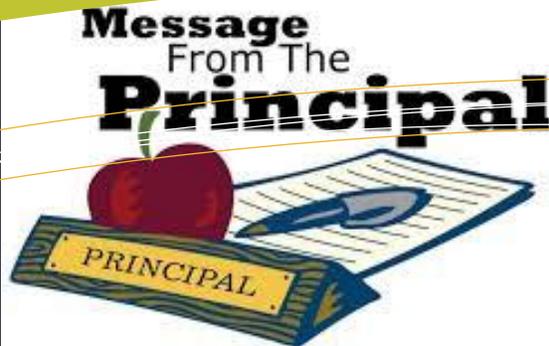
Term Dates

Term 3

12th July – 17th September

Term 4

4th October – 17th December



From the Principal

Dear families and friends,

I hope you are all doing as well as can be expected during these difficult times. Not a day went by whilst I was on leave that I didn't think of our Red Hill students, staff and families, especially hearing the news of not one, but two lock downs. Although we had a wonderful family trip away, it is definitely good to be back. I would like to sincerely thank Mrs. Joanne Barnes, for acting as principal whilst I was on long service leave, providing exceptional leadership during a challenging period. I would also like to thank Mr. Kris Hickson and Ms. Lou Kusel for stepping up in their roles and supporting Jo in leading the school. I am incredible grateful that I could take this time away with my family, knowing that the school was in such capable hands.

I would like to congratulate our staff and our students for transitioning in, out and back into remote and flexible learning and of course well done to all of the mums, dads, carers and grandparents at home supporting our students with their learning.



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It was wonderful to see so many faces online at Monday's Andrea Rowe workshop. This was a really interesting session with a local author and a great launch of Book Week 2021. If you missed it, Andrea shared her beautiful picture story book, "Jetty Jumping", and talked about where she gets her inspiration for her stories as well as how she plans and edits her work. Our students asked lots of very good questions and Andrea shared some of her tips and secrets to become a better writer. I am sure many of our students have been busy writing stories of their own this week.



If you've called this school at any stage this week you may have heard a new voice. Kelly Proud is the newest member of our team, working full time in the administration. I would like to warmly welcome Kelly to RHCS.

During my absence, the building project has progressed well, despite some delays due to weather and COVID restrictions. If all goes to plan, the suspended slab will be poured this Saturday. Once poured, we will see the classrooms really take shape on the second level. There will be large trucks coming and going for this pour, so please avoid coming on to school grounds this Saturday. I'll post some pictures on ClassDojo next week of our new slab.



Our swimming pool complex has undergone a facelift, with a fresh coat of paint and change of colour to match our new building, ready.....fingers crossed.....for a return to swimming next term. Our administration and office area have been recarpeted and repainted, making this space warm and welcoming for our visitors.

Please be aware that the Department of Education's Parent Payment Policy has undergone some significant changes. This will mean changes to the way parents purchase book packs and the way we can process payments. Information about education to own items, curriculum contributions, other contributions and extra curricula activities and items will be sent home during the first week of Term 4. Please keep an eye out for this important email.

Don't forget to tune in on Friday for our special Book Week Assembly. Details and a link to this assembly will be posted on ClassDojo. Thank you to all families who have sent in pictures of their children dressed up and a big thumbs up to Mrs. Dempster for organising our Book Week celebrations. Please take care of yourselves and your family and be sure to break up your days with some fun and make the most of our beautiful surrounding.

Kind regards,

Gus Wettenhall

Principal



CONTEMPORARY LEARNING EXPERIENCE UPDATE

This week at Red Hill Consolidated School we are celebrating Book Week. This is a great opportunity to get our learners excited about literature and reading. We started our week by spending time with a local author, Andrea Rowe.

Andrea shared her book “Jetty Jumping” with our students and talked about where she took inspiration from. She also educated the students about what was involved in being an author and talked through the process of creating a book. She shared about her Writer’s Notebook and how she uses it to gather ideas and little pieces of inspiration that she might use as a writer.



After the session with Andrea, our learners were buzzing about writing. Their excitement got me thinking about how children acquire the skill of writing.

We learn to write by writing and children love to write! At Red Hill, children are encouraged to select topics that express their ideas and interests. It is difficult (sometimes impossible) to write about unfamiliar topics or topics that are irrelevant to our life experiences. Before writing, talking about a topic is a good place to collect thoughts and ideas.

In our classrooms, children explore writing as a process from drafts to published pieces. Children are encouraged to write for real purposes and utilise a range of different text types such as recipes, factual texts, notes, report writing, narratives and poetry. They are also taught to consider how to appeal to different audiences.

As parents you can play a big part in encouraging your child to think of themselves as a ‘writer’.

- Encourage children to write, write, write! Provide many opportunities such as writing the shopping list, sending letters and cards to friends and relations, writing emails, keeping a diary, publishing personal stories, labelling photos in the family album, and leaving notes. Writing should be relevant and meaningful rather than writing for the sake of writing.
- Give children opportunities to read their stories aloud (while you sit back and listen). Listen with a focus on the message they express. Comment on what they have done well, for example: ‘I enjoyed how you used interesting words such as X, Y, Z.’ ‘The character you created seems so real. I can imagine how he looks.’ Leave comments about spelling, punctuation, and grammar to another time — they are important if and when it is to be published.
- Draw children’s attention to how writing is presented, for example, on brochures, billboards, books, and electronic media — these are models of writing for real purposes.
- Create a community of writers. Provide a quiet place for writing with lots of writing materials. Leave notes for each other, write poems for your children, and send messages in lunch containers. Play writing games, for example, one person writes the beginning, another the middle and the other the end of a family story. Write together.

Over the next few weeks I would love to share some of our learners’ writing through our newsletter. If your child has a piece they are really excited about, please email it to me and I will share it with our school community. Happy writing!

Jo Barnes

WELLBEING NEWS

Thank you to our truly amazing Red Hill Community!

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE FOR MANAGING THIS LOCKDOWN... yes it is a tough one but give yourself a break and a pat on the back.

I have been fortunate enough to visit many WebEx check-ins and see some very happy learners taking part in their morning meetings, and it is delightful to see so many happy smiling faces (and pets). Our teachers and education staff are doing an absolutely amazing job at providing lessons and rich tasks that can be completed at home.

We all know this is a really difficult time for many families on so many levels. We do understand that there are many pressures on families at the moment, so if you are finding the work is too overwhelming for your child, please do not hesitate to reach out to the classroom teacher and let them know. We are all in this together, and we all want our children to succeed academically and progress, but there will be times when you need to step back and look after everyone's mental health too.

Some suggestions to help at home include:

- Establishing a routine and setting expectations that work in your home.
- Making sure your child has a space to work in.
- Providing a level of supervision suitable to your child's stage of development and individual needs.
- Checking in with your child to help them manage and pace their work.

I know that some of these are easier said rather than done, particularly if you are also juggling your own workload and more than one child. However, if you can incorporate some of these suggestions into your child's day it can make a big difference. Some questions you may want to ask your children to support them are:

Morning Questions

- What are you learning today?
- What are your learning targets or goals?
- What resources do you need?
- What support do you need?

Afternoon Questions

- What did you learn today?
- What was challenging? You could come up with a way to deal with the same problem if it comes up again.
- Consider three things that went well today. Why were they good?
- Do you need help with something to make tomorrow more successful?

The last one is a great one, it allows your child to think about how they can be helped rather than leave them feeling lost- it gives back a bit of power and voice in their learning.

More information on remote learning can be found at

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

Morning Check-Ins

As part of our responsibility to keep all children safe, we do require regular check-ins. The morning WebEx is a great way to do this and generally really fun for all the children and involved. Please support and encourage your child to participate in this beneficial meeting. Again, if you have concerns or would like support managing this please do not hesitate to reach out.

Gratitude

If you are grateful for the effort and the amazing work that is going on behind the scenes, and on your screens, let your teacher know that they are nailing it! We all need to hear that a little more at this time. I am incredibly grateful that I work with such dedicated professionals who are remaining positive in this current climate and continue to deliver an evolving and inclusive education experience.

Wanting to help others in our community but not sure how?

Southern Peninsula Community Support is a welcoming local organisation that services the Red Hill area by providing financial support and other services for families who are experiencing difficult times.

They can provide assistance with basic groceries, food vouchers, PBS scripts and educational assistance.

Currently, there is a great need for the support and services they provide.

If you are able to donate and would like to help others who are vulnerable especially at this time, please follow the link attached.

<https://support-your-community-appeal.raisely.com/>

If you are experiencing hardship during this time, please know there are some very supporting and helpful organisations there to assist. The lovely workers at SPCS can be contacted between 10am and 3pm, Monday to Friday on **5986 1285** or, for more information, have a look at their website.

<https://www.spcsic.org/>

This is no doubt a very hard time for a lot of people and there are incredible organisations out there to support you and your loved ones. These organisations are discrete, professional and non-judgmental and here to help.



Should your child be experiencing any difficulties at school, please reach out to your classroom teacher as they know your child well.

If you or your family are experiencing difficult circumstances or hardship and you would like to discuss how the school can help to support your children, please do not hesitate to contact me on louise.kusel@education.vic.gov.au

Until next time, take great care of yourself and your loved ones and in a world where you can anything, be kind!



Louise Kusel – Acting Wellbeing Coordinator.

Thank you everyone! We are all in this together.



RAP Update

Last night the RAP (Reconciliation Action Group) had their second meeting. Thank you to all members of our Working Group who attended.

This meeting was to create a Vision for Reconciliation for our school. It was a very productive meeting with lots of great conversation and we are well on our way to finalising our Vision.

We will be having another meeting next week with the plan to complete this task.

We encourage anyone who would be interested to join us to please do so. We are not experts and everyone is welcome!

Please contact Caitlin Sullivan via email with any enquiries: Caitlin.Sullivan@education.vic.gov.au

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 1st September 5PM (Link to join remote meeting will be posted on Class Dojo)





Hello everyone, 😊

The past two weeks have seen a drop in numbers due to lock down, but we have been busy!

Constructing cup towers and holding high jump tournaments with them has been a big interest which has now moved to exercise circuits. We've been loving diamond art and working as a team to complete the picture. It has been great to see the children supporting and including each other in the activities.

The room has been changed around and we are working on a 'Community Engagement' space where we will collaborate with the local community and provide the space with resources ranging from services to charities and all in between. Please come to us if you have any ideas on how we at TheirCare could support a local club/service etc.

Ellie – Acting coordinator



Details & Calendar Info

Pupil Free Days:

6:30am to 6:30pm

Before School Care:

6:30 - 8:45am

Price before CCS: \$23.89

After School Care:

3:30 - 6:30pm

Price before CCS: \$26.52

Reminders

With the school holidays only a couple of weeks away be sure to check out our monster sized holiday program, Monster Mayhem!

You will find the link to book on the TheirCare website

Contact Details

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