



WHAT'S ON Dates to Note

Monday 11th March

Labour Day public holiday—
Student Free Day

Tuesday 12th March

Divisional Swimming

Friday 15th March

Hot Cross Bun orders close
@4pm

Saturday 16th March

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Friday 22nd March

Easter Raffle to be drawn

Tuesday 26th March

Hot Cross Bun delivery date

Thursday 28th March

Last day Term 1

2024 Term 1 Dates

29th January – 28th March

AGM & School Council

Tuesday 19th March



Principal's Report **P.1-3**

CLE Update **P.4**

Wellbeing **P.5**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and looking forward to the upcoming long weekend. As well as being a great excuse to get away or just catch up on some rest and relaxation, the Labor Day long weekend is always a reminder that Term 1 is racing away from us. Although the first 5 weeks have been action packed, it's been a very smooth start to the school year. Our students and classrooms are settled and as always, there's some incredible learning taking place. This week, we were pleased to welcome back author, poet and educator Alan Wright, who has been working in classrooms with students on the use of their Writer's Notebooks, which have been a hit this year. This was a great opportunity for our students as well as teachers, who observed Alan to improve their own practice.

District Swimming

Last week, our talented swimming team competed at the District Swimming competition at Yawa. I managed to sneak out of the Bayside/Peninsula Principal's Conference to cheer on our students. I'm always so impressed and proud of our students at these events. Most importantly for me it's the way they support one another and show outstanding sportsmanship as well as our school values. We even had one student who jumped in at the last minute to compete in another school's relay team. Having said that, we had several students who finished first or second in the entire District, qualifying for next Tuesday's Division event. In addition, many of our children achieved their personal best time. Well done to all swimmers and a big thank to all parents who attended and supported our team. Thank you also to Mr Milenkovic and Anna for all their work with our swimming team, including our lunchtime squad training sessions. We'll recognise our RHCS Swimming Team at this Friday's assembly.

Bushfire Evacuation Drill

As communicated, last week we conducted our first evacuation drill for 2024, simulating a bushfire and evacuation to our Shelter In Place. As expected, our procedures ran like clockwork, and all involved were responsible and sensible. All students, including our preps and children and staff from Monterosso Early Learning Centre were seated safely in our gym in just over 5 minutes and were all accounted for in just over 7 minutes. Although all students were aware this drill was going to take place, this is an excellent result for our first drill. I would like to thank Fireman Sam for observing and providing feedback on our procedures.

Womin Djeka Festival

It was great bumping into so many families at the Womin Djeka festival on Saturday at the Emu Plains Reserve in Balnarring. This was a great opportunity to celebrate and learn more about our local First Nations People. Thank you to Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Hyams who organised this, as well as all students who contributed to the "Barrimal" artwork on display at the RHCS tent. If you missed the festival this year, make sure you keep your eyes peeled for this event in 2025.



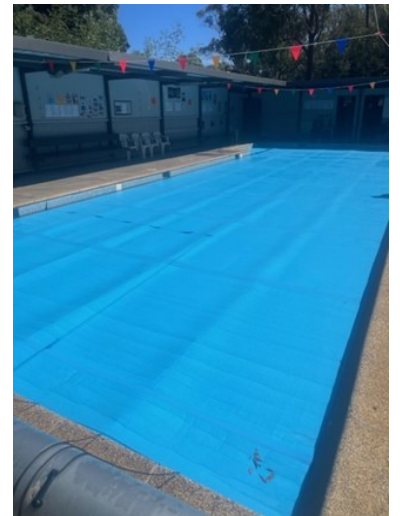
Easter Raffle

My office is currently full of chocolate Easter Eggs and other donations for our upcoming raffle. I'm exercising amazing will power and have resisted all urges to eat any chocolate. Thank you to all families who have donated to this fundraiser. We have also received some very generous donations of gift cards from local businesses, including Alba, Salty Surf School, Mummy Revival, Nordi, Green Olive and Boneo Maze, just to name a few. Full details of prizes will be posted on Class Dojo and displayed at assembly. Raffle tickets will be sent out this week. We ask that all families sell or purchase their raffle tickets. Further tickets will be available from the office if you'd like more. No newsletter is complete without a shout out to Kathryn and her crew of fundraising superstars.....thank you.



Swimming Pool

One of our greatest assets at RHCS is our beautiful swimming pool. Thank you to last year's fundraising, we were in a position to replace our pool blankets and rollers a few weeks ago. The new blankets will do a better job of keeping the heat in overnight, hopefully reducing our gas bills and environmental footprint. I've received a few queries recently about our swimming pool's water testing schedule. As a registered aquatic facility, our pool has an aquatic facility management plan and is registered as such with the Mornington Peninsula Shire. This plan requires us to complete twice daily water testing as well as weekly testing and treatment by our pool contractor. In addition, monthly microbiological testing takes place to test for a range of nasties in our water. If there's any doubt to the quality of our pool's water, the program is suspended, which was the case for the first week of this term. To help keep our pool's water healthy and safe, we encourage all swimmers to shower the morning of swimming and to stay out of the pool if they are sick. If you'd like more information on the management of swimming pools on school grounds, please visit: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/swimming-pools-school-grounds/policy>



NAPLAN

I'm sure our parents of students in Grade 3 and 5 are very aware that NAPLAN is fast approaching. I'm asking for all families to be aware that the NAPLAN testing period at RHCS begins on Wednesday the 13th of March and closes on Monday the 25th of March. It is important that we are all extra quiet when walking around the school during this time and please try to avoid late drop offs and early pick ups. If you have a child taking part in NAPLAN, especially if this is their first attempt at NAPLAN, please make sure they get plenty of additional rest and early nights. Our students are exposed to NAPLAN style testing in preparation as an attempt to remove as much pressure as possible for our students. All we want for our children is for them to take their time and do their very best. We understand that this can be a difficult time for some students and have strategies and resources available to support them. I'd like to wish all of our students taking part in NAPLAN this year all the best.



Respectful Behaviours in the Community

Parents, carers and school staff have a relationship that can last many years. This is an opportunity to work together to create a positive relationship in the best interests of the child. When this relationship is built on respect and trust, students learn better and feel like they belong in the school. Positive school environments are important because everyone has the right to be safe and play a shared role in being respectful. Everyone at school, particularly staff and parents/carers, play a role in making school a better place for learning and work. The Department of Education has clear expectations on how the school community, including parents and carers should interact with each other, school staff and children when on school grounds. Although we are lucky to have an incredible school community and positive school culture, it's always a good idea that everyone is aware of these shared responsibilities. Please visit the Respectful Behaviours Within the School Community Policy at: <https://www.vic.gov.au/respectful-behaviours-within-school-community-policy>

Dogs in School Policy

I've received a number of reports this fortnight that some of our four legged friends have been visiting our school at drop off and pick up time without a leash. We've also had quite a few dog businesses to pick up.....not my favourite job. If we are to continue to welcome dogs into our school, it is important that all dog owners follow our policy, which includes keeping dogs on leads at all times and picking up after them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bunnings Barbeque

We're still after a few more helpers for our Bunnings Barbeque on Saturday the 16th of March. If you can lend a hand for a few hours, please contact Kathryn via email on kdedda@hotmail.com. Thanks so much to all of those parents and carers who have already signed up.

Don't forget to set up your child's Colour Run Account. Have a wonderful long weekend.

Kind regards,

Gus Wettenhall



MAKE A VIP LIST OF DONORS

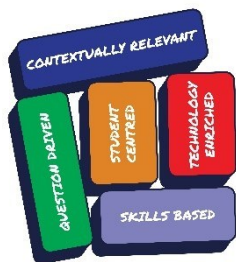
Make a list of VIP Donors, it might include your Grandparents, Uncles or Aunties etc. They're on your list because they mean a lot to you. So, let them know they are special by inviting them to support you personally. You can do that by directly texting or emailing your fundraising link to them before you share it on social media.

PERSONALISE YOUR PROFILE STORY

When you create your online fundraising page, it's a great idea to personalise your story. It lets people know about the Fun Run in your own words!

THANK YOUR DONORS

Share your online fundraising link every couple of days and when someone donates to you thank them publicly on social media. It'll make them feel appreciated... because they are!



CLE UPDATE

This week we have had the pleasure of welcoming Alan Wright back to Red Hill Consolidated School. Alan has worked with our staff on a number of occasions over recent years, helping us to further develop as teachers of writing. This week Alan has been spending time in Red Hill classrooms, working with students and modelling best practice for teachers. Our staff have been observing and learning from Alan and then will be attempting to replicate some of the practices he has demonstrated in their own classroom.

When working with learners, Alan really highlights the importance of the Writer's Notebook. He invites students to explore his notebooks and gives them great ideas for things they can add to their own. For example, when working with some of our Grade 5 students on Monday, he shared with them that he often records other author's words in his notebook. He reads as a writer, looking for great examples of author's craft. Alan then attempts to write his own piece in the style of the other author. After listening to Alan share from his notebook the students then poured through a wide variety of beautiful books that Alan brought in, hunting for passages that inspired them as writers.

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. During writing sessions 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.

Great writers, however, are not just developed at school. As parents you can play a big part in encouraging your child to think of themselves as a 'writer'. Some ideas of how you can encourage this positive attitude to writing are:

- 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.
- Curate your own Writer's Notebook and share your writing with your kids.

Happy writing everyone!

"Words are our most inexhaustible source of magic." - J. K. Rowling.

Jo Barnes



Hello Parents / Carers,

Student Attendance and Absences

This newsletter, I would like to feature the importance of consistent and regular school attendance, as well as parental responsibility for notifying the school of any student absences. Parents/Carers can help us ensure any absences are recorded accurately to improve our attendance data, as well as to ensure that we are providing any support to families that may need to be put in place.



If your child is sick or absent, you are required to notify the school as soon as possible **on the day of absence**, using Compass.

Recording your child's absence either prior to, or on the day that they will be away, helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and will fulfil your legal responsibility.

Victorian government schools are required to contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the same day of an unexplained student absence. If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not recorded your child's absence on Compass to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained. The school will need to follow up the reason. It is important that the reason for your child's absence is recorded accurately. Explanations can be provided for any unexplained absence after the absence date to ensure that the accurate reason for absence is recorded.

On Compass recording absences accurately is important to:

- ensure the **safety and wellbeing of all students** by monitoring their attendance.
- assist in identifying and resolving barriers, and access, to education when **a student is absent often and if the student needs additional support to attend school.**
- assist schools in meeting their **duty of care** to minimise the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm to a student.

This year we are really trying to **minimise the use of 'Parent Choice'**. This reason should only be used if it does not fit into another more satisfactory explanation such as Medical/Illness, Bereavement, Family Holiday....

It is a legal requirement that teachers mark their rolls twice a day. At 9am each day teachers take the roll. If a student is absent and the parent/carer has not notified the school via Compass to explain why, class teachers will mark their rolls as an unexplained absence which will then generate an automatic Compass message to parents/carers after 9:30am. If your child/ren are late to school, they must sign in at the Office preferably with a parent / carer so a reason can be entered into Compass.

This system also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education, they learn new things every day – missing school puts them behind. We would like to emphasise the importance of your child's regular attendance at school. Attending school regularly not only helps students academically but also plays a crucial role in their overall development.

Here are a few reasons why regular school attendance is vital:

1. **Academic Success:** Attending classes regularly allows students to stay on track with their lessons, understand concepts better, and perform well in assessments.
2. **Social Development:** Regular school attendance helps students build friendships, develop social skills, and engage in group activities that are essential for their social growth.
3. **Establishing Routine:** Consistent attendance helps students establish a routine that prepares them for future responsibilities and commitments.
4. **Teacher Support:** Being present in class enables students to benefit from direct teacher instruction, guidance, and support.

We kindly request your support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and punctually. If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or any other reason, please notify the school via Compass. If you require assistance with recording your child's absence on Compass, please phone the school office on 5989 2321.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us create a positive and conducive learning environment for all students.

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

Sascha Wardlaw

Assistant Principal





Delicious Hot Cross Buns available to order for Easter

We are excited to announce, that this year you will have the opportunity to buy Bakers Delight Hot Cross Buns for Easter to raise valuable funds for our School. All funds raised go towards improvements and equipment for our students.

There will be two flavours available to purchase:

- * Traditional Fruit Hot Cross Buns
- * Choc Chip Hot Cross Buns

Each pack contains 6 Hot Cross Buns.
Purchase price (per pack of 6): \$9.50

You will need to enter total amount payable for each flavour individually.

Please note only 1 order per family can be placed however multiple packs can be purchased in your order.

All orders must be placed on Compass via Course Confirmation.
Orders are open from Thursday 29th February and close **Friday 15th March 4pm.**

No late orders can be accepted.

All Hot Cross Buns will be delivered to the School Tuesday 26th March and delivered to the youngest student in the family to take home that evening.

Compass payments will close Friday 15th March, 4pm.
Card Payments can be accepted at the office, but no CASH payments available.



EASTER FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

Raffle tickets for our Easter fundraiser raffle will go out this Thursday with the oldest child from each family.

TICKETS \$2 Each

Preferred payment method is COMPASS
but cash returned in envelope is accepted.

** extra tickets available from the office

PLEASE RETURN BY 21st MARCH


... don't forget ALL money raised will support the huge
Indigenous art mural which will go at the front of our
school

PLUS...WE HAVE SOME AMAZING PRIZES!!

INCLUDING:

- Salty surf school vouchers
- Gaia skin clinic voucher
- Goodies from the gathering tree co
- Alba thermal hot springs passes
- Boneo Discovery Park family pass
- the Big Goose family pass
- brunch for 2 at Nordie Cafe
- Green Olive picnic
- 5 x semi private PT sessions with Mummy Revival
- Mock Red Hill drinks and treats
- and of course.. chocolates and Easter art and crafts

**STAY TUNED FOR SOME HIGHLIGHTS ON DOJO
CONTACT KATHRYN EAGLE WITH ANY QUESTIONS**





FREE FRIDAY NIGHT T-BALL

BOYS &
GIRLS

6-10
Years Old

Come and join the Mornington Pirates Baseball Club for a FREE 4 week T-Ball program. Aimed at introducing your kids to the sport of Baseball, this program promises 4 fun and inclusive sessions for all.

Session Dates

Session 1	15th MARCH
Session 2	22nd MARCH
Session 3	29th MARCH
Session 4	5th APRIL

- Bring runners & water bottle
- No experience required
- No equipment needed
- Come for 1 or all sessions!
- Register now, or on the day

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

4:45PM - 6PM

Register your interest

secretary@morningtonbaseballclub.com.au

CB Wilson Reserve, Wilsons Road, Mornington