



**WHAT'S ON**  
**Dates to Note**

**Friday 6th September**

Art Show Open  
8:45am-4:00pm

**Monday 9th-11th September**

Year 6 Camp  
Warratah Beach Camp

**Thursday 12th September**

R U OK? Day

**Friday 13th September**

District Athletics - Civic Reserve  
Mornington  
Assembly @2:40pm

**Monday 16th-17th September**

Year 3 Camp  
Golden Valleys Adventure Camp

**Wednesday 18th September**

Footy Dress Up Day

**Friday 20th September**

End of Term - 3:30pm finish

**School Council**

Tuesday 17th September

**Term 3 Dates**

July 15th– September 20th



Principal's Report P.1-3  
CLE Update P.4  
Wellbeing P.5

Dear families and friends,

Firstly, I hope all of the Red Hill dads and special people had a wonderful Father's Day on Sunday. I'd like to acknowledge all of our incredible RHCS dads, we are so lucky to have so many involved in the school and community. I'd also like to thank our team of helpers who coordinated, organised and ran our Father's and Special Person's Day Stall this year. As always, the quality and range of gifts was very impressive. Well done!



**Book Week 2024**

Book Week and our special assembly is always a highlight and is important in celebrating and maintaining our strong reading culture at RHCS. Once again, our students and staff looked amazing in their costumes. We had such a variety of costumes this year, although Harry Potter was definitely still the most popular after all of these years. Thank you to all parents who helped source and make the outfits. I'd also like to thank all of our visitors who attended our Book Week Parade. Our Book Fair was a huge success, with many of our students purchasing some great titles. Thank you to Mrs Dempster and Ms. De Gues for taking charge of our Book Fair this year.



**A Night at the Movies @ Dromana Drive In**

I hope all families who attended our first ever "Night at the Movies" had a great night out. The Dromana Drive In is such a unique and iconic local attraction and the pre-release screening of "Runt" received great reviews from the students and parents I've spoken with – my kids loved it! As well as being loads of fun, we sold almost 350 tickets, raising a small profit for the school that will go towards a landscaping project that will likely take place these coming holidays. It's safe to say that the Drive In will be a RHCS 2025 event. Thank you Shelly and Paul from Dromana Drive In for hosting this fun family event.



## Celebrating Learning Partnerships

We had another big week this week, including our Celebrating Learning Partnerships on Thursday. This was another opportunity to provide students with a chance to share and discuss their learning, achievements and next steps with their parents and teachers. Although similar to our previous conferences, we encouraged students to take the lead in these conversations. In addition to the time with your child's teacher, students and parents were encouraged to take part in a variety of learning activities and games carefully selected and set up by their child's teacher. I hope you all enjoyed and found these conferences beneficial.



## Red Hill Student Art

To coincide with the Celebrating Learning Partnerships, our Student Art Show was open for business in our school hall on Thursday. With over 1000 pieces of spectacular art on display, I am certain that all visitors were blown away by the talent and creativity of our students. If you didn't make it on Thursday don't worry, doors will be open on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. Please share this invitation with your extended family. All visitors can sign in at the office. Congratulations to our wonderful visual arts teacher, Ms Fregon and her team of helpers for putting this show together.

## The Great Book Swap

Also this week was our Great Book Swap. In addition to providing our students with an opportunity to bring home one or two great new reads (very sustainable) The Great Book Swap also celebrates Indigenous Literacy Day and raised money for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. All raised funds will be used to provide books for remote communities. Thank you to everyone who donated books and took part in this worthwhile event.



## Pool Upgrade



Unfortunately, our pool's chemical dosing equipment failed earlier this term and could not be repaired. Thanks to the hard work of our School Council's Facilities Sub Committee and a number of clever and generous parents, we have a plan to replace this componentry as well as installing electric heat pumps in the first week of the school holidays so that our pool is ready for swimmers for day one of Term 4! We are hopeful that heat pumps will drastically reduce the running costs of heating the pool. However, this will be a costly project. As most of you know, our pool is not funded by the Department of Education and we rely heavily on voluntary contributions to cover the high costs of running the pool and ongoing maintenance. I encourage you to keep this in mind when we request 2025 contributions in the coming weeks.



## **Extreme Weather**

Thank you to all families for their support and cooperation on Monday as we experienced destructive and damaging winds across the Mornington Peninsula and most of the state. I hope you all escaped damage to your homes and workplaces. Although we lost one of our shade sails and sustained some building damage in the storm, we didn't lose power and there was minimal disruption to our operations on Monday. I thought it timely to provide families with reassurance that we have a comprehensive Extreme Weather Policy in place, as well as management plans, to respond to a range of emergency situations, including extreme weather events. In addition, our beautiful trees are tested annually, and any trees or limbs identified as being unsafe is removed. Losing power at RHCS also means we lose access to water and our communications. We have a stockpile of drinking water and hand sanitiser and systems to manually flush toilets if required, as well as a plans for communicating with families and emergency services.

## **Bushfire Evacuation Drill**

On the subject of emergency response, our Term 3 Evacuation Drill will simulate a bushfire in our area and evacuation to our Shelter In Place, the gymnasium. In past drills, staff and students have been aware of the day and time this will take place. This term, the drill will take place at any stage in Week 9 (next week). Although we will communicate this plan, staff and students won't know if this will take place during a recess break or class time and will have no warning. This will be an important test of our evacuation procedures with the bushfire season not too far away. I know that some students can become anxious about evacuations, so please talk to your children at home about this taking place. This is also a reminder to all visitors that it is always important to sign in and out when helping at school. If you happen to be in our school during this drill, you will be asked to take part in the evacuation and checked off our visitor roll. Further information about our bushfire policy will be sent home early Term 4.

## **Grade 3 and 6 Camps**

And finally this week, I would like to wish our Grade 3 and 6 teams well for their camps coming up this next fortnight. Our Grade 3 students will be spending one night away, just around the corner at Golden Valley Camp in Flinders. Our Grade 6 students will be travelling to Waratah Bay, where they will take part in three days of adventure activities, including surfing. I'm sure there will be some willing reporters in these year levels, happy to share their experiences in an upcoming newsletter.

## **School Savings Bonus**

The School Saving Bonus will provide \$400 in support for Victorian school-aged students in Term 4, 2024 for use on 2025 school costs. Families can choose how they spend the School Saving Bonus. It can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- school uniforms
- textbooks

The School Saving Bonus will be emailed directly to parents and carers in November 2024. The first step in this process is ensuring that we have an accurate email address for each family. The first day of Term 4, all families will receive information about the School Saving Bonus as well as details on confirming your email address. Please read this information carefully and follow all directions promptly. For further information refer to the fact sheet in this newsletter or visit the School Savings Website at:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus#government-school-information>

Kind regards,

*Gus Wettenhall*

**Principal**

**Save \$400**  
**on school uniforms,  
textbooks and  
activities**

Parents and carers  
of Victorian school-aged children  
will receive the one-off  
**School Saving Bonus**

Find out more

**VICTORIA** Department  
of Education



## CLE UPDATE

### Cultivating Curiosity Through Inquiry Learning

This year, our school has been working closely with Shaz Bailey, an expert in the field of inquiry pedagogy, to further develop our skills. Through the work with Shaz, I have been reminded of the importance of curiosity and of the need to cultivate it within our learners and ourselves. At Red Hill Consolidated School, we believe that learning is not just about absorbing facts but about nurturing a sense of wonder and curiosity in every student. One of the most effective ways to foster this curiosity is through inquiry learning, an approach that empowers students to ask questions, explore answers, and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Inquiry learning encourages children to ask questions, conduct investigations, and build their knowledge through exploration. Rather than merely receiving information from a teacher, students are actively involved in the learning process. They learn to pose questions about topics that interest them, seek out answers, and reflect on their findings.

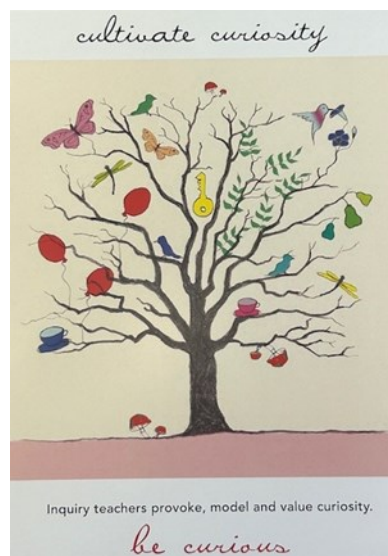
“But why is curiosity important?” I hear people ask. Curiosity is the driving force behind learning. When children are curious, they are more engaged and motivated to learn. This natural curiosity helps them to:

1. Develop Critical Thinking Skills: Inquiry learning encourages students to analyze information, think critically, and make informed decisions. By exploring topics in depth, they learn to evaluate evidence, consider different perspectives, and draw their own conclusions.
2. Enhance Problem-Solving Abilities: When students are given the opportunity to investigate their own questions, they encounter challenges and learn to overcome them. This problem-solving experience builds resilience and creativity.
3. Foster a Love of Learning: When children are allowed to explore topics that spark their interest, they are more likely to develop a lifelong love of learning. This intrinsic motivation is crucial for their future academic and personal success.
4. Encourage Independence and Responsibility: Inquiry learning promotes self-directed learning. Students take ownership of their education, which helps them develop independence and responsibility for their own learning journey.

As parents and guardians, you play a vital role in supporting your child’s curiosity and inquiry learning. Here are some ways you can encourage these skills at home:

1. Ask Open-Ended Questions: Instead of asking questions with simple yes-or-no answers, encourage your child to think deeply by asking questions that require more thoughtful responses. For example, ask “What do you think will happen if we change this part of the experiment?” rather than “Did the experiment work?”
2. Explore Together: Take time to explore your child’s interests together. Visit museums, read books, or conduct simple experiments at home. The shared experience of discovery can make learning more engaging and fun.
3. Encourage Reflection: After exploring a new topic, encourage your child to reflect on what they have learned. Ask them what surprised them or what they would like to learn more about. This helps them consolidate their learning and identify new areas of interest.
4. Support Their Questions: Validate your child’s curiosity by taking their questions seriously. If you don’t know the answer, explore it together. This not only helps satisfy their curiosity but also models a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.

Cultivating curiosity through inquiry learning is essential for developing engaged, independent, and lifelong learners. At Red Hill, we are committed to creating an environment where students are encouraged to ask questions, explore, and discover. We look forward to continuing to partner with our parent community in this exciting journey of learning and discovery.



*Jo Barnes*



Hello Parents / Carers,

### **Playground Problems: Helping Students Cope When Things Don't Go Their Way**

Children playing together outdoors, playground disagreements and disappointments can often arise. Whether it's not getting picked for a game, having a turn on play equipment cut short, or an argument over the rules, these small playground incidents can sometimes escalate into bigger problems if not addressed.

It's important for students to learn healthy ways to handle situations that don't go their way. Here are some tips to share with your children:

- 1. Take a break:** If a situation is getting heated, encourage your child to walk away and take a few deep breaths to calm down before reacting.
- 2. Use their words:** Teach children to express their feelings by saying things like "I feel upset because..." rather than lashing out.
- 3. Compromise or take turns:** Finding a fair solution, such as agreeing to share the slide or play a new game, can help resolve disagreements.
- 4. Ask for help:** If your child is unable to work things out on their own, they should feel empowered to speak to a teacher or other adult for assistance.
- 5. Keep perspective:** Remind your children that minor playground issues are a normal part of socialising and learning to get along with others. With the right coping strategies, they can bounce back.



By giving your child, the tools to navigate playground problems constructively, we can help them develop important conflict resolution skills that will serve them well both in school and throughout their lives. A little guidance can go a long way in keeping the playground a fun, safe space for all.

### **SCHOOLTV SPECIAL REPORT: R U OK?Day**

This year R U OK? Day falls on **Thursday 12th September**, an annual National Day of Action and a reminder that every day is the day to check in with your friends, family and colleagues.



Understanding the growing challenges related to mental health among young people is an important consideration. Anxiety, depression and self-harm - are all causes for concern. Factors like academic pressure, social media, family dynamics, and societal expectations, are contributing to these issues. It's therefore crucial for parents and caregivers to take action early, remove the stigma around discussing mental health, and offer accessible support to address these issues and the wellbeing of their children.

R U OK? Day is an initiative that focuses on preventing suicide by encouraging meaningful personal connections and helping informal support networks to help recognise the signs of distress. We urge all families to take part, emphasising the value of genuine human relationships and reminding everyone to ask the important question, "Are you OK?"



Engaging in R U OK? Day activities goes beyond the classroom; it's a commitment to our students' overall development. By talking openly about mental health, schools create safe spaces where students feel understood, valued, and supported. As parents and caregivers, you can contribute by fostering open conversations, normalising feelings and breaking down mental health stigmas. Participating in R U OK?Day promotes compassion and shows our dedication to the wellbeing of the entire school community, reaffirming that together, we can truly make a difference.

This Special Report, on the RHCS School TV portal, provides guidance on how to talk to your child about mental health and engage in meaningful discussions.

**Here is the link to your Special Report:**

[https://redhillcs.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-r-u-ok-day](https://redhillcs.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-r-u-ok-day)

You will never regret being kind ~ **Sascha Wardlaw** - Assistant Principal



# School Saving Bonus

## Information for government school parents and carers

### About the School Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government is making life that little bit easier for families by providing a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

This support will help cover the cost of school uniforms, textbooks, and school activities like camps, excursions and sports.

The School Saving Bonus is in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program.

The School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024.

### Who receives the School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus is available for parents and carers of all Victorian government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025, except for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

### Actions for parents and carers

Parents and carers of children who meet the School Saving Bonus eligibility above are required to do the following by **Friday 18 October 2024**:

- **Complete enrolment**

If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025, please complete enrolment. For more information, read about [Enrolling in School](#).

- **Check your contact information**

Ensure your contact information is up to date with your school. You can check this information by contacting your school directly.

### Accessing the \$400 School Saving Bonus

You do not need to apply for the School Saving Bonus.

The Department of Education will email you in November 2024 with your \$400 School Saving Bonus. You will be able to access it via an online system.

You can decide how to best use the School Saving Bonus for your family's needs. You can choose how to allocate the \$400 in the online system.

The bonus can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:



- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks.

The bonus can be used at your school's approved textbook or uniform suppliers either in-store or online, or through State Schools' Relief. The list of suppliers may include a school uniform or bookshop. Any amount that you choose to allocate to textbooks and uniforms will be valid until 30 June 2025. It will then transfer to your child's school account for future activities.

Funds will roll over for use in future years if it is not all spent in 2025.

### Families with more than one eligible child

Families who have more than one child at the same school can combine their School Saving Bonus payments to use on one child, or for a specific activity. So, for example, a family with 3 children who are all government school students would receive support to the value of \$1,200 and choose how they spend those funds. The School Saving Bonus cannot be combined across different schools.

### More information

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus visit [vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus](https://vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus). Translated information will also be available on the School Saving Bonus website in the next few weeks.

# Grants of up to \$1,000 available for home energy upgrades

Is your home expensive to heat and cool? Are you too cold in winter and too hot in summer? The Shire's Energy Support Grant can help you access funds to reduce the cost of energy upgrades and help you create a more comfortable home.

Families receiving the Family Tax Benefit and other eligible residents\* can apply for up to \$1,000 for Reverse Cycle Air Conditioning, insulation and draught proofing.

Find out more:



**\*Find out if you are eligible:**  
[mornpen.vic.gov.au/climateactiongrant](http://mornpen.vic.gov.au/climateactiongrant)  
5950 1297  
[climateemergency@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:climateemergency@mornpen.vic.gov.au)

