



RICHMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Learning & Caring for Life'

Term 4 No. 5 December 14 2018



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Principal: Tracey Davies

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Dear Parents, Grandparents and Children,

It is with mixed emotions and a very heavy heart that I write this thankyou and farewell. As you are aware I will be starting in the Role of Director Primary Learners in 2019. I look forward to the challenges a new position brings and will enjoy the new learning that will take place each day.

I have truly loved working with you and your children. It has been a fantastic 5 years and I feel very fortunate to have played a role in promoting the learning within the school. I have seen a dramatic change in students' perception of their learning abilities. Students are far more willing to take risks, explore different strategies and have become more powerful learners because of it.

I thank the Governing Council members for all of their support throughout my tenure. The decisions you make are always made with the best interests of all students and families. The fundraising and extra activities you organise are phenomenal. I know that so much work goes on behind the scenes to organise all that you do. You really do need to be commended!

I would also like to personally thank Ella Blake for all of her support, advice and friendship over the past 2 years, it really has been an absolute pleasure to work with her.

Happy Holidays

Congratulations to everyone who is part of the Richmond Primary School Community. We have had a very successful year.

There have been many highlights whether it has been whole school events, year level events or individual class events.

To conclude the year we have had the very successful end of year concert as well as the Year 7 and IELP Graduations.

I would like to personally thank all the hard working and fantastic staff members who work at RPS in a variety of roles. You simply amaze me and I am constantly in awe of the teaching, learning and care you provide not only for our students but the whole school community.

I wish you a happy and safe summer break and hope you get to spend time with loved ones and families doing the things you like doing best.

2019 promises to be an exciting year with change and further achievements. I wish you well.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Regards

Tracey

Next year will bring change for all of us and we appreciate staff, students and families' efforts to help prepare for this. In particular, change will be significant for the "book ends", our Kindy children/new Receptions and our departing Year 7/ High School students and our leadership team.

We welcome back many of our current teachers and staff in the New Year with very few role/year level changes. We also welcome Tina Saccoia from Highbury Primary School who will be our brand new Year 3 teacher.

Ella Blake will be principal in 2019, we are still waiting for the Deputy Principal position to be filled.

Glenn Hart will be returning in 2019 to take up his Wellbeing Leader Role and we thank Emma Voigt for her leadership and work in this role for semester 2 of this year.

In addition, we farewell some of our Richmond staff and wish them well in their future endeavours.

We thank Jaime Battista for his excellent teaching and care in the Year 1/2 class Semester 2 Jamie has won a position for 2019 at Hillcrest Primary School.

Ms.Mim for helping us develop the love of reading, coordinating book fairs, resources and keeping our resource centre as a hub of learning and interest. We will miss Ms. Mim's vibrant personality and passion of books. Mim will be working full time at Braeview Primary School – congratulations Mim.

In 2019, many of our classes will be composite. Composite classrooms are also referred to as "multi-age" or "combined" classrooms, for example Year 5/6. Composite classrooms may exist when schools have uneven or anticipated enrolments across year levels. Multiple studies conclude it makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight year group or in a multi-age class. Experts agree the most important factor in determining how well a student does is the quality of the teacher and their teaching.

At the beginning of our new school year, your child may be in a composite class. If your child is younger you may query - will my child be able to keep up? If they are older - will my child be held up?

The key to understanding composites is realising that growth is determined in stages and not magically by ages. Straight year level classes require as much group teaching as composite classes because this is the hallmark of good teaching. There is no difference in the range of abilities present in a straight class compared to a composite. Each classroom teacher pays attention to individual needs and development.

Composite classes can provide significant benefits to both the younger and older students in the class. Older students may benefit from helping younger students in co-operative learning situations. The younger students may have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it.

We hope all Richmond Primary School families enjoy the upcoming Festive Season and the long stretch of summer days ahead. We trust you will keep safe, enjoy each other's company and be well rested for yet more learning ahead. We look forward to the 2019 school year, commencing Tuesday, January 29th.

Congratulations to all of our 2018, Year 7 graduating students

This year's Graduation Ceremony took place on Thursday 13th December at the Richmond Baptist Church. We were joined by many families friends, staff and local dignitaries to acknowledge the many and varied achievements of our 2018 Year 7 students. Thank you to all involved in making the night such a success.

Speech content and awards have been summarised below.

Year 7 Awards 2018

Old Scholars

This award recognises students who have shown an outstanding effort across the areas of academic performance, community involvement, the Arts, leadership, student voice, and sporting and/or extra-curricular activities

Jackson and Tayla

Joan Kratounis Award

Joan began working at Richmond Primary in 1974 and she has witnessed much change. Her award is focused on persistence and personal growth, a matter of not learning new information but of unlearning limitations.

Angad

Student of the Year Award

This award recognises those students who have demonstrated outstanding effort, dedication and academic achievement in a range of subject areas.

Hamish and Emilie

We wish all of our graduating students continued success at secondary school and beyond. They have gained much respect and admiration from our younger students, staff and community throughout the year and will be missed by many.

Kind regards,

Tracey and Ella

'Learning and Caring for Life'



“I’m Bored”

My last newsletter piece is short and sweet. I’m sharing advice from one of my favourite parenting books, *Raising Beautiful Kids* by Mark Le Messurier and Bill Hansberry.

As parents we’ve all heard the dreaded words, “I’m bored” from our children. It’s usually delivered in a whingeing, whining voice with an expectation that we’ll magically cure their boredom and if we don’t respond with an answer they’re expecting to hear, the situation often escalates.

What role should parents play in entertaining kids?

During the holidays I love staying at home with my kids doing very little. Life is so hectic during the school term: crazy mornings, packing lunches, school sport, homework, housework, even walking the dog feels like a chore some days. A slow school holidays allows everyone to recharge their batteries. So why do I feel a tiny bit of shame when asked, “What did you get up to in the holidays?” And my response is, “Not much”. Social media has a lot to answer for! Posting images of folding laundry, playing board games and cleaning the fish tank is the reality of my life but the pressure to post a busy, exciting eventful life exists.

So what do our parenting experts advise?

I’ve attached free chapters from, ‘Raising Beautiful Children’. The experts provide handy hints and tips to tackle boredom and unpack the child’s thinking behind the expression, “I’m bored”. Hope you find the information valuable.

I wish all families a safe, happy holidays. I’ve enjoyed working with the school community and welcome Mr Hart back into the role next year.

Working Together

Emma Voigt
Wellbeing Leader
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Chapter 9:

"Mum, I'm bored!"



Recipe rescue:

clever ideas to deal with kid's boredom

The scenario...

"Mum, I'm bored"

It's Saturday morning. The kids woke early so we stuck them in front of the television. Our hope was to grab a few moments back in bed and read the paper with a coffee. Two minutes after jumping back into bed, our ten year old son yells, "This is boring. I'm going on the Xbox to play my new game." He knows Xbox times are restricted and that I regret buying him this latest game - it's too violent and he's already addicted! I call out, "No, leave the Xbox alone. Go and do something else."

*"There isn't anything else to do....
"Mum, I'm bored."*

My heart sinks. Boredom would be a luxury for me! In the few remaining moments I have left in bed,

I contemplate what, "Mum, I'm bored" really means. Does it mean, "I'm too lazy to do anything except complain", "Give me your undivided attention", "You do the thinking for me" or, "Come on, keep me entertained."

Would I be better off ignoring him or responding with something like;

*"You're bored because you're boring."
"That's because you're tired. Go back to sleep."*

"Well, now's the time to catch up on that homework"

"Hey, here's a damp cloth, go to the lounge and dust the skirting boards"

Ingredients:

- A child calling, "Mum, I'm bored"
- A child who expects mum or dad to fix their boredom
- A parent who jumps into action because they think their job is to be their children's entertainment director
- A spoiled child who gets whatever they want
- A child with poor independent skills, a short concentration span and pushes to be on the go
- A parent tired of finding things to keep the kids busy
- A parent who complains, but secretly feels fulfilled by the act of amusing their children

