

Principal: Douglas Elliott
Assistant Principal: Barbara Nicoll
PO Box 809 Heathmont 3135
Telephone: 9870 6098
Fax: 9870 6051
great.ryrie.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.greatryrieips.vic.edu.au

NEWSLETTER

NOTICES SENT OUT SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Watch this space for notices sent out each week.

If you have not received any of the following notices, please ask your child's teacher, or contact the school office.

2 February	2009 School package	Every child
2 February	Medical reminder	Relevant families
3 February	Medical alert	Grade 4F families

WELCOME TO THE 2009 SCHOOL YEAR!
Especially to our new Preps and families.

Our Parents & Friends Association welcome you to join them next Wednesday (11 February)

**In the staffroom for the AGM
Starts at 7.00pm**

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

Monday 9 Prep & Staff photos
Tuesday 10 School Council
Wednesday 11 PFA AGM

February's calendar will be included in next week's newsletter.

From the Principal



(1st Day Of School 2009)

Welcome To 2009:

A huge welcome to all our new students and to all those returning to Great Ryrie in 2009. We trust you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to the new school year. One of the major highlights for 2009 will be our school production in August!

We would also like to welcome our new members of staff. Christine Grant, Emily McGoldrick, Peter Henson, Erin Murray and Meaghan Carter have all joined our team for 2009.

Assembly Next Week:

Our first assembly will be held next Monday at 8:55am, in the quadrangle. Last Monday's assembly was cancelled due to the discovery of a wasp nest nearby. The area was cordoned off and exterminators attended that afternoon. The

problem of the wasps has since been re-inspected by the exterminators and all is clear.

Assembly will be followed by our regular 'Parent and Principal Chat' over a 'cuppa' in the staffroom at 9:20am. Parents are encouraged to join in our discussions, where any questions can be asked in relation to school operations. Our starting topic will be on 'Whether we should have a fete in 2009'.

School Council Elections:

Our first School Council meeting this year will be for the members of the 2008 council. Elections for the 2009 School Council will be held shortly and the first meeting of the 2009 membership will be held on the second Tuesday in March. Parent representatives are elected for a 2 year term with half the council being up for election each February.

How Can We Help You?

Do you have any concerns or questions that are on your mind about school? Maybe you have heard something on the grapevine or are not sure about what is going on in class or around the school.

Something may be worrying you, your friends or family. Please don't hesitate to contact us. We have an 'open door' policy and parents are welcome to drop in or call the office to make an appointment with either Barb or myself.

Similarly all our teachers are available to arrange a time to talk with you about any concerns and when it comes to your child they are the first port of call.

We would rather deal with the smallest issues and nip a potential problem in the bud rather than have it grow into a big problem. I would certainly rather have a parent on my doorstep everyday, until we resolve an issue, rather than have something we could fix left unattended to.

How Can You Help All Of Us?

There are many ways that parents can help out at school and research shows that simply being involved in your child's school actually improves your child's learning. Parents can help in the classroom on excursions, by joining school committees or by providing goods and services through their expertise or the industry in which they work. Please let your child's teacher know if you can be of help to us.

Lightning Strikes Great Ryrie:

We were all greatly surprised when at approximately 11:00am on Monday there was a lightning strike to the front fence outside the school staffroom. No one was injured and there appears to be no property damage. Children were immediately sent back to classrooms from recess. If only it had rained more substantially!

Have a great weekend,
Doug Elliott
Principal



Staff Assignments for 2009:

The Office Team: Doug Elliott - Principal, Barbara Nicoll - Assistant Principal, Yvonne Davies - Office Manager, Diana Jacobs - Business Manager and Janine Wallace-Smith - Office & First Aid.

Teacher Aides: Mardi Pechar - Library, Glenda Winchester, Carol Brown, Elaine Burton and Di Welsh - Classroom/Office Support, Kathryn Wallace - Refugee/ESL Programs.

Specialist Programs: Fe Balthasar - Visual Arts, Chris Breen and Jodie Henry - LOTE Indonesian, Helen Francis and Katrina McKinlay - Performing Arts, Peter Henson and Meaghan Carter - Physical Education, Lauren Rice - Refugee/ESL Programs.

Learning Programs Level 1 - 4: Di Gordon and Helen Abbott.

Level 1: Andrew Shattock - 1S room 9, Lisa Moon - 1M room 10, Peta Dal Pra - 1D room 11, Jill Jenkins - 1J room 12,.

Level 2: Beth Robins - 2R room 1, Ryan Jacobs - 2J room 2, Erin Murray - 2E room 3, Alison Holdsworth - 2H room 4, Belinda Trevaskis - 2T room 5, Anne Frazer - 2F room 6, Hugh Kendall - 2K room 7, and Mignon Kemke - 2M room 8.

Level 3: Jessica Steer - 3S room 13, Emily McGoldrick - 3M room 14, Judith Eadon - 3E room 15, Kris Headland - 3H room 16, Penny Nicholls - 3N room 17 and Rob Greaves - 3G room 18.

Level 4: Andy MacCartney 4A room 19, Peter Warr - 4W room 20, Cameron Baker - 4B room 21, Karen Hogan - 4H room 22, Sharon Jacobs - 4J room 23, and Maureen Frith - 4F room 24.

Personal Property and School Insurance:

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. **The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools** and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Student Injuries and School Insurance:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development advises that parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund.

The department does not hold accident insurance for school students but is aware of two insurers, JUA Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd and Willis Australia Ltd, who provide accident insurance policies for students. These policies provide specific benefits for students who are injured in accidents for a reasonably low cost. Other insurers may also do so.

School Canteen Policy:

From 2009 no confectionery should be supplied through school canteens and other school food services. The department has developed guidelines to identify products that are considered to be confectionery.

School Confectionery Guidelines can be accessed from the 'Go for your life' Healthy Canteen Kit website at

www.education.vic.gov.au/goforyourlife

Education Maintenance Allowance – 2009

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a current Health Care Card or Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13 July 2009).

*The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **27 February 2009** for the first instalment and **7 August 2009** for the second instalment.*

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$221** for primary students and **\$443** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This

amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Schools receive the school portion electronically twice a year and parents/guardians receive their portion via two cheques.

Application forms are available from the school office.

Reminder

To contact OSHC (Out of School Hours Care) please telephone them direct on:

0418 571 136



Instrumental and Band Program

The Instrumental Program was extremely successful last year with twice as many students learning an instrument than in 2007. It is now time to re-enrol for 2009 for existing 2008 instrumental students and to enrol if you want your child to start an instrument in this year. Thanks to those families who have already returned their forms. Instruments available to learn include:

- Bass Guitar *
- Drums/Percussion
- Trumpet *
- Trombone *
- Saxophone *
- Clarinet *
- Flute *
- Violin
- Piano
- Contemporary Keyboard
- Guitar (All styles)



***A limited amount of these instruments are available for hire from the school at \$50.00 per term and a re-fundable \$50.00 bond. Asterixed (*) instruments only.**

Enrolment forms are available at the office. Due to the popularity of this program positions will be limited so it would be advisable to return your forms as soon as possible. Priority will be given to those who return their forms first.

Existing students from 2008 need to re-enrol with a new enrolment form.

You will be notified by Friday 6th February if you have been successful in gaining a position in the instrumental program.

Regards, Helen Francis.

LIBRARY

Welcome to the Library for 2009, the classes are already visiting the library and beginning to borrow. It is most important that the children have LIBRARY BAGS so that the books are protected against the elements.

A few children still have outstanding books overdue from last year. An overdue notice will be issued. Can you please help your child with locating/paying for the book.

When a book is borrowed from the Library the borrower is responsible for the care of the book from the moment it is scanned under their name until it is scanned returned.

BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Club is available at Great Ryrie, twice a term Book Club catalogues are issued to the classes, there are different clubs for different levels and a box of all clubs is placed near the office. Scholastic Book Clubs available are:- BUSY BEE, WOMBAT, LUCKY, ARROW AND STAR.

When you purchase books through Book Club your child's grade and the school benefit with free books and items. You are under no obligation to buy from Book Club. It is a service that is offered in the school.

BOOK CLUB ISSUE 1-FEBRAURY is due with order and payment no later than FRIDAY THE 13TH FEBRUARY.

Thank-you for your time and happy reading for 2009,

Mardi Pechar

UNIFORM SHOP

During the first two weeks of Term, the 2nd to the 13th of FEBRUARY the Uniform Shop will be open daily 8.30am – 9.30am and 3.30pm – 4.15pm for your convenience. Otherwise during the remainder of the year the Uniform Shop is open:-

MONDAY	8.30am-10.00am
THURSDAY	3.20pm-4.00pm

If you need to purchase items of uniform and cannot make it during these hours please fill in the order form, obtainable from the office, and pay by either cash, cheque (made payable to Great Ryrie Primary School) or credit card/EFTPOS at the office. I will fill the order and send home with your child as soon as possible, depending on availability of stock.

GRADE 6 BOMBER JACKETS

All children in Grade 6 will have received on Monday the order form for the Grade 6 Bomber Jackets. All orders/payment due **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, NO LATE ORDERS** will be accepted as timing is crucial for the making and printing of the jackets, so that they will be ready for collection in early Term 2.

IMPORTANT:- Please print clearly the name that will appear on the jacket, for example, my official name is Margaret Pechar but I would prefer Mardi Pechar to be printed.

If you are unsure of the size of the jacket please come and visit the Uniform Shop during open hours as listed above and Mrs Brown and I can assist you.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORMS

If you have clothes that your children have grown out of and are in good condition they would be most welcome at second-hand uniforms.

All second-hand uniforms are FREE so please look through the boxes located outside the Uniform Shop during opening hours.

PLEASE NAME ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING CLEARLY (hats, jackets, windcheaters etc.) as the lost property box is looked through regularly and named items are placed in grade pigeonholes, if clearly named it makes the job a lot easier for Mrs Brown and I. The LOST PROPERTY BOX is located outside Miss Kemke's room near the chess pieces.

Thank-you. Mardi Pechar

Community Notices

Is there some good news in your family that you would like to share with the rest of GRPS? A new addition to the family, a win in a Grand Final, a great sports game Let Yvonne at the office have the details by Wednesday morning and we'll let everyone know!!

☺ **Corey Butterworth (1M) and Taylor Warren (4W)** have a brand new baby sister! Welcome to Amber Rose who was born on 30 December. Congratulations to all the family.

☺ Congratulations to **Laura Knipping (3G)** on being selected to represent Victoria in the sub-junior Calisthenic team. The team will be competing in the National Championships on the Gold Coast in July 2009. Well done, Laura!

☺ **Did you get a NEW MOBILE PHONE for Christmas?** Lucky you but what will you do with your old one that you don't need anymore? Bring it up to the school and put it in the **Mobile Phone Recycling Box** situated near the office. That way it won't just go to landfill but be recycled for its components and you don't have to worry about it anymore – a WIN / WIN situation.



The Chaplain's Corner Feb 5th "What happened in the holidays?"

Here are some of my activities & experiences:

- I watched movies, including "School of Rock", Australia, Quantum of Solace, Valkyrie
- Read some books, completed a jigsaw, went to a wedding & a funeral
- Did a clean out at home, & painted the bathroom - very rewarding
- Walked the 1000 steps in Ferntree Gully several times [great exercise!]
- Walked along the beach at Inverloch, and visited the Opp Shops, [a favourite activity]
- Played games with my family – Take 2, Guitar Hero
- Enrolled for marriage celebrancy course

I really recommend the 1000 steps for a family activity, quite exhausting.

Some of my feelings over the break included:

- Happy to be sleeping in & doing different things
- Satisfied to beat my record in 1000 Steps
- Relaxed as I read my books & watched movies
- Sad when I was at the funeral, also when I heard about Darcy Freeman on the news
- Excited at Christmas and about returning to school [yes it's true!]

I am sure there were many different experiences for you during the holidays, some which were great, some not so good. Remember that if you ever need to have a confidential talk to someone about life, I am here at Great Ryrie on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

Have a wonderful year with your families!

Alan Silverwood – Chaplain

[The Chaplaincy program is funded through the Federal Government & Community support. This is a voluntary program in our school community.]

CANTEEN

Welcome back to all the students.

The canteen will be open from 5th February. (Thursday).

A new healthy menu is included with this Newsletter.

The canteen will offer more hot food including sausage rolls, party pies, chicken munchies and Chicken Goujon which you can buy during recess and lunch-time. Hope you enjoy it!

Rubbish Free Tuesday

Rubbish Free Tuesday will continue in 2009. We encourage your child to bring their snack and lunch on Tuesday in a **rubbish free, reusable container** (named). By supporting Rubbish Free Tuesday you are helping to reduce the amount of rubbish at our school. (Where possible we would like your child to bring reusable containers on other days too!)

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

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No responsibility is accepted by DEET and Great Ryrie Primary School for accuracy of information in advertisements or claims made by them.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors. (For more details please see our website!)

Century 21 UNLIMITED Real Estate Agents, Ringwood East, offer a \$250 referral fee to members of the school community (*with a further \$250 going to Great Ryrie Primary School*).

Contact Jenny for more information on:

0433 770 676

AMAZING TRANSFORMATIONS

COSTUME HIRE kindly donate all the wonderful costumes we use for school functions.

33 High Street Glen Iris, 9885 4714

BAKERS' DELIGHT, HEATHMONT donate all the bread requirements for school.

144 Canterbury Road. Phone: 9738 0322

BEAUTY ON RYRIE donate many beauty products and vouchers for all school fundraisers and events.

41B Great Ryrie St Ringwood, 9870 6766

The Roberts family offer a **DRY CLEANING SERVICE** to the GRPS community, with a percentage going to school fundraising.

Please call at the office for details.

ENJO - CLEAN THE WORLD

Lucinda Murphy donates goods and commissions to GRPS through ENJO with 10% of all sales going towards the school!

Call Lucinda on 0412 621 214

BENDIGO COMMUNITY BANK (East Ringwood Branch) sponsor our school and along with Student Banking offer a donation of \$150 for all home loans and a donation of \$50 for all personal loans and car leasing arrangements referred through the school.