Principal’s Message

Halfway Through Term
Well we are now just over the halfway mark for the term with teachers starting to test and write report cards over the next 2 - 3 weeks. It is very important that your children come to school every day over this period so that we can continue to gather data and evidence to write an accurate report card of their progress.

NAPLAN
Well NAPLAN is finally over for another year. Many thanks to the hard work by Richie staff, to make this important event run so smoothly. We now wait until next term to see the results for our school. Many thanks also to parents for supporting the school by making sure our participating students had a healthy breakfast and slept well over the 3 nights of testing.

Eating Healthy
Most processed or ‘packaged foods’ are generally high in sugar, fat or salt. The body also uses these foods quickly for energy. Fresh fruit, vegetables and sandwiches are not only healthier, they also release the energy kids need a lot slower into the body. Please try to pack sandwiches and fruit in your child’s lunch box every day for the sustained energy they need.

Walking/Riding Safely to School
Parents are once again asked to please make sure children know how to cross roads and ride bikes safely to and from school. Last week several Richie children had close shaves with cars when playing on the edge of roads after school. One incident occurred on Hackett Terrace opposite Tarcoola.

Big Thank You
A big thank you to Harry and Kaori Waerea and their family who recently donated their time to cut down and remove the dead tree on the Prior Street fence line. Also many thanks to local businessman Darcy Davison for supplying the truck and equipment to help cart the tree away. Your community spirit and efforts were greatly appreciated by Richie staff, parents and students.

Reading Tip of the Week.
Use the “Rule of Thumb” to see if a book is at your children’s reading level: Have them read a page of the book aloud. Have them hold up one finger for each word they don't know. If they hold up four fingers and a thumb before the end of the page, the book is probably too hard for them to read alone. But it might be a great book to read together.

National Walk Safely to School Day
TOMORROW, May 20th, is national ‘Walk Safely To School Day’. Walk Safe to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

The objectives of WSTSD are:
• To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
• To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
• To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
• To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
• To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
• To promote the use of Public Transport.
Attending Every Day Counts at Richie

Last week at Richie the Schoolwide attendance averaged over 93% schoolwide which is amazing. Please remember that every day counts in your child’s learning and it is important they are here every day. Let’s see if we can keep the school attendance at over 93% for the remainder of the term.

Helping Kids Manage Anger

Managing anger is one of the biggest emotional issues that children face. Children who can learn to manage their anger have a head start on handling fears and other emotions. Currently, our community is undecided about how to handle anger. In fact, anger is discouraged as we see no place for it in homes, schools or community. ‘Civilised people don’t get angry’ seems to be the accepted wisdom so we tend to encourage children to bottle up anger rather than let it out.

Anger needs to be managed, rather than simply avoided. Bury anger deep-down and it will go away is often the attitude! This doesn’t work for many children as bottled up emotions don’t always dissipate. They simmer away, eventually spilling over into physical violence or hurtful verbal abuse, which so often backfires on the angry person.

Kids need to learn that anger can be expressed in ways that are not hurtful to anyone including themselves.

Next newsletter we will look at some strategies to help kids.

By Michael Grose – From Parenting Ideas

WEEKLY SCHOOL WIDE BEHAVIOUR FOCUS: ( Term 2, Week 6/7)

I AM RESPECTFUL - Respect the decisions of all players during games
I AM SAFE - Agree to common rules and play the game fairly
I AM A LEARNER - Become a Problem Solver!

Have a great fortnight with your family everyone!

Mark Brady
Principal

For Parents

For those parents who would like to receive the Newsletter via the Skoolbag App, we have included the instructions below:

For iPhone and iPad users:
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.
2016 SCHOOL PRIORITIES
Reading, Writing, Explicit Instruction, Mathematics
‘KNOW THE CURRICULUM-KNOW THE STUDENT-VARY THE PATHWAY’

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL BRIEF
Miss Lisa Pitt

EXCITING EXPERIENCE NEXT WEEK CHARTERS TOWERS JAPANESE SPEAKING COMPETITION – This is an annual community event with Primary Schools coming together to compete in this cultural challenge. We wish our Richie Hill students having a go at this event all the best next week. We are proud of your efforts to prepare your speech in another language and to share it in front of others. Thank you to Sensei Sandy for her feedback on speeches as well. Good on you!

YEAR 5
Jordan Mathieson
Caitlyn Majid
Layla Gossage
Tia Thomas
Reagan Davidson
Baylee Smith
Cody Wheeler
Rhiannon Fitzgerald
Mikayla Peter

YEAR 6
Jordan Brook
Harly Jones
Breanna Tracey
Mallee Niemi
Kathryne Squair
Amanda Forward
Ella-Beth Stretton
Montana Battle

ORAL LANGUAGE IS SO IMPORTANT AND VITAL IN LEARNING DEVELOPMENT.
During Term 2 our Prep Classes PW and PP have been participating in the OLEY Program.

OLEY is an Oral Language Program for the Early Years created by Central QLD Speech Pathology Team. It is a series of focused learning experiences which engage children with language. The aim of this program is to help students increase their oral (spoken) language skills. Good oral language skills will assist students to have greater classroom participation and has been strongly linked to successful development of reading and writing skills including listening as well.

Research has found that oral language plays a key role in building a foundation for reading. In general, children who possess well-developed oral language skills are more likely to become successful readers (Sticht & James, 1984; Snow, Burns, & Griffin, 1998).

What is Oral Language?

Language is predominantly made up of three areas, receptive and expressive language, as well as pragmatics.

Expressive language refers to the ability to express ideas, wants and needs (e.g., naming objects, using the correct words, using the correct grammar and sentence structure, retelling a story)

Receptive language refers to the ability to understand language (e.g., understanding words, following directions, concept (e.g., first, after, between) knowledge, understanding different types of sentences)

Pragmatics is the term used to describe social skills or conversational behaviours. Pragmatics includes taking turns, greeting others, understanding body language, starting a conversation, selecting appropriate conversational topics and appropriately disagreeing. Good communication skills for life.

The OLEY Program is supported by Classroom Teachers, Mrs Forward, Ms McMahon and Mrs Ugarte. We look forward to capturing some images of students engaging in the highly motivating activities before the end of Term 2. If you would like more information come and chat with us. Thank you to Peta Martin for guidance with OLEY at Richie Hill in 2016.
PREP ENROLMENT INFORMATION:

Enrolments at RHSS Open for the 2017 school year

Have we got your child’s Enrolment Form for PREP 2017?

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR PARENT INFORMATION SESSION COMING UP?

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION:

Tuesday 7th June 5pm-6pm

(Meet Prep Teachers, Visit Prep Classrooms and meet Admin Team)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR EACH EVENT PHONE: 47562222

For booking or more information

2017 PREP ENROLMENTS - Enrolment applications are open for students starting Prep in 2017.

HAVE YOU GOT AN INFORMATION PACK?

Children must be 5 by 30 June in the year they enrol. Check the table below to see when your child can start Prep. Call the School Office to lodge your interest.

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PREP ENROLMENT INFORMATION:

Enrolments at RHSS Open from March 2016

Prep Enrolment Forms available from School Office.

Please bring along birth certificate (Kindy Transition Statement if available)

PREP EVENTS:

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Tuesday 7th June 5pm-6pm
(Meet Prep Teachers, Visit Prep Classrooms and meet Admin Team)

Thursday 21st July 9am–10am

PREP TRANSITION SUCCESSFUL START TO PREP DAYS AT RICHIE HILL (SS2Prep)

Tuesday 13th Sept and Thursday 15th Sept
TIME: 9.30am-10.30am

Monday 10th Oct and Friday 14th Oct
TIME: 1.30pm-2.30pm

TEDDY BEAR’S PICNIC FUN AT PREP
THURSDAY 17th November 9-10am

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR EACH EVENT PHONE: 47562222

For booking or more information

Is my child Prep age for 2017?
Children born 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 are Prep age for 2017
Maths fun. Making pattern necklaces, graphing using food, using a tens frame and playdough to show different amounts, using shapes to make pictures.

Country Music

Prep W News

Please remember to return homework completed each Friday. This is important so children can consolidate what they are learning in class and improve with their reading & sight words.

Children will also receive their reading certificates on parade and can attend the Gottcha Party at the end of the term, if homework is returned weekly.

Inter-house Athletics—Save the Date—Friday 17th June

Under 8’s Day will be on the last Monday of this Term – 20th June. Please let me know if you are able to help on this day by taking a small group around to different activities.
Hello parents and carers of 1H,

Wow! It’s hard to believe that we are already half way through Term 2 of Year One. What an amazing learning journey we have been on so far. The children are really engaged and excited to learn new skills each day and they have definitely caught the writing bug, which was evident in their amazing character descriptions about Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley. I would love it if you were able to make it up to the classroom to view your child’s progress. I know that you will be pleasantly surprised.

The Year One excursion was a couple of weeks ago now and I can honestly say that all of the children did the Year One teachers proud when working with the parent helpers that came along. I would like to personally thank all of the parents who gave up their time to assist, as we would not have been able to go without you, so a big thank you to you all. The children definitely benefited from the real world and authentic learning experience. We are hoping to finish our dioramas this week so please feel free to come up and have a look at your child’s creation. The children have really taken their time to ensure their diorama looks realistic. Thank you to the parents that sent art and craft supplies in with their children as these were very much appreciated by the children.

Miss Brianna has been working within our classroom over the past few weeks and she will continue to do so for the next few weeks too. Her presence within our classroom whilst she is completing her workplace assessment has been invaluable to the children’s learning, as she is getting the opportunity to work with some of the children in our class that require a little extra help with their sight words, as well as helping small groups of children to become more independent by developing their ability to read and understand tasks more easily. If you see Miss Brianna around please remember to say hello and make her feel welcome.

Please remember to read and practise sight words with your child every night and remember that we have an open door policy in Year One, therefore you are welcome to come in and discuss your child’s progress whenever you like.

Mrs Montgomery
In Year 3, we have been writing persuasive texts and concentrating on our reasons to back up our opinion. Last week we had to write about who we thought deserved a Hero Award! Here are a few to share:

Chloe: My third reason is that I look up to him and dad looks up to me. Daddy sometimes goes on the motorbikes with us. He deserves a hero award.

Will: It is certain that you should give a soldier a hero award because they risk their lives.

Tasia-Ella: In my opinion, I think my teacher deserves a hero award because I feel safe around her and I feel comfortable about it.

Payton: Captain America should get a hero award for his bravery and for helping people, including sick people.

Claire: The fact is that Simpson and his donkey should be given a hero award because they risked their lives to give us freedom! He died by being shot and he saved over 300 people.

Todd: In my opinion, my parents are heroes because they look after me and give me a home to live in.

Izabella: In my opinion my mum is my hero because she teaches me how to ride my bike without training wheels.

We have been madly designing, making and appraising our technology task. The design brief stated we were to design a water bottle cooler with insulating properties. It had to slow the flow of heat to the water. We carefully designed them and selected insulating materials. The construction of the cooler was a slight challenge, but we overcame these
**PREP P NEWS**

**Celebrations and Commemorations**

Anzac Day

Earlier in the term we commemorated Anzac Day with a service at school and by participating in the Charters Towers Community Street March.

The Prep students were very respectful and listened attentively during both Commemorations.

Very Proud of you Preppies!

Country Music

There were lots of Yee Ha’s, Cowboy Boots, Hats and checked-shirts for our Annual Country Music Parade.

All the Preppies looked ‘fine and dandy’ in their country get-up.

The day did not end there—with many Preppies joining us on the ‘big truck’ for the Street Parade!

A good time was had by all—Yee Ha!!

Tea Parties, Dress Ups, Volcanoes and Bee Bots

Tea Parties

The organisation of Tea Parties has been the focus in Home Corner this term. The children have busily set up and taken turns to ‘host’ the tea party. They have learned many skills through this child initiated play!

Dress Ups

Wow! It is wonderful to see children with such imagination. They love to take turns dressing up and it is delightful to see a ‘wig’ become many things other than a wig. This kind of creativity is encouraged in the Prep classroom—things are not always what they appear to be!

Volcanoes

Volcanoes are still a highlight in the Prep classroom and tie in with our Dinosaur Theme this term. The children really enjoy making them in the sand pit during their outdoor play!

Bee Bots

The children have been programming the Bee Bots to make their way through mazes made with the blocks. Future Programmers!

2D Shapes

This term the children have been learning their 2D shapes. They have participated in many activities but preferred using the shapes to create items like dinosaurs, a sun, a bus, a robot and themselves. They love having their ‘tummy time’ as a group and work together to create marvellous items!

Welcome to Miss Amy who is completing her Internship with Prep P for the remainder of this term!

**ORAL LANGUAGE**

We have noticed that many children in our Prep classes are having difficulty with the articulation of sounds, grammar, simple vocabulary and being able to orally retell a story (either something from home, the weekend, an event or even something from their school day).

This week Prep P’s focus is PRONOUNS, that is HE, SHE, HIM, HER, HIS. We have made posters of boy and girl cartoon and movie characters and then practiced using the pronouns correctly in full sentences. E.g pointing to Buzz Lightyear ‘HE has a red button’, ‘HIS buttons are red, green and blue’. Oral language is an important part of the writing process ‘IF THEY CAN’T SAY IT, THEY CAN’T WRITE IT’.

Please assist your son or daughter by correcting their grammar and encouraging them to speak in ‘full sentences’ at home.
**PREP ENROLMENT INFORMATION:**
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WHAT TO BRING ALONG.....

A HEALTHY SNACK
A HAT

WHEN: Thursday
TIME: 9.00-10.30
WHERE: RHSS Community Room
COST: a gold coin

Our Place-Our Community

BEGINS 28th April

Our Family PLAYGROUP

Come along:

• To get to know others
• Play in wonderful play areas
• Support your child’s development as a learner
• Have fun

CO-ORDINATORS: Miss McMahon & Miss Lisa
Hello from 4K!

Welcome back for another term in Year Four.

This term we have eleven weeks during which we are going to be exploring a number of my favourite subjects, not least of all algebra! (I can hear the groans already!)

We began our Traditional Story unit by looking at a range of different stories, including fairy tales, folk tales, fables and stories from the Dreaming. While traditional stories share a number of features with regular narratives like having an orientation, complication and resolution, Traditional stories often use animals to teach life lessons and encourage people to make positive choices. The students will be rewriting a traditional story for younger readers for their assessment task.

The Spelling Mastery unit continues to engage the students and we are seeing some good results in all groups with students mastering the skills that they need to become competent spellers, not only in terms of testing but in their every day writing as well.

The Science unit this term is about Biology—the study of living things. Students are learning about the different needs of plants and animals and how living things depend on one another for continued survival. We have been studying life cycles and the different factors that affect the survival of animals at different stages of development. For assessment the students will be researching an endangered animal such as the Mahogany Glider, Spotted-tailed Quoll or the Greater Bilby and writing about the different plants and animals that have positive and negative impacts on their growth and development.

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the recent ANZAC day events—it was wonderful to see so many Richie students marching on Monday.

Congratulations to all of the Year 4 students who participated in the inter-school cross country held at Richmond Hill last week, and great work to those students who were selected to go to the District event to be held in Townsville, including Isabella Kavanagh and Bowen Moore-Reid.

Also, it was terrific to see so many students get into the spirit of the Country Music Festival!
Year 2 News

What a fantastic fortnight Year Two children have had! Our excursion to Reef HQ and the Townsville Museum were definitely highlights. Thank you to our wonderful parent helpers that worked with small groups of children all day. You made the experience more hands on and enjoyable for the children. Both classes have now completed writing their information reports about Loggerhead Turtles and we are pleased to say the children have completed some fantastic writing. Enjoy Julia Gossage’s report below.

Loggerhead Turtles – by Julia Gossage

Loggerhead turtles are beautiful reptiles that live all around the world, under warm seas near coral. They can also live in lagoons.

These turtles have big heads and two hard shells; one on their back and another on their tummy to protect them from predators. These shells are called carapase (top), plasteon (lower). This type of turtle is 96cm in length and 100 kg in weight when they are an adult. They have four flippers, two hind flippers for digging and two front flippers for swimming.

Loggerhead turtles eat jellyfish, sea urchins, crabs, sea cucumbers and sea snails. They use their heavy, powerful jaws to crunch and crack open their food.

The mother turtle climbs out of the cold, refreshing sea and she digs a steep hole on the scorching hot sand to lay her eggs. They look like squishy ping pong balls that are 44mm round. She then returns to the sea. She will return to her birth place each year.

People must protect turtles because if they don’t, turtles could become an endangered species. We can do that by turning boat engines off in coral reefs, picking up rubbish and stop littering and throwing out nets.
More Year 2 NEWS........

Our numeracy rotations have commenced on Thursday and Fridays and again, we thank Chappy Lydia and our parent helpers for your support with these. Children rotate around 8 activities over the two days that include teacher directed lessons, hands on activities, games, computers and more. In the past two weeks we have been working on 3D shapes and fractions. Take a look at how engaged the children are. Numeracy groups also help our students to learn social skills as they are sometimes working without an adult.

Zoe Collins and Kym Burgess

Over the past few weeks, we've been practising partitioning numbers, writing addition stories and showing turnaround sums in our Maths lessons. Here are some pictures of us doing some fun, hands-on maths activities.

On Wednesday, we were lucky enough to work with the Year 4 students as they completed problem solving activities using Bee-Bots—small programmable robots which move forwards and backwards and complete quarter turns as they are programmed with instructions. We had an awesome time using the Bee-Bots and can’t wait to experiment with them in the future. Here are some pictures of us working with the Year 4’s. We had an absolute ball!