Principal’s Message

Investing for Success (I4S)
Richie received a $218,000 grant from the government to improve our results from Prep to Year 6 as part of the Investing For Success (I4S) initiative. This grant will be spent on:

- Employing our full time teacher aides and teacher to support our reading groups strategy, deliver an intensive reading support program, support students with disabilities and support our prep classes.
- Developing teacher skills through PD opportunities to meet current reading needs.
- Providing education opportunities for all parents to support the development of oral language and focused daily reading skills at home.
- The purchase of higher levelled books for Levelled Literacy Program and students beyond PM level 30+. Funding a Literacy Support Teacher to assist with the schoolwide reading and writing program.

Presentation of Richie’s Reading Program
Last week the school was asked to present to 17 other principals from the region information about our successful reading program at Richie. It was well received by all present with many follow up enquiries from principals regarding our program.

Thank You Classroom Volunteers
Since we lost 6 teacher aides at the time of our last newsletter it has been heartening to see the support of parent volunteers, especially in the lower school. Thank you for committing your time to our students at Richie and supporting our teachers.

Swimming Lessons
Year 1 and 2 swimming lessons started last. Please remember payment must be made before your child goes to the pool. Payment on the days before swimming day is preferable as many payments are received on the morning of swimming lessons. If you are paying electronically, please notify the school of the payment, as we may not receive your payment for 24 hours and your child will not be able to attend as it does not show on our financial records.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
Most parents by now should have received an invitation to attend a Parent/Teacher interview regarding your child’s progress so far this year. Most interviews will occur during the last 2 weeks of school. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend these interviews as there will be no interviews next term. This is your opportunity to find out how your child is progressing and what needs to be done at home and school to improve their results.

National Anthem both Verses
Last week on parade was the first time the whole school sang both verses of the Australian National Anthem. We will from now on be singing both verses at every parade.

School Attendance
Just a reminder that the last day of school for this term is Thursday, March 24th. It would be great if attendance did not drop off over the last 3 weeks of term 1. Help Richie keep our average attendance above 94% for the year so far. This is the best average attendance at Richie for many years. Congratulations students and thank you parents.
WEEKLY SCHOOL WIDE BEHAVIOUR FOCUS: (Week 5-6)

I AM RESPECTFUL- Move quietly around the school respecting learning taking place in classrooms and office staff.
I AM SAFE- Follow directions given to you by all staff members.
I AM A LEARNER- Make sure you understand what you need to do to improve your learning.

Home Reading
Home reading is an extremely important part of every child’s education at Richie. Books are sent home every week night by each class and it is important parents support the school with this program by taking an interest and signing your child’s reading log. Other ways you can help your child with reading are listed below -

• Through daily reading on a one to one basis without distractions
• Through the sharing of interesting texts
• By allowing the child to choose the text that they would like to read
• By modelling reading for the child (have a whole family reading time instead of watching television)
• By observing the child’s growth as a reader and encouraging them to improve in their PM levels
• By sharing a love of reading and nurturing the enjoyment reading can give

School Disco
The first school disco for 2106 is on next week (Thursday, March 10th). The theme is dress as someone or something from the 80s. Great prizes will be on offer for the best dressed and it is a split disco with a lower school then an upper school disco. More details further in the newsletter.

Responsible Behaviour Plan Review
As part of the Richie’s Strategic Improvement Plan for 2016-2019, the school has to review the existing Responsible Behaviour Plan and develop a new one for the coming years. The review committee is made up of Richie teachers, ancillary staff, administration, students and parents. Please contact the school if you would like to be part of this review process so that we can improve behaviour choices for all students at Richie.

Bullying – No Way Day
Friday March 18th is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Schools Australia wide will be wearing orange to take a stand against bullying. All students are permitted to wear orange on this day to show their support to stamp out bullying. We hope to see a sea of orange on parade.

Have a great fortnight everyone!
Mark Brady
Principal

SCHOOL DAY ATTENDANCE
WEEKLY AWARD
1st Place: Year 3 96%
2nd Place: Year 1 95%
3rd Place: Year 4 93%

EVERY DAY COUNTS AT RICHIE HILL

Well done Year 3!
**2016 SCHOOL PRIORITIES** Reading, Writing, Explicit Instruction, Mathematics

‘KNOW THE CURRICULUM-KNOW THE STUDENT-VARY THE PATHWAY’

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**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL BRIEF**
Miss Lisa Pitt

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**SCHOOL DAY ATTENDANCE**
Richie Hill Target

EVERY WEEK Is 95%

“EVERY DAY COUNTS”

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**SWIMMING YEARS 1-2 CLASSES** This program has begun and I have stepped in to assist with travelling with students down and back from the pool for their lessons in Mr Pugh’s Bus. The delightful stories shared by our students has been wonderful. The challenge of changing and looking after their belongings is an improving habit. **PHOTO:** Year 1 in action at a swimming lesson last week.

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**LOTE-JAPANESE CLASSES**
Students have been building on layers to create:

**Year 5** an ID Card where they introduce themselves including Name-age-nationality and greeting/farewell in Japanese.

**Year 6** learnt about days of the week and activities they do and will be required to share this information about themselves in Japanese. Students will record their speech using the digital accessory Sound Recorder.

**PHOTOS:**
Confidence Plus—we got this!

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**PERFORMING ARTS SHOW**
P-6 Classes rocked last week As part of the FREE performance called ‘One Stop Rock Shop’

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**I AM SAFE - I AM A LEARNER - I AM RESPECTFUL**
Come join us for a disco!

**DISCO FUN**

**Where:** the MPC

**When:** Thursday 10 March

Prep-Grade 3 Only - 5:00pm-6:00pm

Grade 4-6 Only - 6:00pm-7:00pm

**Theme:** The 80’s

**Entry:** gold coin donation

**Drinks:** $2

**Chips:** $2

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**COLD CUPS** are now being sold on these days Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday - Thursday 50c each.

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**VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

If you can lend a hand in your child’s classroom please let them know.

Volunteers are always welcome at Richie Hill.

**THANK YOU**

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**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS** Information about these interviews will come home with your child soon. Every parent is encouraged to make a time to come and chat with their child’s teacher about learning in Term 1 and focus areas ahead in Term 2. It is essential that the partnership between home and school grows and as united we support the learning of students. Working together to help all children be successful everyday at Richie Hill. Thank You!
RICHIE HILL LEGO CLUB

A lunchtime activity  (first lunch only)

**WHO:** Year 1-Year 5  
**WHERE:** LIBRARY  
**TIME:** 11.15-11.45  
**DAYS:** TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY-FRIDAY  
**CLUB MANAGER:** Miss Lisa Pitt

RICHIE HILL CHESS & DRAUGHTS CLUB

A lunchtime activity  
(first lunch)

**WHO:** Year 1-Year 6

**WHERE:** Library  
**TIME:** 11.15-11.45  
**DAY:** every day of the week  
**CLUB MANAGER/SUPERVISOR:** Staff on duty in Library

Club Membership forms  for Lego and Chess/Draughts Clubs collect from office sign & return.
Get involved in the School Banking program

Richmond Hill State School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to deposit money into their Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

To encourage regular savings behaviour the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a silver Dollarmites token, and once they’ve collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

The rewards available during 2016 are:

- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at your local branch. All you need to bring is your current identification as well as your child’s birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account online.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. Deposit books can be collected from the school office if you don’t have one.

School Banking day is Tuesday. Each week you need to bring the deposit book into the school office.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack from the school office.

P & C NEWS

Our P&C AGM will be held on Thursday 17th March at 5.30pm in the Staffroom. All parents are welcome. Please come along and join us in making decisions that affect your child’s education. We have a very small band of parents who regularly attend these meetings and would love to have some input and ideas from some new parents. Hope to see you there!

If you have any 2nd hand uniforms that your child no longer requires and that you would like to donate, please drop them in to the office.
For the convenience of our school community, school photos can be ordered and paid for online using a secure online platform. Orders placed online DO NOT require an envelope, cash/cheques or paperwork returned to school.

Envelope Orders: photos can also be purchased in the traditional manner using an envelope, with cash/cheque enclosed and returned to school on or before Photo Day.

The preference of our school is that orders and payments be made online, as this reduces the administration and associated security issues related to the return of cash & envelopes on photo day.

To place your order visit [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) and enter the code- JCF CZP MLY. This code can also be found printed on your envelope. Please be aware that-

Sibling/Family Photos can be ordered online or via envelope. To ensure a smoothly run photo day, online orders for *Sibling/Family Photos will be cut off at 12.00 a.m. the night before our photo day* to allow a list of students that require Sibling/Family Photographs taken to be compiled. Sibling photos can still be ordered after the online cut off date by collecting an envelope from the office and returning the envelope on photo day with your payment enclosed.

All online orders should be placed on or before our day of photography.

The online code above may also be used to order sports and other group photos.

**All orders placed online will be delivered to the school for collection**

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**Creative Writing in Year Three!**

In Year 3L we have been writing narrative and persuasive texts and concentrating on sizzling sentences. Here are a few to share!

**Billy:** Jesse was a curious teenager who liked hiking up mountains.

**Chantelle:** A sensible idea would be to ban homework because we need to spend more quality time with our family.

**Taaleah:** Earlier when the sun was peaking over the horizon, she started her dangerous hike.

**Jesse:** Connor was sadly watching out of his bedroom window, after Digger had got bitten by a brown snake.

**Gregory:** It would be crazy to do more school work at home cause we already spend six hours at school.

**Claire:** Creeping gently into an open window, they saw flickering lights.

**Curtis:** Most people would agree that homework definitely must be banned because you already do work until three pm, so why do more work at home?
We have been working hard on our narrative and persuasive writing over the last five weeks and we are producing some great work! Check out some sizzling sentence extracts.

**NARRATIVE SENTENCES—The Spooky House**

* The girls felt a gust of wind knock them to their knees. (Violet Berney)
* The friends hadn’t been there long, when they reached a door with black, splintered wood. (Zach Sturgess)
* We thought we were going to die on that day. (Zoe Derrick)
* It was a dark night when Lee and Renae set out for adventure. (Taiga Moritake)
* The children started to regret their decision about going into the house. (Braythen Hansen)

**PERSUASIVE SIZZLING STARTERS—Should children do homework? WE THINK SO!**

* A sensible reason that children must do homework is it gives students good study habits for uni. (Tye Kleyn)
* I am sure that homework will help you improve your grades for school work. It will help you practice spelling, number facts and more! (Clay Walker)
* Of course we should do homework because it helps you prepare for assessment! (Jesse Johnson)

• It would be crazy not to do homework because when you go to high school you won’t know maths, English, spelling and more…. (Nathan Thomas).

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**Emergency Contact Details**

Parents/carers are reminded that if your address, phone number or emergency contact details have changed, please contact the school office to update your details. It is very upsetting for students in the case of illness or injury if we are unable to contact their parents due to incorrect phone numbers.

**Absences**

In the case of a student’s absence, parents/carers should contact the school to advise of the reason and length of absence. For unexplained absences, EQ requires us to contact parents to seek an explanation. Absences can be explained by sending in a note on the child’s return, a phone call to the office or by email. Mrs Brown’s email address is bbrow305@eq.edu.au; Miss Tash’s email is nmass16@eq.edu.au or the.principal@richhillss.eq.edu.au
News from Prep W

Some of our daily rotations: puzzles, dinosaurs, blocks, puppets, hammering, playdough, trains and threading.

In Science we have been learning about Living Things. We have read Information books about some amazing sea creatures, created our own sea animals during craft activities and even made our own dioramas. Check out our cool designs below.

In Numeracy, we have been learning about patterns, sorting, objects into groups and practising writing our numbers from 0 to 9.

In Literacy, we have been learning about sea animals and how to write information reports. We have been learning our sounds for the letters “s, a, t, p, i n” and spelling words with these sounds using “duck hands”, lines and numbers. We have also been practising handwriting and the correct formation for these letters. Forming our letters correctly is very important.

** Library borrowing is every Tuesday**

**Remember homework is due back every Friday.**
We have been busy in 1M so far this term and I can’t believe it is week 6 already! It’s great to see the students have settled into the daily routines in year 1 and that so many come with their healthy brain snack.

As you are aware we have been exploring Handa’s surprise in English and it has been fantastic to see the students really engaged in this unit. This week we have begun the assessment for our unit and all students have been working hard to gain the best results possible. It is also great to see that students are building their skills of retelling which is an essential life skill of understanding and comprehending texts. Sadly the unit is coming to an end and by week 7 we will begin a unit focused on punctuation and sentence structure.

In maths we have been focusing on using concrete materials (MAB blocks, counters etc.) to increase each student’s confidence in all elements of mathematics. Each day as a part of our maths routine, students participate in Maths Mentals which has a focus strategy each week to build the students problem solving skills. Essentially, each day students participate in daily counting which varies in counting from ones, twos, fives and tens. Already I have seen a massive improvement in all students within this area which is dramatically affecting their maths skills.

This term we have been venturing into the world of Science and taking on the role of investigating and experimenting with a variety of food components. I believe hands on experiences within science are vital for student engagement and this has been reflected in each lesson. Students have witnessed the before and after effects of heating and cooling with a variety of food ranging from ice blocks to popcorn. The aim of this unit is for students to confidently describe how the properties of the food can change though heating and cooling. This will be determined with an assessment task which will be completed by the end of week 7. I ensure that all students will be prepared for this task and will be given all necessary skills to complete the assessment to the best of their ability.

I am sure the next four weeks will fly by in the blink of an eye and I am excited to see the progress of all students by the end of the term. Please do not hesitate to visit our classroom as we are always eager for parents/caregivers or even grandparents to enjoy the company of our year ones and get to witness their improvements first hand.

**ROAD SAFETY**

We have had several incidents recently where members of the public have witnessed our students being unsafe or careless while walking or riding their bikes on their way to and from school. To help ensure their safety, please encourage your child to obey road rules when riding their bike and to walk on the footpath or as close to the edge of the road as possible, facing oncoming traffic. If they are required to cross the road on their way to school, please discuss with them ways that they can do this safely. Remember the rules: STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK before crossing the road.
Wow! This year is flying by so fast. We have passed the halfway mark for Term One and the children have already started completing their English assessment tasks. Whilst we have not yet completed our retells of Handa’s Surprise, the quality of the work the children have produced so far is outstanding, and they should each be really proud of their efforts. I want to take this opportunity to share with you what one of our Year 1H students have written so far. I am sure you will be amazed too.

In the beginning of Handa’s Surprise, in an African village, there lived a little girl named Handa. She picked seven, delicious, tasty, yummy, fruits, then she started walking slowly to Akeyo’s village.

First the cheeky monkey stole the soft, yellow banana. Then the tall ostrich took the sweet, smelling guava. Next, the stripy zebra stole the round, juicy orange. After that the noisy elephant stole the ripe, red mango. After, the spotty giraffe stole the spiky-leaved pineapple. Then the high antelope stole the creamy, green, avocado. After the beautiful parrot stole the tangy, purple passion fruit and Handa’s basket was empty and she had no fruit left to give her friend Akeyo.

Finally, the silly goat ran into the juicy, tangerine tree and all the tangerines fell into Handa’s basket. Then she reached Akeyo’s village and Handa gave Akeyo her fruit and both of them got a big surprise.

Written by Hana Khosravishirazi (5 years old)

I am sure you would agree that Hana has done an amazing job at her retell. Well done to her!

In Maths, we have been doing lots of hands on learning activities to learn about concepts such as time, addition, and place value. We have been making clocks with our bodies and pretending to be the hands of the clock. We have also been going out to the CPA to act out simple addition and subtraction problems by making a part-total mat and during class time we have been making 2 digit numbers using a variety of materials including paddle pop sticks, straws, MABs, unifix cubes and counters. The children are starting to develop their confidence with being able to recognise how many tens and ones in a number.

On a final note, I wanted to say a big thank you to those parents that have been coming into the classroom to help out with daily sight word practise, as well as changing our home readers. The help is greatly appreciated and always welcome.

Please remember the importance of your child being at school every day. Our attendance in 1H has been quite low in the last few weeks and sadly it is those children that are here every day that miss out on the chance to win the pizza party at the end of the term.

Heidi Montgomery

Wow! Can you believe we are over halfway through Term 1? 2C have been very busy bees over the last six weeks. We have just completed our first English task, where students had to add an event into Little Cat and the big red bus. All have worked so hard and should be proud of their writing.

Swimming officially kicked off last week, and what tired children we had that afternoon. It was pleasing to see their enthusiasm. Please ensure your child has all necessary items each Thursday to go swimming (togs, thongs, towels, goggles, change of underwear and sunscreen).

Parent/teacher interviews will commence in Week 8 and 9 for 2C. Notes will go out early next week, if there is an alternative time that would better suit, please let me know so we can arrange another time slot.

I would also like to take this time to thank our amazing parent volunteers who have given their time to do sight word practise, Think Mentals, changing home readers and laminating. Your support is much appreciated.

I will leave you all with a few snaps of our weekly spelling rotations we do once a week. The children love the variety of ways we can practise and learn spelling words.

Zoe Collins
Gotchas

Parade Awards
We’ve been busy, busy, busy learning in 1T!

Our Art unit this term has been about warm and cool colours and experimenting with different kinds of line. Check out our beautiful art works. Our classroom is looking so bright and colourful!

We’ve also been very busy doing hands-on maths activities. Here are some pictures of activities which helped us to learn about place value, measuring length and using addition strategies.

Please look out for a letter about parent/teacher interviews coming out late this week. Please continue to push sight words, do home reading and practise counting at home. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to come and see me or email me at tmarw2@eq.edu.au.