

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 66 NORTH BENDIGO 3550

Dear Families

Many of you will have seen the COMPASS notification I sent out yesterday, but for those who have not I have repeated the message below.

I write to inform you that Julie Hommelhoff has been appointed to the substantive principal position at Echuca Twin Rivers School from Term 2 onwards.

This means Julie will not be returning to the principal role at Lightning Reef PS.

I take the opportunity to congratulate Julie on her appointment and thank her for her leadership at our school.

The Department of Education will undertake a principal selection process to appoint a substantive principal. During this period, I will continue in the acting principal role.

Regards,
Joanne Ryan



Julie arrived at Lightning Reef PS in Term 3 2016. She was our Principal until she left just before the start of the 2021 school year to take on the role of Acting Principal at Twin Rivers PS in Echuca, as she and her husband moved to the area.

Julie lead our school community through a school review, the inclusion of Dogs Connect (and Alfie) at the school, invited the Rotary Club into help us with special lunches, lead us through COVID19 remote and flexible learning, attended many school camps and excursions– including Passion and Pathways on a weekly basis, oversaw the Department initiative of coaching through DSSI and the considerable investment in improving our School Grounds. She did all this a big smile on her face, always making sure we enjoyed the people we worked with, laughed with the kids and prioritised self-care.

I know all of you will join me in congratulating her on her new position.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT & INSURANCE

The Department of Education and Training and Lightning Reef Primary School do not have insurance for accidental injuries or accidental property damage. However, in some circumstances, medical or other

expenses will be paid by the Department where it is assessed that it is likely, in all the circumstances, that the Department is liable for negligent acts or omissions of its staff or volunteers. For more information about the Department's public liability claims process, please see: Negligence Claims Process. Lightning Reef Primary School encourages parents and carers to consider obtaining their own accident insurance for students and property of value that may be brought to school. Please also note our school's Personal

Property Policy, through VMIA covers some school property.

STUDENT LEADERS 2023-

Our House Leaders and SLC representatives were announced at Assembly last Friday. These students will join our three School Leaders (Matilda, Xam and Aye Moo Kyi) to make up our Student Leadership Team.

Congratulations to the following students:

Student Leadership Council (SLC):

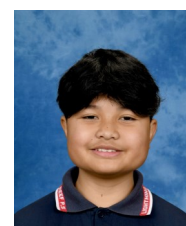
Jaxon, Eh Paw Khee, Ember, Ricky, Marlie and Allen.



House Leaders:

Smith – Ehlasu & Jemma

Holdsworth – Billie & Aung Myit Thein



Nolan – Illysa & Sher Mu

Holmes – Anna & Dee Sai Htoo



Good Friday Appeal 2023

We will be selling Zooper Doopers for \$1.00 each morning break starting next week. Funds raised will go directly towards our school's RCH Good Friday Appeal. Student's can bring their \$1.00 to meet Ms Ryan and the SLC under the Shade sails in the Court Yard at 11.00 a.m. to buy their Zooper Dooper. You can only buy a Zooper Dooper for yourself or your sibling.

Families can also make **tax deductible** donations directly onto our RCH Good Friday Appeal Virtual Tin Shake page by going to: [Good Friday Appeal - Lightning Reef PS](#)

Last year, the school community raised over \$1000 with school sales along with staff, family and students making personal contributions. Let's dig deep and see if we can improve on last year's total!

Jo Ryan

Acting Assistant Principal

NAPLAN

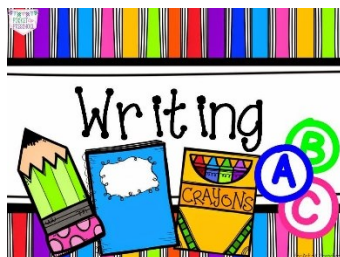
Students in Year 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN tests starting Wednesday 15th March. Below is the timetable for which days each test will be completed. It is important that students get a good night sleep and are on time to school each day. If students are ill there will be an opportunity to catch these tests up in the following week.

Wednesday 15th – Writing

Thursday 16th – Reading

Friday 17th March – Language Conventions

Monday 20th March – Numeracy

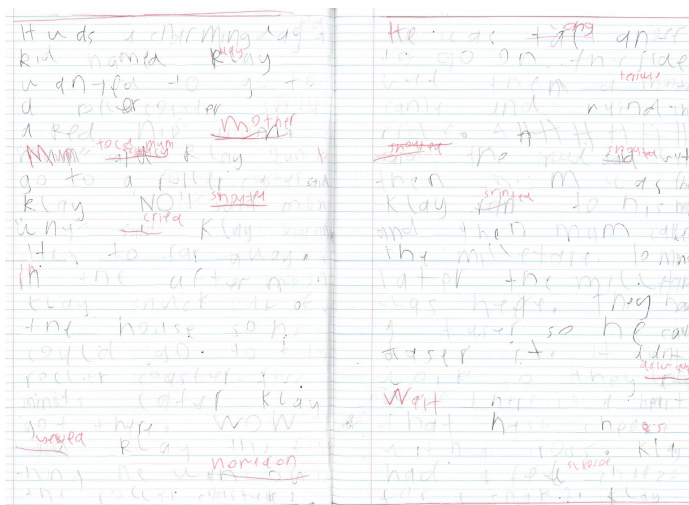
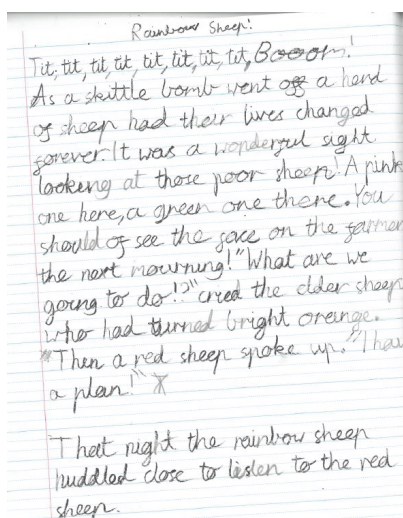


As a parent, when we think of writing, we tend to think about handwriting and spelling, but writing is so much more than that!

In the early years of school, students are taught to apply their knowledge of sounds to write sentences that tell a message or an idea. These sentences comprise of many elements such as full stops, capital letters simple and compound sentences.

As students move towards the middle years of school, their understanding of writing changes and students are given opportunities to apply what they know about grammar and conventions to these genres and writing forms such as narrative, information or persuasive writing.

This term students in Year 3 – 6 are focussing on Word Choice. They are revising their own writing to include a variety of verbs (action words), adverbs (describes a verb) and adjectives (describing nouns (naming words) to engage the reader.



Katrina Johnstone
Acting Assistant Principal



Amy Gillett : Wellbeing Lead Teacher PH: 0466 123 961

Useful websites and contacts:	- www.raisingchildren.net.au
Kids Matter - www.kidsmatter.edu.au	Kids helpline - 1800 55 1800 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or web counselling
Youth Beyond Blue - www.youthbeyondblue.com.au	Parentline - 1300 30 1300 (8am to 10pm seven days a week) & web counselling Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11am and 2pm
Headspace - www.headspace.org.au	
Reach Out - www.reachout.com	
Raising Children Network	

MORE SLEEP NEEDED?

We all need to sleep well to help our bodies recover from the day.

Top Tips for better sleep:

- Establish a regular, relaxing bedtime routine that lets you unwind and sends a signal to your brain that it's time to sleep.
- Create a restful environment: bedrooms that are dark, cool and quiet are generally easier to fall asleep and stay asleep in.
- Try to go to sleep and wake up at the same time each day.
- Exercise regularly but avoid vigorous exercise near bedtime if it affects your sleep.
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol before bed. They can stop you falling asleep and prevent deep sleep.
- Avoid using screens in the evening, including on smartphones and tablets. The light from the screen can have a negative effect on sleep, and social media, news and games can all stimulate your brain and make you feel anxious.
- Write down your worries if you lie awake worrying about tomorrow. This can help put your mind at rest.



Positive Thinking:

Good news! Did you know that science suggests that positive thinking is a learnable skill?

Three Good Things Exercise Research suggests that thinking of, and listing, three good things each day can contribute to increased happiness in the short term and longer term.

Even better, this exercise is simple to do.

Just spend a few minutes each evening reflecting on the day until you think of three good things.



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 2023

A) Notice of election and call for nominations	Monday 13th February 2023
B) Closing date for nominations	Monday 27th February 2023
C) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required)	Thursday 2nd March 2023
D) Close of ballot	Friday 10th March 2023
E) March School Council Meeting (First council meeting to elect office bearers)	Thursday 16th March 2023

What is a school council and what does it do? All school councils in Victoria operate under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. The school council has particular functions in setting and monitoring the school's direction. School councils have three main responsibilities:

Finance – overseeing the development of the school's annual budget and ensuring proper records are kept of the school's financial operation.

Strategic Planning – participating in the development and monitoring of the school's strategic plan.

Policy Development and Review – developing, reviewing and updating policies that reflect the school's values and support the school's broad direction outlined in its strategic plan.

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council? There are three possible categories of membership:

- ♦ A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category.
- ♦ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- ♦ A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- ♦ An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important? Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Lightning Learner

Room	Name	Reason
4	Eh Pla Ku	for trying hard with every learning task and making sure he always does his very best.
5	Rachel	For using spaces in her writing and correct letter formation.
7	Annaka	Using her writer's notebook to brainstorm ideas and reasons for her persuasive piece on the best toy.
8	Jacob	For using the mini clocks to make and read lots of different o'clock times
2	Ember	Drawing some amazing shapes with an area of 30 squares.
3	Hunter	being able to demonstrate how to use a dictionary correctly.
9	Aung Myit Thein	persisting to complete challenging Place Value tasks.
10	Jaxon	working hard to improve his writing
Art	Tahlia	For experimenting with lots of different colours in her painting.
PE	Leo	participating in Netball games with such great skill and attitude.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Let's Just Do It!

Room	Name	Reason
4	Charmaine	Always being willing to help others and lend a hand when someone needs assistance.
5	Everleigh	For being her best and having a go at all learning activities.
7	Jason	always coming to school ready to learn and trying his best at each task
8	Shar Lom	For always including others in and outside of the classroom
2	Paige	Demonstrating respect and always using her manners.
3	Chit Chit	for having the confidence to deliver her SLC speech to an audience
9	Aye Moo Kyi	supporting others in the classroom and seeking help when needed.
10	Matilda	for being a kind and respectful member of Room 10
Art	Samantha	For always listening to instructions carefully in Art.
PE	Carly	trying her best with a positive attitude

ASSEMBLY AWARDS



SLC and House Captains



We are now using



To login, you will require your unique family username and password. These details have been emailed to you, however if you are yet to receive them, please contact the school office.

You will initially be provided with a temporary password that you will be prompted to update to one of your choosing when you login for the first time.

To login, go to your school's Compass site. Type in your username and password and click 'Sign in'.

A screenshot of the Magic P-12 College login page. It features the school's crest on the left, which is a shield with a red and blue design. To the right of the crest are two input fields labeled "Username" and "Password". Below these fields is a "Sign in" button, and further down are social media icons for Google and Facebook. At the bottom, there is a "Remember me" checkbox and a link that says "Can't access your account?".

If it is the first time you are logging in, you will be required to confirm your email address and mobile number. These details may be used by the school for SMS/email communications and also, password recovery.

A screenshot of the "Welcome to the Magic P-12 College Parent Portal" page. It includes a heading, a paragraph of text explaining the purpose of the portal, and a section for "Mrs Sable BROOKS". Below this, there are input fields for "Mobile" and "Email" numbers.

Also when logging in for the first time, once you have confirmed your details, you will be required to change your temporary password to one of your choosing. When you have entered your new password, click 'Save'.

A screenshot of the password change page. It has a heading "Next, you will need to change your password". Below this, it lists requirements for a new password: not contain username, not be a recently used password, be at least eight characters, contain at least one uppercase letter, contain at least one lowercase letter, and contain at least one number. There are input fields for "New Password" and "Confirm New Password", and a "Save" button at the bottom.

HAVE YOU LOGGED IN YET?
DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW
and search for Lightning Reef
Primary School!

We're excited to welcome your child back into the classroom.

Being at school is critical for your child's learning and their mental, physical, and social wellbeing.

Every day of attending school counts.

We want to support your child to have a positive start to the year. We will do this by:

- helping your child to re-establish positive school attendance routines
- working with you with respect to your child's wellbeing and learning needs
ensuring we understand where your child is up to with their learning and social-emotional development, where required
providing targeted support to help them progress

If your child is absent, please mark on Compass and provide a reason. If you don't, we will call to see if everything is okay.

If you have any concerns, please contact your classroom teacher who may refer to leadership when needed □

Amy Gillett- Wellbeing & Attendance Leader

**Happy Birthday to Jason H,
Himani M, Carly M and Tahlia G.**

We hope you had an amazing day.



Calendar of events:

Monday March 13th– Labour
Day - no school

Wednesday March 15th -
Naplan testing begins

Tuesday March 21st - School
photos

Thursday April 6th - Fun run
and last day of Term 1

Monday April 24th - Term 2
begins

CONTACT US:

5443 2501

Acting Principal:

Jo Ryan

Business Manager:

Kristie Coates

Leader– Student Wellbeing:

Amy Gillett

Leader– Disability & Inclusion:

Paul Keller

Leader– Teaching & Learning

Katrina Johnstone

Social Worker:

Gai Maddams

School Council President

Daria Turnbull

Parents and Friends

Sonia Valli & Jodie Madon

**Please
remember
smoking is
banned
within four
metres of an
entrance to
all Victorian
Schools and
within the
school
grounds, this
includes our
shared
entrance and
the bus stop**



If you are missing any clothing items
please check our lost property.

It is located in the office area just inside the
front door.



BE YOUR BEST



BE RESPECTFUL



BE CO-OPERATIVE



BE RESPONSIBLE



School preparedness and pre-emptive actions for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings indicate how dangerous a fire would be if one started in those conditions and provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. They can be a trigger for action in community and for school and household level fire plans.



Schools and children's services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at some lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Schools and early childhood services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list take pre-emptive actions on elevated fire danger days to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions. The category of risk (per the BARR or Category 4 list) determines the actions that the school or early childhood service will need to take on days of elevated fire danger.

Our school has been identified as being one of these schools at high bushfire or grassfire risk, and is a BARR school.

Our school will close on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the Northern Country fire district.

The department will advise our school of the potential for a **Catastrophic fire danger rating** as information becomes available, however the pre-emptive closure will be **confirmed by 1pm the day prior to Catastrophic fire danger day**.

Fire danger ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology up to four days in advance. Should a Catastrophic day be forecast, we will notify you of the potential closure by an email or hard copy letter, SMS and Compass notification. Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- Depending on which fire weather district is impacted, bus route cancellations may affect our school.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to elevated fire danger or a Catastrophic fire forecast. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking Compass, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's Bushfire Survival Plan.
- You can access current information about school and early childhood services closures, including those due to elevated fire danger, on the Department of Education and Training's website - see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters



Do your children play sport? Or would like to play sport? Get active today with the help of Get active Victoria.

Eligible children may receive up to \$200 to cover the costs for membership and registration fees. Applications are now open.

<https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/>

All proceeds support the
Bendigo Health Foundation

BENDIGO HEALTH
fundraising & foundation

Bendigo Ford
FUN RUN
Ford

**Sunday
5 March
2023**

Rosalind Park, Bendigo



1km KIDS DASH
PRESENTED BY
Jenny's Early Learning Centre

5km RUN/WALK
PRESENTED BY
POB Physiotherapy Centre Bendigo

5km BUSINESS CHALLENGE
PRESENTED BY
TSFN

10km FUN RUN
PRESENTED BY
AGNICO EAGLE FOOTBALL CLUB

21.1km HALF MARATHON

REGISTER NOW
bendigofordfunrun.com.au



NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR



MAJOR SPONSORS



MEDIA PARTNERS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS & PARTNERS



FREE COFFEE and snacks!
No booking required.



CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

**Support Groups for anyone caring for a person who is
under 18 with disability, developmental delay,
neurodiversity and/or mental ill-health**

If you don't live in the
Bendigo region, you can
join us online by calling us
on: 0488 605 363
We can send you a zoom
link!



Morning Tea Group
Date: 1st and 3rd Thursday
of each month

Time: 10am – 12 noon

Where: 480 Hargreaves St.
Bendigo

If you have any forms or
documents you need help
with, please bring them along!





WANTED U12, U14 and U16 GIRLS FOOTBALLERS

The White Hills Junior Football Club is seeking any
girls interested in playing Under 12, 14 or 16
Girls football.

If you are interested in playing, please contact
Phil Murley on 0409 462 900 or email the club
whjfclub@gmail.com for further information.



GCNA NETBALL ASSOCIATION BENDIGO

INFORMATION FOR 2023

Season commences Saturday March 25th

OPEN TO PLAYERS & TEAMS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS

GCNA PLAYERS FEES

GRADE 3 CLINIC - \$15 pp

11/UNDER MIXED - \$50 pp

\$80 pp for all -

13/UNDER FEMALE

15/UNDER FEMALE

17/UNDER FEMALE

21/UNDER FEMALE

OPEN FEMALE

OPEN MIXED

*ages @ 31/12/2023

+VNA \$64 Junior player \$84 Senior Player

NET SET GO - Prep - Grade 2 - \$87

FULL DETAILS & ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE



All enquiries to the Secretary 0438 636 464
e: info@gcnabendigo.com.au

