



Newsletter

Ridgehaven Primary School

Term 2 - Week 1

Thursday 2nd May 2019

Address: 479 Milne Road Ridgehaven SA 5097
Email: dl.1051.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Website: www.ridgehaven.sa.edu.au

School: Tel: 08 8264 5277
Fax: 08 8396 1715

Preschool: Tel: 08 8265 3140
OSHC: Tel: 08 8396 3327



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Principal: Joe Blefari
Senior Leader: Martin Woodcock
Senior Leader: Sharon Foweraker
Governing Council Chairperson: Mel Leaver

From The Leadership Team

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Dates To Remember

Uniform Shop open

Monday May 13

Mother's Day Stall

Wednesday 8 May & Thursday 9 May

Pupil Free Day

Friday June 7

Election Day BBQ

Federal Election 18 May

Showdown Donuts

Orders close 9am Monday 6 May

Donuts will be delivered for
Recess on Friday 10 May

From Leadership Team

Dear families,

Welcome back for the start of term 2. I hope children enjoyed their break from school life and have returned refreshed and rejuvenated for an exciting and busy term ahead.

We welcome back Kate Scott and Marc Wallis from their LSL breaks and thank Beth and Tamsin for taking their respective classes. Marc has been busy drafting and finalising the script for this year's production and is looking forward to working with the children this term.

We welcome the following new students and hope they have a smooth and enjoyable beginning to their time at Ridgehaven Primary School; Kabir (room 3), Arshia (room 12) and Tarlee (room 19).

Reading

This term we have begun our whole school focus on reading. To support our work, we have engaged Heather Lawes, a Literacy coach from the Department for Education. Heather will facilitate two staff meetings for us this term sharing her knowledge and expertise on high impact reading strategies. Our Early Years teachers will continue their focus on the teaching of phonics and the strategy of guided reading will remain a focus from Reception – Year 7. I look forward to sharing our journey with you throughout the year.

One of our parents, Amanda Van Der Hoeven, has kindly organised seven volunteers from Costco who will be supporting some of our Early Years children with reading each Thursday this term.

Mother's Day Stalls

Our traditional Mother's Day stalls will occur on Wednesday 8 May & Thursday 9 May. Thank you to the PFC for organising and running this school fundraiser. Students are encouraged to bring \$1-\$5 to spend on a gift/s.

Joe Blefari, Martin Woodcock & Sharon Foweraker

Our School Values:

Caring

Honesty

Excellence

Respect

Responsibility

The Program Achieve Keys To Success:

Confidence

Persistence

Getting Along

Organisation

Resilience

From Leadership Team continued

NAPLAN – Week 3

Our Year 3, 5 and 7 students will take part in the annual **National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) on May 14, 15 & 16**. Students are assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress.

NAPLAN tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time through the school curriculum. Teachers have spoken to our Year 3, 5 and 7 students and explained that NAPLAN test days should be treated as just another routine event on the school calendar. They have emphasised that it is just one of many forms of assessment as a school that we use and have encouraged children to simply do the best they can on the days. Below I have included some insights from “Helping Students get Ready for the NAPLAN Tests” written by Michael Grose.

Take your cues from your child

If your child doesn't worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn't exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

Focus on doing their best and trying hard

Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

Listen to any concerns they have

If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a 'get over it' response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

Give them some relaxation ideas

Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

Help them retain their perspective

One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what's the worst thing that could happen. Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise. A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it's going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.

Federal Election

As you know, the Federal Election is being held on 18 May. As has been the case in previous elections, our school will host a polling both in the gymnasium. The bbq will be a major fundraiser for us which I encourage you to support if at all possible. Thank you to the parents and staff who are volunteering their time on Election Day. Thank you to Craig Stirna for kindly donating the sausages for our bbq.

From Leadership Team continued

Walk Safely to School Day

National Walk Safely to School Day is on Friday 17 May. Now in its 20th year, the annual campaign and community event encourages all primary school children, their parents and carers to walk and commute regularly and safely to school. The event seeks to promote road safety, health, public transport and the environment.

The objectives of the day are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children
- To promote the health benefits of walking and create regular walking habits
- To help children develop vital road crossing skills and ensure children up to the age of 10 years hold an adult's hand when crossing the road
- To reduce car dependency and traffic congestion
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles
- To promote the use of public transport.

Library

Last term three students; Kane F, Mia C and Lily S approached me about the possibility of opening the library at lunch times. I was impressed by the arguments they presented along with a petition signed by nearly every child in the whole school! As a result we have decided to open the library two days each week to support children who may want a quieter space away from the busyness of the school yard. Thank you to the teachers who have volunteered to give up their lunch time to support this new initiative.

2019 Public Education Awards

Nominate, recognise and celebrate an outstanding educator in the 2019 Public Education Awards.

Get involved and say thank you to a leader, teacher or support staff member making a significant difference to the lives of their students and their communities.

An educator's influence continues beyond the classroom and supports children and young people to reach their full potential in life. We all remember a teacher who inspired and motivated us to enjoy learning, and the awards honour the dedication and passion of individuals who deliver the best possible outcomes for young people and their families.

The Public Education Awards are entering their 9th year and we're excited to share excellence in South Australian public education and invite you to celebrate and recognise an educator who makes a positive impact every day.

The Public Education Awards recognise excellence in South Australian public education, and nominations are open 1 to 31 May. Visit www.education.sa.gov.au/awards to nominate and find out more about the awards. Hard copy nomination forms are also available from the front office.

I hope you have a positive end to the week.

Thanks,

Joe Blefari

Election Day BBQ

HELPERS WANTED

I will be doing 1 hour stints between 8am and 2pm. If you can help please contact the office and I will allocate you a time.

Melanie Rawnsley

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop has relocated to the front office and will be run by the office staff from **2.30 – 3.30 pm** on the following dates in term 2:

Monday 13th May
Monday 27th May
Tuesday 11th June
Monday 24th June

ASSEMBLY DAY CHANGE

Due to NAPLAN falling on our assembly day (Wednesday week 3) we have moved assembly to **Friday week 3 (May 17) at 9.00am.**

Friday May 17 also coincides with National Walk Safely to School Day. We hope this change of assembly date doesn't cause any inconvenience.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

**Our traditional Mother's Day stalls will occur on
Wednesday 8 May & Thursday 9 May.**

Students are encouraged to bring \$1-\$5 to spend on a gift/s.

2019 Pupil Free Days

Term 2 - Friday 7 June
Term 3 - Friday 30 August
Term 4 - Friday 22 November

**2019 School Closure Day
Monday 2 September**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Free parenting seminar

The secrets of raising beautifully behaved children



Are you the parent of a 5-12 year old?
Want to encourage positive behaviour in your home?
Come and join us or watch our live webcast.

Hear psychologist, parenting author and commentator, Jodie Benveniste talk about:

- understanding children's behaviour so you can guide them to be their best
- responding to misbehaviour in positive and helpful ways
- reducing battles and encouraging more cooperation in your home.

Wednesday 22 May

When: 7.00 - 9.00pm

Where: City Rooms
Adelaide Convention Centre
North Terrace, Adelaide

Register to attend in person or view the live webcast at:

Online: <http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au>

Phone: 8303 1660

Email: health.parentingsa@sa.gov.au

Presented by Parenting SA.
For more information about raising children visit
www.parentingsa.gov.au or
www.cyh.com

This seminar is designed for an adult audience.