

# In Focus



From the Foundation Principal

*"We live in the inner suburbs, a place of great diversity. Let's celebrate this diversity. I don't want anyone's gender, ethnic background, religion, colour of skin or hair or any difference, used against them. I don't want socio-economic background, homophobia, transphobia, racism, aggression, meanness to be part of our culture. None of these things meet community standards and I expect you to be kind to each other."*

*Our Foundation Principal speaking to students at our first assembly.  
#richmondhighschoolvalues*

## ■ From the principal

Amidst all the hard work to fund, build and open a school the real work, the real school started as students sat in our classes. Students have been with us for two weeks now, and senior staff have been surprised how real and normal we feel. We particularly love the focused education environment and the positive messages we are getting from students. Each day we have the normal work of a school, in all its elements, and we are loving that. The uniform has outstripped my expectations, after the long consultation on that last year.

In fact, the two weeks have outstripped my expectations in all ways. Your long-awaited school is back and the future is bright.

Friday is Chinese New Year, the year of the dog. The global celebrations are an explosion of light and sound, involving bell ringing, lighting firecrackers and watching traditional lion dances.

Chinese families gather together for a reunion dinner on New Year's Eve, and clean their houses to sweep away bad fortune on New Year's Day. 2018 will be the Year of the Dog. The Chinese zodiac moves in a 12-year cycle, and those born in 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, and 2018 are also known as Dogs. According to the Asian astrology, your year of birth - and the animal this represents - determines a lot about your personality traits.

Although each of the twelve animals gets an outing every dozen years, there are different varieties - and 2018 will be the first Year of the Earth Dog since 1958. Anyone born in an Earth Dog year will be communicative, serious, and responsible in the workplace.

In this newsletter we are calling for nominations for our first democratically elected council. We are excited for this milestone as we move forward together, to build our school. Students will also be represented on this council with elections to follow for them in a month or so.

COLIN SIMPSON

## ■ About us

Richmond High School is a bespoke, multi-level co-educational learning space created to serve the local community.

We are welcoming and inclusive, embracing difference and diversity in its many forms. We offer a strong academic focus that encourages creativity and original thinking.

We have high expectations of our students, balanced by care and support whenever it is needed. We hope to equip the students in our care for an ever-changing world, encouraging them to embrace learning for life and the desire to make a difference.



Richmond  
High School  
Make a difference.

## ■ Respectful acknowledgment

Our school is located on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, we pay our respects to them.



■ **Contact**

Griffiths Campus - 2019  
4 Griffiths Street, Richmond, 3121  
Multi-Purpose Building  
Gleadell Campus - 2018  
6 Gleadell Street, Richmond, 3121  
**Postal Address:**  
Post Office Box 201  
Richmond, 3121  
[richmond.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:richmond.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
[www.rhs.vic.edu.au](http://www.rhs.vic.edu.au)  
Telephone: 8396 6399

■ **Starting Secondary School**

The move from primary to secondary school is a major milestone for your child. It's a time of big changes in their development, education and life. You can have confidence that your child's future is in good hands in a Victorian government school. We are committed to ensuring we are giving our young people the education and skills that they will need. Secondary school covers years 7 to 12, where students are usually aged 12 to 18. By law, your child must complete year 10 and remain in some form of education or training until they are 17. Secondary school provides opportunities to challenge your child and to develop the valuable skills they will take into adulthood.

Read more:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/starting.aspx>

■ **Crumpler Bag**

The school bag is now available from Bob Stewarts. If you have purchased one these have been delivered to the school. If you order over the phone, they will deliver here. We expect, as part of our uniform approach, all student to purchase and use a School Crumpler Bag.

■ **Student Travel Concession and Myki**

All Richmond High School students will need a Concession Myki.



■ **Happy New Year - The Year of the Dog**

Gongxi Facai!!! Xinnian Kuaile!!! It is Chinese New Year Time again. In 2018, we are welcoming the year of the Dog.

Many of us are fond of our dogs, due to their unique qualities. What does it mean when there is the Year of the Dog in the Chinese zodiac? "Honest and loyal, the truest friends and most reliable partner." Wouldn't anyone just love to have friends like this?! Needless to say that it will be a great year.

Our newly built Richmond High School has opened its door for business coincided with the beginning of the Year of Dog! In Chinese culture, people believe that the Year of Dog is a year for prosperity. It is popular to believe Wàng Cái (旺财) meaning "prosperous and wealth" comes from dogs' barking sounds (旺旺-wàng wàng). In Richmond High School, we hope the Year of the Dog will bring us the wealth of success and celebrations, a wealth of knowledge for our students and a wealth of support to and from our community of Richmond – a community in which the Chinese New Year carries particular significance.

The exciting prospects brought us together to start this journey. Along the way, we will have many challenges and difficulties, particularly in the first year. However, there will be a lot of excitement, joy, achievements and celebrations. Let's be each other's honest, loyal, reliable and truest friend and share the spirit and the unique qualities of dogs. Then you will never walk alone.

It is a tradition at the time of Chinese New Year, everyone tries to go home to the family. The union of family is a pivotal symbol of happiness in Chinese culture. In the family of Richmond High School, we will cherish our time together too. Students and staff will come and go, moving on to greater things, but you will always be a member of this extended family. Like a loyal dog, we shall never abandon our family.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Richmond High School family, a Happy Chinese New Year! May the Year of Dog lead you to many wonderful years ahead!



TONG LIN

■ **Alternative Languages in our Multi Language School**

We have students studying a range of subjects independently to our main language of Chinese. Our view is may request an exemption from this subject. This will ensure that we support a broad range of languages.



## School Council Elections - Information for Parents

### WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide 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?

For most school councils, 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 Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work 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 – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires 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 and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

### DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. 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.

### HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider

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

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

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.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

### REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

**Contact the principal for further information.**

### Timeline for election process

Call for nominations **Friday 16 February**. Contact Paige Willing in Administration for a nomination form - [willing.paige.c@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:willing.paige.c@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Nominations close **Friday 2 March** 12:00 pm

Ballots sent out **Friday 9 March**

Ballots returned and Election closes **Friday 16 March** 12:00 pm. The poll will be declared this day.

