

INFORMAL EMAIL:

Subject: The Playground Is Falling Apart – Let's Fix It Together!

To: riversidehighschoolstudents@edu.nsw.gov.au

Hello Everyone!

Have you noticed the state of our once-awesome playground lately? It's gone from a hub of laughter and fun to... a rusty ghost town! Our memories have begun to shatter like glass, and it's time we step up and do something.

Remember when playing tips, hide-and-seek, or truth or dare used to be the highlight of the day? Now we're left with rusted metal, cracked courts, and puddles that stick around longer than Monday blues. I mean, last week, poor Bobby Smith from Year 2 *slipped hard* trying to play handball on the uneven concrete!

But this isn't just about fun (though that matters). This is about:

- **Staying Safe** – Sharp *metal* edges that can tear clothes? No thanks.
- **School Pride** – What will visitors or parents think when they see a broken-down playground?
- **Getting Active** – How are we supposed to run, play, and move when the ground feels like an obstacle course?

Now here's where **you** come in:

I'm putting together a team to talk to Principal JingJing and ask for real action. If you're in, we need:

1. Photos of the most damaged spots (get those phones ready!)
2. Stories of accidents or near-misses
3. Ideas for what our dream playground should include

4. Volunteers to help with a petition or even a fundraiser!

Imagine smooth basketball courts, strong equipment that doesn't wobble, and shaded areas so we don't roast like cookies in the summer (and yes, cookies are delicious 🍪).

If you're keen, **reply to this email by Friday**. We're meeting **next Monday at lunch in Room 16** (the one near the Music Space) to get organized. Let's make our playground amazing again!

#WEgnaSLAYthis

Warm regards,

Arianna Smith – Minister of the Environment

Aka The kid who's tired of a wrecked playground

FORMAL EMAIL:

Subject: Safety Hazards Within Our School's Playground; Renovation Proposal

To: jingjing@principal.riverside.edu.nsw.au

Dear Principal Jingjing,

I am writing to you with profound concern and a heavy heart regarding the conditions of our school's playground and to respectfully request that we take immediate action on this critical matter. We certainly need to renovate the playground so we're able to address serious safety issues, which have recently been affecting student well-being.

Our once vibrant playground has been transformed into an unpredictable landscape filled with ragged metal protrusions (sharp enough to tear clothing in one scratch) and crumbling concrete surfaces. The swing set's chains have rusted to the point where they screech painfully with every movement, while the fractured wooden benches near our school's entrance have become unstable. During the rainfall yesterday, I sadly observed the ankle-deep puddles forming across the basketball court's surface, rendering it unusable for multiple days afterward.

These situations present 3 critical concerns:

- Last week alone, 5 students from our Year 4/5/6 cohort have sadly sustained minor injuries from the razor-sharp edges of the wrecked slide. Plus, the lumpy concrete has been the cause of several tripping incidents.
- Mental Wellbeing and Conditions: Students now view break times with annoyance and anxiety rather than glee. Playgrounds are meant to symbolize joy and development, not trepidation and avoidance - what they should portray for students is anticipation.
- Educational Influence: Physical activity and consistent breaks are evidently crucial for cognitive and intellectual development. The uninviting environment designated for these breaks discourages movement since kids fear the equipment due to its painful risks. This could potentially affect classroom focus and decrease academic performance

Research from the Australian Institute of Sport highlights that schools with well-maintained play areas report a 28% increase in student physical activity, along with fewer behavioural issues in the classroom. This shows that a safe, engaging outdoor environment is not just a luxury—it's an essential part of supporting students' overall wellbeing, learning, and development. Our school community deserves a space that encourages movement, inspires creativity, and keeps students safe.

In light of this, I respectfully suggest the following actions to improve and future-proof our playground facilities:

- **Conduct a thorough safety inspection** of all playground equipment as a priority
- **Repair the most dangerous or deteriorated sections** within the next two weeks to prevent potential injuries
- **Develop a detailed, long-term renovation plan** by the end of this term, ensuring improvements are both sustainable and cost-effective
- **Hold a meeting with student representatives** to include their feedback and ideas, making sure the upgrades reflect what students want and need

I understand that financial resources are often stretched. However, the potential consequences of a serious student injury—both emotional and financial—far outweigh the upfront investment required to create a safer space. Moreover, our P&C has already shown a willingness to support fundraising initiatives, and I believe the broader school community would rally behind this cause as well.

Thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to our students. I would sincerely appreciate the chance to meet and discuss this proposal further at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Arianna Smith

Year 6 - Minister of The Environment

arianna.student@edu.nsw.gov.au