

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

DAY 6:

Formal Email to Local Council Member

Subject: Urgent Request for Playground Inspection and Support

To: councillor.simon.clarke@cityofriverside.gov.au

From: arianna.smith@riversidehigh.edu.nsw.edu.au

Dear Councillor Clarke,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Arianna Smith, and I am the elected Minister of the Environment from Riverside High School's Student Leadership Team. I am writing to request an urgent inspection and support for our school's rapidly deteriorating playground, which has become not just an eyesore, but a growing safety concern for our students.

What was once the heart of our school grounds has now crumbled into a forgotten skeleton of broken benches, rust-stained monkey bars, and faded courts. The metal equipment groans like tired old bones every time a child climbs them, and the surface beneath our feet feels more like a minefield than a safe space for play.

We've recently had a concerning increase in minor injuries. Just last week, a Year 2 student slipped on the cracked concrete and grazed his elbow badly. The peeling paint emits a smell of decay, and the sharp, jagged edges of worn-down equipment are an accident waiting to happen. As young voices fall silent on what should be joyful turf, our community's spirit begins to dim.

Our students deserve more than rust and rubble. They deserve a space that fosters creativity, movement, and friendships—a place where laughter can soar again like birds in spring. We kindly ask for the Council's support in the following ways:

- A site visit to inspect the current state of the playground
- Guidance and support in securing funding for renovation
- Assistance in fast-tracking maintenance or safety updates

Thank you for your time and for being a champion of youth and community spaces. We truly hope you will stand with us in restoring the heart of our school.

Warm regards,

Arianna Smith

Minister of the Environment, Riverside High School

arianna.smith@riversidehigh.edu.nsw.edu.au

Tel: 0412-555-123

Informal Email to Local Business Owner

Subject: Help Us Bring Joy Back to Our School Playground!

To: hello@sweetbeanbakery.com.au

From: arianna.smith@riversidehigh.edu.nsw.edu.au

Hey, Sweet Bean Bakery Team! 🍪

My name's Arianna Smith, and I'm part of the student leadership team over at Riverside High. First off—your cinnamon scrolls? Absolute perfection. They're like warm hugs in pastry form!

Now, to the real reason I'm writing—we need your help. Our school playground is falling apart. Imagine a place meant for laughter, games, and running wild... now picture it with rusted monkey bars, cracked basketball courts, and metal poles that creak like haunted house doors. It's like our playground aged 50 years overnight.

It breaks our hearts watching the younger students hesitate before playing. The joyful squeals have been replaced by cautious steps and scraped knees. Even the sun seems to frown when it shines on those broken benches.

That's why we're planning a big push to get our playground fixed—and we're looking for kind-hearted local businesses to join the cause. Would you be interested in becoming a sponsor? Whether it's \$50 or \$500, every dollar helps. We'd love to thank you with a feature in our school newsletter, a custom thank-you sign near the new playground, and lots of shoutouts on our social media.

With your help, we can turn this wreck into something magical—imagine bright new slides that gleam in the sunlight, a court smooth as icing on a cupcake, and shaded spaces where kids can laugh and play without roasting like cookies on a tray. 🍪🌈

If you're up for it, I'd love to chat more or pop by your bakery this week to give you more info. Let's bring the joy back to Riverside together.

Thanks a million!

Arianna Smith

Student Leader – Riverside High

arianna.smith@riversidehigh.edu.nsw.edu.au

Tel: 0412-555-123