Greetings to our student families and friends as we begin the start of the 2015 school year.

There are some significant changes in education in WA which affect our school:

- Primary school enrolments will now accommodate years K-6, whilst High School enrolments will accommodate years 7-12.
- The National Curriculum is expected to be implemented in phases and teaching and learning programs are required to reflect this.
- By far the most important change is the way WA schools will now be funded. Under the new Student Centred Funding Model (SCFM) schools will operate with a ‘one line’ budget and take responsibility for all aspects of financial management.
- Changes will also be made to the way students with disabilities are to be resourced.

I have no doubt this ‘new world’ will present some complex challenges. I would like to reassure parents and carers that here at Riverside ESC we have a very skilled and competent workforce able to respond to this changing world with creative and thoughtful professionalism.

Paramount to all this are successful student outcomes. I am committed to ensuring that students outcomes are not compromised in this era of change. The Department has a guiding strategy known as ‘Classroom First’ which ensures that student outcomes, effective teaching and good schools instil the necessary confidence in public education. I strongly advocate the strategy and its Focus documents as essential tools for the running of our school.

Riverside ESC has written a new chapter in its history by implementing a Kindergarten program, for 2015. This will provide an opportunity for students to have a good grounding before they commence their formal schooling. Mrs Filer and her team in Room 31 will be running this year’s program. All of our other classes, pre-primary to Year 6, have a compliment of students.

Riverside ESC is building a presence and reputation in the region as a ‘first point of enquiry’ for parents and carers of children who do not readily fit into the regular school system. Word of mouth, online searching and agency referrals are just some of the ways. I welcome enquiries about enrolments for 2015 and beyond.

**Our priority areas for 2015 are literacy, numeracy and personal health and wellbeing.** All school learning programs will be reflective of these priorities. We already have some excellent programs in place such as PATHS and Protective Behaviours which are essential in providing a safe and caring environment for your child to learn in. The skills they learn in these programs will also help them to identify unsafe situations they may encounter outside of the school environment.

As a standalone item **Behaviour Management** continues as a high priority area. The practising of self-control, conscious reflection and timely communication will sustain our students beyond primary school. Of course, we need these skills to be reinforced at home and by the broader community.

Sometimes things go off the rails, providing learning opportunities for teaching and new growth. Handling ‘bumps’ is just another part of our individualised curriculum, but behaviour that compromises safety will not be tolerated. Riverside ESC mandates a strict **zero tolerance** towards any form of bullying.

<table>
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<th>Important Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Mar – SCHOOL CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Wed 11 Mar – Swimming Carnival Year 1-6</td>
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<td>Thu 2 Apr – Last day Term 1</td>
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**Student attendance:** It is a legal requirement that your child attends school and that we keep essential records of their attendance. Absences are always followed up. 2014 was a much improved year and I want improvement to continue for 2015. Mrs Rekman our Student Services Coordinator is responsible for tracking and managing students attendance and does a very thorough job. Please feel free to contact her (or the school) on any attendance related matters.

**Website:** Our new revamped school website will shortly be live and accessible. I would encourage you to use the website as we intend to promote it as a ‘one stop shop’. Thanks to David Perry for all his assistance and hard work in getting our new site up and running.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support, and remember, my door is always open should you wish to discuss your child’s education.

Kind Regards,
Jim Douglas – Principal

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**Room 31**

The students in Room 31 have had a wonderful start to the year. They have made new friends and they are having lots of fun, learning new songs and doing lots of creative work.

[Images: Declan getting messy, Jeremiah building, Lucas being creative]

**Room 32**

A very big welcome back to everyone. Room 32 has a lot of exciting things planned for 2015. During Term 1 we will be learning about animals. We will be reading lots of animal stories and making fantastic animal art activities. This week we read an animal version of *Wheels on the Bus* and the bus driver was a giraffe. Here is Harrison and Matthew with our giraffe activity.
Room 33

Room 33 has had an absolutely fantastic start to the year! Everyone is working really well in the class. We went for our first choir session in week two and everyone really enjoyed it. We think it will be a fun activity to be part of and we will practice lots for our performances. Thank you to all of the parents / carers who came to IEP meetings. It was great to meet you all.

Room 34

Hello everyone,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as a class to you in term 1 2015. Room 34 is a year 4-5 class with 4 students at present. All the children have settled in well, enjoying a variety of educational activities, physical activity and technology. We are planning regular community access visits later this term and ongoing throughout the school year. We will post updates and hopefully some pictures in the next newsletter.

Class Teacher: Mr Alisdair McGuffin
Education Assistants (EAs): Mrs Stanley, Mrs Kew, Mrs Baker, Mrs Stimson, Mrs McLean, Mrs Anderson

Room 35

Welcome students and their families to Room 35.

We have been learning lots about each other in our “All About Me” sessions. Things like our favourite food, our favourite colours, our favourite movies, when our birthdays are and how many people are in our families.

We look forward to catching up with parents and carers when we have our IEP meetings.

Our ‘ALL ABOUT ME’ wall
Room 36

Room 36 would like to welcome Holli to our school, she has settled in well.

The students are all looking forward to learning about fairy tales this term. So far we have met the Big Bad Wolf and the Three Little Pigs. They have also been introduced to the Naughty Gingerbread Man.

In Science with Mrs Edwards we have been learning about MAGNETS. This is so much fun they can’t stop talking about them.

Room 37

We have had a brilliant start to the term. Everyone is working hard and doing their best. Our vegetable pots that we planted with Mrs Wiseman are looking great.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for coming to the IEP meetings. We look forward to working with you.

Uniform Shop
Change of Opening Times

Please note that Friday opening times have changed. New times:

Monday 2:30pm – 3:15pm

Friday 8:50am – 9:45am

The Uniform Shop is run by volunteers. Any assistance you can give during opening times would be valued.