Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to this second semester of 2015. Our enrolments stand at 59 students, and new inquiries have potential to grow this number through terms 3 and 4.

High School Transition Planned for Year 6
Shortly we will begin our preparation of Year 6 students for high school. This is a major step in any student’s school life and we take great care to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible. In weeks 6, 8 and 10 of this term our students will visit destination high schools to build confidence and familiarity with new surroundings and personnel. Look out for information from the school over the next few weeks.

School Survey – Responses Invited
Parents and Carers of Riverside ESC are invited to complete a short survey. Your responses will greatly assist with our school planning obligations and they also give you a chance to have a say about your school.

The survey will run from 23/07 thru to 07/08/15.

Responses are anonymous and results will be made available on this website. You can use the link below or go to “What’s New” on our website.

PARENT/CARER SURVEY:

Parliament House Visit Planned
In week 5, students from Room 33 are going to Parliament House to learn more about governance of Western Australia. They will be hosted by Mr David Templeman MLA, Shadow Minister for Local Government, and will join him for lunch.

Teachers Professional Development Day
RESC teaching staff attended a DET professional development day at the commencement of this term, with Perth-based Andrew Fuller, clinical psychologist and author. Our teachers remarked the many concepts introduced by Andrew – smaller classes, one-on-one learning, lots of exercise, proper diet and much more – are approaches that are for the most part already integrated into our programs. It was valuable to receive such confirmation of our activities, affirming education and behavioural management approaches.

Andrews explains exercise increases endorphins (happy chemicals) and releases dopamine, adrenaline and serotonin, which work together to make you feel good. Exercise is a fundamental activity at Riverside ESC. For example, Jiggle Jam is very popular with our students and is an essential component of our program.

Best regards,

Jim Douglas,
Principal
Local Tuart added to Significant Tree Register

The City of Mandurah has celebrated the addition of Greenfields’ historic Fisherman’s Tree to the Significant Tree Register with the unveiling last week of a plaque. Selected students from our school were delighted to be able to participate on the day, especially given the tree is in close proximity to school.

The Fisherman’s Tree, a Tuart, is an indigenous remnant tree, pre-dating European settlement and was adopted onto the register in November 2014. The tree is more than 250 years old. It was nominated by local Kevin Fowler, who is the custodian of the cultural and historical story behind the tree’s significance.

The story of the Fisherman’s Tree began in the 1950’s and possibly earlier, when fishermen from Mandurah would ride their bicycles out to a bush track which is now Teranca Rd. The tree marked where their bikes would be left while they walked directly east to the Serpentine River, through the farm paddocks to what were known as the best fishing spots.

Important Dates

Aug 10 – Kindy and Pre-Primary Photos  Sep 23 – Learning Journey
Sep 01 – Faction Carnival  Sep 25 – End Term 3
Sep 09 – Lapathon

Room 31

The students in Room 31 have had a busy start to term 3. We were given new I-pads and have been making good use of them. Our Pre-Primary students went around the school taking photographs and then they made a book using the Create a Book app.

We have also been using the ‘Find the monkey’ programme on the Interactive whiteboard to learn positioning, example; over, under, on.
Room 32

As part of our history program in Room 32 we have been learning about new and old. We have looked at old steam trains and how our trains are very different today.

We also got to use an old style juicer and made orange juice by hand. It took a long time! We then made orange juice using a juicing machine and made lots of orange juice in no time at all.

Room 33

Last term during Science lessons students from Room 33 planted seedlings in the school vegetable garden. Each week the students have taken care of the garden, watering and pulling up weeds. This week we were able to reap the rewards and harvested a huge crop of Chinese cabbage which will be donated to the local food bank.

Throughout the term we will continue to take care of the rest of our seedlings and hopefully make some more fresh donations!
Room 34

Term 3 is upon us and we have had another great start. This term we will be focussing on life skills and teaching the students how to do washing, make their beds, house work and cooking.

On Thursdays we will be travelling on the bus to the Mandurah Forum Shopping Centre and shopping for food that will be used in our cooking.

We did our first trip to the Forum this week. We walked to the bus stop before travelling by bus, via the train station to the shops. Once at the shops we used a shopping list to shop for our groceries. The students then helped put the items through the checkout.

We even treated ourselves to an ice-cream once we had finished our shopping.

We then caught the bus back to school. The students did an excellent job and we all had a great time.

Room 35

This term Room 35 are lucky enough to be part of the horse riding programme with the RDA. The RDA program enables people with disabilities to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities to improve their quality of life, attain personal goals and develop life skills. The horses that the students got to ride this week were Milo, Lilly, Charlie and Chico.
Room 36

Once upon a time there were 6 little Riverside students in Room 36. In Term 3 they welcomed The Good Fairy Mrs Rose Gillespie who will be with us for all of the Term doing a Teaching Prac.

With the Good Witch Mrs Edwards, we have been learning all about Worms and Recycling. We feed the wriggly worms with all the scraps from our class. It has to be crushed and mushed and then we layer it on top of their house made from a bath. They like to eat this potion made from vegetable scraps but no dairy, meat, onions or citrus.

Room 36 students welcome Mrs Gillespie.

Room 37

In our lesson with Mrs Wiseman, we got to squeeze oranges with our hands. We had to press hard and turn the orange to squeeze out the juice like they did in the olden days. We got to taste and drink the juice once we made it.

The Fisherman’s Tree
Brendan and Karen represented Room 37 in the unveiling of a plaque in front of the Fisherman’s Tree in Teranca Road. The students got to listen to stories about the olden days in Mandurah.

We learned that fishermen would park their bikes against the tree and then walk across the field to go fishing.
The Lion King
Autism Friendly Performance
Thursday 11 February 2016, 4pm Crown Theatre, Perth

The Autism Association of Western Australia in association with Disney is proud to bring you a very special Autism friendly performance of The Lion King.

This specially adapted performance will be suitable for people with Autism, and their families, to enjoy this award-winning production in a friendly and supportive environment.

Slight adjustments to the production include removal of strobe lighting, reduction of any jarring sounds and lights focused into the audience, house lights being dimmed and flexibility to bring your own snacks.

Trained Autism Association staff will be on hand, and dedicated quiet areas and activity areas will be set up, should anyone need to leave their seats.

The Lion King is the first major musical to hold an Autism friendly performance in Australia, having already held successful performances in Brisbane and Sydney with a performance scheduled in Melbourne.

Tickets are on sale NOW via a dedicated event website www.lionkingautismfriendly.com.au