Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2015. Once again, it has been a year filled with earnest endeavour, and as the year draws to a close I stand proud of the broadening abilities of our students to engage with their learning programs and of our staff to provide a quality education for each and every student. Our approach and activities enhance each student’s journey toward lifelong equal and active participation, giving them every opportunity in later life for inclusive participation; they leave us enriched and we look forward to welcoming returning students and their families in 2016.

Graduating Students: Two of our students have completed their primary schooling at Riverside ESC and were farewelled at the Students Graduation Ceremony last Friday. See more about our graduating students in the Room 34 report.

2016 Enrolments: We have some space for enrolments for 2016 (students must meet ESC criteria), offering a full K-6 program. If you know of any prospective students, please invite them to contact the school for further information. Our office closes for the year at noon, Friday 18th December, and reopens January 27th.

2016 Student Commencement: Students commence school on Monday 1st February. Please ensure that all uniform and school supplies are attended to early. The School’s Uniform Shop is open on the morning of January 29th. Further details are in this newsletter.

Contacting the School: If you need to contact the school in relation to your child could you please ensure you first speak to our Corporate Services Manager Mrs Janet Marter. As a general rule calls will not be put through to classrooms during teaching time. Janet will be happy to pass on any relevant information or have the Teacher return your call.

Riverside ESC Website: The revamp of our school website this year has received much praise for its accessible information and community focus. Apart from all the useful information about the school program and priorities, there is information about courses and activities in the region that may be of interest to the disability community. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

School Reports: Student reports are ready and will be sent home this week. It has been a pleasure to read through all the reports, finding in them so many stories of achievement and great progress, for which staff, students and families can feel pride. Well done to everyone.

Happy Holidays: In closing this newsletter and the year, may I extend my sincere thanks, firstly to all the staff at Riverside ESC who work tirelessly in and out of classrooms in order to provide the best educational experience for your child; and secondly, to all our students for your work ethic, your attendance and your behaviour. Weary we may be, but it is a good state of tiredness that comes from a year of commitment to best possible learning outcomes. May I also add thanks to all the parents & carers: your support of the school has been wonderful throughout 2015 and your contribution is deeply appreciated.

May I also take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe holiday period, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best regards,

Jim Douglas,
Principal

Important Dates

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>Presentation Assembly</td>
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<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Last School Day 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>School Office Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Uniform Shop opens : 08:30 AM – 12:00 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 01</td>
<td>First School Day of 2016</td>
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Riverside Education Support Centre
Ph.: 9534 0328  Website: www.riversideesc.wa.edu.au
P & C President – Mrs Vivienne Cantem  Fax: 9534 9120  Email: riverside.esc@det.wa.edu.au
It is difficult to believe that the 2015 school year is drawing to a close. It is a time for reflection on the year that has been, the holidays and new school year to come.

In Room 31, the end of the school year has brought with it some real success stories. In our last newsletter I made reference to the new purple circles Mrs Hiron had made for each child to sit on during more formal routines. These have made a marked difference to the children’s ability to stay focussed, remain attentive for longer and to keep their hands and feet to themselves.

Together with the visual supports I and our dedicated Education Assistants are using, the children are really developing their listening skills, an essential skill we all need to learn!

Our second success story has been the introduction of a routine that assists the children in regulating their impulsivity. In our classroom this means understanding and immediately acting upon the words ‘Stop!’, ‘Go!’, ‘Listen!’ and ‘Wait!’. One of our favourite activities has been the use of our ‘bucket drums,’ which we play very nosily, quietly, two-handed and one-handed which is very good for crossing our midlines. We have also used them to reinforce the spatial relationship concepts of high, low, in front and behind. Also popular is ‘Shaun the Sheet.’ The children get very excited shaking Shaun, lifting him up and down, laying underneath him while staff shake him over them and trying to shake balloons off him. The classroom is a cacophony of excited noises and beaming smiles when we use Shaun. He is a very memorable part of our program!

Unfortunately, at the end of every school year, it is time to say goodbye to some of our friends. To those families leaving Room 31 at the end of this week, we bid you farewell and thank you for the part you have played in your child’s learning journey.

Term 4 has gone very quickly and we are all very tired and looking forward to an enjoyable holiday. On behalf of all staff in our classroom, I wish all parents, carers and children an enjoyable holiday period and Merry Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone back safe and relaxed in 2016.

Room 32

On Tuesday 8th December Room 32 went to Spurs to enjoy a wonderful end of year lunch. The students had the opportunity to practice their communication skills by requesting their own meals using a visual communication choice board. We have been practising hard for this special occasion in our English literacy lessons.
As the year comes to a close and Christmas is now being celebrated in our room, we are busily preparing for our junior Christmas concert by making Christmas artwork and practicing our Christmas song “Doing a Christmas dance.” We hope you can come and be part of this special occasion by coming to the junior Christmas concert on Tuesday 15th December.

Finally, Mrs Hart and the Teachers would like to say a big thank you to the wonderful parents of Room 32. Your children have been a pleasure to work with and we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful 2016.

Room 33

Five students from Room 33 participated in swimming lessons every morning during week 7 at the newly refurbished Mandurah Aquatic Centre. Living in Australia, with the summer holidays approaching, swim safety is of vital importance. Under the supervision of their instructors, the students honed their techniques and learnt how to enjoy swimming safely. At the end of the week, the students received a certificate in recognition of their efforts and are able to progress to the next swimming group in 2016.

Room 33 Graduation

As term 4 draws to a close we farewell two of our students as they from graduate primary school and move on to their high school years. While we will be sad to see them go, we believe both students are very well prepared for the fun times and challenges high school has to offer them.

- **Nicole Conley** joined our school in May 2012 as a year 3 student. Nicole has been a great asset to our school. During her time here she has participated in horse riding lessons and Schools Alive choir. Nicole has volunteered her free time to assist in the running of our lunch
time activity clubs for other students. She has also represented the education support centre as student councillor for semester 1 of year 6.

- **Mason Hall** joined our school in 2011 as a year 2 student. Mason spent a short period of his year 5 living away from Mandurah but we were delighted to welcome him back to Riverside ESC in year 6. He has made some good friendships which we are confident will continue into his high school days. Mason particularly enjoyed our horse riding and swimming programs. He is popular amongst both staff and students for his caring nature, great sense of humour and cheeky smile. We wish Mason all the best in his future high school days.

We are very proud of our 2015 graduates and wish them all the best from their fellow students and staff of Riverside Education Support Centre.

**Room 34**

Hi Everyone. By the end of this last week of term, we will have completed a very successful year with the students of room 34. The teaching assistants and I believe that we have seen our student’s growth in areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Health, directly aligned to our programming and opportunities taken to participate in community access visits, in-class life skills programme, daily fitness, classroom technology access and a caring nurturing environment where all children feel safe and respected.

I would like to thank all parents, carers, therapists, specialist teachers, school administration and of course our dedicated education assistants, who have all contributed to the smooth running of our programs and assisted with the students personal learning journeys.

For our end of year reward excursion we spent a few hours at the man-made beach at Dolphin Quay, where we enjoyed swimming, paddling canoes and a yummy barbecue. Several parents attended and a big thankyou to Robert and Leanne for providing the canoes and life-vests.

I wish you all a safe and happy summer break, and look forward to seeing you all back next year.
Room 35

What a fabulous year we have had! Term 1 was spent settling in to our new classroom, getting to know each other and talking about our families and our interests.

In Term 2 we dove into the sea and learned all about the amazing creatures that live in and around our oceans. We took a trip to AQWA in Hillary’s to see some of those wonderful creatures.

Then in Term 3 we enjoyed learning about different kinds of transport, which included a trip up to Perth using a bus, train and a ferry to get there and back. Horse riding also started in Term 3 which was held every Wednesday at the RDA school in Fairbridge.

Our last term has probably been our busiest learning about our Solar System, enjoying swimming lessons, our classroom assembly and starting our Christmas countdown.

Thank you to all our lovely families for your support throughout the year and we wish you a safe and happy holiday.

Room 36

At the invitation of ALCOA, some of the students in Room 36 were invited to visit their alumina refinery in Pinjarra to look at the worm farm and compare it to the one started at Riverside ESC this year. The students were stunned by the difference in worm size and the amount of ‘worm wee’ that the worms at ALCOA produced. While there, the students were lucky enough to be driven to the Huntly mine site and watched the men and women mine bauxite. A fun day was had by all.

We have finished the year off by re-visiting our network hands and making sure we know which adults we can turn to if we require help over the holidays. As the 2015 school year is coming to a close the staff and students would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Room 37

The end of term is fast approaching and it feels like we still have so much to fit in. Our class is performing a short play at the Junior Christmas Assembly, titled ‘Mr Douglas’s Christmas Wish’. During rehearsals we practice speaking clearly and confidently in public, and using gestures to make our performance more entertaining. The Assembly is on Tuesday December 15th at 9am and we would love you to come. The final assembly of the year is Wednesday December 16th and is for the presentation of Academic and Endeavour awards.

We had a special visitor to class as part of our numeracy program. Nahla Williams, Mrs Williams’ dog, came to school last Thursday, and helped us complete a whole class pet graph. We made a tally of all the pets owned by students and staff in Room 36 and Room 37, and then we collated the data into a bar graph. We heard lots of pet stories and Nahla was very well behaved.

Swimming lessons gave us an excellent opportunity to practice the skills we have been learning in relation to safety and wellbeing. During our five days of lessons we practiced appropriate behaviour on a bus, how to behave at a public pool, how to safely change into and out of bathers, and the responsibility of looking after our own belongings including towel, goggles and change of clothes.

Thank you to all students for a wonderful term. It has been lovely to see you developing your self-confidence and your ability to work as a team. Enjoy your summer holidays and see you next year.

My thanks are extended also to the Room 37 education assistants – a great team to work with.

Riverside Primary Schools Uniform Shop News

The uniform shop will be open on Friday 29 January from 08:30 AM to 12 noon. Uniform orders can be placed now. Parents can drop their order form and money to the school office and orders can be delivered to the child’s class.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Autism Social Skills Group

Rockingham Autism Services (RAS) will be running a social skills group in 2016, from 19th to 21st January. Initial groups are scheduled 9-11 AM.

Groups will be held at Greenfields Family and Community Centre.

The course will cost $360, payable in advance. Those with DSS may use their funds to cover this cost. RAS is unable to offer refunds or credits if your child misses a session.

Groups will be supervised/coordinated by Kelly Oldfield and Chantel Haines, two of RAS’s experienced therapists; and include a range of activities such as news, art/craft, construction play, social conversation, stories with questions, board games and snack time.

Confirm your interest in the sessions no later than Monday, 4th January. Email admin@rockinghamautismservices.com.au or phone Heidi on 0478 640 655.


Mandurah Public Libraries - Holiday Season Opening Hours

The staff at Mandurah Libraries would like to wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season. Both libraries will be operating with reduced opening times during this period.

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<tr>
<th>Mandurah Library</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 December, 9am - 12 midday</td>
<td>Thursday 24 December 9am - 12 midday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25 to Monday 28 December CLOSED</td>
<td>Friday 25 to Monday 28 December CLOSED</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 to Thursday 31 December 9am - 8pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 29 to Wednesday 30 December 9am - 6pm</td>
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<td>Friday 1 January CLOSED New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Thursday 31 December 9am - 8pm</td>
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<td>Saturday 2 January 9am - 5pm</td>
<td>Friday 1 January CLOSED New Year’s Day</td>
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<td>Sunday 3 January 10am - 4pm</td>
<td>Saturday 2 January 9am - 5pm</td>
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<td>Monday 4 January 9am - 8pm</td>
<td>Sunday 3 January CLOSED</td>
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<td>Monday 4 January 9am - 6pm</td>
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Go to the City of Mandurah website for details of Library programs and School Holiday activities through December and January.

All Terrain Wheelchair

Join your friends and family at the beach or enjoy one of Mandurah’s many walking tracks in the All Terrain wheelchair. Suitable for adults and children, the chair is free and available from Mandurah Visitors Centre at 75 Mandurah Terrace. **Bookings essential** – Ph. 9550 3999, email or book online.
The City of Mandurah thanks Midway Community Care for their contribution towards the purchase of the All Terrain Wheelchair.

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**Fairbridge DSC School Holiday Program**

**Fairbridge DSC**

**WET ‘N’ WILD**

School Holiday Program

Fairbridge Western Australia Inc. and Disabilities Service Commission:

**Wet ‘n’ Wild School Holiday Program**

A daily program of activities mainly held at Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra for school age children with disability who meet the Commission’s eligibility criteria for specialist disability services, and who are living with their families and carers. The initiative will also support the following groups where there is a family member who is eligible for specialist disability services:

- School age siblings
- School age carers, and
- Families with school aged children with disability (supporting family members to do activities together).

**Daily 9.00am - 3.30pm**

**Mon 11th Jan - Fri 15th Jan**

(week 1 ages 12 - 17 years)

**Mon 18th Jan - Fri 22nd Jan**

(week 2 ages 5 - 11 years)

*Bus pickups from Mandurah and Pinjarra can be arranged.*

*Subject to demand*

**Bookings essential**

**Cost:** $55.00 per person | $25.00 sibling/friend | $100.00 Family (discount for weekly rate)

For more information contact Larissa

**P:** 9531 1177  **M:** 0401 759 790  **E:** campco@fairbridge.asn.au

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