

Riverside ESC Newsletter

Issue 2 2019

PRINCIPAL COMMENTS

Hello everyone,

Term 1 has been extremely busy for everyone here at Riverside ESC. We commenced our school year with 63 enrolments and are now finishing the Term with 67 students. I am extremely proud of our school and all the staff who make such a significant contribution to your child's education. I do believe we have a strong reputation in the community for what we do and the programmes we offer.

School improvement is always at the forefront of my mind. I have a strong Administration team who help lead and support change. We are always open to ideas and recognise that our parent community are often our most effective allies and advocates -- your collective efforts and voices are always appreciated.

I extend my thanks to all my staff for their hard work and contribution this Term and I congratulate all of our students for their effort and showing a keen attitude to engage with their learning. Best wishes to everyone for a safe Term break.

Term Break: Term 1 finishes on Friday 12th April. Term 2 commences on Tuesday 30th April for students (and on Monday 29th April for staff).

Beach Carnival: Our recent Beach Carnival was a great success. We will be reviewing the day with a view towards making this an annual event. My thanks are extended to all staff and students who participated; I would like to recognise all the hard work of Mrs Deb Wiseman for organising the Carnival.

Head-Lice: This is a subject that from time to time presents itself and requires immediate attention once identified. Whilst all measures will be taken at school to manage a child's infestation the main responsibility remains with the parent to ensure their child's hair is treated effectively. As a last resort, we can ask that your child not attend until the infestation has been cleared, so please act quickly and fully if lice are present.

Parking/Kiss and Drop: Please note the City of Mandurah will be issuing cautions and possibly fines if instructions for the Kiss & Drop Area outside the front of the school are not followed correctly. Please make yourselves aware of the signage and act with consideration. See later in this newsletter for more information.
(cont'd next page)

Home for a Fabulous Quilt



Riverside ESC is very pleased to receive a donation of a magnificent handmade quilt depicting a school scene in possibly a rural or outback setting. Beautifully framed and backed, the vibrant colours and familiar theme have already been welcomed by teachers and students alike, with Room 10 vying to be the first to make use of it.

The quilt was won in a local raffle by Mrs June Buchanan, who decided a school should be the end recipient, but which school? The decision was stimulated by a chance encounter with "one of our lovely students, Logan", and by the fact that June has a sister with special needs. So what better place than an education support centre to become the quilt's new home! We happily agree.

RESC would also like to acknowledge the creator of the piece who is not known to Mrs Buchanan or ourselves, but who nevertheless has entered into our school story with her/his sense of beauty, imagination and skill.

We say a big thank you to Mrs Buchanan and to the artist.

Easter Raffle: Thanks to our P&C for organising the Easter Raffle. The draw will take place immediately after lunch on Friday 12th April.

ANZAC Day: As ANZAC Day falls during the school holidays I would like to honour and extend thanks to all of our Countries past and present serving Military personnel.

ANZAC Day Service: The combined schools will hold an ANZAC Day service on Friday May 3rd at 9:00 AM. As part of this special service we invite parents and carers to identify students who have had a close relative serve in a conflict situation. These students will be able to lay a wreath during this service. Additionally, students who are members of Scouts, Guides or other service clubs may wear their uniforms on the day.

Student Behaviour: Learning to conduct oneself in the world is vital to our sense of wellbeing. Our staff continually work to support and encourage good choices by students, and positive behaviours are recognised as part of a valued reward program. Nevertheless, from time to time, I am called upon to address inappropriate student behaviours. All staff and students at Riverside ESC have a fundamental right to feel and be safe and at times responses are called for that aim to strengthen a student's ability for self-control and heighten their awareness about what is acceptable. I take this very seriously and am confident the positive management of student behaviour we have in place will prevail.

Of course, each case is unique, and I will assess the most appropriate way to manage a behaviour as it presents itself at the time. Sometimes just a stern voice will suffice, sometimes time out is required, but always the student is expected to comply with sound safe management procedures.

Some of the behaviours that could warrant intervention include aggression towards others (staff & students), verbal abuse, shouting, kicking and banging doors or windows, and severe disruption of classroom learning.

Responding to student behaviours is a team approach that includes you as parents and carers. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss matters of concern.

Protective Behaviours: Finally, I would like to reinforce the role of our Protective Behaviours program, which is delivered in ways both formal and informal at our school.

Why, on average, does it take 21 years for a person to disclose sexual abuse? Research shows it is because abuse survivors deal with a strong set of beliefs, thoughts and feelings that can prevent them from seeking help. It is so important that we counteract the messages children could be receiving from perpetrators of abuse.

The key concepts of the Protective Behaviours program developed at Riverside ESC directly counteract these messages. Our students are taught that no adult is above reproach, they can always say 'No' if they feel unsafe, and if no one believes them then keep telling until help is received.

I look forward to seeing you all at the start of Term 2.

Best regards,

Jim Douglas, Principal



SAFE DROP OFF AND PICK UP - New Signs for KISS AND DRIVE

The safety of all students is of paramount importance to our School and we know you will agree with us that traffic congestion during drop-off and pick-up is a challenging time, especially when parking spaces around the school are limited.

Our school administration has been working closely with the City of Mandurah to develop a better traffic management system. New Kiss and Drive signs have been erected and are clearly visible at the two zones marked in the photograph below.



The City of Mandurah will shortly commence an educational and monitoring period of these areas on Minilya Parkway and Teranca Road by speaking with drivers who are not complying with regulations. Thereafter, Parking Officers will **impose fines**. For more information, ring Ranger Services at 9550 3777. A [Parking Around Schools](#) brochure is also available online.

The City of Mandurah and Riverside Schools provide the following guidelines to support safe traffic flow:

- Drivers must remain with their vehicles and take no longer than 2 minutes to drop off or pick up passengers.
- Drivers must expedite the dropping off and picking up of passengers. No chatting or delays please.
- Children must make their way to the grassed area outside the perimeter fence ASAP after the bell and remain there until their ride is legally parked.
- Drivers using the Kiss and Drive area are encouraged to arrive a few minutes after the bell rather than sit and wait within the Kiss and Drive bays. If this is unavoidable, drivers should park up in one of the surrounding streets prior to approaching these bays.
- If a child is not at the Kiss and Drive area when a driver pulls into the Kiss and Drive area, drivers should leave these bays and go around the block.
- Double Parking alongside vehicles or stopping in the middle of the carriageway to pick up or drop off a passenger is an offence and dangerous practice. If the areas are full, please drive around the block until a bay becomes vacant.
- Drivers please be patient and courteous.

ROOM 31

Welcome to all parents and carers from Room 31. It is difficult to believe but Term One is almost at an end.

As a staff, we have placed many demands upon our students this term, establishing routines, expectations and most importantly, our use of PODD (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display), a new tool to assist students with complex communication needs. This resource provides templates and guidelines to help us develop an appropriate, personalised communication book for these students, and also describes comprehensive strategies to enable its use in their daily life at home and in the community.

What does it mean to have complex communication needs? A student may have difficulty telling us how they are feeling, what they'd like to play with, what they might like to eat or what has upset them, for instance. PODD is a visual communication format that Riverside ESC has adopted for gradual school-wide implementation and aims to address communication barriers and assist these students in being expressive. It will be empowering when our students learn to use this special 'voice,' and we as staff can really hear what they have to say and thus learn who they really are.



In Room 31, all of our students are exposed to PODD modelling throughout the school day. It is important for our verbal children to see it as they may have conversations with PODD users in the school as they get older. Our PODD users are already using it expressively to ask for more, to let us know if they have finished an activity, to ask for help or to say no. Over the course of the year their visual PODD vocabulary is going to increase, they will learn to express themselves further and they will be able to carry this format on to their next classroom.

By the beginning of Term 3, all of our staff in Room 31 will have been trained to use PODD. We look forward to working with it towards successful, meaningful outcomes for our students. Look out for more information about PODD in our next newsletter.

In the photo, Saxon is using the class PODD book to ask for more counters. Well done Saxon! Next term, he will have his own book so PODD can be modelled to him continually during all his daily routines.

IS YOUR PERSONAL and EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

If you have changed your address, your phone contact details, your emergency contacts, or anything else that will limit our ability to contact you please call into our school office with your new details.

Alternatively, phone your updated information through to our office on 9534 0328 or email to riverside.esc@education.wa.edu.au.

ROOM 35

Hello everyone, I am pleased to report that Room 35 have settled really well into the classroom and doing a great job of following all the classroom rules and routines. Students are now experts at transitioning around the classroom when they do their English and Maths rotations.

Room 35 have been busy learning our "o'clock" times on the analogue and digital clocks. We have also been practising writing our numbers and skip counting by 2's. Why not try their skills out at home during the term break!



In English, the students have been listening to lots of books about different sea creatures. They have also been learning the alphabet and practising writing their names. They especially love when Mrs Gollan puts Fitzroy readers on the smartboard so they can interact with the story.

We have finished our March Munch month (say that 5 times quickly!) and it is pleasing to say that Room 35 all brought in vegetables and tried them as well. Our students are now learning about what is healthy food and not healthy food. Room 35 has also started their cooking program and have enjoyed making different kinds of muffins. We made vegetable muffins and banana muffins, they were very yummy.

Room 35 wishes all the students and staff a safe Easter and look forward to starting Term 2.

Room 10

Hello families. What a fantastic and fast term one we have had! Room 10 enjoyed an excursion to Cottesloe Beach to see the Sculptures by the Sea exhibition as part of our Art program in week 6. We all had a fantastic day, participated in the tactile tour and viewed some amazing sculptures that were on display. We all chose our favourite sculptures and we were inspired to create our own whale tail sculpture as a class.

In week 7 we acknowledged and celebrated Harmony Day as a whole school. Harmony Day is a day to recognise diversity and to respect everyone's differences. We participated in activities within our own classrooms and then shared them with the rest of the school and had an 'orange morning tea'. Well done to everyone who joined in and wore orange on the day.

We also had the first Beach Carnival Day for our whole school in week 8, it was absolutely brilliant! Everyone had a great time participating in the activities, playing and enjoying the beautiful weather. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Wiseman for organising the event. We can't wait for the next one!



I would like to wish all of our families a happy and safe Easter break. I look forward to seeing you in term 2.

Mrs Cairns

ROOM 19

Hello to all parents, carers and members of our Room 19 community.

Here we are in Week 10 and on the threshold of Term 1 holidays. Everyone is looking forward to the holidays – in particular Easter!

ENGLISH: This term we have been reading stories and joining in with discussions about the characters, events and setting of the story. Not only are we using our words to describe the story but using Key Word Sign to say who was in the story. We have built up such a big bank of signing words and by the end of each week we are signing lots of the words from the book. Our classroom is looking great with art work that shows



an event or character from the book. We have wombats (Diary of a Wombat), hens (Rosie's Walk) and pigs (The Pig in the Pond). There are also students in the bath (Mr Archimedes Bath) with bubbles and water going everywhere!

HEALTH: Our focus for the last 4 weeks in Health has been on feelings and making good choices. In particular, we have focused on the feelings of sad, happy, mad (or angry) and excited and are trying to gain an understanding of what those feelings look like, feel like and sound like. We know that that it is okay to get mad, but that there are appropriate ways to demonstrate that feeling. Using the PATHS strategy for calming down ('doing the turtle') we are learning to stop, breathe and think. Angry bird cartoon characters are also being used to broaden understanding of what mad or angry looks like and ways to calm down. Our students have each made an Angry Bird shape monster and they look fantastic. Lots of fun was had building them and they all look so different.

We wish all our students and families a safe and enjoyable holiday and happy Easter and look forward to seeing you all for another great term of work.

Be safe. We look forward to your company next term.

ROOM 11

Hello parents and caregivers!

Room 11 has had a busy term packed full of learning and fun activities. This term, students have been working hard during our literacy and numeracy rotation activities and are making pleasing progress.

We have had plenty of cultural celebrations this term too; the students have together celebrated Harmony Day, World Down Syndrome Day and Autism awareness month, wow! On Harmony Day we shared a wonderful orange morning tea with our friends in the other classrooms and made our very own tie-dye socks to participate in the World Down Syndrome day's 'Rock your Socks' campaign. Students made bright blue puzzle artworks and loved making and playing with blue sensory slime on Autism awareness day.



During this term we were lucky enough to spend a day together at the beach! We all really enjoyed our Beach Carnival excursion to Dolphin Quay and the students participated so well in all the activities on offer.

Room 11 students are now all familiar with our daily routine and positive behaviour support system and enjoy working hard and having fun each school day. We love to play group sports, dance and sing songs with key word signs too! Every afternoon we do a short meditation and reflect on our learning.



This week we have been studying an ever popular picture book, *Pig the Pug - the Winner!* (author: Aaron Blabey). As a class we have been discussing play skills including sharing, turn taking and the idea of being a good sport and playing together just for fun! We all like to be the winner of course so we are learning to be a good friend and **good sport** even when we don't win. There are now some very cute Pug art works created by the students on display to remind us of the valuable lessons Pig the Pug and we have been learning.

We wish all families of Riverside a safe and happy Easter and school holidays and look forward to seeing you all next term!

From Samantha, Leanne, Lauren, Oxana and Maxine 😊

ROOM 33

Well it is the end of Term 1 already, and it has been a very busy, fun, productive and enjoyable start to the year.

Last week the students of Room 33 did us proud by demonstrating impeccable behaviour while enjoying the fun activities at our Beach fun day. Some follow-up comments:

"The sandcastle making was my favourite" – Focus

"Doing good swimming was my favourite" – Justin

"The boogie board was my favourite" – Shane



Holly swimming



Mia practices her spelling.

The students have continued to work hard in both English and Maths rotations. Every student is able to follow the routine independently. They are extending themselves by learning more challenging spelling words, improved handwriting, and learning how to take turns during games.

Our Protective Behaviours has concentrated on preparing the students for the up and coming school holidays by identifying 5 people they can go to if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe. We have discussed how it is important that the person they have on their helping hand is someone they feel safe with and someone who they can tell anything to. This adult needs to be able to get help if help is needed. Most importantly, the students know they should keep telling someone until someone believes them.

All of the students and teachers of Room 33 wish you all a safe and happy 2 week break. And we look forward to seeing your child at the end of April for another term of fun learning.

ROOM 4

This term, Room 4 has been studying a book called 'The Red Beast', written by K.I. Al-Ghani.

Al-Ghani is a Special Education teacher who has worked in Education for more than 30 years and she is the mother of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Some children with Autism Spectrum Disorder are prone to regular outbursts of anger which can be very difficult to contend with. The story of the red beast aims for children to see that anger is like a 'beast' that can be tamed.



In our classroom we have done a lot of work around what makes each of us angry and awakens our own red beast and what techniques and strategies do we know help us to feel calm again? Whether it be going for a walk, using the sensory room or talking about what has made us angry.

By teaching our students these techniques when they are feeling calm, we hope to lessen the frequency and ferocity of anger and give our students control over their 'beast'.

From Janet: We had a lovely lady call in today, she donated a beautiful home-made quilt that she had won as first prize in a raffle. The lady's name is June Buchanan can we add a thank you to her in our next newsletter please. Photo requested – Janet to pursue.

TERM 2 ~ SEMESTER 1 2019: Tuesday 30th April – Friday 5th July

A website worth visiting: [Important Safety Rules To Teach Your Children](http://www.safehome.org)

(www.safehome.org)