



# Riverside Education Support Centre

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 02, 2017



Hello Everyone,

This year is already flying by. We have commenced week 7 and there are exciting things happening in our classrooms and school generally.

But first, there are a few old hats to bring out of the cupboard.

### Important Dates

Mar 21	Swimming Carnival
Apr 07	End Term 1
Apr 26	Students start Term 2

**Student Behaviour:** It is timely that I remind you all of the following in relation to student behaviour.

**Bullying:** Riverside ESC has a zero tolerance towards bullying. Students and staff have a right to a safe learning and working environment. Any student involved in bullying will be immediately dealt with and that may include immediate suspension from school. Students who are being bullied will be fully supported by the school.

**Classroom Behaviour:** It is our aim at Riverside ESC to ensure that classrooms are safe places for teaching and learning. The Education Department requires schools to adhere to the 'Managing Student Behaviour in Schools' 2016 policy. If any student chooses to be disruptive they will be managed in line with the aforementioned policy. Most behaviour is able to be managed in class, however behaviours such as verbal abuse, swearing, spitting and physical abuse hitting, kicking, and punching will not be tolerated and the most appropriate consequences will be applied. Some of the consequences may involve loss of privilege, detentions and suspension; in particular when staff are assaulted. There may be times when as a parent/carer you could be asked to help support your child's behaviour or be required to pick them up. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any behaviour related issues.

**Swimming Carnival:** Our annual swimming carnival with Meadow Springs ESC will be held on Tuesday 21 March. Please feel free to attend and support your child. Location and times can be given by contacting our office.

**School P&C:** The P&C AGM will be held on 27 March. There will be a number of Office Bearer positions available, including President. I would encourage you to attend and urgently consider taking up a formal role.

Kind regards,

Jim Douglas, Principal

### TOILET PROGRESS:

The skeleton of our new amenities block is now in place, and we are on target for opening in Term 2.



## Room 31

Hello to all parents and carers associated with Room 31.

We have had a busy start to the school year. Our Kindergarten children are settling well into their routine and developing an awareness of staff expectations. They are responding well to the positive environment staff are working towards establishing. It is pleasing to see the improvement in their ability to settle, focus and respond positively to the verbal prompts and visual cues that staff provide.



One of our focus areas has been developing the children's awareness of their body, the names of body parts and their functions. We have been concentrating on facial features and the children are very good at labelling them and telling us what they can each do. Pictured left is Espen with the wonderful face he made using play dough.

In addition to learning about body parts, Espen was using his hands to roll play dough balls and sausages. It requires strength and co-ordination that we work on weekly as it will improve the children's ability to not only hold a writing tool in years to come, but control it effectively.

Learning about our bodies is an important step in our Protective Behaviours program. When the children have consolidated awareness of their own body parts, we will introduce the concepts of private and public body parts. As a result, the children will begin to develop knowledge that will assist them in conducting themselves appropriately, as well as developing an awareness of what is appropriate behaviour from others.

Our daily routine was modified early in the term to provide a heavy emphasis on music and movement experience. Music, and in particular singing, is a terrific vehicle for developing the children's oral language skills, and in turn, their literacy.

Three of the building blocks of literacy: phonological sensitivity, comprehension and vocabulary, are reinforced through music, thus we sing and dance every day. Your child may recall parts of the following songs that they have enjoyed so far:

- Play the beat on the drum
- I Wiggle
- 12345 fingers, one hand
- Doctor Knickerbocker
- Clickety Clack

We look forward to the gains the children continue to make and reporting them to you later in the term!

Glen Webber, Room 31

## Room 32

A big hello from Room 32. As we pass the halfway mark of Term 1 all the children are settling well into their new classroom. They follow their new routines very well, learning every day and most importantly having lots of fun.

The children have been cooking up a storm with Mrs Wiseman. Understanding the importance of carefully measuring ingredients has resulted in really good outcomes like delicious pancakes and the yummiest Zucchini slice ever!

Mrs Filer is teaching history in our class, introducing children to the family tree, guiding them to look back in time and learn about how things change slowly over time.

Science with Mrs Edwards has focused on the help we give each other and following directions to familiar places around our school. Mrs Edwards drew a path map; everyone had to follow it, working out which direction to go and which ways to turn so no one got lost! Lots of fun was had looking at many different places in the school and then finding the way back to our classroom in time for lunch.

Room 32 has Library Day on Friday this year and being able to go and choose a new book to read generates excitement. Quietness in the library is a behaviour the children are acquiring, showing respect for others who are reading and learning new things. We thank our wonderful team of librarians who each week help the children to select and scan library books.

In the mornings everyone gets to read a 'levelled' reading book to one of the staff. Mrs McGuffin has been testing to find out each child's correct reading level, making sure selected reading is neither too hard nor too easy. Asking children to retell their stories has demonstrated good levels of comprehension, an activity I encourage our parents and carers to practice at home.

Literacy skills are being developed using some very funny Big Book stories, like *The Snake Cake*, *Baaboom*, *The Hungry Giant*, *The Mean Giant* and *Meanies*. Children read along and help Mrs McGuffin read the story. We discuss which Giant is the cleverest and which is their favourite and why. Acting out the stories and doing fun literacy activities are helping to build skills in this priority learning area.



In mathematics, Room 32 students have been learning to tell the time and work with money and numbers. They are very good at counting and writing out numbers by following the number pattern and working on the correct way to form/write numbers.

We have also had lots of fun making Meanies in Art and playing dress ups on Friday afternoons.

It sounds like we have been busy, and indeed we are. We hope you like the photos we are sharing with you from the last few weeks.

Bye for now from all staff and students in Room 32.



## Room 33

Riverside has committed to increase student interest and knowledge in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Encouraging students to engage in STEM subjects in primary school ensures that our graduates are equipped to the best of their abilities with the necessary skills for high school and in future.



In Room 33, we have begun with the fantastic electronic project snap-on kit provided to the school by the Department of Education. The snap circuit kits are designed to teach the basic principles of electronics, with the students following a set of instructions and selecting pieces from the kit to create a (very) low-voltage active circuit.

The students really enjoyed the process of building the circuits and were 100% engaged during the session. All of them are eager for their next STEM project.

## Room 35

Welcome to Week 7! We are more half way through the term and what a busy start we have had. Everyone is starting to settle into class routines and show an understanding of our Classroom Rules and Routines.

English has seen us learning the sounds ‘s,a,t,p,i,n’. Together, we have been saying the letter name and sounds along with making crafts starting with each letter name. It is surprising how many words can be made with just 6 sounds. Our students have had fun making words, playing games and matching letters to pictures. Wow! So much to learn and so much fun to be had learning it.



In Maths we have been working on number recognition, writing numbers, counting and ordering. We do rotation activities that include matching, writing, counting and ordering. Everyone has been trying so hard to learn and write our numbers and are doing really well.

This term we have introduced ‘Brain Break’ movements between activities. Brain Breaks are a quick and effective way of changing or focusing our physical and mental state. They are also useful to help activate, energize and stimulate our brains. At the same time they improve concentration and relieve stress. We all enjoy the breaks. There has been an observable improvement in students’ concentration times and ability to do set work.

Thank you to all our parents and caregivers for coming in and discussing your child’s goals for this semester. It was lovely to meet you all and your support within the classroom is very much appreciated.

## Room 36

Greetings Everyone.

As we have reached the midway point in the term, the students of Room 36 have shown positive signs of settling into their new environment and routines. It has been challenging for some, moving

into a higher grade and attempting activities that require them to focus for longer periods and learn new concepts that will assist them to become more independent learners.

We have had a new student arrive in the last fortnight from Greenfields Primary School. Shania is a year 5 student and she has settled into our room beautifully, making new friends and enjoying her new school environment.

I have met with all of you in recent weeks to discuss your child's progress and goals for their IEP programs. Most of you were keen to have your children attempt homework; we have implemented this, but at various times students have found the work a little difficult, or too easy, or it hasn't found its way home. Please be patient with us as we streamline this program and endeavour to make sure that everyone gets the correct level readers and maths or literacy activities.

Students of our class have access to 'Connect' which is a Department of Education portal that allows students to access interactive learning objects provided by the department and loaded into their digital class by me. If you have internet access and wish your student to participate, please contact me for instructions to assist your child to log in.

During the last two weeks, our students have been studying Mexico. During our cooking program the students prepared tacos, which they loved preparing and eating! Next stop France!

I hope you are all enjoying the term so far, the kids are great!

Thanks. Alisdair McGuffin and Staff



## Room 37

We would like to say hi to all our parents and carers from Room 37. We can't believe it is already week 6! All of our wonderful students in Room 37 have settled into their daily routines well and are all enthusiastic about the exciting activities we do each day.

On Mondays we have been learning how to play Tee Ball with our friends from room 36. It has been lots of fun learning to hit the ball off the Tee, run around the bases whilst learning about the importance of physical activity. On Tuesdays Mrs Filer comes into our room to teach us History. Our topic for the semester is 'All about Me'. We are looking at us and our wonderful families. In Literacy we are reading different stories about the Ocean. Last week we read the story 'The Bravest Little Penguin'. We had to identify the author, illustrator and then summarise the plot. To finish it off we got to make our very own penguins in art. They are so cute!



We have also started learning about time. We made our own analogue clocks and have been using them to tell the time for o'clock and half past. Your clever kids will have to show you how smart they are by reading the clock at home.

Finally, we will be starting to make preparations for our swimming carnival in week 8. We will be going over the pool safety rules as well as what we need to do to keep ourselves safe and our friends. We look forward to seeing our parents at the carnival.

## Bike Track for RESC and RPS

We are pleased to inform our parent/carer community that the school is building a bike track facility on the school grounds. It will be completed and ready for use by the start of Term 2.

The initial idea and planning was brought about during 2016, when we started a bike riding and bike safety program and found that at times we were unable to find time on the basketball courts due to other student activity. We then started looking at areas within the school grounds that might be suitable for a dedicated bike track and soon found a patch on the northern side of the school behind the vegetable garden that is ideal.



Suitable surfaces for the biketrack were explored following inspection of a learning facility recalled by Mrs Rekman at a Safety Bay school. After consultation with the relevant council, I was able to find a number of companies to quote on a design that makes full use of the selected area.

A concrete track 2 meters wide will be overlaid with 20mm of rubberised softfall. This will then have dotted lane markings and a crosswalk painted onto the surface.

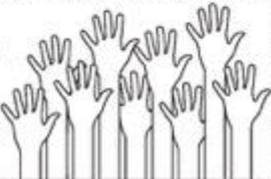
Our students will have a safe, dedicated space to enjoy their bike programs, increasing their skill, learning about safety and enjoying a healthy outdoor pastime.

Alisdair McGuffin



**P&C NEWS** The latest from your P&C ... 

Read the P&C News! It has the latest information on P&C run services and events in your school.

<p><b>FROM FUN-DRAISING</b></p> <p><b>THE ANNUAL EASTER RAFFLE BEGINS ON THE 17TH MARCH!</b></p> <p>Get your donations ready, the Annual Easter Raffle begins on the <b>17th of March</b> and the P&amp;C will be taking your donations of eggs and gift bags plus your raffle ticket purchases, from the <b>17th</b> onwards. Raffle tickets will be sent home soon.</p> <p>If you would like to volunteer your time from 8.45-9.15am on any date between the 17th of March and the 5th of April to collect donations and tickets please email the address below.</p> 	<p><b>FOR YOUR CALENDAR</b></p> <p><b>PARENT &amp; CARER MEET &amp; GREET</b></p> <p>All Riverside Parents and Carers will soon be invited to a morning or afternoon tea hosted by the Riverside Schools P&amp;C. Come along for a coffee, tea, biscuit or cake and meet some other parents and carers. Most P&amp;C Office Bearers and Convenors will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about what the P&amp;C does for the Riverside Schools. Invitations will be out soon.</p> 
<p><b>FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP</b></p> <p><b>GRADUATION SHIRT ORDERS DUE TOMORROW THE 10TH OF MARCH!</b></p> <p>If you place your order at the Uniform Shop during opening hours you can pay via EFTPOS, alternately leave your order form and correct amount in cash in a sealed envelope in the P&amp;C Dropbox inside the administration office.</p> <p><b>Late orders cannot be accepted.</b></p>	<p><b>AGM - 27th MARCH 2017 @ 6pm</b></p> <p>Important Office Bearer positions, such as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer <b>MUST</b> be filled after the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or the P&amp;C will not be able to continue to operate. If we do not have a fully functioning committee this will mean ...</p> <p><b>NO Canteen and NO Uniform Shop! They will have to close!</b></p> <p>Convenors for the Canteen, Uniform Shop and Fundraising plus sub-committee members to work with/assist each of them and general committee members are also needed this year as many current members have already or are leaving the school.</p> <p><b>(FREE TRAINING IS PROVIDED)</b></p> <p>Instead of asking "Why you?" ask yourself, "Why NOT you?"</p> <p>Memberships and Office Bearer Nomination Forms are available at the office or via the email address below.</p> 

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