



Riverside Education Support Centre

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 04, 2017



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is my pleasure to write to you this issue about some good news. Of course, there are a few administrative items to communicate as well.

Bike Track: The bike track has been completed and is now awaiting some aesthetic additions, such as portable signs (Stop, Give Way, etc.). Mrs Williams is in the process of designing a curriculum for use of the track & bike safety. Thanks must go to Mr Alisdair McGuffin who has overseen the project from start to finish, receiving compliments from the supplier for his careful planning and efficient oversight. Parents are more than welcome to make an appointment to view the track.

Musical Playground: A proposal to install a musical playground is being coordinated by Mrs Williams. Its location will be inside the Bike Track perimeter, making this space a learning & sensory experience for students. Please see the photo that will give you an idea of what the musical playground will look like.



A new shed will also be purchased adjacent to the bike track to house the bikes and equipment.

Staffing: Due to some health issues, Mrs Deb Wiseman will be off for the remainder of the Term. We welcome Mrs Dawn Greenwood who will replace Mrs Wiseman in Room 32. This situation may be extended until the end of the school year.

Head lice: We are experiencing a high proportion of children attending school with head lice. Both Education & Health Department guidelines instruct schools on how to manage such cases. There may be times when your child will need to remain home until appropriately treated. If you have any questions or queries on this matter I would encourage you to contact your child's Teacher.

Kindy Enrolments: We are now taking kindy enrolments for 2018. If you have a child or know of a child that may require a place please contact the school to discuss the required criteria for enrolment.

Kind regards,

Jim Douglas

Principal

Important Dates

May 22	Riverside Schools P&C Meeting
Jun 30	End of Term 2
Jul 18	Students start Term 3

Room 31

Hello to all parents and caregivers associated with Room 31. We would like to welcome everybody back to school for the beginning of Term 2, and hope you all had an enjoyable, relaxing holiday.

We have begun our term around the theme of “The 3 Little Pigs.” It will be the focus of our oral language, literacy and mathematics programs this term. Having listened to the story a number of times already, the children are very good at identifying the characters in the story, how their feelings change throughout the book and recalling the sequence of events that takes place.

Whole group story times are a great opportunity to reinforce the concepts and conventions of print, such as: we read from left to right, we read from the top to the bottom of the page, every book has a title, we can predict the text based upon the books illustrations and identifying the difference between text and illustrations, among others. These skills are necessary to become successful readers in the future.

As part of our theme, we will begin building our own house in the classroom this term. It will be made of egg-carton ‘bricks’ and have walls, windows, a doorway and a roof. It needs to be big enough for the children to stand in, as it will be used as our Home Corner over the coming weeks. It will be used as a vehicle to stimulate co-operative and imaginative play in a variety of structured environments, such as a shop, ‘pull-apart’ shed, hospital and restaurant. We look forward to reporting our progress on the house in the next newsletter.

We will also extend on our theme of “The 3 Little Pigs” by learning about the farm this term. The children will be looking at the animals that live on the farm and naming them, learning about animal families and the food that we source from farm animals.

This week we are also introducing our “Smash! Bang! Crash!” program to our Kindergarten children. We used it very successfully last year to help the children develop better self-regulation and to cater for their sensory needs. We hope to achieve the same outcomes this year and will let you know how the children are coping with it later in the term.



For now, here is a photo of Bentley using the “Hot Dog.” It is very calming and for some children, very relaxing.

Play is an important part of our program in the Kindergarten/Pre-primary classroom as it is a great vehicle for teaching the children so many things, including social skills such as sharing, waiting for a turn, compromise, resilience, developing imagination and oral language. We thus try and include it as part of our daily program, both indoors and outdoors.

We have included a photo of three of our children, Deenika, Jaxon and Curtis having a great time riding the tricycles outdoors. In doing so they are improving their gross-motor skills such as stability and bi-lateral integration and perhaps most importantly, how to share as the bicycles are very popular!



Glen Webber, Room 31

Room 32

A warm welcome back to term two from all staff and students in Room 32.

WELCOME TO MRS DAWN GREENWOOD

We welcome Mrs Dawn Greenwood as the new teacher in Room 32 on Thursdays. Mrs Greenwood replaces Mrs Deb Wiseman who is on leave until the end of the year. Mrs Greenwood has on many occasions taught our class in a relief teaching capacity so is very familiar with the students and classroom routines.

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS

In a class Protective Behaviours lessons students were taught to identify their early warning signs and the situations in which they can occur. Early warning signs are our natural instincts, gut feelings or intuition. Some examples of warning signs are: butterflies in the stomach, sweaty hands, goose bumps, a racing heart and wobbly knees.

There are generally three types of situations where we experience early warning signs:

- When we feel unsafe, but are having fun and are in control of the situation – i.e. it is our choice to be there. An example would be watching a scary movie, jumping or diving into a pool or riding on a roller coaster.
- When we feel unsafe, it is not fun, but we are still in control. For example, going to the doctor or dentist.
- When we feel unsafe, it is not fun and we have no control over the situation. These situations are personal emergencies as the child is in danger of losing control over what happens to them. For example, being lost or being bullied.

In a personal emergency, children are taught to use safety strategies and personal safety networks to regain control of the situation and restore them to a state of physical and emotional safety or dial triple zero (000) if in immediate danger. Each student in room 32 made a poster of their early warning signs and enjoyed acting out different safety strategies in the classroom.



Ref: Protective Behaviours for Children:

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/personalSafety/children/ProtectiveBehavioursForChildren.htm>

EXCURSION TO CONTEMPORARY ART SPACES MANDURAH (CASM)

In 1988, Jim Wolfensohn (Australian-born former president of the World Bank) generously donated funds to enable the National Gallery of Australia to buy museum-quality works of art to travel Australia as part of a unique exhibition program. A wide range of audiences, including those living with disability, are thereby able to experience art first-hand in a compelling way. The Elaine and Jim Wolfensohn Gift comprises three art-filled suitcases and the 1888 Melbourne Cup. They have travelled to schools, libraries, community centres, regional galleries and nursing homes since their development in 1990. In this way, the Gift is enjoyed by both children and adults in remote, regional and metropolitan centres across Australia.

This distinctive travelling exhibition has a strong educational function. The valuable artworks have been carefully selected to be both interesting and resilient so that they can be handled and enjoyed by young and old for many years to come.

(Ref: Wolfenson gift (on-line) -- 2017 National Gallery of Australia Canberra. <https://nga.gov.au/wolfensohn>)



Room 32 students thoroughly enjoyed an excursion to CASM in Mandurah where they were able to view, learn and hold precious works of art from the Wolfensohn Gift art-filled suitcases.

They were also given pieces of clay and appropriate tools to make something of interest to them (see photos above). Everyone including the teachers thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Mrs McGuffin and Room 32

Room 33

Welcome to Term 2 hope you all had a lovely Easter break.

Last term some of our Students went to Silver Chain to visit the older generation to play games and build on social skills. Silver Chain then visited our school at the end of Term 1 to see how school is run today. We cooked them cakes and scones, played bowls, board games and charades. We all had fun.

This term we will continue with community access to Mandurah Forum to purchase items for our café.

Room 35

Welcome to Term 2! We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday with your children. It was wonderful to see them all excited to be back at school and settling into school routines quickly.

Thank you to the parents who were able to make it into class to have breakfast and work with your child on some English activities. It was lovely to have you join us, the children all enjoyed working with you and showing you some of the activities we do during English lessons.

This term our theme is Pirates. We are looking forward to learning all about pirates. There are lots of activities planned including making pirate ships and treasure chests. We all decided on pirate names.

Can you guess which name belongs to your child?

- Captain Blondie
- Captain Speedy
- Captain Bear
- Captain Silver
- Captain Toothless
- Captain Lightning
- Captain Black
- Captain Johnny

Week 3 sees us going to our first excursion of the year. We are lucky enough to go and see a live production of 'Emily loves to Bounce'. It should be a great performance and we get to work with some of the actors in two workshops before and after the show. We are hoping also for good weather so we can enjoy a picnic lunch and play at Mandurah Foreshore Playground after the show.

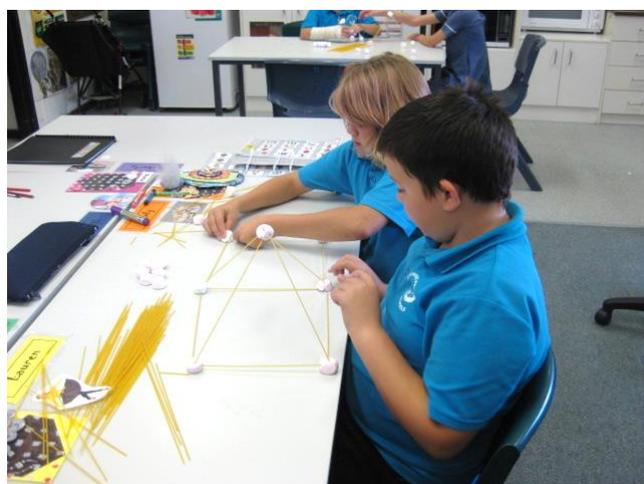
We would like to wish all the mothers and grandparents a very happy Mother's Day and hope that you have a relaxing and enjoying day spent with you children.



Room 36

Welcome back to term 2, 2017. The students have settled back in to their classroom very well, and we are very busy implementing a very exciting Teaching Strategy in our room during the first session before recess. Mr Mac, Mrs Frost and Mrs Gnatyuk went to a Professional Development Course demonstrating the TEACCH Program, developed in the USA to assist students to develop routines that enable them to complete activities within a given time frame.

We have set the classroom up into stations with a central student desk. The student rotations start with groups visiting a teacher/EA to do an activity in that learning area e.g. counting. A timer is set



and the students participate on that activity for 15 minutes. When the timer ends, the student groups' move to the next activity table e.g. reading comprehension or spelling and the timer is reset.

The children have been very helpful in transitioning to this new routine and we think it will be a very successful strategy in this class. Our Teaching staff has all been working very hard to access and create resources for the learning stations to meet our students' needs.

Last week our students participated in a lesson designed by Mrs Stanley to promote cooperation. It was an activity that required the students to solve a problem and then create a pyramid structure

using only pasta sticks and marshmallows. The outcomes were mixed but everyone participated cooperatively and they got to eat a couple of marshmallows at the end!

Room 37



A big hello from Room 37! We can't believe it is week 3 already. Like every term we dive head first into our learning. Let us tell you about some of the wonderful activities we have done during the past 2 weeks. Firstly, in Science Mrs Edwards has helped us set up a habitat for meal worms. We are learning about the lifecycle of mealworms and we are going to watch these worms turn into a bug. Each student was provided with a clear container to fill with bran and apple -- a perfect environment to watch these mealworms turn into bugs.

In T & E, our students were first asked to design a boat, then to collect materials like egg containers, boxes, wood, straws, cardboard, water bottles, ice-cream containers, plastic cups and tape as construction materials. Each student then had the opportunity to build a boat based on their unique design. Finally we had lots of fun seeing if the boats could float. Most students were very successful. But best of all we had so much fun.



Birthdays are a time for celebration in Room 37. We were lucky enough to celebrate 2 birthdays last Friday. Both Logan and Kerensa-Lily turned 9 years old. Wow - their last year before double digits!

Finally this week we are having a special Mothers' Day morning tea for the wonderful mothers and grandmothers of Room 37. We have been practicing a song that we will sing to them and then we will have some yummy food and enjoy having a chat.

SCHOOL NEWS

Student Accident Insurance

Parents and carers are reminded that students are **not** insured by the government for accidents whilst at school. Please discuss with your own insurance broker if you wish to have your children covered for such events.

Riverside P&C

Earlier this year, the combined schools' P&C held their AGM, during which all positions were declared vacant and a new complement of officers elected. Principals of both schools extend their thanks to the parents and carers who were able to attend and look forward to working closely with the new committee. The new officers are:

President: Vivienne Cantem
Vice President: (position yet to be filled)
Secretary: Caryn Rance

Treasurer: Margaret Wirepa
Uniform Shop Coordinator: Cindy McNear
Fund Raising Coordinator: Sue Brown

Executive Committee: Lorri Leggo, Kylie Garman, Jana Peatling