



Riverside Education Support Centre

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 7, 2016



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to a very busy Term 3. Lots of activities and events will be happening during this Term. I extend my thanks to you all for your continued support of our school as we strive to provide the best educational outcomes for your child.

School Camp: Preparations are almost completed for our upcoming school camp. As I have previously mentioned there will be no cost to families, I would encourage all students to attend. Mr David Perry has prepared an informative item on our website to promote the camp, which can be viewed at www.riversideesc.wa.edu.au.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs): Teachers will shortly be contacting parents to discuss students IEPs. I invite everyone to participate in the planning process for your child, your input is extremely valuable.

School Business Plan: As Principal of an Independent Public School (IPS) I am required to have an appropriate Business Plan in place to ensure we are meeting specific school targets and providing the best educational options for our students. We are currently at 'draft' stage, and I invite you to view the document. Your input, ideas and suggestions are always welcome; please feel free to make an appointment with me.

Faction Carnival: The whole-school Faction Carnival has been scheduled for Tuesday 23rd August, with Wednesday 24th set aside in case of inclement weather. You are invited to attend for the day to support your child; please be aware there will be strict boundary rules in place for the family seating area. Further information will be forthcoming.

Book Week: In Week 5 (15-19 August) the whole school will be participating in the ever popular 'Book Week'. This is a great opportunity for our students to engage with the wonderful world of books and reading. The theme and schedule will be announced shortly.

Student Arrival/Pickup:

I would like to remind everyone that if your child is late or requires early pick up it is essential that these transactions are dealt with at our front office. No student will be released unless the school has been informed by an authorised person.

Jim Douglas,
Principal

Important Dates

Aug 03	Riverside Schools Board Meeting
Aug 09	Riverside Schools P&C Meeting 1:30 PM (All welcome)
Aug 23	Faction Carnival (Aug 24 if wet)
Aug 15-19	Book Week
Sep 14-16	School Camp, Bridgetown
Sep 19-23	Swimming Lessons
Sep 23	End Term 3

Room 31

Hello to all parents and carers associated with Room 31. We welcome you to Term 3 and what promises to be a very busy time for both children and staff.

We have started the term with a weekly incursion from “Mr Circus.” Together with other classes, the children are participating in a variety of activities that they normally would not have the opportunity to. These included, in our first week, learning to juggle with light scarves, balancing and spinning plates on sticks, balancing and rolling ‘flower sticks’ and finally balancing long peacock feathers on different parts of their bodies.

Engaging in these activities meant the children needed to listen and be attentive, follow instructions, use fine and gross motor skills, sense of spatial awareness and bi-lateral integration, as well as try to regulate their behaviour as it was very exciting. The children were learning so much and did not even know it! Everyone had a terrific time and we look forward to Mr Circus visiting us each Monday until the end of this term. Our parents and Carers can look forward to some photos from our circus skills incursions in the next school newsletter.

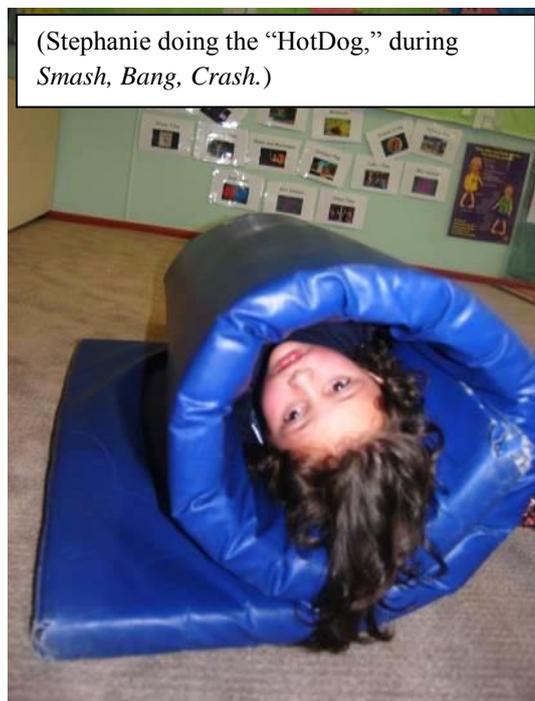
This term has seen the continuation of our *Smash! Bang! Crash!* program that we began last term. We have seen improvement in the children’s muscle strength, their ability to regulate themselves and transition successfully between exciting and calming activities, as well as their ability to follow instructions. This allows the children to remain attentive, focus and calm for longer periods. Importantly, it has also helped us as a staff to further identify and cater for the sensory needs that each child has, reflected in adaptations to teaching programs and individual behaviour plans.

In Term 3 we are, along with the whole ESC, focussing on the introduction of Key Word Signs to all children in the classroom. It is an alternative form of communication that supports better comprehension for all children, as well as allowing those children who have difficulty verbalising, to be expressive. It is thus a very powerful tool! We will focus our signs around our Crunch ‘n’ Sip routine. Signs introduced will include: like, more, thank you, please, finished, what, hungry, eat, name, and play. We will send home a small package in the coming weeks with each child so you can see the signs we are using. You may like to support us by using them with your child at home.

Here again, are a few questions you may like to ask your child about some of the things that happen in our classroom:

1. Who is William?
2. What is he good at that he does so often?
3. What is a wheelbarrow walk?
4. What do we do with the bubbles the fish blow each morning?
5. How do we use The Fiddle Box?

We look forward to working with you this term and letting you know about the exciting times the children are having in our classroom.



Room 32

Wow, we are in Term 3 already and Room 32 has so many exciting things happening. In Maths this term we are going to be learning about chance and data as well as learning how to measure things. Already students have sorted different lengths of card into long and short and can't wait to use the measuring snakes to measure lots of different things in our classroom.



On Monday we started Circus Skills. This was such a fun lesson. Students had to demonstrate good listening and speaking skills while learning how to juggle soft floating cloths and spinning a plate on a stick. Everyone had a blast and even mastered spinning a plate. Some of the staff managed to acquire circus skills too. We will continue these lessons every Monday and look forward to keeping you informed through newsletter updates and photos.

Finally, this term our students are reading and learning about Fairy Tales. We have already read *The Three Little Pigs* and had the opportunity to dress up as a little pig and the big bad wolf. There are some great little actors in Room 32 and each student loved playing the role of the pig and wolf. Here are some photos of them dressed up in costume ready to play the part.



Room 33

Hi again from Room 33. It is hard to believe we are already in Semester 2 of 2016. This term will be a busy one with many exciting things happening including swimming lessons and our school camp at Bridgetown from Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th September, inclusive.

We are all looking forward to the circus incursion lessons booked for all year 1-6 students at Riverside Education Support Centre to participate in from weeks 2-8. This will be lots of fun and children will be learning a variety of non-competitive skills suitable for all ages. The skills will support them in developing co-ordination, fitness, strength and also promote confidence. Each week we also continue to practice our running, hurdles, throwing and novelty games with the mainstream school in preparation for our whole school Sports Day Carnival.

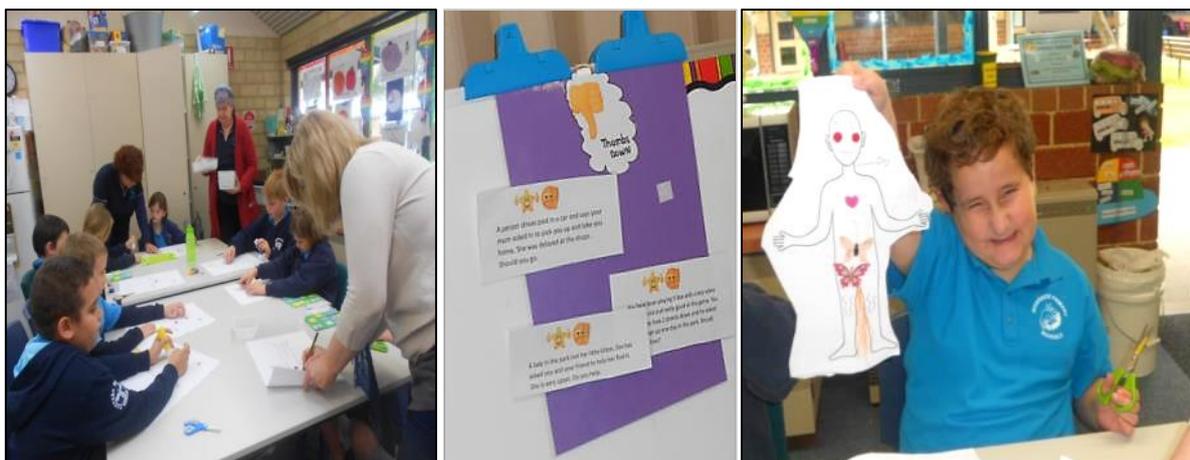
Last term in History we studied Aboriginal culture which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We are now learning about Australia and some of its close neighbours and in Geography looking at maps of the world and using Google Earth to find places of interest such as Uluru (previously Ayers Rock). We are also integrating this with Literacy and travelling around Australia with *Possum Magic* which is one of our favourite stories. We have already painted an Australian map depicting all the different States and Territories. In History we will also be learning about the 'Olden Days' and are currently planning a trip to the Mandurah Community Museum.

Two of our Education Assistants, Miss Caroline Somerton and Mrs Yvonne Medlam recently completed Professional Development to learn more about teaching Protective Behaviours in the classroom. Collaboratively they have been helping to plan and deliver some of these lessons to the students in room 33. Please see some of our work displayed on the Protective Behaviours Montage in our classroom as it is looking awesome!

As well as all this we will continue to be working hard each week in Literacy, Maths, Science and T&E. Most Fridays we cook something new and delicious to eat. We always write out our recipe first and then read it back so we know exactly what foods/utensils we need and what we have to do to cook it perfectly.

This week we practised telling Object Based News and Event Based News following the explicit Diana Rigg Speaking & Listening Program. This is helping us with our speech and vocabulary so that we have the words to explain to our families what we did at school. We sometimes use role play to practise our event news and this is very, very humorous.

Please see some photos below of us learning Protective Behaviours in class this week.



Room 34

Dear Parents, Carers, Girls and Boys,

Welcome back to school at the beginning of Term 3. We hope that you all had a nice break and are refreshed and ready for a busy term!

Our theme for the term is Fairy Tales and we have some really innovative and exciting plans across all learning areas, especially within Literacy and Protective Behaviours. Fairy Tales provide the reader with a variety of exciting scenes and moral values questions as well as instances of rhyme and repetition, which is a great incentive to assist reading for several of our students. We hope that you will ask and hear about the current books being read and the activities arising from them.

On to the term planning and we have the annual Athletics Carnival in week 6, the school camp in week 9 and for most of the students in Room 34, transition to High School excursions will be planned soon. Parents and Carers, you will be invited to an orientation/information session and we will let you know when more information about the times is available.

We have been very lucky to have a local circus group providing our school with weekly circus



skill sessions this term! Last week our students were introduced to some basic juggling skills, balancing skills with a peacock feather and a spinning plate on a stick activity. The students were all very enthusiastic, had a go and performed very well. I am sure that they will be learning some great tricks to show you as the term progresses.

Thank you.

Alisdair McGuffin

Room 35

Welcome back to Term 3 – we hope you all had a lovely holiday with your children. It was fantastic to see everyone come into class with great big smiles and eager to start the new term. We have such a busy term ahead with lots of great activities planned.

This term we are looking at Fairy Tales as our theme. We started with *The Gingerbread Man* and did lots of activities. In maths the students rolled dice, counted the dots then coloured spots all over the gingerbread man. In English they sequenced pictures with the story and did their own gingerbread man glyph. They look great! Together, we had lots of fun acting out the story and Memphis climbed all the way up Mrs O'Connor's back before getting eaten! We finished the week with cooking and making our very own gingerbread cookies – they were delicious! Lucky for us they did not run away and we got to eat them all.

Every Wednesday this semester our class is going horse riding with Riding for the Disabled Association of WA (RDA). We travel by bus to Fairbridge Village where students learn to ride and go for exploratory walks. Beautiful winter's days have made it possible for our students to ride outside each week. We are grateful to the wonderful volunteers at the RDA who patiently assist our students to gain confidence in being around the horses. Wednesday is becoming our favourite day of the week!

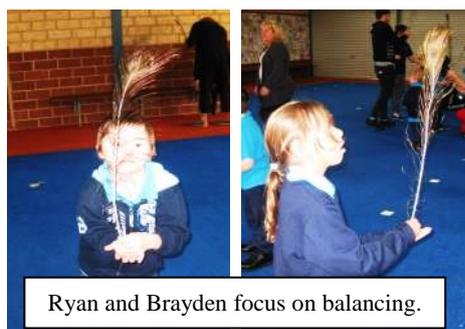


Alyia rides Charlie and Indiana (back) rides Shilo.

This Monday we started to learn some circus skills. Circus Therapy is coming into school each week



Harrison spins while lying down!



Ryan and Brayden focus on balancing.

this term to teach us specific skills. This week the children used fabric to learn to juggle and a great big feather to balance a stick. Everyone got to spin a plate on top of a stick and some of us were so good we could

spin the plate, keep it spinning and then lie down and the plate was still spinning! Amazing! The students seemed to pick it up so much easier than the staff! We all had lots of fun and laughed our way through the hour. We are all looking forward to next Monday – I think some of the staff have been doing extra practicing of their skills just to keep up with our students!

Camp is in week 9. There is much evident excitement and a countdown to camp has been started – at the time of writing this newsletter we had 48 days to go. Not only do we discuss an aspect of camp in class each day, the children are also using their knowledge of numbers to count backwards as well as learn the days of the week and the months of the year. Pictures of the camp grounds on the internet

(www.bridgetowncampschool.wa.edu.au/) have been investigated as part of the build-up and preparation for the three-day excursion and sleepover with fellow students and staff.

This term sees us starting a new semester - and that means setting new goals for our students. This is a time where we get to sit with the parents and therapists to go over student's progress so far this year and set new goals for the coming semester. I am looking forward to meeting formally again with all my parents and sharing the wonderful success to date of their child. Goal setting can be quite challenging and I value the input of parents and therapists in providing valuable feedback so I can set realistic, measurable and individual goals for each child.

Room 36

This term in Room 36 we are having fun during our math lessons. Last week we practised our chance



Maddie and Maverick's adjective art works.

and data by graphing jelly beans and answering questions such as 'who had the most orange' or 'which colour had more - red or white'. We will continue this fun over the next few weeks by graphing family members and M&M's.

We have also started to learn adjectives this semester and used them during our art work on the book "Twinkle" written by Nick Bland. We created our own night sky and thought of 6 adjectives that we could reach for late at night.

Room 37

Staff in Room 37 would like to express a warm welcome back for semester two. We have the pleasure of the addition of Mrs Gnatyunk four days per week, known to the students as Mrs O.

Congratulations to Kyle Biggs and Nicholas Arnold who have been selected to represent our school as student councillors this semester. Well done boys, I am sure that you will undertake your roles with confidence and maturity.



offering either a sweet or savoury special each week.

Our room will continue to run the café project this term as our latest market research survey provided extremely positive feedback from staff. We will be

This term our theme is 'healthy bodies and healthy minds'. We will be looking at aspects of physical health such as hygiene and nutrition. We will also be looking at how to keep our minds active and thinking positively.

Room 37's end-of-term attendance and behaviour incentive is a trip to the cinema and lunch this term. Students must have at least 80% attendance and appropriate behaviour this term to be eligible to attend. I am sure that everyone will make it.

We have begun preparations for High School and will be attending transition visits this term and next term. At the end of Term 3 we also have camp in Bridgetown and swimming lessons. Such a busy term!

We look forward to keeping you updated on how we are getting on.

Mrs Cairns

OTHER NEWS

SCHOOLS ALIVE CHOIR VISITS SILVER CHAIN

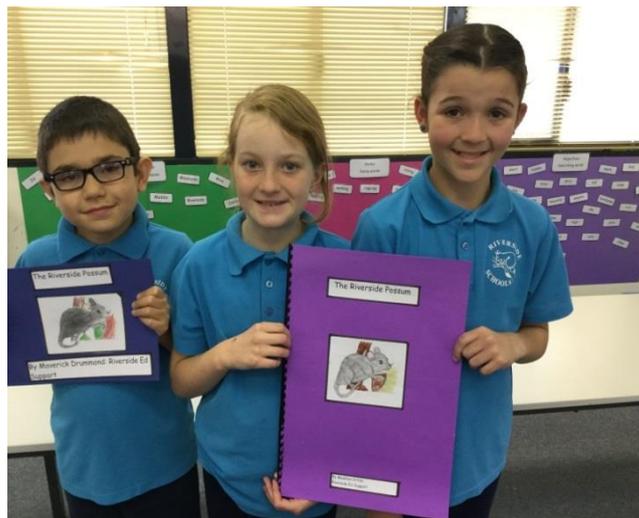
On Wednesday 22nd June the Schools Alive Choir visited the Silver Chain participants for an afternoon of music and interaction with the clients.

The choir performed a variety of songs, including the popular songs "Frozen" and "Let it Go" from the "Frozen" movie. It was wonderful to see the young choir members interacting with our senior citizens after their performance. An enjoyable lunch was provided for the choir and it is hoped to return to the Silver Chain Centre for a Christmas performance.

Deb Wiseman Claire Williamson

NAIDOC WEEK

During NAIDOC week a competition to write a story about the Riverside Possum was held. Over several weeks Jasmin, Maverick, Lillie and Maddie wrote a draft, edited their stories with help from staff, painted their illustrations and the books were completed.



Jasmin was very pleased to receive a book prize for her story about the Riverside Possum.

Deb Wiseman