



Riverside Education Support Centre

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 8, 2016



Hello Again,

We are half way through the Term already and things are ticking along nicely at Riverside ESC. As I visit classrooms I am very impressed with the student work which is on display and it is very pleasing to know they are fully engaged and immersed in their learning experiences. Riverside staff provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students and I would like to acknowledge all the great work they do.

Faction Carnival: Our joint schools Faction Carnival took place on Tuesday 23 August. What a fun-filled occasion with our students all giving of their best on the day. Thank you to parents, carers, relatives and friends for coming along to support our students and the school – it was a great turnout on a perfect day.

Swimming Lessons: Swimming lessons will commence in Week 10 (19-23 September). Notes will be sent home with students closer to the time.

School Camp: Final arrangements have been made for our upcoming school camp (14-16 September). This will be a fantastic opportunity for staff and students to have a lot of fun and participate in some memorable activities. Please note that parents are not permitted onto the camp site. Students will remain under full staff supervision for the duration of the camp.

Book Week: I would like to thank all staff and students for participating in our recent Book Week. It was wonderful to see many of our students dressing up for the theme and participating in a variety of events.

Who makes a difference at our school? As part of the WA Education Awards 2016 we're asking students and parents to vote for staff who make a difference in our school and give them a chance to win \$1000. The People's Choice Award recognises dedicated and talented staff in WA public schools. Visit the "What's New" section of our website (www.riversideesc.wa.edu.au) home page to read the article and find links to further information.

Room 32 Move: Please note that Room 32 (Mrs Hart) has now relocated to Room 19.

Thank you for your continued support of our great school. Your advice and feedback is always appreciated.

Jim Douglas,
Principal

Important Dates

Sep 14-16	School Camp, Bridgetown
Sep 19-23	Swimming Lessons
Sep 23	End Term 3
Oct 10	School Office Opens
Oct 11	Start Term 4 for students
Dec 15	End of school year

Room 31

Hello again to all parents and care-givers associated with Room 31. Wow! What a busy few weeks the children have had.

They have attended a dance workshop that entertained and thrilled them, then gave everyone the chance to strut their dance moves across the floor. All children were very engaged and the smiles on their faces were evidence of the workshop's success.

This was followed by the Bubbles incursion from Scitech, which of course was an instant hit. The children were mesmerised by the different bubbles, especially one enormous bubble that surrounded one very lucky little boy, our very own Rory!

Last week we were entertained by the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, who performed a very interesting show about a well-known Japanese dog called Hutchico. Although it was quite long, the children were focussed and very well behaved. Afterwards, the children attended a puppet making workshop, so it was a morning for new experiences!



We enjoyed playing with the hula hoops we made with Mr Circus!

We are still enjoying the antics of Mr Circus every Monday. The children continue to be exposed to new activities such as ball twirling, hula hooping and plate balancing and spinning, to name a few. It is a challenge for the children's concentration and a reminder that we need to persevere when faced with difficult tasks.

In the coming weeks we will be implementing an "Alert" program into our classroom. Its purpose is to assist the children in recognising their level of alertness, so they have a better chance of self-regulating independently. Staff will be focussed on modelling the vocabulary associated with the program. We will report back to you via future newsletters how it is working in the classroom.

By now all of you have received the laminated key-word signing information. This is working well in the classroom and we have some children who are very intrigued by it, beginning to use selected signs independently and without prompting. It really is a reminder to us all of what a powerful tool signing is for everyone, not just those with communication difficulties.

For those of you intrigued by other things that happen in our classroom, you might like to ask your child the following questions:

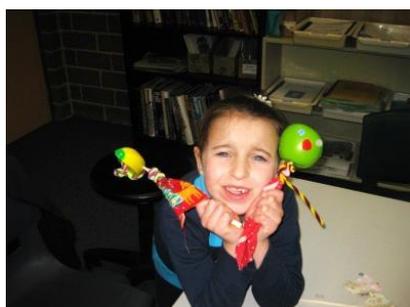
1. How do we sign when we say good morning?
2. When do we go to the special playground and why?
3. What is a thorax?
4. What do we do with the lycra tunnel?

Our best wishes to you all. We look forward to sharing more news with you from our classroom next time!

Room 32

Wow, Room 32 has had a very busy couple of weeks. As some of you know we have moved to a new location on the Teranca Road side of the school, in the block opposite our old classroom. Our new room is much more spacious and light. We are really enjoying being in this new space and look forward to displaying all of our beautiful work.

Last Monday we had Spare Parts Puppet Theatre come and present a show to our Centre. The show was about a dog and his owner. The students really enjoyed watching the puppet show and had many laughs during the performance. After the show we went and joined the Theatre actors and made our own puppets. They gave us a variety of materials which included buttons, fabric, pipe cleaners, wool and plastic fruit. Our students were challenged to put their creative hats on and design their own puppets. Erica, Timmy and Jerry did a great job on their puppets.



On Thursday our class celebrated Maths Day, moving around the Centre to carry out a variety of maths activities. In Room 36 we counted smarties and then recorded how many of each colour we had. In Room 34 we built a bridge out of straws. In Room 35 we used different shapes to make our name. These look fantastic and we invite the parents and carers of Room 32 to come and check them out.

On a final note we are going with Room 35 to MPAC on Thursday this week to see Oddysea, joining a crab and a turtle for a fun-filled journey into an undersea world. We will tell you more about this next newsletter and put a few pics in for you to see what we got up to.

Room 33



This term all the students and teachers have been thoroughly enjoying our weekly circus incursion lessons. We have made Poi Poi balls from coloured socks, rice and plastic streamers. We had to focus hard on body awareness to co-ordinate and manipulate the poi poi balls in different movements around our bodies. We had so much fun and were all amazing. We also used water-weighted hoola hoops which we decorated and were allowed to take home, a real bonus for after-school play!

Before the Faction Carnival we practised the fundamental movement skill of running. The children learned the importance of looking straight ahead at their target, pumping arms to drive their running, lift knees up high and taking big 'giant' strides as opposed to small 'fairy' strides. We also played lots of cool running games to practise these skills. I am proud to say that on the day, we saw some really great running!



Pictured: Lauren (previous page), Sheldon, Alando and Haydn practicing awesome Circus skills.

As the Olympics is here again Room 33 had a look on the world map at where they are being held which is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

We brainstormed our own Olympic motto and called it ‘Catch Your Dream and Run With It’. We also learned about the history of the Olympics which began in ancient Greece almost 3,000 years ago! That is why the torch is always lit in Greece first and then taken from there to whichever country is holding the Olympic Games.

Earlier this term we cooked a Persian salad. Mrs Nasimi from Iran is working in our class and wanted to share a traditional dish from her country. It was delicious. We were also able to look at Iran on the world map which is in Western Asia.

And so much more: we had Scitech visit to show us the Science behind (or inside) a bubble, how bubbles are formed and why they are round and have so many colours. We joined in the whole-school Book Fair, followed by the Maths Day where we visited different classes to participate in many ‘fun’ mathematical activities.

What a busy and exciting few weeks! We hope you like the photos of our latest circus tricks. Bye for now from all of us in Room 33.

Room 34

Dear Parents and Carers,

Midway through Term 3 and we are now in the countdown to camp in week 9. For the next few weeks, could you all please have reassuring conversations with your children about going on school camp, talking how they will be away from you for a couple of nights and explaining their teachers and assistants from school will be there to keep them safe. A reminder note will be sent home soon, listing essential items children must bring with them and the things that cannot be taken on camp.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have been reading ‘Fairytale’, which have really engaged the students of Room 34 and given us the opportunity to do many activities across the curriculum, especially in our main focus areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Health. These stories also give us many opportunities to discuss safe and unsafe feelings, stranger danger and other features of the Protective Behaviours program.

Each student has been made a shoebox-sized puppet theatre. When it is sent home we encourage you to play with your child and assist them to present a show using their Goldilocks and the Three Bears characters made



during art classes.

We were really proud of the way our students participated at the sports carnival; all joined in at least one team event and a running race. Thank you to all of our fantastic EA's who helped our students to have a go.

Several of our Year 6 students have made their first transition visit to Halls Head College ESC. They have been introduced to their future teachers and education assistants, and received a guided tour of their new school and facilities. We will be attending Halls Head ESC another 3 times before the end of the year to make the transition in 2017 a comfortable one.

Thankyou. (Alisdair McGuffin, Room 34 Teacher)

Room 35

Hi Everyone. What a busy term we are having!

We too are enjoying our Fairy Tale Theme. In English we have begun sequencing events of Fairy Tales along with looking at the characters and setting of the story. Our students' writing skills are improving as they work hard to put into their own words the beginning, middle and end of the story.

In Maths this semester our class is learning about money with such activities as sorting money, hunting for money (in 'cloud dough') and playing bingo. Some of the children are beginning to count using money – this is really exciting and they are looking forward to putting their money skills into practice in the future when Room 35 heads out on excursions.

Camp is getting closer and everyone is looking forward to going, counting down the days! We will be in touch with parents very soon regarding full details of what we are doing and what your child will need to bring.

Last week was Science Week and Mrs Edwards organised an incursion from Scitech about bubbles. We got to see all sorts of bubbles – big and small – even one that fully enclosed a student! The highlight was bubbles that were set alight – exciting but not what we can do ourselves.

Next week an excursion is planned, to 'Odyssey' by Sensorium Theatre. The activity involves travelling by bus to and from Mandurah Performing Arts Centre to participate in a workshop followed by a show. A fish and chip lunch after the show will complete an exciting outing.

Mrs Mattin will be away attending Profession Development for the whole of Week 6. The students (and Education Assistants) welcome Miss Macukat into our class and hope that she enjoys her time with us.

Father's Day is coming up soon. We wish all Dads a happy day and hope you enjoy the card and gift your child is making for you (but remember to be surprised!)

Room 36

Room 36 has had a very busy few weeks. We have participated in the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, had a science incursion, participated in a dance group and dressed up for book week and had fun at the whole school sports carnival.

All students also participated in Maths Day on Thursday 25th August. Each class rotated around 6 of the ESC classrooms and completed fun activities such as smarties graphing, dice games or building a bridge that can handle different weights. We now have a quiet 2 weeks to complete some work before departing to Bridgetown School Camp for three days.

Room 37



Room 37 would like to express their thanks to Silver Chain Day Centre for hosting another great themed day on Wednesday of Week 4. A few of our students from Room 37 visited the Centre where they re-enacted the Olympic Games. They lit a pretend fire with Olympic torches made by the Silver Chain attendees. See the full Olympic Games Report in other news.

The students were asked which country they would like to represent and were presented medals on a podium at the end of the games. The students and old folks had a fantastic time!

In Week 5, Café 33 catered for a Deputy Principals' meeting held at Riverside. Students from Room 37 cooked and prepared food; took orders and served the food to the visitors. We cooked quiche and lemon coconut slice. They were delicious! We hope the Deputies enjoyed our hospitality.



Transition visits to high schools are now underway. Our students are enjoying finding out about the schools they will be attending next year.

OTHER NEWS

Scitech Bubble Show



To celebrate National Science Week a Scitech incursion was organised for the students of Riverside ESC. Scitech presented an interactive 'Bubble Show' in which students saw bubbles of all different sizes, one even big enough for a student to be inside of.

The Scitech Bubble Show is a 30 minute presentation that combines a lively mix of explanation, interaction and demonstrations to explore in a simple and imaginative way the power of bubbles, from the tiny to the giant, and their scientific properties.

The show was thoroughly enjoyed by all students and staff at Riverside ESC.

Micro-Critters Incursion

Earlier this term Rooms 33, 36 and 37 took part in a Micro-Critters Workshop presented by Robyn Brown, Waste Education Officer from Rivers Regional Council. The incursion was a planned learning experience as part of the biological sciences curriculum. The Waste Wise Compost Critter is one of several incursions offered as a reward to Accredited Waste Wise Schools to acknowledge their effort to change behaviours towards waste.



Students were able to use microscopes to find small creatures within different samples of soil which they collected from buckets and put on petri trays. They were encouraged to match and identify creatures on provided charts. Students enjoyed having the opportunity to explore and investigate the micro-critters, like real scientists. (Images courtesy of Rivers Regional Council)

“Riverside ESC has made a really good effort to recycle paper and address waste reduction,” said Ms Brown. “During the incursion, we explored micro critters that help to transform organic materials into recycled matter for gardens. We looked at slaters, earthworms, earwigs, mites and ants under the microscope. I am glad the students enjoyed their incursion.”

Mrs Diana Edwards
Science/Support Teacher

More Music from our Schools Alive Choir Students

Four upper-school students from our school participated as part of the Schools Alive Choir in the WA Government Music Society (WAGSMS) concert at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on August 18, where they won a trophy for their excellent rendition of a specially-prepared medley of songs.



The WAGSMS website explains why the Schools Alive Choir is so important: “As many people would testify, music is more than playing an instrument, singing a song or dancing around the stage. It crosses over into many other learning areas, helping young people develop skills and self-esteem.”

These students also performed at the Principal’s Conference at the Perth Convention Centre. On this occasion Billy, Lillie, Joseph and Emma all demonstrated excellent public transportation skills including use of their Smartrider cards.

Congratulations to our singing foursome, pictured above with Principal Jim Douglas, for their excellent behaviour, great social skills and patience demonstrated during both events.

Dance Workshops at Riverside Education Support Centre

Students have experienced two dance workshops by the Contemporary Dance Company in recent weeks.



The first performance by the dancers showed students that it is possible to solve problems by working together to solve issues. The dancers were very engaging and then it was our turn to dance.

Dancing to music by ABBA and Michael Jackson showed that the students could certainly follow the beat and combine some moves to create a dance.

The second performance asked students to follow movements and move their bodies in time to a lively rap song and perform a dance.

Both workshops allowed participation by all students and it is hoped to have the Dance Company back for further workshops and performances in 2017.

Deb Wiseman

Late News: Olympic Games Produces Stunning Results at Silver Chain

Riverside Ed Support students participated in a special Olympic Games held at the Silver Chain Centre on a Wednesday afternoon this month. They participated with the clients and the games started with the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron. A rousing drumbeat provided by students ensured that the audience was cheering loudly for each competitor. The javelin throw saw a gold medal for Riverside, with Stanley winning the silver and Cameron a bronze medal. The paper plane throw saw Silver Chain winning the gold.

Afternoon tea and the opportunity to talk about the games finished off a great afternoon.

Deb Wiseman Claire Williamson

Puppet Play

As reported above, Monday 22nd of August saw the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre visit Riverside Ed Support, for a performance of a play called Hachiko. Using only recycled materials performers Sean and Barney had the students' attention as they told the story.

It was great to see our students recognise the emotions of the different characters, with some pointing out that it was both a happy and sad story. The classroom work being completed through the PATHS program certainly helps students identify different emotions.

D Wiseman