



Riverside Education Support Centre

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 08, 2017



Hello everyone,

Our students have risen to the wet and windy challenges of Term 3 and I hope you have too. Many of you and our staff also, have had a bout of the flu. I would like to thank our great team of relief teachers and education assistants for filling the gaps at such short notice and maintaining the rhythm and programs of Riverside ESC.

I would also like to welcome new student Kai Gilkes to our wonderful school. Kai will be in Ms Macukat's class. We also welcome Kai's parents Amber and David to our Riverside family.

I have just a few topics this issue which need to be brought to your attention.

Sports Carnival: The whole school sports carnival will be held on Wednesday 23 August. The current forecast is for a "mostly sunny" day, fingers crossed. If there is inclement weather it will be held the following Wednesday 30th August. Feel free to attend this fun day and support your child.

School Photos: School photos are scheduled for September 7th and 8th for Pre-primary-Year 6. Kindergarten photos will be scheduled for Term 4. Notification has been sent out already; packs for payment will follow when we have received them.

RESC Office Upgrade: The front office upgrade will commence during Week 8. Construction will restrict access to offices, staff car park and disability access parking bays in that area until the start of the next school year. I will be writing to families shortly to provide information about alternate entry points to the school. The upgrade is scheduled for completion January 2018.

Jim Douglas,

Principal

Important Dates

| | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| Aug 23 | Whole School Sports Carnival |
| Sep 22 | End of Term 3 |
| Sep 25 | Queen's Birthday |
| Oct 10 | Students return for Term 4 |
| Dec 15 | Last school day of 2017 |

Our New Amenities Block is Now Operational!



Kindergarten

Welcome to a new Term 3 and a new Kindy class!

Mrs Kim Hardy is the new Kindy teacher and her happy helpers are Mrs Smith, Miss Somerton, Mrs Irvine, Ms Morrison and Mrs Douglas.

We have had a fantastic start to the term, all the children have settled with the transition really well.

We had a dress-up day for Book Week with lots of superheroes and a beautiful princess. We have been learning to use the library and scanning our own names and books on the library computer.



We have read many wonderful books this term. This week we are reading *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and have many fun activities planned around this theme.



Watch this space for more exciting news from Mrs Hardy and the wonderful students from Room 35's Kindy room!

Room 31

Hello to all parents and caregivers associated with Room 31.

The children have settled very well after the school restructure and continue to engage in our classroom programs with an infectious enthusiasm that only the young can generate.

I have alluded in past newsletters to the importance of our Story Time routine. It is used to support language and literacy learning through the presentation of phonological awareness (how words sound), teaching the concepts and conventions of print, introducing new concepts and vocabulary, improving comprehension and developing the children's ability to express themselves.

A new story is read three times each week and children have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities. When we read the Michael Rosen picture book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, the children prepared for and engaged in a complete drama of the story. It was very exciting and made even more so by Mrs Douglas, who played the character of the bear. The children also enjoyed moving through the 'swirling whirling' snowstorm, created with confetti and a fan. It was a memorable day for children and staff!



Espen moves through the 'swishy swashy' grass on a bear hunt.



The children weren't sure if they should run from or cuddle our bear, played by Mrs Douglas.

In addition to story time, we have a bias towards music and movement in the early childhood environment. It is one of the most important and enjoyable routines in the children's day. It is especially satisfying to see how well the children in our class with ASD respond to this routine. We see far more eye-contact from them as well as a higher level of 'joint attention'¹ which is so important in developing social awareness.

The movement aspect assists in reinforcing fine and gross motor skills, bi-lateral integration, crossing midlines, muscle strength

and tone as well as motor planning. The mastery of such skills is essential in functioning independently.

We look forward to sharing more news next time.

Glen Webber, Room 31



Who is under those umbrellas, singing and moving to, "Silly Billy Blunder?"

Room 19

Hello everyone. This term we have begun our cooking program. We have been focusing on learning about the different cup and spoon sizes and measurements. The students will also be practising measuring during maths rotations. So far this term we have made Dinosaur biscuits which is in line with our Dinosaur theme for Term 3. We have also made cinnamon pancakes and some yummy blueberry muffins.



In maths this term Room 19 are learning about telling the time. The children have been practising 'o'clock' and 'half past' times.

Left: Mrs Mattin and Room 19 children practising working with time. Right: Jonathan and his clock.



¹ **Joint Attention:** Joint attention is the development of specific skills that involve sharing attention with others. Typically developing children do this in a number of ways. For example, they can point at objects and people to share their interests, they can bring and show objects to others, and they can also coordinate looking between objects and people. It is thought that the ability to engage others non-verbally (eye contact, smiles and gestures) is related to the ability to talk.

See ACT-NOW Fact Sheet 53 for more information: www.med.monash.edu.au/assets/docs/scs/psychiatry/increasing-joint-attention-autism.pdf

Room 11

Hi there. Welcome to Week 6.

Last week we had a fantastic morning learning to use the Beebots with SciTech. The children learnt how to program the Beebots to different areas.



Room 11 had an amazing time during Book Week; everyone made an effort and dressed up as favourite book characters, including the teachers.

Welcome to our new student Kai who has started this week in our class. We look forward to exploring and



learning new things with you.

There was much excitement about our visit to Mandurah Performing Arts Centre for a Dinosaur excursion, which was followed by fish and chips on the foreshore. We are all also looking forward to the Sports Carnival on Wednesday. Good luck to everyone who takes part.

Thanks for reading. Room 11

Room 4

A big “Hello” from Room 4 who are settling in well to their new room. This week new furniture, desks and chairs arrived so the children and staff are enjoying a bright new room in which to learn.

Students have been investigating Australian coins and how to identify them by looking at their different features. They are learning that the value of a coin is not related to its size and also that the value of two five cent coins is “the same” as one 10 cent coin! Students then had the opportunity to go shopping in the classroom shop which was enjoyed by all.



Last week the whole school celebrated Book Week and the theme was 'Escape to Everywhere'. Students in Room 4 definitely did escape to many places as Princesses, Doctors, Superheroes & Pirates. In class we read a lot of books and discussed why reading was important and what our favourite stories were. At right is a picture of Courtney with her writing and special drawings about a Clever Dog Max who loved playing clever twisting and jumping tricks at the park.



In the last few weeks we have been training hard for our whole school sports carnival. Below is a photo of us all practising our throwing, catching and co-ordination skills with Room 33. We hope to see you there for lots of fun and cheering!



Until next time bye for now from everyone in Room 4 and we look forward to sharing more of our learning journey with you soon.

Room 33

Hello everyone. It is update time again. We can't believe it is week 6 already. We are settling well into our new room and are getting use to our new name of 'Room 33'. Mrs Hart does forget occasionally but it is okay because the children are very good at reminding her.

We have some very exciting days coming up which include a Dinosaur Science incursion (today), Prehistoric Dinosaur Excursion and the whole school Athletics carnival on Wednesday. We will definitely have some photos of these activities in our next newsletter so please keep an eye out.



Every two weeks we are putting up a display of one of our wonderful children. It is called 'All about Me'. We have already displayed Vijay and this fortnight it is all about Rose. We have learned that Rose dislikes creepy crawlies and mushrooms. She likes potatoes, dolls and colouring.

As part of Maths our children have been learning how to tally. They sorted mini M&M's into colours and then tallied how



many of each colour there were. It was interesting comparing results with other children in the class.

Some children had lots of red M&M's while others had more blue, brown or green. No one had the same number of each colour.

Last week was Book Week. The theme was 'Escape to Anywhere'. Every child in our class dressed up as some type of character or person. We had a Gruffalo, princesses, Ironman, Harry Potter, Lightning McQueen and a Policeman. The children looked fantastic and enjoyed dressing up for the day.



Mrs Hart and the team from Room 33.

Room 7

Greetings all. The term is in full swing and the children of Room 7 (formerly 36) are now settled into their new room and working very hard at all their lessons and activities. We begin a new series of TEACCH rotations this week, modifying our lessons to give our children exposure to more strands of literacy and numeracy.

The students are being introduced to the Planets in our solar system in Society and Environment and Robots (Bee-bots) in Science. The activities being delivered by Mrs Filer and Mrs Edwards are very engaging and we are very lucky to have these dedicated teachers in our class every week.

This week (6) will be a very busy one, with the Dinosaur Science incursion on Monday and Sports carnival on Wednesday. I hope that you can come down to cheer the children on.



The Book Week was a very successful event and it was great to see so many of our children purchasing books from the library stall. The dress-up day was a lot of fun and the children looked fantastic in their chosen costumes. Thanks to you all for making, buying and preparing your children on the day. It was a huge effort.

I look forward to updating you all in the next newsletter on how the class is going and how the modifications to our learning environment are assisting our children on their learning journey.

Room 10

Room 10 have begun to prepare for the exciting transition to high school. Mrs Lockley from Halls Head Education Support Centre² has visited us to meet the children and tell them a little about the college. They have also had two visits to the Halls Head campus where they were given a tour by one of our past students Tarnika. This will help familiarise them with the school and staff before transition. The children who moved to Halls Head ESC last year were very excited to see them and we all felt very welcome.



Image courtesy of Halls Head College ESC

We have also been learning about Japan this term, looking at their flag and its meaning, culture, climate and different foods. We also made some origami Japanese dolls in kimonos which look wonderful on display in our room. As an extension of our Japanese studies we have we have made sushi for our in house Café ESC which proved to be very popular. The children also had the opportunity to taste some sushi with mixed reactions.



Mrs Edwards has been teaching the children about the solar system this term. Each week we look at a different planet and Mrs Barrett is putting together a wonderful classroom display with the children's work. We look forward to watching our display develop over the coming weeks.

Miss Whiteley has begun puberty lessons with the class. We have looked into the parts of the reproductive system, encouraging correct terminology. We will expand the students' knowledge on this subject as the semester progresses.

² Transitioning families may like to visit the Halls Head College ESC webpage at <http://www.hallsheadesc.wa.edu.au/>.

SCHOOL NEWS

Riverside Schools 0-4 Playgroup: ALL WELCOME

Our schools have joined to offer a playgroup for children aged 0 to 4 and their families, which is currently being trialled. Including this week, the trial has two weeks to go.

Riverside Family Playgroup is on Wednesday this week (23rd Aug) and next week (30th Aug), from 9 AM to 10:30 AM. Inquiries can be directed to the school office.

Please bring a hat for your child and a piece of fruit to share.

Reminder: Keep those Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers rolling in.

As mentioned last newsletter, our school will again participate in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school/early learning centre – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

The range of resources is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you'd like to know more visit www.woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn.

The Earn & Learn campaign ends September 19.

Every Day Counts

Please continue to ensure when your child is well that they attend school. The following information shows the impact of absenteeism over the time a child is at school, from Pre-Primary to Year 12. Even 10 minutes a day has an impact – every day counts.

| If your child misses ... | That equals ... | Which is ... | And over 13 years of schooling that is ... |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 10 mins per day | 20 days per year | 4 weeks per year | Nearly 1.5 years |
| 1 day per week | 40 days per year | 8 weeks per year | Over 2.5 years |
| 2 days per week | 80 days per year | 16 weeks per year | Over 5 years |
| 3 days per week | 120 days per year | 24 weeks per year | Nearly 8 years |

SCHOOL WEBSITE UPDATES

National Disability and Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – see <http://www.riversideesc.wa.edu.au/our-community/national-disability-insurance-scheme-ndis>

NDIS Workshops in Mandurah: <http://www.riversideesc.wa.edu.au/communication/what-s-new-blog/150-ndis-mandurah>