

Riverside ESC Newsletter

Issue 1 2019

PRINCIPAL COMMENTS

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Hello and welcome to Term One and our first Newsletter for the year. I take this opportunity to welcome all new students, families and staff to Riverside ESC, I hope your time with us is productive and progressive. Your support of our programs and learning opportunities for our students is an integral part of our success; we have a fantastic reputation in the community and I acknowledge that is the outcome of a whole-team effort. As always I am available to listen to your ideas, concerns and feedback on our performance and your individual experiences as you journey with our great school.

Enrolments and Staffing: As a school we are growing and this has been reflected in our enrolment numbers for 2019, of 64 students. We are consistently good at what we do and I believe this is strongly reflected in our numbers and flow of enquiries that we experience. I would like to thank you all for being a part of RESC and your support. Our staff complement has expanded to accommodate this growth with the addition of new teachers, education assistants and administration staff.

School Board: I have the pleasure to announce Mr David Templeman MLA has accepted the appointment of Chair of the combined Riverside Schools' Board, for a three-year period. David is a strong advocate for education and as a school we look forward to working with him at a Board level. I would like to thank the outgoing Board Chair Mr John Reyburn for his service.

School Assemblies: I encourage you to attend our whole school assemblies which are held fortnightly throughout each Term, especially if your child is being presented for an Award.

Head-lice: From time to time some of our children arrive at school with evidence of head lice. Staff will attempt to provide a basic treatment to minimise the risk of contamination to others. You will always be contacted about this matter and requested as per DoE and Department of Health guidelines and policies to provide an effective treatment for your child. Whilst it is not a usual practice, if a child consistently presents with head-lice and it is not treated appropriately he or she can be requested to remain at home until the infestation has cleared up.

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Champions One and All



The Champion Life program at Riverside ESC is empowering students of Years 4, 5 and 6. Those of you who were able to attend the whole-school assembly last week would have experienced just how enlivening and engaging the program is as students from both schools demonstrated new-found confidence and abilities!

A wonderful concept lies at the heart of Champion Life: "We believe everyone is a champion and we champion the value of fun, moderate activity for life-long health, wellbeing and a positive mindset".



The program also provides a mechanism for children to self-manage their behaviour when a break is needed. A few minutes of activity in response to "Can I do Champion Life now?" is followed by a higher level of participation and engagement in class activities.

Read the [full article](#) on our website.

I encourage you to work with staff on this issue if your child is ever affected.

Beach Carnival: I am excited to announce that our inaugural Beach Carnival has been planned for 28 March. Further information will be distributed shortly for the day's schedule of events.

Best regards,
Jim Douglas, Principal



BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT UPDATE

In the news at the end of 2018 were various media statements issued by the W.A. Department of Education discussing the need for schools to take a stand against violence, with the State Government introducing a raft of new measures to address violent behaviour against students and staff. Our staff have all been advised and updated on these measures.

How does this affect Riverside ESC? For the most part it doesn't. As an independent public school, our terms of operation comply with the Directives of the Department. Although the Department's plan focuses on intentional physical aggression and intent to harm others, policy changes will not apply to students with a disability who either cannot control their behaviour or do not intend to harm others.

Our school is recognised as a leader in behaviour management for students in an education support environment. Our individualised behaviour management plans are developed in consultation with all partners to a child's development: parents/carers, school leaders, health support professionals, government services and the student her/himself. Our physical interventions are limited to measures essential to maintaining the health and wellbeing of the student and their school micro-community. Our documentation is transparent within the bounds of confidentiality; and our intentions and interventions are designed to support ongoing engagement by each student in their specialised learning program.

"Every parent rightly expects that when their child is at school they will be safe, nurtured and supported to learn. Similarly, teachers and school staff should feel safe in their workplace." This is the contextual statement from the Minister of Education, the Hon. Sue Ellery MLC. We understand the desire to reduce violence in schools is a priority for the McGowan Government. In our school violence against staff and fellow students will not be tolerated. On the odd occasion that it happens and depending on the severity, a temporary suspension may be determined as the best way forward.

The Principals are working with staff and the school community to develop a position in relation to the Minister's Directive. It will be communicated to parents when completed.

In the meantime, and as previously stated, parents and carers with concerns about this or any matter related to your child's schooling are welcome to call on the Principal by contacting the school office.

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.

ROOM 31

Hello to all parents and carers associated with Room 31.

On behalf of all staff in Room 31, I would like to welcome back the families we had the joy of working with in 2018. It is terrific to see you all back safely in 2019.

We would also like to offer a warm welcome to the Matthews and Cooper families who have started at Riverside in our classroom this year. We look forward to working with your children to achieve great outcomes, as well as getting to know you.

Room 31 staffing remains unchanged from 2018, so it is nice to welcome back Miss Delia, Mrs Douglas, Miss Madden, Miss Morrison, Miss Punch, Mrs Smith and Miss Somerton.

The Education Department recognises the importance of play in early childhood environments for the physical, social and emotional, and cognitive benefits it provides. In our classroom, students' play and the exploration of their environment contribute majorly to acquiring language skills and vocabulary, developing and reinforcing positive peer and staff relationships and resilience, building the social skills of sharing and 'waiting for our turn', and enhancing our ability to control, strengthen and coordinate the use of our muscles.

The other key area that we use play for is to develop our students' joint attention. When our children are focused, making eye-contact and engaging with others and an experience, then the learning begins. It is for this reason that we timetable regular sensory play which integrates so many beneficial skills in one experience. It is also great fun!

Please enjoy the following photographs which demonstrate how engaged our children can be.



(Left) Locklyn is enjoying the wet, sticky, slimy feel of the finger paint.

(Right) Anita was intrigued by the water and making bubbles made it so much more exciting!

RIVERSIDE COMBINED SCHOOLS P&C AGM

Monday 18 June, 6:00 PM – STAFF ROOM. Everyone is welcome.

Do you have new ideas? Enjoy feeling part of or contributing to a great team? Now is your chance to get involved in the community of your child's school. RSVP by email to riversidepandc@yahoo.com.

ROOM 35

My goodness, have we had a busy half term! The students arrived at the start of Term 1 to find their classroom had been transformed into an underwater world!

But there was one problem, there was water and seaweed, but no animals in the ocean. So, Room 35 have been busy filling their ocean windows, with sea animals that they have made themselves.

The students have made; Sharks, crabs, turtles, jelly fish and even an octopus with fruit loop tentacles.



We have also been learning about the concept circles and all their colours. To help us remember the colours, we made circle jellyfish. We have also made purple circle divers, who are now swimming around the ocean watching all the animals.

In Science with Mrs Edwards, the students have been learning about light. In HASS with Miss Seidel the students have been learning about places in the community.

In Health, Room 35 likes to Smash, Bang & Crash our way to healthy bodies. We have been practicing moving our bodies at different fitness stations, we especially like crashing into our big smash pad. We are also looking after our bodies by participating in the March Munch month. We have been bringing in and trying new vegetables each day. Each vegetable we try each day earns us a reward sticker.

Room 35, also has some class pets, some real life YABBIES!! If you ever want to see them, come visit us and check out how blue they are!

ROOM 19

Welcome everyone to 2019! As always it has been a very busy start to the school year but we are now into the daily routine of the classroom and producing some great work.

We especially welcome to our school community the Roussel Family. Tyrone has come from NSW and is working hard and enjoying making new friends. It's great to have you in our class.

Now that all the start of year testing is complete I am looking forward to meeting with every family to discuss their child's goals for the semester. These meetings are important as they give us time to discuss student achievements to date, agree on short term and long term goals, and set a good foundation for a relationship between home and school. I thank each family for making the time to meet with me.

This term, aside from our explicit English, Math and Health lessons, students have the opportunity to participate in horse riding and cooking.

'HorsePower Murray Mandurah' (www.rdawa.org.au) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides equestrian activities to people living with disabilities and special needs in WA. We are lucky enough to be

able to take 6 Year 1 and 2 students each week for an hour lesson. The wonderful volunteers pick up and drop off at school and if the weather is not too hot (or wet) we get to have a walk through Fairbridge Village to demonstrate the skills taught within the arena. We thank all the volunteers at HorsePower for their ongoing support towards our students.

Every Friday Mrs Brown is leading cooking lessons. Cooking provides an opportunity to consolidate and demonstrate skills taught during Math, English and Health lessons as well as cover hygiene and life skills. Who knew that such fun could teach us so much! And what fun we have. With clean hands and wearing aprons made by Mrs Brown's mother, the cooking is underway with an introduction to pikelets: plain pikelets,



chocolate pikelets, banana and apple pikelets! Each week after making the basic recipe we add something different to change the taste and texture, adding layers of complexity to pikelet-making.

The students (and staff) are enjoying the cook off as we split into two groups and taste-test the other group's cooking.

ROOM 11

Hello Families of Room 11! What a wonderful and busy start to the school year we have had! Firstly, I would like to introduce myself: my name is Samantha Wilson-Hamilton (Miss Sam to the children), and it is my pleasure to be teaching in Room 11 this year. We also have Mrs McEvatt, Mrs Hanney, Mrs Kew and Mrs O who are all Education Assistants in our classroom.

We have been getting to know each other over the past few weeks and are all enjoying being back at school. We have been doing literacy and numeracy rotations in our class which have proved to be very successful, with the students producing some fantastic work and learning to navigate around the different stations.

During fitness time we have been playing dodge ball which is a favourite of everyone, for which part of the focus is on good sportsmanship. The children love to win, however we have also been focussing on the fact that it is okay to lose a game, there is always next time.

Riverside ESC has a whole-school Positive Behaviour support system in place, whereby the students earn points for being "A good learner", "Safe at school" and "Showing kindness and respect". The children can earn points for each category and will be rewarded with a certificate once they achieve a certain number of points.

Harmony Day is coming up on Thursday 21st March, and also on the same day in our class we will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day, the theme of which is "Rock your Socks". Our students will each decorate a pair of socks to wear on this very special day.

Cooking lessons are taking place every Wednesday in Room 11, using some great recipes to make delicious food that we have all enjoyed. Doing this is helping to teach the students about healthy eating, hygiene, socially acceptable eating skills and measurement.



We look forward to the rest of this wonderful term.

Samantha, Leanne, Lauren, Maxine and Oxana!

Bullying. No way! National Day of Action

On the 15th of March we are participating in the national day of action against bullying. The theme for 2019 is Bullying. No way! Take action every day. All classes will participate in an activity that addresses strategies to prevent and deal with bullying in our community. Students, families and schools are empowered to be part of the solution when addressing bullying. We aim to support safer communities for everyone.



Each family will receive a student and parent information pocket card that can support you to talk with your child about how to address bullying in the community. We're excited to develop our students to be strong and kind individuals who accept and embrace the differences of others.

If you have specific concerns about your child at school, please contact the class teacher, then the principal of your school. If you want to speak to someone else about your child, contact the parent line in your area.



Parenting Western Australia Line

<http://www.childprotection.wa.gov.au>
 (08) 9223 1100 or 1800 643 000 (free for STD callers)
 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

<https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/nationalday> (photo reference website)

SCHOOL TERMS ~ SEMESTER 1 2019

Term 1: Monday 4th February – Friday 12th April
 Term 2: Tuesday 30th April – Friday 5th July

ROOM 33

What a wonderful start we have had to 2019. Our class is such a delight to teach and the students in Room 33 have already adjusted to school routines and are working hard at their Maths and English learning stations. We have 5 stations set up for maths rotations, where they are learning about money, time, fractions and number. Our English rotations consist of handwriting, spelling, comprehension and games.

On Monday 25th February we had a wonderful parent afternoon tea. This gave our parents the opportunity to see how our learning rotations work, understand the classroom reward system and meet all the wonderful staff of Room 33. It was nice to see the parents chat to one another also while enjoying a lovely cuppa and cake.

Measurement is the focus of Maths this semester. Students have been practicing using a ruler to measure the length of objects as well as using scales to read the weight of different objects.

This year we also welcomed a new teacher Mrs Seidel. She is teaching our class HASS once a week. Students are busy learning about the States and Territories of Australia and iconic things that represent them. As you will know, Western Australia is represented by the Red and Green Kangaroo Paw and the Black Swan. We are also comparing Australia to other countries.

We look forward to our next newsletter where we will be able to fill you in about more of the wonderful things we have learned and are learning.

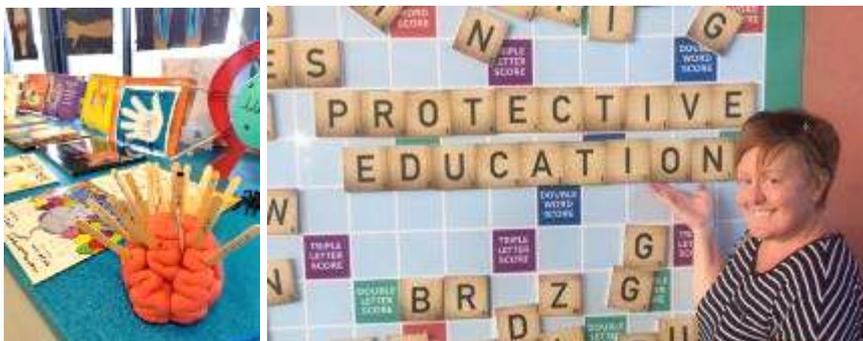
Holly (left) demonstrates her measuring dog.

Focus (right) achieved 100% on his spelling test.



Protective Behaviours School Support Program

In 2015 Riverside Education Support Centre was selected to be a teacher development school in the area of Protective Behaviours. Protective Behaviours forms part of the Health curriculum and is a personal safety and boundary setting program that aims to help students identify when they are unsafe and what to do if they are unsafe.



Road School and locally at Lakelands Primary School.

Members of our staff have visited schools and conferences across the state to share our expertise. We have travelled as far as Kalgoorlie, Kununurra, Broome and have made many trips to metropolitan schools. The start of this year saw us at Spearwood Primary, Durham

Room 10

Hello families,

Room 10 have had a fantastic start to the year! It is hard to believe that we are half way through the first term already. I would like to thank all parents, carers and relatives of students who attended our afternoon tea last week. It was fantastic to see so many faces and get to chat to you all. We hope to have another afternoon tea later in the year.

Room 10 students have demonstrated enthusiasm for all our class activities. One of their favourites is the 'Champion Life' Health and Wellbeing program. Students have been completing daily challenges and uploading recordings of them doing so onto their personal profile. We had a fun and interactive assembly presentation from the Champion Life team in week 4 which was enjoyed by all of the students.

We have a number of things to look forward to in the second half of this term, including Bullying No Way! Day, Harmony Day and our whole school Beach Fun Day! Students are encouraged to wear orange on Thursday 21st March to represent cultural respect for all. I look forward to sharing with you how the students enjoyed these days in our following newsletter.

Well done to all room 10 superstars and a huge thanks to all parents, carers and families for your support.

Mrs Cairns



IS YOUR PERSONAL and EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

If you have changed your address, your phone contact details, your emergency contacts, or anything else that will limit our ability to contact you please call into our school office with your new details.

Alternatively, phone them through to our office 9534 0328 or email to riverside.esc@education.wa.edu.au.

CHAPLAINS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Chaplains make a difference in the lives of students, their families and school communities through fostering healthy relationships and creating positive environments. YouthCARE chaplains are highly trained and accredited professionals who care for the social, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of students, families and staff. This support helps students to achieve their full potential, both academically and in their social and family lives.

As the Chaplain at Riverside Education Support Centre, I am here to listen and provide non-judgemental support and encouragement for the entire school community including students, staff, parents and caregivers, regardless of their issues, beliefs or world views.

My role is also to be a link between the school and the wider community. Where required, I refer you on to the appropriate community based support services and organisations which can provide further assistance.

If you would like to have a chat with me or discuss any concerns you have about your child, please contact administration at Riverside ESC to make an appointment.

Lisa Ferraro, Chaplain

PLAY 2 TALK



Play 2 Talk supports and encourages families that include children with additional needs and their neurotypical siblings to get out the door and come together to play.

Play 2 Talk arranges monthly get-togethers and events. They seek to overcome those often invisible social barriers that limit opportunities for meaningful and playful engagement.

Founders Nicole and Amber say their mission is to help children of all ages learn valuable conversational and social skills during play while enabling their parents and carers to meet in a safe environment.

The Group numbers more than 120 members and last week celebrated its 1st anniversary. Members range from parents to carers to grandparents and aunts to local business people who assist with the events. Find out about Play 2 Talk by contacting Amber and Nicole at:

- Facebook – [Play 2 Talk](#) (a closed group)
- Email – Play2TalkSocial@gmail.com

STATE DISABILITY PLAN - COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The next phase of consultation around development of the State Disability Plan is about to commence.

There will be a series of community workshops taking place across WA, where you can come along and have your say. These workshops are open to everyone including people with disability, family and carers, and those working in the disability/ community services sector or government.

The next workshop in our area is:

Mandurah Thursday 28 March 4:30pm to 6:30pm

The session will focus on defining the values of the State Disability Plan as well as the attitudes and behaviours that will support better inclusion for people with disability throughout Western Australia. It will also look at the broad themes and priorities that you want to see included in the Plan.

Visit <http://state-disability-plan.eventbrite.com.au> for further details about workshops and to register.

This page is being regularly updated as sessions are confirmed, and you can also find information on the [Disability Services facebook](#) page.

Pre-registration is essential. If you have any issues booking through Eventbrite please contact our team.

We hope to see you at a workshop soon, but for those unable to make it to one of these sessions, there will be other opportunities to provide input and contribute to ongoing discussions around the State Disability Plan.

For further information visit www.communities.wa.gov.au/state-disability-plan or contact us at statedisabilityplan@communities.wa.gov.au or 6167 8899.

IMPORTANT

Our school participates in the Enviro Rangers Program which focuses on limiting paper wastage and paper recycling. Therefore, future newsletter will be distributed via email.

Please ensure we have your correct email address on file. If you do not have an email address, we are more than happy to print a copy for you. Please let the office know.
