

Riverside ESC Newsletter



Issue 1 2022

PRINCIPAL COMMENTS



Hello to everyone,

Welcome back to the 2022 school year. It has been a busy time and students seem to be settling in well to their classrooms. This Term is proving to be one of challenge as we navigate through these COVID times and the subsequent operational restrictions. I do appreciate your understanding and patience. It is my aim to ensure that everyone in the school is kept safe and my decisions will always reflect that.

COVID-19: Level 2 restrictions will be in place from Thursday 3rd March. This includes wearing a mask for students from Years 3-6 in our school setting. The position of the school is this:

- Where possible students who can tolerate wearing a mask throughout the school day will be expected to wear one.
- Based on medical advice exemptions will be honoured.
- Based on a student's capacity and disability profile a common sense approach will be taken as to whether a student cannot tolerate wearing a mask (no medical exemption required).

Please continue to be diligent and follow the current health advice. I am happy to discuss your individual case if required. Do bear in mind that the WA Government mask mandate is for all indoor spaces and not specific to just schools; any exemption I may approve will not apply outside of school.

Student Illness: If your child is sick or showing signs of illness, please have them stay home to avoid the possible spread of infection. As usual, contact the school to let us know of any absence.

School Board & P&C: Both the School Board and P&C are looking for parent help and representation from ESC. If you are interested in joining either or both please contact the school. I encourage you to read their reports on the following pages.
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2022 is Underway



Room 35 takes to horseback learning.



The start of a new school year is always momentous. (Room 19)

Staff Changes: I would like to welcome two new teachers to Riverside ESC: Mrs Sasha Blockley and Mrs Sharon Delaporte. We also say goodbye to one of our long standing Education Assistants, Julie Hiron, who has recently retired.

Parent/Carer Information: If there are any changes to your information (address, phone numbers, etc.), please advise our school officer, Tara. This vital information means we can reach out to you in event of a situation arising.

Best regards, Jim Douglas, Principal

Riverside Schools' Board Chair Report – Dr Alison Soerensen

How it all began ...

Having just dropped my eldest daughter to class, I heard the words, "Dr Soerensen! Do you have a minute?"

I smile and nod as my heart sinks. *Please, not another school yard consult! My rooms are just across the oval!*

"Have you thought about joining the school board?"

A wave of relief rushes over me and despite having recently reprimanded myself to stop taking on more commitments, I find myself intrigued. A little over a month later, not only had I joined the Riverside Schools' Board, I found myself the newly elected Chair.



The role of a school board is to take part in the shaping and monitoring of the school's objectives, priorities, and general policy directions. As co-located schools, Riverside Primary School and Riverside Education Support Centre have a combined Board made up of parent, community, and staff representatives from each school. The fundamental purpose of the board is to enable parents and members of the community to engage in activities that are in the best interests of all students and enhance the education provided by the schools.

So, if you are passionate about helping achieve great outcomes for our students and you have a couple of hours to spare on a Monday evening every 6 weeks or so, perhaps you'd like to consider joining the Riverside Schools' Board?

Please contact Principals Cherie Dobbs or Jim Douglas for more information about the Board, or feel free to approach me outside Room 15 most mornings. (And if it's about a medical issue, you'll get a much better service if you find me at Murray Medical Centre instead 😊)

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much" – Helen Keller

Offers of Support from Mandurah Community Organisations – as communicated to the Schools Board

Wendy Wiley (Soroptimist International Mandurah) is interested to provide support to families in need of textbooks/stationary/school bags etc. Contact details: 0417 940 112 or wwiley@live.com.au.

Variety WA is interested in supporting local families who need support for modification of their homes or vehicles for children with disabilities. Contact Brad Dean 9535 1566 or brad.dean@bdrbusiness.com.au.

RESC Email: riverside.esc@det.wa.edu.au Ph.: (08) 9583 2428 Website: www.riversideesc.wa.edu.au

P & C President – Mrs Viv Cantem

P&C Email: riversidepandc@mail.tidyhq.com

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Riverside Schools P & C Update

Hello everyone,

Welcome back everyone to the new school year. The P&C hopes everyone has had a smooth start and your children are transitioning well to their new classrooms.

We continue to work hard to fill the role of Canteen manager. Three interviews have been conducted with no successful applicant thus far. We are keen to find the right person so the application and interview process is not being rushed. In the meantime, the Executive Committee has employed two casual staff members to cover the days the canteen is open.

The Canteen also has five new vaccinated volunteers who have come on board this Term. This is a great start for the year and we are hoping that more parents will think about helping out this year.

Some changes have been made to how students access the Canteen. Letters explaining these changes were circulated to families and the early response to the online system has been very positive. The changes and our communications to parents are supported by Facebook posts and by the support of both schools' teaching and administration staff.

With all the fresh ideas coming forward from our Executive Committee members, we are excited to report very positive feedback from students who are loving the variety of recess items available and the new slushy machine.

Regrettably, there will be price increases next term as many suppliers have raised their costs. Due to the low availability of some product lines from our regular supermarket, we have had to shop around for supplies and are working hard to keep prices as low as possible.

This year our focus is going to be on cooking fresh meals from recipes, more healthier options for Recess and Lunch and raising our Menu percentage from its current 60 green and 40 Amber. We also aim to develop a catering menu and have breakfast and lunch available to teachers on staff development days.

We give a big shout out to Kerriane who has helped run the canteen during these first weeks of 2022. Ordering stock, developing the menu, recruiting volunteers, interviewing applicants, contacting suppliers, all while working in the canteen herself, taking care of her Treasurer's responsibilities and running her own family business with her husband. She is a marvel!

As president, I would also like to acknowledge my hard working Executive Team who have stepped in when needed, every little bit helps us provide what we can for all students of Riverside Schools.

Our AGM is coming up next month and with that comes concerns on whether we will fill all our Office Bearer positions. **Please, everyone, take the time to think about whom you could encourage to join our P & C.**

Best regards,

Vivienne Cantem

President, Riverside Schools P&C Association (Inc.)

Email: riversidepandc@mail.tidyhq.com

Hello from our Administration Team

Families of our older students will already know us, however newer families may not have had the opportunity to greet all members of the ESC administration team. So here is a short introduction.

Tara Yates (pictured) is our wonderful **School Officer** and the first friendly face you see when you come into the school office. As you all know, a well functioning front office is crucial to quality operations and Tara welcomes every opportunity to serve the best interests of our students. Tara has been with us since the end of 2018.



Principal Jim Douglas was appointed Principal of Riverside ESC in 2012 and looks forward to marking 10 years of leadership in October. He came to Riverside after a teaching stint at Career Enterprise Centre (now John Tonkin College). As Principal he oversees all RESC operations, liaises with Riverside PS to promote whole-school integration and sits on the School Board.

Deputy Principal Tamarra Rekman began professional duties at RESC in 2003 (20 years next year!). She was appointed Manager Student Services in 2014 and Deputy Principal in 2017. Her primary functions relate to management of enrolments and family liaison.

Janet Marter, Manager Corporate Services, is in charge of all systems pertaining to finance and corporate management. As line manager for more than 30 staff, Janet plays a key role in daily operations. She began her school administration career at Riverside Primary in 2001 before moving across to Education Support in 2006.

Rebecca Whiteley recently returned from maternity leave to take up her part-time role of **Manager Student Services** in the latter part of 2021. She has previously taught at Riverside ESC for several years. As an education leadership aspirant, Rebecca also has responsibility for curriculum and policy development.

David Perry provides a variety of services to the school on a part-time basis, ranging from website management, marketing, contributions to reporting and policy, and professional support based on his past experience managing a K-12 private school in NSW. He also provides occasional technical and relief support for Admin and has been part of the team since 2009.

Although not part of our administration team, we would like to acknowledge the sterling work of Janet English (property maintenance), Jodie Batterbee (head of cleaning) and Wayne Heal (Day cleaner). If you see them on site, take a moment to chat with them about their critical roles, without which all our tasks would be that much more challenging.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 07 - Labour Day (Public Holiday)

March 21 – Riverside Schools Board Meeting

March 29 - Riverside Schools P&C AGM

April 09 - Start of School Holidays

April 25 - ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)

April 26 - Staff Professional Development Day
(no students)

April 27 - Students commence Term 2

ROOM 31

Hello to all Parents and Carers associated with Room 31.

This year we have the pleasure of welcoming back the Ahern, Pierce and Yeoman families as Emma, Matthew and Nate enter our pre-primary group. I am also happy to welcome, on behalf of all staff in Room 31, the Cairns, Dechan, Jarman and Sharland families as Elijah, Jayce, Jai and Aidan begin their Kindergarten year with us.

I personally would also like to welcome back our Education Assistants: Mrs Kathryn Irvine, Mrs Florina Scott and Miss Mikayla Raabe. All three bring great empathy, high windows of tolerance and unconditional positive regard to their roles. I could not ask for more professional staff to support our students.

One of our classroom foci is establishing routine for our students. It is vital in aiding the children to develop feelings of safety and security, which in turn supports the ongoing development of the relationships between staff and students. Importantly, these relationships support the children in co-regulating with staff when they themselves are dysregulated. Our students are currently still overwhelmed somewhat by the whole school experience, and we are supporting them as they adjust to not being able to go where they want to go or do whatever they want to do. This takes a great deal of time, patience and empathy, as our students begin to adjust to another of our foci - developing behaviours that enable them to function more independently, as well as part of a group, in the classroom.

Our third focus for this semester is Communication. Our students are usually able to understand more than they can express. To support the development of both receptive and expressive language, we have introduced the PODD, (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display), a visual communication modality that uses pictures to represent words. It has been incredibly pleasing to see a number of our students already attending to the PODD and using it expressively. When a student can communicate, we observe less frustration and thus, more socially acceptable behaviour.

We look forward to bringing you updates of our students and our classroom as the school year progresses.

Glen Webber

*Nate has been exploring the Home Corner.
As snazzy as he looks, it's his wonderful eye contact
that is the highlight of this photograph!*



ROOM 32

A warm welcome to the new and returned students and families in Room 32!

We look forward to working with each one of you to foster and develop the emotional resilience and needs of each student.

The staff and students have been extremely busy getting to know each other in our room. It has been wonderful to see the smiles and communication between others whilst creating positive friendships with each other. This term we have been focusing on relationships, routines, following instructions, fine motor skills, body movement, feelings, feeling safe, number patterns and sound recognition. The students are enjoying using art and sensory activities to consolidate their learning. We are especially enjoying creating the characters from our stories, using play dough.



We have loved starting our cooking program, and the students especially enjoyed making, eating and sharing their chocolate cookies with their families. Over the semester, we will be focusing on meals for breakfast as well as different actions that we use when buttering and cutting our toast.

With the constant changes in the weather, we have noticed some illness creeping into the classroom. To help reduce the spreading of any germs we are focusing on thoroughly washing our hands with soap and water, coughing and sneezing into our elbows and blowing our nose. We kindly ask that if students are sick, that they take the time at home to rest and recover to ensure they come back to school healthy and ready to learn.

As a team, we are here to support you in whatever way we can. If there is anything we can do, please let us know.

Room 32 is such a wonderful room to teach, and we look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Mrs Wardle

SCHOOL WATCH – AN ALERT COMMUNITY

If you live near a school and see or hear suspicious behaviour, immediately telephone School Watch Security on 1800 177 777 or Police on 131 444.

ROOM 35

Hello to all families of Room 35.

What a very busy start to 2022 it has been! Room 35 students have settled in well to their new classroom and have been enjoying getting to know their new classmates, teacher and education assistants. Mrs Tilbee continues as an education assistant in Room 35 and we have welcomed Mrs Sumner and Mrs Williamson to our team this term.

Students have been working hard in class revising previously learnt skills and learning new ones. They are particularly enjoying Media Arts where they are discovering character types such as heroes and villains, and exploring the use of colour and sound to create feelings.

Horse riding started in week 3 and is an excursion we all look forward to and enjoy. Students are learning about grooming, leading and feeding horses, and are excited to get to know all the horses before riding them. In the coming weeks, students will complete various activities on horseback while being led by a trainer.

We are all looking forward to a busy and productive term ahead!

Mrs Margot, Mrs Tilbee, Mrs Sumner & Mrs Williamson



ROOM 19

Welcome parents, families and carers of the children in Room 19. It has been a pleasure to meet or speak with you over the last few weeks and get to know your child. Everyone is settling into their new classroom and to the school routines fantastically well as we get this busy and exciting year underway.

This term we are focusing on routines, following instructions, developing fine motor skills, sharing and



communicating with each other. It has been wonderful to see how happy the students are to come to school.

In Room 19, we love to listen to music and sing or clap along. The students enjoy using their hands to make numbers and letters and other sensory activities to help them to learn new things. We have loved listening to *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and especially enjoyed acting out the life cycle of the caterpillar!



We're looking forward to the rest of a fun packed term.

Mrs Blockley, Ms Punch, Miss Hamilton, Ms Steinbacher and Miss Smith!

ROOM 11

Dear Families and Carers, hello to everyone associated with the Year 3-4 class in Room 11. It has been so much fun getting to know your children and a pleasure building a relationship with you over these first few weeks.

As the year settled into its daily routine, our class cohort underwent a few changes that will benefit all students concerned. It reflects Riverside's ongoing process of review and evaluation to ensure every child is provided the opportunity to maximise their learning.

Swimming in weeks 3 and 4 at beautiful Avalon Beach in Falcon has been a source of excitement for those participating. All of the students have made exciting progress with their confidence in the water—well done!



Week 6 will see Basketball commencing as our whole school sport.

Each week the class enjoys cooking. This is a fun learning activity which all students participate in measuring, mixing and naturally the best part - the eating of our creations. So far, the students have made peppermint playdough (not for consumption), individual pizzas and multi-topped bread shapes. We have many and varied exciting recipes to come.



The aim of the teaching staff is that Room 11 will establish an environment to which your child will be happy to come each day and will feel safe, stimulated and contented. Already, we are making progress.

If there is anything you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to write in your child's communication book. Due to the COVID measures in place at Riverside telephone meetings are the preferred choice for communication.

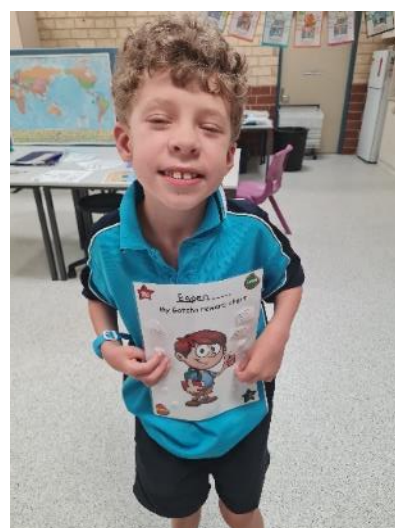
I look forward to a great semester and hopefully COVID won't interfere too much with our learning.

Sharon Delaporte

ROOM 33

A big hello to the parents and carers of Room 33. We have had a fantastic start to 2022, just completing 2 weeks of swimming lessons at Avalon beach. The students had a fabulous time in what has been our hottest summer on record. They followed instructions and tried their hardest learning new skills and how to stay safe at the beach.

This year we have started earning 'Gotcha' tickets in our classroom. It is part of the Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) program adopted by both Riverside schools. If students demonstrate hard work, good listening skills, consideration and positivity they earn one 'gotcha' ticket. Ten 'Gotcha' tickets on their reward chart and they earn 20 minutes of a chosen reward such as playing games.



Espen shows off his 'Gotcha' reward chart.

This semester we are working on Measurement and Geometry. Students have been using a ruler to measure length in centimetres. Some of our students are ordering lengths while others are

measuring to the nearest half centimetre or decimal. I am very impressed with how their skills have come on from last year.



Leah is showing her Protective Behaviours caterpillar.

In Health, we have revisited concept circles. Students made a caterpillar of themselves and each colour represented the concept colours and who belongs in each colour. For example, some students placed their Mum or Dad in their blue 'love hug' circle, and placed myself or another teacher in their yellow 'Hi-five' circle. Over the term, we will continue to revisit concepts such as private and public body parts as well as look deeper into safe and unsafe secrets.

Finally, in Media Arts we have been looking at logos. We identified what a variety of different logos were promoting and selling as well as matching the logos to their products. It was surprising to see how well all of the students in Room 33 knew logos, such as the Nike tick represented running shoes. We will continue to explore this further and create our own logo to sell a product.

Now that swimming is over, we are excited to get our teeth in to lots more learning. Until our next up date, keep smiling and staying cool.

Mrs Hart and the EA team of Room 33

ROOM 36

Hi parents and carers of students in Room 36. We have had a wonderful start to the year! The first two weeks were filled with fun getting to know each other activities and base line testing to see where your child is at academically. The children did not take long to transition to being in their next year of primary school in Room 36. They have settled in well to routines and understand the behaviour expectations of our classroom. I am confident it is going to be a great year.

This year we have seven students in our classroom and two education assistants, Sanchia Shepherd and Jenny Vincent. Relationships have been a large focus of the first few weeks. We have had friendships form amongst students and educators have established a strong rapport with the class. We are all excited for the wonderful year ahead together.



Ella and Paige enjoying swimming lessons at Avalon Beach.

Weeks 3 and 4 have been spent enjoying the sun at Avalon Beach while participating in swimming lessons. Our students have been enjoying learning to swim and learning about beach safety with their swimming teachers. I am very proud of all students. Swimming lessons is an exhausting time of the year but they all still manage to engage in their academic work when they get back to class.

Thank you to all parents and carers for participating in IEP Meetings. I look forward to the day in the not so distant future where you can come into the classroom and see all of your child's wonderful work! I know they will be so proud to show you.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Ashlee Scholz

ROOM 37

It has been a fantastic start to the year, with all of the children settling in to their new class beautifully. The students have returned ready and rearing to learn with an excellent attitude towards being in the senior class.

Our semester started off with a splash as we visited Avalon Beach for our school swimming lessons. The lessons were a huge success and all of the students have progressed through their swimming skills. We were extremely proud of their behaviour both on the bus, and at the beach as they represented Riverside ESC with pride. Congratulations to those children who passed their swimming level.



In Protective Behaviours, we have been looking at Cyber Safety. We have been talking about the importance of 'Online Footprints' and being mindful of the things we say and do online. We learnt



that our activity online should always be respectful and safe towards ourselves and others. We learnt about the websites and apps that we should not be accessing under 13 years of age and which ones are appropriate for students.

Thank you for all of your ongoing hard work and support as we work together to achieve wonderful things!

Mrs Gibson, Mrs Green, Mrs Reid, Mrs Hanney

ROOM 10

Hello families and carers,

Welcome back to school. What a hot start to the school year we have had. Lucky for us swimming lessons in weeks 3 and 4 gave everyone a welcome break at Avalon Beach.

Students have settled well into their new class and are working hard despite the heat. During our English sessions, we are looking at narrative writing. Students are reading a simple narrative and breaking it down to see the elements that story writing use to create narratives. They are then using a framework to create their own story. The students are very creative and are beginning to use some great descriptive words to give the reader a clear picture of what is happening within their stories.

Following reading testing students have been group into levels for guided reading. Guided reading is an instructional approach with a focus on meaning and problem solving strategies. Activities include word meaning, sentence structures, grammar and punctuation as well as and focusing on the characters and setting of the story. Guided reading also supports student's writing through story maps and modelled retelling activities leading to students being able to retell the story and write their own narrative. Students are enjoying the group activity and are able to support and their peers thus increasing their own knowledge.

Students are working hard to show demonstration of our PBS values – Respect, Inclusive, Safe and Engaged. Lots of activities were completed during week one so students could gain a good understanding of what the expectations of our class and school look like. Students demonstrating our class and school values earn tickets towards canteen vouchers as well as earning reward time during the class. It is great to see these values being demonstrated not only in class but around the school. Room 10 students are certainly providing a good role model to the younger students within our school.

It has been wonderful to chat with all of our parents and guardians about classroom routines and setting of goals for this semester. Unfortunately, due to COVID19 guidelines we were not able to meet face to face but I thank every family for their ongoing support particularly during these very different times. Student IEP goals are almost set and plans are now being developed to assist students in working towards achieving these goals.

ROOM 4

Hello to all parents, families and carers of children in Room 4.

For those of you we worked with in 2021, we would like to welcome you back to our classroom and we look forward to seeing the progress your children make throughout this year. To those of you who are new to Room 4 we welcome you to our class community and we look forward to getting to know you and working together for the benefit of your children.

We have had an amazing start to the year so far and Room 4 is now a Year 3 and Year 4 class. We have 7 enthusiastic boys who have settled in well to the new school year in a new classroom with

new routines. It has been great to see the friendships with the children start to develop. They have loved being able to go and play out on the oval at recess and lunchtime now.

On Monday 14th February, we started our 2 weeks of swimming lessons at Avalon Beach. The students have enjoyed the bus trips to and from the beach and we have talked about the suburbs and shops we pass on our way. They have also learnt about sun safety and water safety at the beach, which they have applied during their time at the beach. Sadly, our two weeks of swimming lessons have come to an end but we all had such an amazing time at the beach each day.

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who made time for their children's IEP meetings. We have been busy in the classroom doing some testing and activities in all of our subject areas to develop your children's IEP goals for the semester.

We look forward to keeping you updated on Room 4's activities as the year progresses.

Miss Carvell



2022 VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

Each year, families and carers are invited to pay a voluntary contribution that assists our school acquire additional classroom resources. While it is a choice to pay, the higher the number of contributions received the more effectively can the acquisition program benefit all our students.

Already, several families have contributed and we extend to you our sincere thanks. We seek everyone's support to raise the participation level to as close to 100% as possible.

For ease of payment, EFT is available by speaking to our office personnel.



**Every Contribution received
assists Every Student.**

Bunuru—season of adolescence

Acknowledgement: Information is from Bureau of Meteorology. Images sourced independently.

Second summer: February-March

Central theme: Coast living and fishing time.

Representative colour: Orange



Bunuru is the hottest time of the year with little to no rain. Hot easterly winds continue with a cooling sea breeze most afternoons if you are close to the coast. Therefore, traditionally this was, and still is, a great time for living and fishing by the coast, rivers and estuaries. Because of this, freshwater foods and seafood made up major parts of the diet during this time of year.

Bunuru is also a time of the white flowers with lots of white flowering gums in full bloom, including Jarrah, Marri and Ghost Gums.

Another striking flower that is hard to go past is the female *Zamia* (*Macrozamia riedlei*). Being much larger than that of its male counterpart, the huge cones emerge from the centre of the plant with masses of a cotton wool like substance.

As the hot, dry weather continues the seed upon the cones change from green to bright red, indicating they're ripening and becoming more attractive to animals, particularly the emu, that will eat the toxic fleshy outer.

