

Riverside ESC Newsletter

Issue 2 2022



PRINCIPAL COMMENTS



Hello to everyone,

COVID-19 remains at the forefront of our attention as Term 1 enters its final weeks. Riverside Schools has experienced a steady flow of staff and student infections and every care is being extended to keep ESC community safe. This is particularly important for the many students who attend with immune-compromised health.

Our pandemic measures are formulated by the Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Health. Their imposition is not for us to judge but to carry out to the best of our ability. The words of understanding and affirmative actions from so many of you to calls advising infection present in some classrooms has been heart-warming and reassuring, thank you.

Premier McGowan has announced some easing of public health and social measures which come into effect from Thursday 31 March. For schools there is little to no change - masks are still required indoors for adults and children Year 3 and above, unless exempted.

The Department provided guidance via a scenario that is typically arising in schools, adapted here for this newsletter:

James is a primary school student in Year 2. His dad finds out he is COVID-19 positive. James's mum rings the school to advise the principal. Should James be sent home immediately?

Yes, as James is a household close contact, he should go home to isolate and get tested. As he is a household close contact, he is unable to attend school for the 7-day isolation period.

The principal does not need to inform the Year 2 class, as James has not been identified as COVID-19 positive.

NEW LOGO

Riverside Schools has over several months worked with a commercial designer to come up with a contemporary depiction of its place in Mandurah, the changes that have occurred since inception in 1995, and its success as an integrated school campus.

Led by Principal Cherie Dobbs of RPS and with the support of Principal Jim Douglas and the Schools Board, the project has delivered an exciting new logo and motto in current school colours of blue, aqua and white.

Conforming to a common template, there are three new logos for Riverside Schools, Riverside PS and Riverside ESC.



They portray the campus as the beginning of every student's journey (blue shape at bottom) and migrates outward and upward through the primary years.

(continued Page 2).

Note: students identified as close contacts (non-household) can continue to attend school if identified as a close contact during the day and do not need to be sent home. They still need to get tested within 24 hours.

Student Illness: We remind parents of the importance of keeping your child home if they are sick. Regrettably, there are currently several students who have experienced diarrhoea, a possible but not definitive symptom of COVID-19. If in doubt, get your child tested.

Change to Winter: The change of weather indicates cold days are creeping closer and it will soon be time to bring out winter uniforms. We recommend you prepare early to keep your child warm and comfortable.

Holidays soon: Finally, despite the challenges facing us all, there is much to celebrate, not least the wonderful achievements of every one of our students. We wish them and you a safe and joyful school holiday and look forward to seeing you again at the start of Term 2, when students return on April 27th.

Best regards, Jim Douglas, Principal

School Logo continues ...

Beyond the blue lays the edge of the Serpentine River and the river itself, depicted in aqua.

The students in all their celebrated diversity unite on campus in the joy of learning and eventual graduation, like the symbolic butterfly emerging from its cocoon (see top of school logo).

Part of this transition to a new school identity is to acknowledge the creators of the possum logo which has accompanied a full generation of students and their families at Riverside. We remember you with gratitude as we retire the possum.

The new logo will be phased in gradually, including on the school uniform. Stationery has been updated and websites will be amended in the near future. School signage will also change, to the main gate sign and to the school names displayed above the administration building.

Accompanying the change of logo is a replacement for our foundation motto 'Truth, Pride and Friendship'. The word 'Thrive' suggests positive growth which can only happen in a safe, nurturing environment. And whether parents, carers or education staff we all know that when a student thrives they 'Learn'. The word 'Together' identifies that both schools are together on one campus and also it is together that students, teachers and the school community achieve the best outcomes.

As Riverside Schools embraces the early years of its second quarter century, we express our hope that these changes will be enthusiastically received and celebrated by the whole school community.



URGENT: RIDING FOR DISABLED NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



Do you have time to volunteer? Currently RDA is having to cancel classes because of a volunteer shortage. "We are truly struggling this year and would hate to have to stop giving this opportunity to our wonderful clients." Phone Dianne Beardmore of RDA WA Murray Mandurah Group on 0490 682 267 to find out more.

Working with Children and National Police checks required - Dianne can assist you to do this. She will also ensure full induction on site so you can learn the ropes and volunteer with safety in mind.

RDA works Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday in Pinjarra and will take as much help as people can spare!

ROOM 31

Hello to all Parents and Carers associated with Room 31.

Incredibly, Term 1 is drawing to a close. As I reflect back over the last 8 weeks, I am reminded of how much our young students have been expected to remember, learn, accept and adapt to. They have met new friends to play alongside, and four new adults who place seemingly unending expectations upon them.

The most important of these expectations relates to our classroom routine; it provides safety, predictability and security for all of our students, and facilitates the building of our relationships with them.

Developmentally, our students enjoy directing their own play. They have been finding it difficult to engage in teacher-lead routines and this has been our challenge this term. I am thus delighted to report that they have become very keen to engage in our music and movement routine. They are learning a plethora of songs and are beginning to select favourites. The students who tend toward self-isolation are seeking to engage with us and asking for more, which is really pleasing. As a result, we are observing more eye-contact, willingness to connect with staff for longer periods and an acceptance of touch.

These positive behavioural changes contribute toward the development of stronger staff/student relationships. When this occurs, we are better able to support our students to co-regulate when dysregulated, and acknowledge and validate their big feelings. Our classroom thus becomes a calmer and more enjoyable place to be.

Jayce (pictured right) has been enjoying the balloons. He now brings them back to staff so he can enjoy watching them zoom around the classroom again and again. Jayce is making so much eye-contact and is now leading us to preferred activities.

Glen Webber



IMPORTANT DATES

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 32

What a busy term we have had in Room 32! We give a warm welcome to two new students in our class: Callum and Alec! Both students have made a fantastic start to their new school and have enjoyed making new friends with their kind nature and big smiles!

During the term we have been reading books about all different kinds of animals: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Edward The Emu*, *Edwina The Emu* and *Pete The Cat*. Our classroom has been a hive of activity with students making their very own butterfly wings, koalas, cockatoos and emus.



We have loved experimenting with all different materials in our sensory play. In these photos, Dominic and Chevie are squirting coloured dye into bi-carb soda to make a volcano.

As the term progresses, our students are learning about their big feelings and how they can make good choices. We are using the "Good Choice Rainbow" to help each student make a good choice with their behaviours so they can move over the rainbow to the pot of gold. Below is Briley's rainbow with one more good choice to go before he was able to visit the sensory room. This has been a fantastic stepping stone for our students as they learn that it is ok to have big feelings but that we can keep our hands to ourselves and keep everyone safe.



As Easter and the school holidays approach, all of us in Room 32 would like to wish our students and their families a safe and relaxing holiday. Try not to eat too much chocolate! We look forward to seeing you all back in Term 2!

Mrs Wardle

ROOM 35



Hello to all families of Room 35. This has been a busy and productive term and students have been working hard towards reaching their learning goals.

Horse riding remains the most popular activity of the week and all students and staff enjoy the outing to beautiful Fairbridge, as well as interacting with the gentle horses.

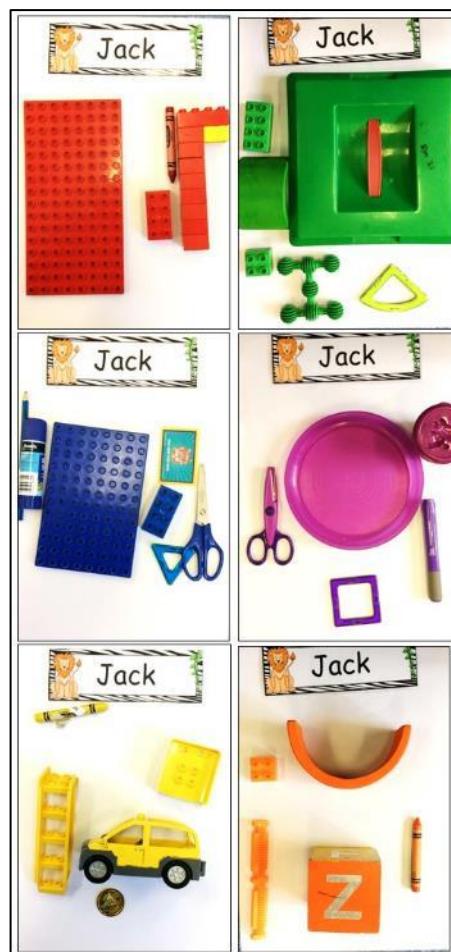
In Media Arts, students have been learning about how colours influence feelings and have started experimenting with photography. They have had fun collecting objects in 6 different colour groups and creating compositions of their objects to photograph. Lovely artworks were created by putting the 6 photographs together in one image.

Students have many opportunities to flex their creative muscles, particularly in construction activities. They use found materials like cardboard boxes, bottle tops, plastic containers and fabric to make anything they like. Some very successful creations have included a city, a garden and a garbage truck.

Easter is just around the corner and our students are looking forward to creating Easter crafts and participating in activities like Easter egg hunting.

We wish all our families a happy and safe holiday!

Mrs Margot



ROOM 19

Hello parents, families and carers of the children in Room 19.

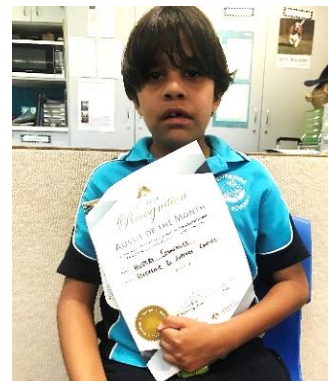
Our students have had such a wonderful term, making friends with each other and exploring our environment. We were lucky to have the special dolls, Ruby and Kai visit us, so we could share our class with them! Logan and Blake enjoyed reading with them.

This term, Hubert was Aussie of the month! Congratulations to Hubert!

In Media Arts, we have used natural items to create collages. These will be collated into a book full of colourful creations.

Students have been learning to count and sort in Mathematics, and have had fun making patterns. They even sorted socks!

Everyone participated in Harmony Day, when students enjoyed colouring in their handprints and loved wearing our crowns!



Thanks for a fantastic term everyone! We can't wait for Easter fun and then Term 2!

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

ROOM 11

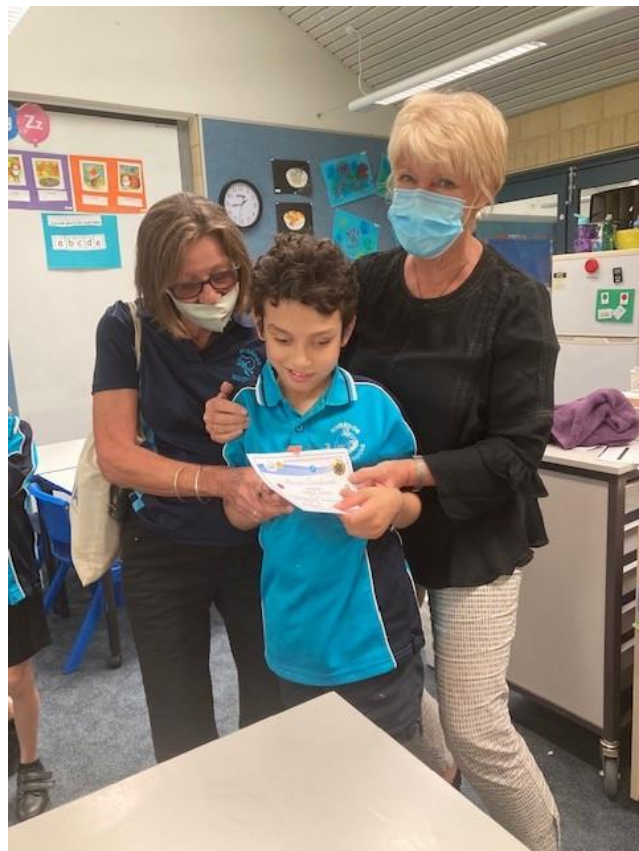
Dear Families and Carers,

Room 11 welcomes a new student, Mason Kerslake, who brings our class enrolment up to 5 wonderful boys.

Another full-time addition to our room is Mrs Williamson, who brings to 3 our team of Education Assistants. Mrs Williamson is familiar with some of our boys and is a most welcome team member.

We have continued our marvellous cooking creations each Wednesday and have been tempting nearby rooms with delicious aromas of cookies, toasties and pizzas. The boys have thoroughly enjoyed these lessons and behave beautifully, stirring, measuring and selecting their ingredients.

Bike riding and road safety is another great outdoor activity we have embarked upon. Each of the boys are now participating and using strength to navigate the bike track.



We have visited the Library each week and everyone is selecting a book and using the new system to scan and check out their choices.

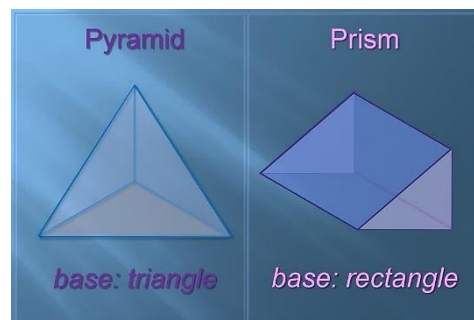
Congratulations to Locky Sutton on receiving our first Merit Certificate of 2022.

During the next 2 weeks we will be focusing on the special upcoming celebration days of Easter and ANZAC Day. Parents will be seeing some very artistic mementos coming home. With only 2 weeks remaining of Term 1 everyone is working hard and looking forward to a well-deserved break.

Sharon Delaporte

ROOM 33

Hi to all the parents and carers of Room 33. Term 1 has been a very busy one and I cannot believe that we only have 2 weeks left until holidays. We are continuing to work very hard both in and out of the classroom. This term we have learnt about 3D shapes and the difference between pyramids and prisms. We have also been looking at where we can find 3D shapes in the environment. Did you know that our desks are shaped like a cube and that the laptops we use at school are shaped like a rectangular prism?



The 17th March is a very significant day in Ireland and is celebrated with a public holiday. We looked at why St Patrick's Day is celebrated and how some people in Australia like to celebrate it too. Mrs Medlam who is from Ireland brought in some different food from her homeland for us to taste, including brown bread, and we made Shamrock biscuits which is the national emblem of Ireland.



The boys showing their leprechaun hats.



Aysha with her shamrock biscuit.

On a Tuesday we are using the school laptops to do spelling activities. All of the students are able to log on to the laptops with minimal support and navigate the mouse to move between activities and do different tasks. I am so extremely proud of how much they have learnt over the past 5 weeks of using this technology. Next term we will continue to complete both spelling and maths activities using the study ladder program on the laptops.

Mrs Hart and the EA team of Room 33

ROOM 36

Hello parents and carers of children in Room 36. I hope this update finds everyone safe and well. We have been extremely busy in Room 36 with our learning programs and working towards our IEP goals. By now you should have all received your child's IEP. Your child has been working hard in class to achieve as many of their goals as possible. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of all our students with their learning. I love seeing the children get excited when they achieve an academic goal that they have been working towards such as mastering their current times table.



This year, we are using the Zones of Regulation in our classroom (pictured above). The Zones of Regulation is a program created to assist children with emotional regulation. Each morning in Room 36, the children complete a check in and state how they are feeling. We want to spend as much of the school day calm and happy as we can. But I teach the students that we also experience times where we are sad, frustrated, angry or scared and this is okay! The students in Room 36 are starting to learn about strategies they can use to regain control of their emotions and move back to the happy and calm zone. These strategies include: going for a walk, using headphones, using a sensory toy, asking for a break or talking to an educator. It has been amazing to see our students utilising our Zones of Regulation wall and I look forward to seeing how their emotional regulation skills develop throughout the year.



On Monday March 21, Riverside Primary Schools celebrated Harmony Day. Room 36 watched a video and had an important discussion where we talked about how everyone belongs in our community. We created human figures that represented the students in the classroom and displayed them on the wall holding hands. We also participated in our whole school hand display. This was a wonderful display and showed the unity in our community at Riverside.

(Above: Tate, Lainee and Paige with their Harmony Day hands)

Stay warm everyone and I hope we can have you in the classroom soon to show off all our students amazing work!

Ashlee

ROOM 37

What an interesting term we have had! Students in Room 37 have been very good with the new rules about wearing the facemasks. Everyone has tried very hard to wear them properly and to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. As we have been learning these important life skills for the future, students have shown resilience and patience with our new hygiene practices.

We also had our first taste of home learning in our classroom room. Student Ollie was enjoying the royal treatment in class due to a quiet classroom. He was most impressed that he was able to sit on the teacher's chair and have some toys on his desk!



In Media Art, we have been looking at different angles. We have been using the laptops to create a digital collage of Perth from bird's eye perspective and we have been practising our computer literacy skills.

In maths, we have been looking at how to measure length, capacity and mass. The students have enjoyed our practical maths lessons learning how to measure and weigh different objects around the room. At right, we have Ayla enjoying using our scales to look at heavy and light objects.

Congratulations to Noah, who has learnt how to tie his own shoelaces!

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

Mrs Gibson, Mrs Green, Mrs Reid, Mrs Hanney



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 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.



Every Contribution assists Every Student

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

ROOM 10

Hello families and carers,

Term 1 is nearly over and we are all looking forward to the two-week break. Room 10 students have been working exceptionally hard across all learning areas and should be very proud of their efforts and achievements.

In English we continue to learn new phonic sounds during spelling activities and are transferring this knowledge into writing and reading activities. Our writing activities have been focusing on narratives. We have been reading short stories and identifying the features that make it a narrative. As writing can be a complex activity and takes time and practice to develop an understanding of the process, we have started writing narratives using a Modelled Writing approach. Modelled writing supports student writing by the teacher demonstrating the planning process, focusing on content, text coherence and cohesion, spelling, grammar, punctuation and a sense of audience and purpose. We have been focusing on the beginning of a narrative ensuring we have a title, orientation (who, when and where) and the complication (what). As confidence grows in understanding the writing process we are seeing longer and more detailed sentences in student writing.

In Math our focus for the last two weeks has been money. Students are grouped into ability levels for our rotations and each student has individual goals they are working towards. At our hands on table we have been learning to count money, give change and work out how to calculate percentage discounts. Worksheets are completed in our second rotation and this allows for students to demonstrate their knowledge of the concepts being taught in a range of different scenarios. Our last rotation is the independent station. Students get to do a fun activity relating to the focus of the week. We have played a money board game and this week we are using calculators to add up coins of different values to match the amount on the 'piggy bank'. The independent station allows students to work together on their speaking and listening skills along with supporting and assisting others.



During Media Art lessons we have been focusing on camera shots and angles. We have looked at different types of shots and angles and why cinema photographers would use them. Students took photos using the IPADs depicting and are now in the process of producing a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating their knowledge. We look forward to seeing all their presentations.

We hope that all our families have a wonderful holiday. Enjoy the time with your children. Stay safe and we will see you in Term 2. Bev Mattin

**HAS YOUR CHILD CHANGED OR STOPPED THEIR MEDICATION?
CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO LET US KNOW, ON 9583 2428.**

ROOM 4

Hello to all parents, families and carers of children in Room 4. We have had a great start to Term 1 and it is hard to believe we are almost at the end of the term already! We have been busy in Room 4 with lots of fun learning activities going on and working towards our IEP goals.

In Design and Technology, we have been learning about food safety when preparing and storing food.

We have been particularly interested in checking our food for their use by or best before dates. We have done an experiment of leaving a piece of bread out to see how long it took for the bread to grow mould on it and what mould looks like. We have also been learning where our food comes from e.g. a plant, an animal or if it is made in a factory.



Every Thursday in English we have been writing an imaginative story by creating a different ending to our traditional fairy tales. So far we have written a story on The Gingerbread man, Jack and the bean stalk, Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks. First, we revise what happens in the traditional fairy tale and who the characters are and then we discuss how we can make the story different. It has been fantastic to see the variety of creative ideas the students have been developing in their stories. On Fridays the students then type up their imaginative stories

during our computer skills session. The computer skills session is normally their favourite lesson they are looking forward to all week.

On Monday 21st of March, we celebrated Harmony Day and participated in a whole school activity of creating a sea of hands by every student decorating their handprint and displaying it with all the other students' hands from the school. The students all enjoyed decorating their handprints using the texters and lots of bright colours. They came up with some words and pictures of what Harmony Day is about to write on to their handprint. The students and the staff all joined in wearing orange clothes for the day.



I hope you all have a fantastic Term 1 school holidays celebrating Easter with your families and I look forward to your return to school in Term 2.

Miss Carvell

Djeran—season of adulthood

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

Autumn: April-May

Central themes: Time to repair housing and shelter
Ant season

Representative colour: Green

The lifestyle for the Nyoongar communities during Djeran:

Djeran season at last sees a break in the really hot weather. A key indicator of the change of season is the cool nights that once again bring a dewy presence for us to discover in the early mornings.



The winds have also changed, especially in their intensity, with light breezes being the go and generally swinging from southerly directions (i.e. southeast to southwest). Many flying ants can be seen cruising around in the light winds.

Djeran is a time of red flowers especially from the Red flowering gum (*Corimbia ficifolia*), as well as the smaller and more petite flowers of the Summer Flame (*Beaufortia aestiva*). As you travel around the Perth area, you may also notice the red 'rust' and seed cones forming on the male and female Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*). Banksias start to display their flowers, ensuring that there are nectar food sources for the many small mammals and birds that rely upon them.

Traditionally, foods at this time of year included the seeds that had been collected and stored for treatment from the Zamia last season along with the root bulbs of the Yanget (Bullrushes), fresh water fish, frogs and turtles.

As the season progresses, the nights will become cooler and damper along with some cool and rainy days which also means that traditionally mia mias (houses or shelters) were now repaired and updated to make sure they were waterproofed and facing in the right direction in readiness for the deep wintery months to come.

