

Hello everyone.

As we come to the close of the 2024 school year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support, partnership, and trust in our school community. Together, we are shaping the future of our students, and your involvement makes a lasting difference in their educational journey.

I would like to thank my dedicated team of staff who consistently provide a nurturing and challenging environment where our students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

There are a few items to communicate to you before year end:

Year 6 students: On Tuesday 10th December our Year 6 students will graduate. I extend my best wishes to all our students and thank them for the memories they are leaving with us. Good luck with high School!

Christmas Raffle: Our Christmas raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 10th December. I would like to thank all the local businesses and Mandurah City Council for donating some fantastic prizes. There is still time to purchase tickets. All winners will be notified and will be able to pick up prizes from the school Admin office. All proceeds will go towards our 2025 school camp.

School Board: Thank you, too, to our current School board members for a productive, engaging and successful year. In 2025 I would like to extend our board membership, please let me know if you are interested.

PODD Signage: You may have noticed new signage on display across the whole school. PODD communication boards have been installed on buildings and at the bicycle track to facilitate positive engagement by non-verbal students and those with limited communication abilities. They engaged with the new signage immediately. Local sign-maker Signarama provided excellent support and advice to achieve this fantastic outcome. (See images next page and on page 9.)

Finally, I thank you all for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to another successful year of collaboration and progress in 2025.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, have a fantastic holiday break.

Kind regards,
Jim Douglas,
Principal



IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Dec 03	Final Canteen Day for 2024	Dec 11	Presentation Assembly
Dec 10	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony	Dec 12	School year ends for students
Dec 10	Raffle draw	Feb 5	Students commence 2025 school year



Communication enhancement across the school



Sport with Miss Carvell

In Sport this term we have been busy developing our ball skills needed for various sports. The Kindy to Year 2 students have enjoyed using our parachute to bounce our bean bag animals into the air and putting them back on when they fall off. Right is a picture of the Room 30 students doing this activity.



The Year 2 - 4 students have been working on their throwing and catching skills and it has been great to see the improvement over the term. Left is Jack from Room 10 concentrating on bouncing his tennis ball on his ball trampoline.



The Year 4 - 6 students have enjoyed playing and learning some new sports. Right are Locky from Room 33 hitting the ball off the tee in a tee ball game, and Jacob from Room 33 who is happily playing with the scoop cup to catch his ball with a partner.

ROOM 31

What a wonderful year it has been in Room 31! The students have worked hard on learning numbers and letters, sounds and writing.

The most satisfying part of the year has been the excellent improvement in how settled, happy and engaged the students are at school. This enjoyment of school is what will see them continue to learn to their maximum ability throughout their school life.

A special thank you to the education assistants in Room 31 – Ms Tonkin, Ms Lyons, and Mrs Donnelly - for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the stars in Room 31.



Mr Williams

ROOM 32

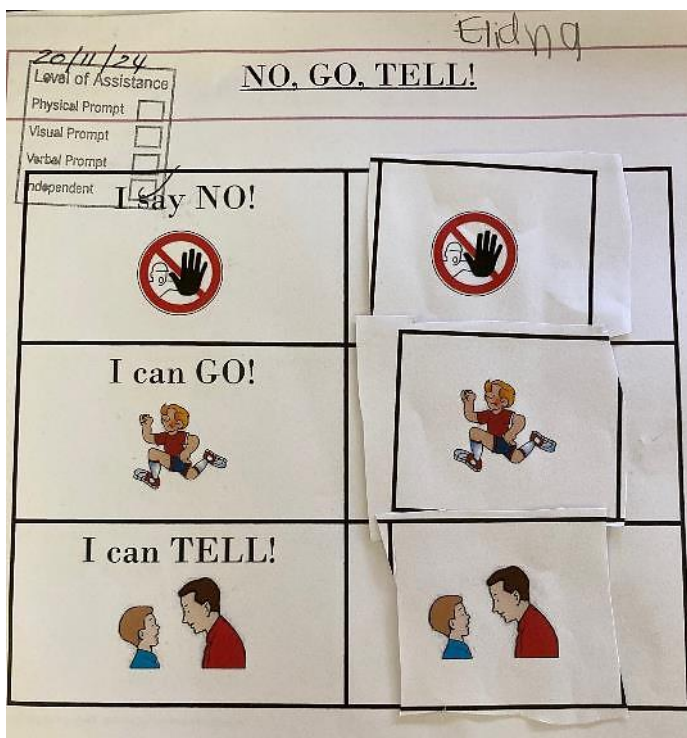
Term 4 is upon us, and our students are super busy!

As we embrace the last of the 2024 school year, we can all confirm with great certainty that this has been a massive term for learning in Room 32!

The pride each of our students has demonstrated at their improved skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening is wonderful. Each and every student has come so far, and you can see by the looks on their faces and by the calibre of their work (right).



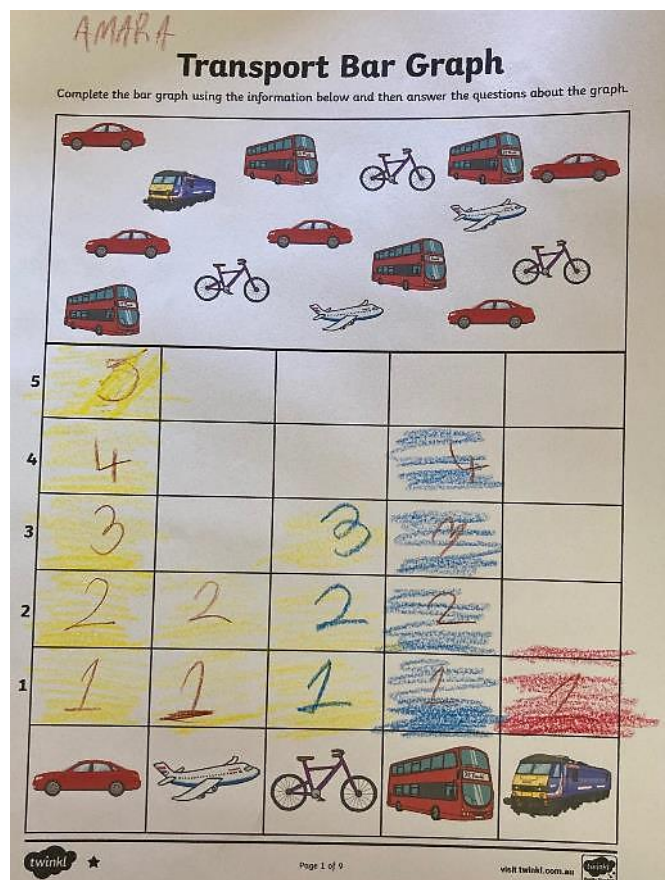
Personal safety is always important for our students. This Semester we have spent a lot of time and effort into showing our students what they can do if they feel unsafe. We have practiced and have now empowered our students in Protective Behaviours sessions using the below process of saying “No!” and “Go” to “Tell” a safe adult if they feel unsafe.



Graphing has been an important part of the learning process for our students this Semester. Being able to interpret data and then present it in graph form has been mastered by many of our students. One example of this is in the image right (from one of our Year One students).

As we approach the end of year and school holiday period, all of the staff wish our students and their families the best for a safe and relaxing break.

Tanya Wardle



ROOM 30



Christmas activities have now started in preparation for the end of year summer holidays. The classroom is looking very festive with Christmas crafts and the decorated tree.

A big thank you to all the students for their hard work during the assessment period. It was very exciting to see the progress from testing in February until now. They all should be very proud of the fantastic results. Parents you will be receiving their final report for the year very shortly. As all work has now been sent home, I hope that your children will take the time to show their workbooks and art portfolio to you. Lots of effort from the students have been put into their learning and it is a very rewarding time sitting with your child looking through all their fantastic work.

The final horse-riding lesson was held in Week 5. Our year 1 students had a fabulous time and have missed the mornings at Fairbridge on the horses. The volunteers were fantastic with our students and really made the mornings special. We thank them for their time and hope they enjoyed a coffee with the biscuits the students gave them as a thank you.

Even though reports have been written, work continues in the classroom – albeit with a Christmas theme! We are learning to read and write words associated with Christmas and completing a wide range of activities that represent all the symbols of Christmas. We have lots of Christmas addition and subtraction sums to work through that lead to a special message or joke. And, aside from formal lessons we have our Christmas cooking – reindeers, snowmen, and trees! This all is very exciting for both students and staff.

We wish all students and families a safe and happy Christmas. Enjoy the summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back for the start of the 2025 school year.

Bev Mattin



ROOM 19

It is nearly the end of the year, time has flown by and it has been a thoroughly enjoyable and productive year in Room 19.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people. Firstly, to my education assistants – a fantastic group of ladies who have supported both myself and the students and just generally make classroom life fun and easy.

A special mention must go to the parents. Thank you for 'loaning' me your most precious gifts this year. They are amazing little people. It has been my absolute privilege to have been able to play a small part in their education.

And finally, to the nine delightful young men who make up Room 19. What a journey we have had together. You have made every day challenging, interesting and fun ... and the best job in the world. Good luck to you all as you continue on your path of learning. Have the best Christmas!



Wishing staff, families and especially our awesome students a wonderful Christmas, and a safe and prosperous 2025.

Michelle Anderson

SCIENCE UPDATE



Hello to all parents, families, and carers.

As we near the end of the year, it is wonderful to reflect on all the science learning this semester. It has been such a pleasure to teach all of the students and see their progress as they have worked hard toward achieving their goals.

This term during science lessons, the students have been gardening and growing seedlings while learning about plant needs and their parts. The students decided on which seeds to grow and it was interesting to predict whether the plant seeds would be large or small before gently planting them into the soil. They were fascinated to see how quickly they could grow each time they cared for the garden. The students in years 4-6 have also been experimenting with the seedlings based on their predictions about changing plant conditions.

Students have also been learning about insects and animals including where they live. We have been going on bug hunts and learning about the macro and micro habitats of different insects. Students practiced their observational drawings and ensured the insects were returned safely to their microhabitats.

We are now creating dioramas of insect and animal habitats and some students are creating their food chain of Australian habitats. The year 5-6's are concluding the semester and consolidating their learning with a research presentation on an animal they have chosen.

Well done to all of the scientists for a fantastic year of science learning!



Miss Cassy

ROOM 37

Another year is almost over and what a busy few weeks it has been in building up to the finish. The students in room 37 have been working so hard to finish their IEP goals and I'm glad to say we have now finished, and reports are completed. Each student has improved in their literacy, maths and health goals and I am proud of how far each of them has come.



In addition to our learning, the past few weeks we have enjoyed some fun activities. Colour Run was a highlight enjoyed by all students who participated. We were the first to run through the course and many stayed on for several laps, getting wetter and more colourful as the laps progressed.

Our Fun Fridays have continued with cooking creations such as oat and milo slice and fried rice. We have also started our Christmas cooking season and have so far made rocky road and

Christmas cookies. Our cooking discussions centre around healthy eating, sometimes food and family traditions. Each week, when we choose our recipe, there is normally at least one or two students who are disappointed with the choice due to their belief that they will not enjoy eating it. During this time, we discuss the importance of trying new foods as well as cooking for others. However, by the time we are serving up on Fridays, most students are keen to sample what we have made and it is unusual that any student decides they do not like the taste. I have also seen an increase in resilience when they decide they do not like it, with statements such as "at least I tried something new". It is such a joy to see the increased engagement, willingness to try new things and overall excitement for all students during our cooking activities.

As we approach the end of 2024, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of Room 37 students for working with me this year to provide a safe and enjoyable learning environment for your children. It has been an absolute joy to work with each of them, the new ones this term, the ones who moved rooms this term, and the three who have remained all year. They have all worked so hard, learnt so much and I will miss them all.

Merry Christmas and endless blessings to you all for 2025 and beyond.

Mrs Sharon Arthur



ROOM 10

As the year draws to the end it is time to reflect on the AMAZING students from Room 10 and what a fun year it has been. It has been a great privilege to help every student grow. Watching their behaviours and their learning in all areas improve and watching them grow their friendships and become the caring group of students they are.

Merry Christmas to all Riverside ESC families.



Kerry Sadler

PODD engagement with Freddie in the Pre-primary zone



ROOM 11

As we approach the end of the semester, it's amazing to reflect on how quickly the year has flown by. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach the students of Room 11 and to connect with parents and caregivers throughout this journey.

The students have worked incredibly hard this semester, and it has been so rewarding to witness their growth and progress. I'd also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff of Room 11, whose support and commitment have helped the students reach their potential.

This semester has been filled with engaging and creative learning experiences. As a class, we had great fun exploring our *Talk for Writing* procedure, *How to Trap a Dragon*. The students demonstrated their creativity by inventing unique characters and designing clever traps for them. In Maths, we've focused on money concepts as well as addition and subtraction. To add some festive cheer, we've also started our Christmas craft activities, which the students have thoroughly enjoyed.



I thank each student for the wonderful year that we have had. I wish you all the very best for 2025!

Enjoy your well-deserved holiday.

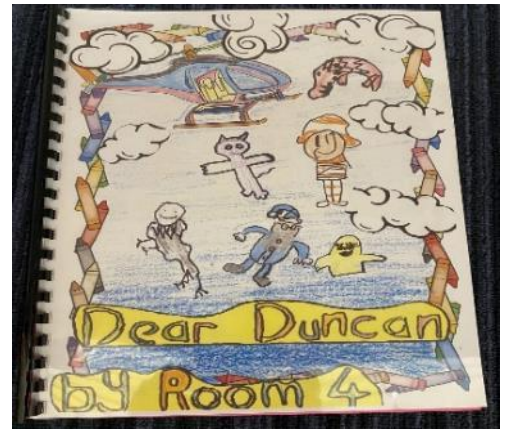
Mrs. Stewart

ROOM 4

The school year is coming to an end and the students have had an amazing year, showing such enthusiasm to learn and as a result they have achieved amazing successes.

This term in design and technology our students have been creating their own games. It has encouraged their creativity as well as understanding rules and fair play skills.

In literacy the students have replied to the character Duncan in relation to the book *The Day the Crayons Quit*. They wrote and illustrated their letters and made them into a book which they were super proud of and presented to Mrs Flannigan, our librarian.



In preparation for Christmas, we have been writing a persuasive letter to the Grinch, and lots of Christmas craft.

In protective behaviours the class has been focusing on keeping safe over Christmas. We have looked at our network hands and concept circle, and how this may vary over the Christmas season.



We thank each student for the wonderful year that we have had. We wish you all and your families a safe and happy Christmas and the very best for 2025. Enjoy your well-deserved holiday.

Tanya Hancock

BIRAK is here

The Noongar Season 'Birak', represented by the colour red as it symbolises heat, sun and fire, takes in the warm days of December and January. During Birak season the rain eases and the warm weather really starts to take hold. The afternoons are cooled by sea breezes from the south west.

Traditionally this was the fire season. An almost clockwork style of easterly winds in the morning and sea breezes in the afternoon meant that this was burning time of the year for Noongar people and they would burn the country in mosaic patterns. Benefits included fuel reduction, increased grazing pastures for animals, aiding seed germination and making it easier to move across the country.

There are many fledglings venturing out of nests in Birak, though some are still staying close to their parents such as magpies and parrots. Reptiles will also be shedding their old skin for a new one.

With the rising temperatures and the decreasing rainfall, it's also a time for the baby frogs to complete their transformation into adulthood.

(Source: ECU)

ROOM 33

Last week we wished Ms Treloyn a happy farewell and a big thank you for her time in Room 33. We've welcomed Ms McCarthy as our classroom teacher for the remainder of 2024. The students remember "Ms M" as their HASS teacher in 2023, and it has been a great week re-connecting with each other.



This week has been filled with lots of Christmas learning, reading, cooking and craft experienced through a range of hands-on activities.

We cooked Reindeer Oreo Chocolate Balls, which tasted super yummy! The students wrote a recipe card including ingredients and utensils used, as well as a step-by-step method so they can re-create the recipe at home if they wish.



To celebrate the lead-up to Christmas, our class read together *Wanda's Christmas Countdown*, an eBook that celebrates the traditional names of our land. The students are learning about different Australian animals and places around our beautiful country.

We continue with a busy end of term with our Year 6 students soon graduating and making the transition to Highschool. It's a very exciting time for all the students in Room 33 with many special events to look forward to as we conclude a fantastic 2024 school year.

Room 33 Staff appreciate your continued support and wish you a very happy holiday!

Ms McCarthy



ROOM 36

After our Week 4 newsletter, on Friday the 8th of November the students of Riverside schools got to join in on our yearly Colour Run. After lunch, the students changed into white t-shirts and went onto the oval to participate in all the fun. They had so much fun on the water slide and dancing around the oval to the music as they got covered in the rainbow.



This term, our students have been working to make sure they achieve many of their learning goals. A big congratulations to all of the students for their achievements this year. The students particularly enjoyed getting to practice their cooking skills in the classroom when we made tacos and burgers in our Friday cooking session. Many students joined in and are commended for trying new foods.

To end this term and the year, we will be having a Riverside Schools Christmas concert this Thursday (5th December). We will have a Riverside ESC Christmas Party too, where the students will get to enjoy some Christmas foods and a sausage sizzle.

We also have the Year 6 Graduation on the Tuesday of week 10 to congratulate and farewell our leaving Year 6's. We are all very proud of your achievements and wish you the best with High School next year.

I hope all students and their families have a lovely school holiday and a Merry Christmas.

Miss Terry



Coming Soon ... new school website

Riverside ESC's website is 10 years old, and like the shed at home or the storeroom cupboard, some things have accumulated in the corners that should have been thrown out. The clean-up phase is now complete, and the new website will be launched very soon, perhaps by the end of the school year.

The new design developed in discussion with a Mandurah-based web designer, responds to the demand for improved inclusivity and accessibility. Readers will be able to choose the font size and other visibility tools to suit their needs. The website will make important information easier to find. A new school diary will assist to keep everyone up to date with events during the school year.

Look out for an emailed update about a launch date, coming soon at www.riversideesc.wa.edu.au.

Musica Viva Incursion

Late last term, the students (and staff), enjoyed the opportunity to see and hear two Australian musicians in concert, within the undercover area. Celia Craig is an oboist who experiences Chromesthesia - where sound evokes an involuntary experience of colour. Casper Hawksley is a guitarist, who together, run a program called “The Colours of Home” via Musica Viva Australia.

Prior to the concert the students engaged in the program where they were encouraged to associate colours with sound. Experimentation and improvisation were key features of the program.

Celia and Casper, who are both on the spectrum, delighted students with their unscripted instrumental play. Students had the opportunity to ask questions which were answered either vocally, instrumentally or a combination of both.

When asked what their favourite part of the concert was, many replied with “the electric guitar!”



Mr. McDonald