Calendar
What’s On

Term 1 Week 2

Thursday 7 February  Swimming Carnival
Friday 8 February  RDA Orientation

Term 1 Week 3

Thursday 14 February  Meet the Teacher
Friday 15 February  RDA

Principal’s Message
I am thrilled to welcome back our students and families to the 2013 school year. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our new families to the school.

As many of you have noticed we have made some changes to our school procedures over the break. These changes have been based on data we collected towards the end of last year. The most significant changes have been to our lining up process and our rewards system, further information is provided within the newsletter.

The start of the school year has been very positive and we are looking forward to a busy year ahead. If you have questions or concerns related to your child at school, please contact the classroom teacher or the Stage Supervisor.

Our classes for this year are as follows;
Preschool Jellybeans—Miss Camilleri
Preschool Smarties—Miss Kaylene
KA—Mrs Azzopardi
KK—Mrs Koberler
1/2S—Miss Shaw
1/2WM—Mr Wall & Mrs McManus
1/2W—Mrs White & Mrs Weisback
3/4K—Mrs Krumins
3/4M—Ms Marrow
3/4S—Mrs Stephens
5SK—Mrs Kumar & Mrs Smallacombe
6P—Mrs Pettitt

Our support class teachers are:
K-5W—Mrs Willis
2-6R—Mrs Reddy
3-6G—Mrs Govender

The supervisor for Preschool, Kindy & Stage 1 (Yr 1 & 2) is Mrs Finn. Stage 2 (Yrs 3 & 4) is Mrs Stephens and Stage 3 (Yrs 5 & 6) is Mrs Pettitt.

At the end of last year we said farewell to Mr Lewis who is now teaching at Penrith Public School. Mr Lewis is currently being replaced by Ms Marrow. This position will be filled permanently during this term.

We also welcome Mrs Graham to the library position. Mrs Graham will be spending the first few weeks of school preparing the library and working on upgrading our IPad technology so we can offer an updated range of resources and engaging lessons for our students. We eagerly await the reopening of the library later in the term.

I look forward to another busy year of teaching and learning at Riverstone Public School.
Emma Thompson
Principal

Books in Homes
This year we will be accessing the Books In Homes Program. The aim of this program will be to increase access to quality literature for the students in Stage 1 (Yrs1 & 2). Over this week these students will have the opportunity to choose 3 books from a selection of 45 books that they will then receive to keep and take home at an assembly towards the end of term. The library will also receive the full set of books to keep. This process takes place 3 times throughout the year. All of our Stage 1 children will end up with 9 books to take home and our library with 135 books for borrowing. At this stage we can only offer this to our Stage 1 students. However we have started a search for a sponsor to fund an expansion of this program to the whole school. Fingers crossed.

School Routine
Our students are now lining up under the COLA outside the hall in the mornings, at the end of recess and lunch. This assists us with delivering messages, resolving any issues and settling the students so they are ready for learning. This has been very successful and we will further improve the process by changing our bell to music over the coming weeks.
Riverstone Rockets
Our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Team has completed a review of our rewards systems and we have made some very positive and exciting changes in regards to behaviour at the school. The explicit teaching of rights and responsibilities together with positive and negative consequences is occurring in all our school settings. More information about the Riverstone Rockets will be available at the first assembly for the year and also at the first scheduled P&C meeting.

Facebook
We are currently developing a Facebook page for our school. I will advise everyone when the page is ready and provide the link. When we are up and running parents will be able to “like” our page and updates can appear in your newsfeed. We intend to provide updated information regarding school events, links to newsletters and important updates. I would envisage by the next newsletter in Week 4 that the page will be ready and more information provided.

Bike Safety
We have quite a number of students who ride bikes, scooters or skateboards to school each day. Please be advised that students MUST wear helmets when riding to and from school. We had a very near miss on Monday morning when a student rode in front of a car without a helmet. Parents will be contacted and requested to make alternative transport arrangements for students not wearing helmets when riding to school.

Meet the Teacher
Teachers will be conducting a Meet the Teacher afternoon on Thursday 14 February. The details are as follows -

- **Early Stage 1** meeting will be held from 2-3pm in the Kindergarten rooms.
- **Stage 1 (Yrs 1 & 2)** will be meeting in the Library from 3-4pm.
- **Stage 2 (Yrs 3 & 4)** will be meeting in Mrs Stephens room from 4-5pm
- **Stage 3 (Yrs 5 & 6)** will be meeting in Mrs Pettitt’s room from 4-5pm.

The afternoon will give parents an opportunity to meet their child’s classroom teacher and the Assistant Principal supervising the Stage. Parents will be able and ask any questions they may have regarding their child’s learning. It will also give the teachers an opportunity to explain what they will be teaching this Semester and the organisation within their classroom.

Assembly Schedule
Our whole school assemblies will be held each fortnight on the odd weeks of school. The first whole school assembly will be Thursday 14 February at 2.10pm for a 2.20pm start. This assembly will be run by our Yr 6 leaders and each class will have an opportunity throughout the year to perform or display work at an assembly. Parents are very welcome to attend our assemblies and are encouraged to attend where possible.

P&C
The next general meeting of the P&C will be held on Friday at 1.30pm in the Community Room. All parents are invited to attend. Pre school aged children are welcome with their parents. We would like to welcome all of our new families to the school. Come along share a cuppa and meet new people that live in your area.

Swimming Carnival
Our school carnival will be held Thursday 7 February. Those students that have not yet paid or brought in their note need to bring them in first thing tomorrow morning. This a normal school day. All students are expected to attend. Parents are welcome to attend and cheer the kids along.

Parent Connect Group
This facilitated group is for parents in the Hawkesbury caring for children aged 0-8yrs who have limited contact with other parents or are new to the Hawkesbury. The group strives to break isolation and be a vehicle for developing friendships through meeting regularly to share common experiences and gain information that strengthens participants capacity to parent effectively. The group will operate in the centre from 10am - 12noon fortnightly on Mondays during school terms with free childcare provided through Hawkesbury Community Outreach. Through the group participants will:

- Enjoy uninterrupted parent to parent adult company
- Give children an opportunity to play with other children without parents present
- Build relationships that sustain parents outside group time
- Plan and enjoy discussions and activities of interest to parents
- Learn information relevant to parenting and local services

Dates the group will operate in Term 1, 2013 on MONDAYS:

- 11th February
- 28th February
- 11th March
- 25th March
- 8th April

Come for a “Meet and Greet Getting to Know You” session with delicious morning tea provided on Monday 11th February 2013, 10am 12noon.

FREE GROUP FOR DADS & MUMS OF CHILDREN AGED 0—8YRS WITH FREE CHILDCARE
To register and book childcare please call Carol on 4588 3504 or email: familysupport@rcsi.ngo.org.au