Principal’s Message
We are heading towards the middle of Term 1 already. How did this happen? It certainly has been a busy few weeks at Riverstone Public School and many exciting programs and learning opportunities are in the works. I am pleased to report that the year has started very well, with students responding well to our Riverstone Rockets rewards system and they are doing a great job with our lining up and eating procedures. Our bells and music have created some challenges; however these should be fixed up next week. I am not sure how much longer I can cope listening to One Direction.

Facebook
Our school now has a Facebook Page! Search for our page and hit “Like” to keep up with all the news and important reminders. I would just like to advise people that there is a Facebook Page for Riverstone PS that has our logo, however there is also a “Place” Riverstone Public School. The “Place” is not in any way attached to the school as an official DEC page. I would also advise parents posting photographs not to tag the “Place” the photos were taken as Riverstone PS as these photos are accessible to anyone.

Below is the safety information we have put together to ensure that our Facebook page is used for the intended purpose.

Students on Facebook:

Please note that the Facebook terms and conditions state that no one under the age of 13 years should have a Facebook profile. Therefore, any students who ‘Like’ the Riverstone Public School Facebook page will be deleted and reported immediately.

Comments Policy:

Riverstone Public School encourages interaction from Facebook users but is not responsible for comments or wall postings made by visitors to the page.

Comments posted also do not in any way reflect the opinions or policies of Riverstone Public School.

R.P.S asks that people making comments on the page show respect for their fellow users by ensuring the discussion remains civil, especially since Facebook allows individuals between the ages of 13 and 18 to join.

Comments are also subject to Facebook’s Terms of Use and Code of Conduct.

Remember that your name and photo will be seen next to your comment, visible to the tens of thousands of visitors to the page.

We reserve the right, but assume no obligation, to remove comments that are racist, sexist, abusive, profane, violent, obscene, spam, that advocate illegal activity, contain falsehoods or are wildly off-topic, or that libel, incite, threaten or make ad hominem attacks on R.P.S students, employees, guests or other individuals.

We also do not permit messages selling products or promoting commercial, political or other ventures.

Facebook encourages all users to utilize the “Report” links when they find abusive content.
'Friending' Staff on Facebook:

Please note that the Department of Education and Communities has this advice for teachers 'Friending' parents on Facebook:

The line between your professional and personal life could become blurred making it difficult to manage your professional relationship with the parents when that becomes necessary.

You also need to bear in mind that becoming a Facebook friend with a parent could result in their children getting access to your account as well.

You also need to be mindful that you need to be careful what you say on Facebook if you have parents as friends as comments made online can be misunderstood and could result in parental complaints made to your principal.

In short, please do not ask to friend a member of staff on Facebook as refusal often offends

Voluntary Contributions

We aim to keep our contributions as low as possible at Riverstone Public School. Again this year the requested contribution is $30 per child or $50 per family. These contributions assist greatly in the ability of teachers to provide innovative and quality learning experiences for the student. The contributions are due in Term 1 and a note with envelop will come home this week.

School Gates

The school gates on both Regent and Elizabeth St will be open at 8.30am and closed at 9.20am and then will be reopened in the afternoon at 2.45pm. The only gate that will remain open during the day is the pedestrian gate on Elizabeth St.

Office Procedures

Please ensure that excursion notes and money are returned to the office at least the day before the event. This assists with the administrative procedures that take place to allow our students to take part in these events safely and meet the expectations in the school excursion policy. If you are experiencing financial hardship please contact the office to see if the school can provide assistance.

Mrs Emma Thompson
Principal

Stage 1 Report

Stage 1 has been busy settling into school routines with their new teachers in their classrooms.

An exciting term has been planned and it kicked started with the School Swimming Carnival. The K-2 students all had a really great day playing water activities, throwing sponges and swimming in the pools and were exhausted by the end of the day. Thank you to their fearless teachers who worked tirelessly without a break to ensure the students had a wonderful day.

All classes are studying the ‘Gruffalo’ as their AL text this term. We are learning all about the author and the characters in the book.

We will be studying transport, the Water Cycle and some imaginative Surrealist Artists throughout the term and it was nice to have such wonderful support at the “Meet the Teacher” afternoon.

Mrs Sue Finn
Stage 1 Supervisor

P&C News

AGM
Our AGM will be held this Friday the 22 February. We ask that all paid members please attend.

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop will be open fortnightly as of Friday 1 March.

To help keep a range of options open to our families the Uniform Shop is seeking donations of second hand school uniforms. If you are able to donate please leave any uniforms in a bag at the front office and we will collect them.

Easter
Our annual Easter Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 27 March following the Easter Hat Parade. We will also be holding a cake stall during recess. Notes will soon be sent home with further details and raffle tickets.

5 Cent Day
Start Collecting your 5 cent pieces. The winning class will win a Pizza Party.

P&C Committee

Penrith Panthers Hockey Club

Want your weekends free?
Let your kids try Hockey!

Penrith Panthers Hockey Club are looking for players.

Registration
Sunday 24 February 10am-12pm
Wednesday 6 March 6pm-7pm
At Penrith Hockey Centre (UWS Nepean)

Training: Wednesday nights
Games: Juniors Friday nights
Social events throughout the year

Can’t make it or need more information, please contact:
Corrina 0415 201 200
Or Email: penrithpanthershockey@hotmail.com
or caitken@idx.com.au

Elizabeth Street, Riverstone NSW 2765 T: 9627 1517 F: 9838 1131 E: riverstone-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Kindergarten have been learning about portraits in Creative Arts.

A portrait is an artistic representation of a person. Here are some of our wonderful drawings of our first attempt at a self-portrait.

KA have enjoyed their art lessons so far this term.
As parents we concerned with the amount of time that our children spend on MSN, Facebook and other social networking sites. Mostly our children chat with friends that they already know from school or with relatives. However, MSN, Facebook and other chat sites have inherent risks and dangers. Constable John Bollard (Quakers Hill Youth Liaison Office) has been asked to conduct two parent sessions to discuss the risks and pitfalls of social media, and also provide parents with strategies to help protect our children.

**Date:** Wednesday 6 March 2013

**Venue:** Marayong Public School—Hall

**Session Times** 10am and 6.30pm.

**Parents only—no children**
Nepean Creative & Performing Arts High School

Are you interested in Dance, Drama, Music or the Visual Arts? then Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School may be the school for you.

Talented students with a strong interest in Dance, Circus, Drama, Music, or Visual Arts are encouraged to apply for audition

Local, in area, students wanting to be part of the selective Creative and Performing Arts Program must also audition or present a portfolio of work

To be part of the 2014 Year 7 cohort of Creative and Performing Arts students,

check the website for an Audition Application at www.nepean-h.schools.nsw.edu.au under the CAPA Tab

For further information contact the school on 4728 7200

Closing date for applications for Years 7 and 8 2014
Thursday 4 April 2013

Auditions will commence
Monday 6 May 2013

Richmond Community Services Inc. is pleased to offer a FREE 4 WEEK ONGOING GROUP:

MANAGING ANGER IN ADOLESCENTS DIFFERENTLY

FOR PARENTS / PRIMARY CARERS OF TEENAGERS WITH ANGER ISSUES.

This 4 week ongoing group will assist parents who want to understand their teenagers better, help them teach teens strategies for managing anger—and gain skills as parents in dealing with conflict in the home safely. Through interactive discussions and group activities participants will gain knowledge and skills in:

- Understanding adolescence and brain development
- Effective communication to angry teens
- Assessing Risk and de-escalation strategies
- Helping adolescents to manage themselves
- Managing own reactions and stress
- Creating safe homes and accessing support

4 WEEKS ONGOING ON MONDAYS—6.30-8.30PM ON MARCH 4TH, 11TH, 18TH & 25TH 2013 AT RICHMOND NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE 20 WEST MARKET ST, RICHMOND

TO BOOK CALL: 4588 3555 OR EMAIL: admin@rcsi.ngo.org.au
Any man can be a father but it takes a special person to be a dad.

Keeping it Real

An interactive session in Mt Druitt for Maori and Pacific Men.

Wednesday 27th February 2013
6:30 pm to 8:30 PM
Mt Druitt Hub
9 Ayres Grove, Mount Druitt
(above Mt Druitt library, 200m from train station)
A light supper will be provided

FREE
For more information and bookings,
Call Patricia on 0477 704 244 or Quang on 9781 3333

Tools For Parents
FREE WORKSHOPS & GROUPS FOR DADS & MUMS / PRIMARY CARERS OF CHILDREN 0 – 12 YRS WITH
FREE CHILDCARE! Bookings - call 4588 3502 Mon – Thursday
or email: admin@rcsi.ngo.org.au

Keeping Your Cool
With Your Kids
3 weeks ongoing—Saturdays
9th, 16th & 23rd March 2013
Participants must attend all 3 dates
10am – 12.30pm
Looks at how you can manage your anger instead of it spilling out onto your kids. The course covers:
- Signs of anger
- Knowing your triggers
- Patterns of how anger gets managed in your family
- How to manage your own anger as well as anger from the kids
- Ways to model healthy expressions of anger to children
- Safety in the home
- Forgiveness and reparation after the event
This group is not suitable for situations where anger has led to family violence
This is a project offered by Richmond Community Services Inc.
and all activities are held at:
The Neighbourhood Centre
20 West Market Street
Richmond NSW 2753
Bookings - call 4588 3502 Mon – Thursday
or email: admin@rcsi.ngo.org.au