Principal’s Message

Staff News
We have had a few staff changes at Riverstone PS over the last 2 weeks. Mrs Stephens from 3/4S has been given an opportunity to work within our regional office and we are unsure of the length of time she will be in this role. Her class will be covered by Miss Charlene Andonopoulos in her absence.

At the very end of last year Mr Lewis was offered a position at a new school and we have had a transfer into this position. The position has been filled by Mrs Plummer who is on maternity leave at present. This means that we have been able to keep Ms Marrow on class for the rest of the year which will ensure continuity for the class.

School Security
As you are all aware in recent months we have had issues with security at our back gate in Regent Street. These issues are mostly related to people who do not have students at the school using the school as a walkway to access Elizabeth Street. The amount of traffic related to this, causes disruption to the students and lessons and often breaches our school safety as they have been known to jump the fence when the gates are locked or ride in on bikes, scooters etc.

The Department of Education and Communities has provided a security guard over the next few weeks to assist in preventing access to the school grounds for unauthorised visitors. Our gates will be open on Regent Street between 8.30am – 9.20am and again at 2.45pm – 3.30pm. We ask that at other times the main entrance is used to access the school.

We have spoken to the students to advise them of why we have taken these measures. The guard is not armed, is very friendly and is approved to work in schools. We intend for this to be a short term measure only while the community adjusts to walking around the school.

If you have any further question or concerns please don’t hesitate to contact the front office.

Negative Behaviour
At Riverstone PS we try very hard to focus on Positive Behaviour. This is reflected in our reward system and through teaching students explicitly about positive behaviours. From time to time negative behaviours do occur in the school and we also teach students about the consequences for negative behaviour. I have included towards the end of the newsletter the negative behaviour system that we have established this year. We are currently teaching all students what the positive and negative consequences are for behaviour. If you have feedback regarding the system please contact me for an appointment. We will be running a parent information session very soon.

Mrs Emma Thompson
Principal

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.

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.
Stage 2 Report
Stage 2 have settled into the term well and have been working hard in class. Students have been learning about Australia and some of its famous places and landmarks. A letter will follow at a later date regarding an excursion to historical sites in Sydney.

P&C News
Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop will be open fortnightly as of Friday 1 March. The next day the shop will be open is Friday 15 March and then every two weeks after that.

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.

P&C Committee

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, 300m from train station)
A light supper will be provided

KEEP IT REAL
A Group for 25 to 45 year old men

Tools For Parents
FREE WORKSHOPS & GROUPS FOR DADS & MUMS/ PRIMARY CARERS OF CHILDREN 0 – 12 YRS WITH
FREE CHILDCARE! Booking’s - 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

The project is funded by the Australian Government for continuation of the ‘Tools for Parents’ project until June 2014 — to provide free workshops and ongoing courses designed to help parents/carers of children 0—12 years develop better relationships between themselves and with their children — and to enhance parenting skills. Richmond Community Services Inc. purchases group and workshop facilitation from Relationships Australia and child-care services from Hawkesbury Community Outreach Mobile Minders Service for the project and is delighted to offer them free to participants.
This term has been an extremely busy but rewarding one thus far. We have completed our assessments and are in the process of meeting with parents to discuss outcomes in our Individual Learning Plans. It has been an especially exciting time for us as we witnessed the Induction of one of our classmates a few weeks ago. 2-6R would like to congratulate Ewen Hamilton on his appointment as a prefect of Riverstone Public School. Ewen must be commended for his enthusiasm and dedication to his new role. We would also like to congratulate our class swimming champion, Harrison Galea who participated in the District Swimming Carnival last Thursday. We are so proud of their achievements and would like to thank them for their contribution to our school. We hope you enjoy viewing the following photographs of 2-6R in our learning setting.

Ewen Hamilton enjoys his new role as prefect for 2013.

Harrison Galea smiling proudly with his swimming achievements.

Maria and Jack are working together to make a column graph.

Jay is practising his spelling words for the week.

Maria concentrates as she paints 'The Gruffalo's' TERRIBLE CLAWS.

Levai points to a colour pattern he made using unifix cubes.
Peter and Jack enjoy listening to their reader on the iPad.

Deacon and Joshua perform a puppet show for the class during our Talking and Listening session in the morning.

Leesa and Byron have almost completed their ‘surrealism’ art inspired by the work of Spanish artist Joan Miro.

Jack, Joshua, Maria and Leesa participate in ‘Hot News’ Talking and Listening time.

Peter and Jack work co-operatively to play sight word games.

Maria, Peter and Jay work independently during spelling time.