Principal's Message

_Aim high! The future you see is the person you will be._

As this is our last newsletter for the year the quote above is timely for everyone. At Riverstone Public School we continue to grow and be the best we can be. We will end this year on such a high, with success across all areas of our school. As we begin the run down to the end of 2014, we look forward to a bigger and better 2015.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and restful holiday break!

**Staff Development Day Term 4, 2014**

Thursday 18 and Friday 19 December are staff development days. Riverstone Public School staff will be involved in professional learning activities on these days. The last day for students is Wednesday 17 December. Please make alternative arrangements for your child(ren) for the Thursday and Friday.

**So Long, Farewell, Good Bye**

As the year winds down and our Year 6 students begin to think about high school, we begin the process of putting the final touches on the Year 6 Farewell. The Winter Wonderland farewell will be held at the school on Tuesday 16 December. The evening will be a time for the school and me to officially say thank you to these wonderful young people who have demonstrated great pride and maturity this year. They will leave us knowing that they have been wonderful ambassadors for Riverstone Public School and have added to the richness of our school's culture.

These fine young individuals have been fantastic role models for our younger students. They have lead by example, demonstrating wonderful citizenship and a caring nature towards the well-being of the younger children. Our Year 6 students have certainly helped in developing the magnificent tone that exists at Riverstone Public School. They are another of the many reasons why this school is such a great place of learning.

Visitors to our wonderful place of learning and those who come in to contact with our students, at the various events, continually commented about the exceptional students that we have and that they were an honour to meet.

Arrival time for the farewell is 6pm, with dinner commencing at 6.30pm. Mums & Dads/Caregivers may attend from 8:45pm for the final goodbye with the farewell ending at 9pm.
Resource Allocation Model (RAM) funding for 2015
On 20 November the Minister for Education announced the next stage of the RAM process. Under this next stage schools will receive funding for all four equity loadings. The Socio-economic background and the Aboriginal background equity loadings first delivered in 2014 will be supplemented by new equity loadings for English language proficiency and low level adjustment for disability.

Our school has been advised that we will receive our RAM funding to support our students with additional learning needs in 2015. This includes our schools equity loadings. The school Executive will be working with our school community to determine the best ways to use these resources to support student learning.

Student Reports
Student reports will be sent home for all classes on Thursday 11 December. Semester 2 reports are an indication of your child’s achievements during the past 6 months and our teachers have been assessing students according to the Board of Studies outcomes which generally allow 2 years for students to progress through each stage.

Learning is continuous and children learn at different rates. We have included an explanation at the beginning of the report. You are most welcome to discuss your child's report with their class teacher. Please make an appointment if you wish to discuss your child's report with his/her teacher as we do not have formal interviews at this time of the year.

All children need encouragement and praise to be confident, happy learners. Some children try very hard and find learning difficult. They deserve your praise and encouragement. Some children find learning easy and often don’t try as hard as they could. Your encouragement here is critical as well. For those students who have no difficulty learning and put a lot of effort into their work, they need continued acknowledgement and praise to keep this level of enthusiasm and commitment. For those students whose effort is minimal, closer home/school partnerships are the key to improvement.

Attendance at School
According to the departmental document Student Attendance In Government Schools - Procedures, parents and carers are responsible for:

• Ensuring that their children attend school regularly;
• Explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school; and
• Taking measures to resolve attendance issues involving their children.

It is vital for your child’s academic, social and emotional wellbeing that they attend school every day that it is open. However we acknowledge that there are times when this is not possible due to student illness or unavoidable unforeseen family events. Please ensure that you correspond with the school in writing when your child returns to school indicating the length of absence and the reason/s for the absence. Teachers and Executive staff will contact parents/carers if absences are unexplained.

It is most important to contact the school in writing if you are returning late for the 2015 school year.

Uniform Shop – Additional Opening Hours
The Uniform Shop is open on the following extra days for your uniform needs:

Friday 12 December 2014, 8.45am-9.30am
Tuesday 27 January 2015 (SDD) 9am to 12am
Friday 30 January 2015 - 8.45am to 9.30am

Emma Thompson
Principal

P&C News
Annual General Meeting – Postponed until 2015
Due to low attendance, the P&C Annual General Meeting has had to be postponed to next year. We will hold our first General Meeting on Tuesday 10 February, 2015 at 9.00am in the Library and then follow this with the Annual General Meeting. This will allow all new parents/carers to be able to vote at the AGM. All positions of the Committee will be declared vacant. Please come along and join a team that is made up of parents and citizens of the community whose main goal is to support their child/ children’s school. Unfortunately, if there are not enough attendees at this next meeting, we will not have a P&C for 2015.

We look forward to seeing a lots of people there!

Christmas Raffle
Books of raffle tickets and monies should be returned to the office now (sold and unsold). Winners will be drawn at our Christmas Concert on Thursday 11 December. Good Luck!

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop will be open this Friday 12 December, this is the last time the shop will be open this year.

We will open on Tuesday 27 January from 9am-12pm. Please see the office if you require an order form.

If you can spare some time to help out in the Uniform Shop it would be very much appreciated. Hours are from 8.45am to approximately 9.45am. Please leave your contact details at the office.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families that have supported the P&C throughout the year. We hope that we will continue to have a P&C Committee in 2015!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

The P&C Committee
Our choir visiting the local Neighbourhood Centre
On Monday December 8, 2014 1-2W were provided with an extra curricular experience of playing their recorders to the senior citizens at the Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre. They played a variety of songs including some Christmas songs to the senior citizens on their lunch break at bingo. 1-2W also had the pleasure to deliver some freshly baked and very delicious Christmas cupcakes made by the lovely Miss Sue in the Preschool.

Although a little nervous at first they did our school proud. Well done 1-2W.

Mrs Weisback & Mrs White
Class teachers
During Term 4, 4/5M have been very busy in the computer room creating a PowerPoint presentation based on the H.S.I.E Unit of work Places then Now and Tomorrow. The students have had the opportunity to design their own PowerPoint pages while also investigating aspects of local history such as transport, housing, Aboriginal traditions, education and the arrival of different cultural groups.

In Science we have been studying the Human Body. We have explored the digestive system, muscular system and the skeletal system, naming and locating many parts of the human body.

Students in English have been investigating how authors use imagery to portray characters and settings. The students have completed a number of creative art works which they have proudly displayed around our room.

Finally the students have also had the opportunity to create a beautiful Christmas tapestry which will be on display in the hall.

Miss Marrow
4-5 Teacher
Responsibilities of the School Captains and Vice Captains

This year the School Captains’ attended many events, which were educational, memorial and taught leadership skills.

We attended Young Leader’s Day. This was an event that took place in the city. It had brilliant speakers that made us understand what Leadership is all about, how to practice leadership and more.

We also attended a leadership program held at Parliament house and met Kevin Colony.

We represented our school at the Dawn Service held by our local Sub-Branch of the RSL on Anzac Day.

We were also invited to a lunch that was held at our local Sub-Branch; this was a memorial for Anzac Day.

We also have certain responsibilities in school such as hosting assemblies’, raising the flags in the mornings, making a speech at the Remembrance Day service and escorting into the school grounds, important guests that are visiting and more.

It has been our pleasure to be school leaders at Riverstone Public School in 2014.

Halley Cunniffe, Tyler Waller, Jasmine Searle and Robbie Jurd