For those new to Riverstone Public School, it will be a year of real expectation as you get to experience first-hand, the exceptional educational programs that our school has to offer.

As the year begins may I take this opportunity to remind both parents and students of the expectations that we have of all our members of the Riverstone Public School Community.

We are first and foremost a school interested in developing the many gifts and talents our students have been given, so that they can go on to live productive lives.

Therefore we require all of our students to come into Riverstone Public School with attitudes that are positive and conductive to achievement.

Students who have the right attitude can be clearly identified:

♦ They wear their uniform with pride.
♦ They are prepared for each day.
♦ They are attentive and willing to contribute to class learning.
♦ They do not distract the learning of others.
♦ They seek to be involved in the broader life of the school.

At times, parents may need to contact the school to address a concern that may have arisen while their child has been at school.

To ensure that all issues and / or concerns are managed effectively, parents are encouraged to make contact with their child’s class teacher in the first instance.

Following that, parents may contact the office and ask to speak with the Assistant Principal. Parents may also contact me should they feel that the issue is critical or that it has not been managed effectively.

STAFFING NEWS
We have welcomed Mrs Calder 2C, Ms Wheeler 5-6W, Mrs Kaur 3-4K and Miss Boyd 4-6B to our teaching staff. They have had a very positive impact on our team and are very busy getting to know our students and families.

Mrs Kumar is also with us again this year being as flexible as ever and covering classes as needed in her timetable.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Krumins back from her leave later in Term 1. We also welcome Miss Marchetta who is covering Mrs Krumins’ leave at the moment.
We also congratulate the teacher formerly known as Miss Camilleri who was a very beautiful bride during the holiday break. The newly married Mrs Rout is also looking forward to a busy year in Year 6.

EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE FOR 2015
In 2015 we have taken a different approach to meet the needs of the school. Our Assistant Principals are Mrs Pettitt (Mainstream Support), Mrs Calder (K-2), Mr England (Years 3&4) and Ms Ale (Support Unit).

We also have a team of Aspiring Leaders within the school who will be undertaking additional leadership opportunities across the school. Mrs Rout is in this group and will be supervising Years 5&6.

Ms Wheeler, Mrs Graham, Mrs Azzopardi and Mrs Plummer are our other Aspiring Leaders.

There will not be one designated Assistant Principal off class this year, instead we will be sharing this responsibility across the Executive with Ms Ale off class on Monday & Tuesday covered by Mrs White on class, Mrs Calder on Wednesday covered on class by Mrs Kumar, Mr England on Thursday covered on class by Mrs Kumar and Fridays Mrs Pettitt will be the off class Executive.

Also in Term 1 Mrs Kumar will be taking 5B for Mrs Weisback on Fridays until Mrs Weisback returns 5 days in Term 2.

Mrs Hall is on leave in Term 1 and we have Ms Marrow and Mrs Baldock supporting our students in classrooms.

Our Release from face to face (RFF) teachers Miss Jane and Mrs Marchetta/Mrs Krumins, our reading recovery teacher Mrs Pettit and our Librarian Mrs Graham round off a busy teaching team.

Meet the Teacher afternoon is on Monday 9 February (Week 3). K-2 is from 3.15pm-4pm and 3-6 is from 4.15pm – 5pm. Afternoon tea will be provided under the top COLA between 4-5.30pm for a more casual opportunity to meet our staff.

The Kindergarten session will be held in the KA classroom. 1L, 1/2S & 2C will meet at 3.15pm in the 2C classroom.

3/4K, 3/4E and 3-5P will meet at 4pm in the 3/4E classroom.

5B, 5/6W and 6R will meet at 4pm in the 6R classroom.

Parents of students in the Support Unit will have the opportunity to meet the teacher at the Individual learning Plan meetings scheduled over the coming weeks.

We look forward to sharing new procedures, class routines, showing you through our classrooms and answering any questions you may have on Monday. If you are unable to make it on Monday a handout will be sent home on Tuesday and you can contact the school office to make an appointment to see your child’s class teacher at any time.

UNIFORM
It's only a hat....... While we appreciate that a school hat may not sound like a big deal, wearing the school hat is an important part of our school uniform. Quite a few students have returned without a school hat and are wearing alternative hats. This causes a division among the students and creates inequality across student groups for those students who don't have or can't afford the "cool" hat. We are also unable to spend time looking for these hats when they go missing. We appreciate that every now and then a school hat may get lost and alternative may be sent in. If this is the case please send a note to your child's teacher. Each class is equipped with spare hats and there are hats available from the front office and uniform shop for purchase.

We have also noticed that this started to occur with socks and shoes. Please send your child to school with plain white socks and black shoes. Save the expensive surf brands for the weekends.

Footsteps
Footsteps dance program starts this Wednesday. This program is run as part of our fitness program and is an exciting opportunity for the students to gain confidence and have fun. This is a whole school program and runs at no cost to the students.

Library Borrowing
Library borrowing for all students will be on Thursdays and will start in Week 4. Please ensure your child brings a library bag, pillow case etc. to be able to borrow books. School library bags are available at the uniform shop.

Building Works
Our outdoor kitchen is almost complete and we are hoping to start using it in time for the Easter Hat Parade. The building should be complete over the next 2-3 weeks and we are very excited to be able to use these facilities within our school. We also had some upgrades to support students with visual impairments over the holidays, including the fixing and identification of trip hazards. This work is almost complete and we expect it to be finished very soon. We also have some carpet and painting upgrades planned for this term, however there should only be minimal disruption to student learning.

Approaching the School Successfully
From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school in order to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of own child
- Express concern about actions of other students
- Enquire about school policy or practice
- Express concern about actions of staff

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible, so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

These guidelines aim to:

- provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner.
- ensure that the rights of students, teachers and
On occasion, concerns may cause frustration and anxiety. At such times it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere. NB: No parent should directly approach another person's child. The school will deal with issues between students as part of the school's Discipline and Welfare policy.

In very rare cases, where people wishing to express concerns, do so in an aggressive, threatening or violent manner, the principal (or nominee) has the legal authority under the ‘Inclosed Lands Act’ to:
- direct the person to immediately leave the grounds
- call the police to remove the person should he/she refuse
- withdraw future permission (by letter) for the person to enter the grounds without permission of the principal
- seek further legal avenues

Parents and visitors are expected to:
- Treat all persons associated with the school with respect and courtesy
- Ensure their child/children are punctual to class
- Make appointments in advance of expecting to obtain an interview
- Allow staff to supervise, investigate and manage students without interference
- Discuss issues or concerns about the school, staff or students through the correct procedures
- Follow school procedures governing entry and behaviour on school grounds, including any restrictions that may be imposed.

Any person contravening this Code of Conduct is advised that the provisions of the *Inclosed Lands Protection Act (1901)* and its Amendments will be followed if any of the following occur:
- Actual physical assaults or threatened physical assaults on students, staff, parents or community members at the school or during the course of school activities;
- Behaviour in the presence of students, staff, parents or other visitors to the school that causes alarm or concern to the students, staff, parents or other visitors;
- Use of offensive language (i.e. swearing) in the presence of students, staff or other visitors to the school;
- Any interruption to the learning environment of the school such as entering classrooms without permission.

Your co-operation is sought in maintaining a safe and happy school.

**Emma Thompson**
Principal

**Uniform Shop**
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.

The next meeting of the P&C will be held on Tuesday 10 February at 9am in the library. This meeting will be our AGM which will be followed by our normal monthly meeting. We would like to invite everyone to attend. Please feel free to bring your non school aged children with you, toys are available for them to play with. We have been a little short on helpers in the past few years and encourage all parents and carers to lend a hand.

We hope that we will continue to have a P&C Committee in 2015!

**The P&C Committee**
Riverstone Quest
This year, students from Year 5 will participate in a leadership program called Riverstone Quest to be eligible for leadership roles in 2016. Students will undertake a variety of tasks ranging from assisting teachers to on-going tasks; for example helping out in the kitchen garden for the year. Year 5 students will bring home their Riverstone Quest booklets soon and will be able to explain the process to you.

Ms Wheeler
Stage 3 Teacher

K-6 School Assembly
We have made some exciting changes to the K-6 school assemblies for this year. Our assemblies will be held on Fridays at 11.30am on even weeks (Weeks 6, 8 & 10). Each class will have a turn running the assembly and performing a class item. A note will be sent home to families informing you of when your child’s class will be performing.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to make a change to our very first assembly of the year, which will be held on Thursday 19 March instead of Friday 20 March.

We look forward to seeing many parents and carers attend our assemblies! Our first assembly will be hosted by 2C in Week 4.

Miss Smigliani
Organising Teacher

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
We are continuing to teach our 3 Riverstone expectations of being SAFE, RESPECTFUL and a LEARNER during 2015. There have been a few changes to the procedures and we have sent along with this newsletter a ‘Parent and Carers PBL Handbook’ that explains everything. The most significant change will be that your child will be bringing home ‘Rocket’ awards throughout the term. Each ‘Rocket’ award equals one ‘Rocket’ sticker and is added to their Bronze, Silver or Gold chart. The ‘Rocket’ awards are to be kept at home and are an addition to our PBL procedures so that you can enjoy the successes and positive achievement of your child at school.

We look forward to sharing many student achievements with you throughout the year.

Mrs Chris Calder for
The PBL Team

Back Gate
The back gate will be opened at 8.25am each morning and will closed again at 9.15am.

It is not possible for the person who has this duty, to go back and open the gate for individual people after this time; they have a responsibility to the class that they work with, to be with them on time.
Sport News

Swimming Carnival
Our annual Riverstone PS swimming carnival will be held on Monday 16 February 2015 at Riverstone Pool. The carnival will begin at 9.30am for competitors swimming in the race events. All other students in Years 3-6, will attend the carnival from 10.30am. Students need to ensure they have their notes are in by Friday 13th February. No late notes or payment will be accepted. We look forward to seeing as many parents as we can come and cheer the swimmers on.

PSSA
Last year saw our return to PSSA with our inclusion in winter sport. This year I am excited to announce that Riverstone PS will be participating in both summer and winter PSSA. During terms 1 and 4 we will represent our school in Oz Tag and T-Ball/ Softball. During terms 2 and 3 we will be representing in soccer and netball. Any student who wishes to trial for summer PSSA will have the opportunity to do so this Friday during sport time. Selections will take place and teams will be announced soon after trials are held.

Footsteps Dance Program
Starting this Wednesday morning and continuing for 10 weeks, all students from years K-6 will be participating in the Footsteps Dance program as part of their weekly fitness program. The program is a 40 minute session of specifically choreographed dances which are fast moving and enjoyable by a professional Dance teacher. This program is a great opportunity for our students.
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

1. Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve
   Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive
   If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their abilities and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home
   One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time
   Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes
   Life is not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others
   Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties
   Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate in class & school activities
   There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience
   Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgements about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school
    Your child will take cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teacher.
It has been wonderful to welcome our new preschool students for 2015. Our team have enjoyed having the opportunity to meet our preschool families and friends as well as share our learning environment with the community. The children look wonderful in their new school uniform and we have already put those uniforms to work with our pre-schoolers engaging in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

We have a wonderful team in preschool and we are excited to share the preschool journey with you. Please look out for this section of the newsletter as it will detail important information and upcoming events regarding preschool matters throughout the school year.

We look forward to a year filled with learning and discovery.

Warmest Regards,
Ms Heather Ale, Mr Shane Wall, Miss Megan Chivers, Miss Sue & Mrs Debbie Brown
Preschool Team 2015
Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way
...to make ice blocks.

Summer afternoons are hot and sticky in Australia, and kids come home from school tired and hungry. Get them eating fruit with these super easy, fruit-filled ice blocks...

Place any combo of finely diced fruit into moulds like: mango, blueberries, strawberries, watermelon, rockmelon, kiwi fruit, drained canned peaches, apricots or pineapple in natural juice, or passionfruit pulp. Top with a fruit juice of your choice then freeze until solid – at least 4 hours, or overnight.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

SunSmart Snippet

The simplest way
...to keep your kids safe in the sun.

Did you know that when it comes to sun protection, not all hats are equal?

We all know hats help protect against skin cancer and eye damage.

But did you know that baseball caps don’t provide much protection? Baseball caps leave cheeks, ears, chin and back of the neck exposed to ultraviolet radiation, and to the real risk of skin cancer in later life.

Choose a sun-safe hat
Sun-safe hats include broad-brimmed, bucket, or legionnaire hats. These hats are inexpensive, and give your kids the best chance of staying protected in our harsh summer sun.

Finally, don’t forget to apply sunscreen in the morning before school! Enjoy summer, and remember to be SunSmart!

SOCOR REGISTRATION

Riverstone Schofields Junior Soccer Club

Registration at Riverstone Schofields Memorial Club,
Corner George & Market Sts, Riverstone

from 10.30am to 2pm Saturdays, 17th & 31st January and 7th February 2015

All players to register online from 3 January 2015 @ myfootballclub.com.au, Riverstone Soccer Club. Print and bring your invoice with payment to registration days or direct deposit into club’s account.

Account Name: Riverstone Soccer Club BSB: 062 696 Account No: 00902214 You must come down to Riverstone Memorial Club to register, you are not guaranteed a position until you come down

If you have any queries please contact: Mary Teuma, President: 0421 730 543 or Annette Sammut, Registrar: 0411 770 440

Under 5's to 18's, All Age Mens and Ladies, Super League, Premier League, Over 35's Mens, Over 30's Women, Girls Comp Under 10's to 16's, Womens Premier League