Voluntary Contributions

During each school year we ask all families to contribute a small amount to the school in order to provide vital equipment and resources to enrich the educational experience for each student.

We are asking families to make a donation to the school for this year of $35 for one child, $55 for two or more children. The funds generated by the school contribution are used by the school to provide vital resources and additional educational activities for our children. School contribution funds are also utilised to subsidise the cost of camps and other excursions and incursions.

We recognise that there are many ways to contribute to the school (eg. giving up your time to assist in the classroom, being a member of the P&C) and these roles are very much valued and appreciated, however we would like to encourage as many families as possible to contribute through this small annual contribution.

I stress that payment of the school contribution is a matter for decision by individual parents and carers and is entirely voluntary. I assure all parents that no embarrassment or discrimination will occur in the school as a result of non-payment of the contribution.

Assembly

Our first school assembly was a huge success. Thank you to 2C who hosted the assembly and stole the show with their gorgeous performance and outstanding public speaking skills. Assemblies will be held fortnightly on Fridays between 11.30am and 12.45pm. Parents and community members are welcome to attend to watch our classes host and perform at these assemblies, showcasing the positive achievements of our students. This week’s assembly will be hosted by 6R we hope to see you there.

Parent Information Session - Protecting Children On Line

Please join us on TUESDAY 24 MARCH at 6pm in the school library for an important information session presented by Constable John Bollard to support knowledge and understanding of protecting children online.

This is such an important issue for families using technology and accessing the internet and covers cyber bullying, predators online and also discusses just what our children are doing online!

Due to the nature of the content of the presentation students are not permitted to attend the session.

A light supper will be served so please RSVP to the school office by Friday 20 March on 0412663624 or email debra.latham@det.nsw.edu.au

We hope to see you all there.

Sports News

Congratulations to our representative swimmers who are competing today in the Ridges PSSA Swimming Carnival. I am sure you will all do a fantastic job representing our school.

Our PSSA teams have also been representing the school with pride. I was fortunate enough to get to see some of the NRL tag last week and while we didn’t win I am sure with a bit more practice under our belts we won’t be far away from a win. I look forward to getting to T-ball and softball this week.
Aspiring Leaders
Towards the end of February several of our staff travelled to Windsor to participate in our Blacktown Learning Community Aspiring Leaders Project. This is a wonderful opportunity for our executive teachers and those aspiring leaders to network with teachers and Principals from schools across our learning community. I look forward to working with this project as a mentor. Mrs Calder, Mr England, Mrs Plummer, Mrs Rout, Ms Wheeler, Mrs Graham and Mrs Azzopardi are all looking forward to participating in this yearlong project.

Tell Them From Me
This term, our school is taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to.

If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by Friday 13 March.

Lets Get Riverstone Trending
Information about our wonderful school is available on many platforms. We have been working hard to streamline how we can keep everyone up to date with current and future events.

Our school website


Key Features
Every second Tuesday the newsletter is published online. Links to our social media sites are available. Click on these links to connect on Facebook and Twitter.
We are currently working on updating the website to include:
* Stage pages, to keep you informed of what's happening in your child's class.
* Updated photos of recent events, please make sure you have signed the Permission to Publish notes.

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/RiverstonePublicSchool?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Key Features
Interactivity with other members.
* Regular status updates. Keeping you informed in a timely manner
* Questions answered by our administrators quickly.
* Pictures published of recent events, keep an eye out for your child if you have signed the Permission to Publish note.

Our School App


Key Features
* Receive notifications of school events.
* Updated every Tuesday.
* Review pictures of current and recent events.
* Access notes and newsletters.

We are currently working on the app to provide the ability for you to send absence notes and book interviews with teachers. This is a work in progress and we will be running a parent information session towards the end of the school term.

Parking
In 2007, over 2000 children were killed or injured on roads in NSW. We want to ensure that no child is hit by a car when going to or from Riverstone Public School. You need to take extra care when driving and parking in school zones. Make sure that you and your child understand the road rules. If you break the traffic rules in a school zone you are putting children at risk.

School Kiss and Ride/Drop off and Pick Up Areas
A ‘Kiss and Ride Zone’ or ‘Drop-off and Pick-up’ area utilises existing ‘No Parking’ zones around schools. In these areas, drivers may stop to drop off or pick up children, however No Parking rules apply:
* Maximum stop time is 2 minutes
* Driver must remain in or within 3 metres of the vehicle
* Vehicle must not be left unattended

Additional safety tips for school zones:
* Always drop-off or pick-up your child from the designated area, following the school's procedures.
* Make sure children use the footpath-side door when

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getting in and out of a car.
- Make sure the hand brake is applied when the vehicle is stationary.
- Never double park.
- Never park across a pedestrian crossing.
- Never undertake a U-turn in close proximity to the school.

**Safety Tips for Students:**
- Stay buckled up until the vehicle has stopped in the ‘Drop-off and Pick-up’ area.
- Make sure your school bag and other items are in a safe position, eg. on the floor.
- Be ready to get out of the car with your belongings when the car has stopped and you have unbuckled your seatbelt.
- Always get in and out of the back seat of the vehicle through the safety door - the rear footpath-side door.

**Parking and Traffic Rules - Choose Safety Over Convenience**
The parking and traffic rules around our schools are there to protect your children. If you break the rules you may be fined. Below is a quick guide to some of the most commonly misunderstood traffic rules.

### No Stopping

**What does it mean?** You cannot stop in this area FOR ANY REASON.

**Why is it there?** To keep sight lines clear for drivers and children so both have more time to avoid crashes

**Penalty** $311 + 2 Demerit Points (School Zone)

### No Parking

**What does it mean?** You can stop in a NO PARKING zone for a maximum of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers. You must stay within three metres of your vehicle at all times.

**Why is it there?** To provide a safe place for older children to be set down and picked up without endangering other children.

**Penalty** $173 + 2 Demerit points (School Zone)

### Bus Zone

**What does it mean?** You must not stop or park in a bus zone unless you are driving a bus.

**Why is it there?** To provide a safe place for large buses to set down and pick up school children.

**Penalty** $311 + 2 Demerit Points (School Zone)

### Pedestrian Crossings including Children’s Crossings

You must not stop within 20 metres before a pedestrian crossing or 10 metres after a crossing unless there is a control sign permitting parking.

**Why is it there?** To ensure that children can be clearly seen by vehicles approaching the crossing.

**Penalty** $415 + 2 Demerit Points (School Zone)

### Driveways

You may stop over the entrance of a driveway to pick up or set down passengers, but you may not wait there or leave your vehicle unattended.

**Penalty** $173 + 2 Demerit points (School Zone)

### Footpaths and Nature Strips

You may not stop on any footpath or nature strip, or even a driveway crossing a footpath or nature strip FOR ANY REASON.

**Why is it there?** You could easily run over a child or force pedestrians onto the road to get around you.

**Penalty** $173 + 2 Demerit points (School Zone)

### Double Parking

You may not stop on the road adjacent to another vehicle at any time even to drop off or pick up passengers.

**Why is it there?** Double parking forces other cars to go around you causing traffic congestion and reduces the view of drivers and children crossing the road.

**Penalty** $311 + 2 Demerit points (School Zone)

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Emma Thompson
Principal

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P&C News
This year you can order your Jordan’s Hot Cross Buns directly through the school. We are selling the Hot Cross Buns and Lamingtons for $6 per half dozen.

Please ask your family and friends to support the school by buying raffle tickets for the Easter Raffle. Tickets are $1.00 each and the prizes are Easter Baskets full of Easter treats. Donations of Easter treats or cash to purchase Easter Eggs would be appreciated. Any donations can be left at the School Office.

The next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 10 at 9.30am in the library. All positions were filled at the P&C AGM earlier this month and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

P&C Committee

Swimming Carnival

On Monday 16th February 2015, Riverstone Public School held their annual swimming carnival. The sun was shining the students were full of excitement. The competition part of the day saw enthusiastic students take to the blocks to swim their stroke. All students displayed great sportsmanship throughout the day.

The students participated eagerly in the novelty events and the sound of laughter could be heard all around the pool.

On Tuesday 3rd March 17 students from Riverstone PS will attend Blacktown Leisure Centre for the Zone Swimming carnival. We wish all our student good luck on the day.

Winning House:
1st — Dharug
2nd — Langton
3rd — Richards
4th — O’Connell

Friday 27th February saw the return of Riverstone Public School to Summer PSSA sport, sending 4 teams to play T-ball/ Softball and Oztag.

The students have been training hard during their recess and lunch breaks with their coaches and displayed great sportsmanship on the day. All students represented themselves well. We look forward to seeing their skills improve throughout the season.

Mrs Erin Plummer
Organising Sports Teacher
This week we would like to draw your attention to some important areas in Preschool!

Sign on area. Please remember to sign your child in as soon as they arrive, and sign them out when you take them home.

Our healthy food and drinks area. Remember to put your lunch, water and healthy snack in the correct basket.

Our parent noticeboard is outside, on here you will find anything important we want to draw your attention to!

This is our brochure area. Here you'll find important information on topics such as Munch n Move and help available from outside agencies.

Outside both classroom doors are our pocket holders. Each child has a pocket with their name on it. Please check it each day as we put important notes and receipts in here.

Have a great week!

Preschool Team.
What a start to the year! Kindergarten have settled into school life with ease and are doing some fantastic learning in and out of the classroom. We are so excited to finally have our brand new collaborative learning furniture in our classroom.

Kindergarten is implementing the L3 framework which is a literacy based teaching and learning process that is already proving to be an incredible way of learning. You can see some of the awesome activities we do in class while three children at a time work in the ‘Engine Room’ doing guided reading and guided writing with Mrs Azzopardi. At present, the activities are mostly aimed at developing their fine motor skills as well as team work and turn-taking.

We can’t wait for Travelbugs incursion next week where we plan on getting up close and personal with bugs!

Our sport sessions on Friday mornings are running well and children are learning many new gross motor skills.

Kindergarten are absolutely loving their speech lessons every Thursday morning with Miss Camellia. Miss Camellia delivers a wonderful and engaging speech program that the children are really reaping benefits from.

Mrs Melissa Azzopardi
Class Teacher
Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety for Parents

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Dear Parents and Carers

This term, our school is taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve. The survey is completed online and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes less than 35 minutes to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education and Communities, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), will have access to data from across the State and will run a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research will look at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students’ personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child’s school by Friday 13 March.

More information about the survey and the research is available on the CESE website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

Emma Thompson
Principal
Riverstone Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
General Manager
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 27 February 2015.

I (print name) ................................................................. DO NOT give consent

for my child/children (print name/s) ...........................................................

of class/es ...................to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Signed................................................................. Date..............................

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