Principal’s Report
It has been a busy few weeks at Riverstone with our students participating in so many activities and opportunities across the community and also for me personally it has been a very big few weeks with a “big O” birthday last week and wedding on Saturday. I have been so very spoilt by the staff, students and parents over the last week and I thank you all; for the support during this exciting and hectic time.

We were a bit slack with the requested Facebook photos so here are a few pictures from the big day! Thank you to all for the well wishes and support, it was very much appreciated.
Parent Teacher Interviews

Our Term 1 interviews will be held in Week 7 and again we will be using the online booking system. Please see the information attached in regards to making an appointment to see teachers. This is a great opportunity to find out what is happening in the classroom and to see how students have settled into new classes and routines.

Swimming Carnival

On 16 February our students who are 8 years and older headed to our school Swimming Carnival at Riverstone Pool. Students participated in 50 metre and 100 metre races for the very first time, Personal Bests were broken and students participated in both land and water novelty events. I was so impressed with the levels of sportsmanship and the cheering that was heard loud and clear from the sides. Well done to all teachers involved and particularly to our House Captains and Vice Captains, as well as Mrs Plummer and her team of teachers for their wonderful organisation of this event. I’m sure that all our parents will agree that it was our best ever Swimming Carnival. Well done Riverstone Public School.

Young Leaders Day

Yesterday our school leaders and Mr England attended the National Young Leaders Day at Homebush. Awhi, Hayley, Kasey and Lachlan were fabulous representatives of Riverstone Public School and were able to listen to some fantastic speakers throughout the day. Well done to all of You. I was very proud to hear so many compliments on our very own young leaders.
How to help your children be better students

I recently read this article about how and what we as parents can do to help our children become the best students they can be. I thought I would share this wonderful article with you and share in some of the professional readings that teachers and school leaders undertake.

1. Let your child see you making mistakes.
Parents are their child’s first teacher and their lifetime teacher. Part of being a teacher is teaching your child how to deal with making mistakes. Let them see that you can make mistakes and deal with it; so they will understand it’s not a big deal and they can cope when they trip up.

2. Use e-mail to keep in touch.
E-mail is a great way to reach your child’s teacher without having to play phone tag. Teachers then have a record of a conversation or can print information out to put in a student’s file as a reminder. If you hear what your children are struggling in, please feel comfortable talking to the teacher about it. We want to know that they need help. Communication needn’t be limited to when there’s a problem.

3. Don’t tell your child that you weren’t good at maths.
Some parents might feel intimidated by the thought of helping children with their maths homework, especially in the upper grades but maths is here to serve you, not to trip you up. Maths should make life easier, and mastery can start at home with parents showing that they’re not frightened by numbers. One way to make math more accessible is to relate it to daily activities. Capitalise on examples where maths is useful, especially the kinds of calculations adults do daily like measuring ingredients, managing sums of money, working out distances. This way, children see how what they’re learning matters in life.

4. Get organised with a colour-coded system and a checklist.
Older students are expected to be more independent and manage their assignments themselves, but as they transition from primary school to middle school, they might find it hard to keep track of everything. Try using colour-coordinated folders and notebooks to help children keep their material for different subjects organised. Keep a written checklist by their school bags so they can make sure they have packed everything they need.

5. Check their homework, and then have them explain it to you.
It’s not enough to just get the answers right. To make sure your children aren’t guessing, sometimes ask them to explain what they did and why. This lets you know that the child has completed the task and for the child to actually explain their work helps their learning.

6. Don’t compare your child with others.
Don’t put pressure on children to be just like others. There’s no such thing as the child that’s like every other child. They are all different. They all have strengths and weaknesses; they all have talents and challenges.”

7. Help your child make connections to literature.
To help your child get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. Take your child to the zoo (life experience). Teach them to ask an adult for help if they lose something (problem-solving) or to hold the door for others (social skills). With skills like these, children will be able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, improving their comprehension. If they don’t have these life experiences, when they are asked to make deeper connections to reading material, it’s hard for them.

8. Middle school and high school are not the time to take a more hands-off approach.
Just because your children are getting older doesn’t mean it’s time to put them on autopilot. This is the point in their lives when they’re trying to sort out who they are. Peer pressure is intense and their connectedness to school can wane. High school students have this air about them that they don’t need their parents anymore, but they really do.

9. Don’t do everything for your child.
Sometimes it’s faster to do things yourself than wait for your children to complete a task. But having everything done for them means they don’t learn to take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves.

10. Ask about your child’s day.
Stay involved in your child’s education, beyond helping with homework. Even small things, like asking a child what happened at school, can make the difference between a child who unplugs at the end of the day and one who continues thinking about what they learned. Give them the kind of feedback that acknowledges and respects their feelings so they know you are really hearing them.

Acknowledgement: Mari-Jane Williams.

Easter Hat Parade

Who: All students from Preschool to Year 6

What to wear: Children’s own choice of hat or mask. Students from K-6 should make their own decorative headwear at home. Class teachers will be making simple Easter hats/masks in class for students without hats for the parade.

When: Thursday 24 March 2016

Time: 11.45am

Where: Riverstone Public School Assembly Hall

Who: All students from Preschool to Year 6

What to wear: Children’s own choice of hat or mask. Students from K-6 should make their own decorative headwear at home. Class teachers will be making simple Easter hats/masks in class for students without hats for the parade.

When: Thursday 24 March 2016

Time: 11.45am

Where: Riverstone Public School Assembly Hall
Over the last few weeks we have been exploring gardens. We have explored different types of gardens as well as what plants need to survive. The children have been adding plants to the new vertical garden with their families. As our herbs and fruits grow we will be able to explore our senses by touching, smelling and tasting them.

The children also put forward suggestions for our room names. Miss Cavanagh’s top three suggestions for the room were Lady Beetle, Grasshopper and Sunflower. Mrs Murrow’s top three were Butterfly, Frangipani and Chilli. The children and their families had the opportunity to vote each day. At the end of the week, we are pleased to announce the winning room names.

We are proud to welcome the Lady Beetle Room and The Chilli Room to Riverstone Public School Preschool!

By giving the children a chance to develop and vote on the room name it has helped them to develop a sense of ownership and belonging to their preschool.
### 100% Attendance Award

Congratulations to the following students for winning the 100% attendance awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Zoey B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Tyler G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Max C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Romeo S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Primo L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Jacob W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Jayden R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Easter Egg Guessing Competition

This term Year 6 students will be holding an Easter Egg Guessing Competition to raise funds for the Year 6 Farewell that will be held in Term 4.

Students are asked to guess how many eggs it takes to fill the jar. Guesses will be sold at recess every day, from Thursday 3 March until Thursday 24 March, under the bottom COLA.

Each guess will cost 50 cents and students can guess as many times as they like.
Western Sydney Family Referral Service provides an outreach worker at the Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre, Park Street Riverstone on Tuesday’s 9am to 4.30pm. Drop-in or call ahead on 9627-3622 for an appointment.
Cool Kids Music Company

Excellence in Group Primary School Music Tuition

2016 Enrolment Form

**Group Music lessons held at school**

- Group music tuition at your school
- Caters for Year 1 to 6
- Weekly, 30 minute lessons
- Music books included
- $12 per lesson, per student, per instrument incl. GST Paid by the school term
- Sibling or multiple instrument discount available*
- Parent recitals and reports available on request
- Certificates and prizes, once a term ‘Music Olympics’
- Equipment included for use during the lesson
- Instruments available for purchase for home use*

For online registration please visit www.coolkidsmusic.com.au

Or visit www.coolkidsmusic.com.au

Alternatively, return the slip below to your school office.

*Availability/Conditions apply. Information subject to change with or without notice.

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**Cool Kids Music Company**

Excellence in Group Primary School Music Tuition

2016 Enrolment Form

We are interested in participating in Cool Kids Music @ our school and would like further information.

Child’s Name: ___________________________ School: ___________________________

Year: ___________________________ Mobile: ___________________________

Parent Signed: ___________________________ Instrument: ___________________________

Possible instruments available: Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Singing and Ukulele.