



## Parents/Guardians

It has been a great start to the new term and if the smiles and 'holiday stories' are anything to go by the students and staff have come back refreshed and re-energised, ready to take on Term 2.

I would like to say how happy I am with our boys and girls brilliant attitude towards their Literacy Pro achievements and setting themselves 'personal best' levels. A big thank you to the parents and family members who have provided the home support needed to keep the boys and girls reading and a positive approach to changing over their books when needed. Well Done!

Two events have occurred in our first two weeks of term that really do showcase Riverside students and staff in the best possible way.

Firstly, our Riverside Primary School Art Display at the City of Mandurah was outstanding! The colour and skill of the student's art work on display was appreciated by the crowds of people who viewed the festival work, and together with the colourful 'recycled plastic bottle top' feet, it made a fantastic display for the thousands of participants in the Stretch Festival to view. A huge thank you to Mrs Hawkins for all her hard work who, together with her art students, produced one of the festival's best designed display. Although I may be a little biased towards this, our student's art work was highlighted by art critics and members of the public who certainly gave it high praise. Well done boys and girls, I'm sure you were all very proud of what you all achieved with Mrs Hawkins.

The second brilliant event was the 'Peer Mediation Day' run by our Year 6 staff and with the organisation of Mrs McKee. The Year 6 students enjoyed a day of activities, games, counselling, challenges and fun, that culminated in a 'big lunch'. Many thanks to Mrs McKee for her hard work making this day so special. Many long lasting friendships and peer skills were developed over the day. This is always a highlight of the Year 6 first Semester and supports the social emotional learning for the students.

With NAPLAN testing around the corner starting next Tuesday in Week 3, it is a relevant time to point out the importance of balancing work and play, drinking water, eating healthy and most importantly, getting enough sleep for our students. Research has shown how important sleep is for our students at this age and it is very easy to fall into bad and unhealthy habits. Ten to eight hours a day is the minimum level of sleep recommended for Primary aged students. Importantly, it is during sleep that our children's bodies grow and repair, recover from illness or disease and provide the basis for balanced mental health.

While NAPLAN is an important part of our school year, it is only one measure of student achievement and performance and is used alongside teacher developed tests, assignments, class work and portfolios to gain the best understanding of where each child is at.

This term our staff are busy preparing for the end of Semester reports. This means that teachers will be assessing not just subject and learning areas performance, but also looking at learning and study habits, values and social skills. Any parent who would like to discuss any aspect of their child's work or achievement is always free to contact their child's teacher and make an appointment for a chat. As parents it is important that we understand how our child is working and developing in order to support and assist their learning at school.

It was wonderful to see our Kindy mums walking around with their 'make up, lipstick and nails on' after enjoying the Kindergarten Pamper Palace this Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Wow! There were so many beautifully made up faces. Thank you mums for being part of your child's special event. Well done to our Mrs Simlinger and the Kindy staff for organising the Pamper Palace.

I finish with a huge thank you to our hard working P&C committee and members who have been organising the 'Mother's Day Stall' for this Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you in anticipation of a great event and for continuing to give your time and efforts to make our Riverside kids and families such a caring and supporting community. Happy Mother's Day to all the Mums, Step Mums, Nans, Grandmas and Great-Grandmothers. I hope you are spoilt on your special day.

Peter Dunning  
Principal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b> 8.50am School Assembly Room 1 1.30pm Winter Sports at Lakelands PS	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> NAPLAN Year 3 & 5	<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b> 8.50am School Assembly Room 8
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## Riverside Runners Cross Country Training

Cross Country Training in preparation for the Faction Cross Country Carnival on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June will be held on the oval each Monday and Thursday in Term 2 for students in Years 4-6. Students need to have a permission slip completed in order to participate. In the case of inclement weather, training will take place in the Undercover Area.

We would encourage parents who would like to increase their fitness by walking/running to also attend.



### Congratulations/Acknowledgement

We would like to extend congratulations to Jordan Whittaker who took part in the Narrogin & Districts Little Athletics Centre's activities.

Jordan achieved 14 personal bests across the season. He also competed at the Country Championships in Bunbury where he was the flag bearer for the Narrogin & Districts Little Athletics Centre. Jordan competed well at this event smashing several of his own personal bests whilst being a great role model for the younger athletes at our Centre.

Also, congratulations to Emma-Lee Main who has recently been given a fantastic opportunity to travel to America with her dancing school, AIM Dance Company, later this year.

### Rhymetime

Rhymetime is a wonderful pre-literacy program which is held in the Riverside Primary School Library at 9:00 – 9:30 each Wednesday. It is conducted by Cathy from the Mandurah City Library.

Parents, if you are available at this time with your pre-school child, come along to the library to join in the fun.



### Riverside Family Playgroup

Riverside Family Playgroup will recommence this week in the Community Room at 9:30 immediately following Rhymetime. Children aged 0-5 years are welcome to attend either or both Rhymetime and Playgroup.

### Trash Free Tuesday

Congratulations to the students in Room 2 who brought the most trash free lunches to school in Term 1.

Room 2 students received an ice-cream in a cone for their environmental efforts.



## messageyou™ Schools

We are pleased to advise that Riverside Primary School is implementing messageyou™ Schools, a mobile phone messaging system to communicate student unexplained absences to parents/guardians.

This new communication system uses Short Messaging Service (SMS) and will send text messages to parent/guardian mobile phones when your child is absent from school (in the instance that an explanation has not already been provided).

Commencing Monday 28th May at 10.30am each morning of a school day, our computer system will automatically send parents a message similar to:

**RPS records show <Student Name> is absent <Day/Date>.**

**Please reply SMS student name/reason/abs date.**

SMS is designed to advise parents that according to school records, the student is absent and no reason has been provided to the school.

It is a legal requirement that parents contact the school regarding any student absences or reasons for lateness. If an explanation for the absence has been provided prior to <specify time> each morning, then parents will not receive an SMS. **Please note** there may be some circumstances out of our control, such as power outages, where we cannot send SMS.

Parents need to be aware that this system is an additional absence follow up service only. There will be times when parents may not receive a text message due to technical issues. In cases where you are concerned about your child's attendance, please contact the school directly on 9534 0300.

**Once absence notification messages have been implemented, the use of SMS communications may be extended to wider uses such as unexpected school closures or a reminder about a school event.**

It is expected that the use of SMS communication to parents will assist in reducing the number of unexplained student absences and help inform the school and parents as to the whereabouts of every student. The SMS strategy is already being used across many Western Australia schools as a successful initiative to improve communication to parents and to encourage students to take responsibility for their attendance at school.

A letter will be sent to all parents/guardians to provide more detailed information about the system.

# REMINDER



The P&C now have a new Secretary.

Congratulations  
Kylie Gorman

Reminder – Mother's Day stall is  
**tomorrow,**  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Don't forget the Canteen lunch special sausage sizzle is

**tomorrow, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

For anyone who has not pre ordered you can still order this up until recess on the day.