Calendar Dates

Term 4 OCTOBER
10  Students and Staff return for term 4
10  Year 10 exams
11  Year 10 exams
12  Year 10 exams
   P & C Meeting 8 pm
   Naplan Information night 7-8 pm
14  Naplan Breakfast meeting 8-9 am

Principal’s Report

I have thoroughly enjoyed the way that Riverside Girls celebrates the end of Year 12. For the past three days we have been acknowledging the wonderful academic successes and consistent effort of our Year 12 girls. The word “sisters” has been used by the girls themselves to describe their peers and there is a real feeling of support and belonging (apologies to all girls and English teachers and probably parents for whom this word, a key term to describe a concept in HSC English, evokes a sense of nausea). Girls here clearly belong to both a cohort and a tradition that is Riverside. I listened to the speeches of all five student leaders and was moved by their eloquence and tributes. I was very pleased to hear them acknowledge teachers, siblings and parents because the HSC really is a team event.

The Graduation evening was very special.

I would like to thank these staff in particular – Mr Jones for his organisation of the key events of the Year 12 last week, Mr Blundell for arranging the décor of the Graduation evening, Ms Wark and her team for catering for the big event and Mr Cranson for being the dedicated, warm and fair Year Advisor that these energetic girls needed as a successor to Ms Bean.

I wish every girl a happy and restful holiday.

Belinda Kelly Principal

Our Year 12 students have had recent outstanding successes in:
- the International Chemistry competition – Felicia Lai; Anne Lee, Rachal Poon and Florence Yuan all receiving Distinctions (see the article later in the newsletter)
- being nominated for possible inclusion in On STAGE, a selection of performances from HSC Drama students and presented at Seymour Theatre next February – Julia Readett and Eloise Hodgson

ART EXHIBITION AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE EVENING

THE CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY
School Hall

The stage was definitely set for an impressive evening with students from both the Music and Visual Arts KLA’s producing an amazingly diverse collection of artworks and musical performances which have been 12 months in the making.

The night also featured a guest appearance from Casey Burgess from the hit TV Children’s show HI 5. Her story was that of the journey of opportunity since departing Riverside High School many years ago. She focused on the doors that have opened to her by having engaged in such CAPA courses. She stated to remain true to any aspirations you may have in this area and that anything is possible. This message resonated on many levels with both parent’s, staff and above all students of Year 12 in attendance. The Music students have been on a long journey of personal expression using a variety of tools such as piano, guitar, keyboard and singing in a solo and or group capacity to facilitate and therefore show case their chosen genre of music. The audience were captivated from start to finish by some simply amazing vocals and articulated execution of quite difficult pieces on their instruments. The Visual Art students also have been on a journey of self discovery and that of expression in the formation of their concepts and art making practices. For many this process resolved issues on a variety of topics and or themes. The works were of an...
extremely high standard and many positive comments were made to myself and after the evening. The students assisted in arranging, curating and hanging their own works which featured an array of expressive forms such as sculpture, painting, photography, drawing, collection of works, ceramics and printmaking. All students involved in this year’s HSC evening should be extremely proud of their accomplishments and completion of this vital part of the HSC.

I sincerely wish all of them the best of luck with their exam and all future endeavours.

Mr G Lowe
Head Teacher of Creative and Performing Arts
Riverside Girls High School

OUR NEW LEADERSHIP ROLE

There is a new Performance Captain role, instigated to raise the profile of the creative arts, choir, string ensemble and band in the next year. The band’s performance at the Year 12 assembly was exceptional and Zanthe Wills, our Performance captain, as a band member herself, is sure to seek out as many opportunities for performances as possible.

OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We are a truly multicultural school and the International students bring an energy and also important academic focus to our classrooms. In Year 12 this year we had 13 students and Jacqueline Lam spoke for them at their recent farewell luncheon organised by Ms Reoch and Ms Philpott. Here is the text of her very heartfelt speech:

Principal Kelly, head of international students Mr Slow, and fellow teachers and student. It is an honour to speak to all of you today.

Many of international students are immune to the sadness of farewell. Saying goodbye to our parents and homeland and living here by ourselves has made us become tough and rigid. But until this moment, I never understood how hard it was to leave something that we thought would be everlasting.

Ms Kelly it’s a great pity that we haven’t had enough time to have a good talk. And Mr Slow, I know you spend so much time asking us for our change of address and phone numbers for our own sake and so, many thanks. Dan Rather said, “The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called “truth”.” I would like to say this to our revered teachers. Learning new things in a second language was harder than eating Vegemite, but you were always there for us, believed in our potential and you are even here to celebrate with us.

On behalf of all the international students, special thanks to Ms King who put a lot of effort into making us feel no disadvantages and Ms Peterson and Ms Philpott who have particularly taken care of us and lastly Ms Reoch who always hides her tears every time when we realise our graduation is very soon.

To be honest, I’m afraid of leaving high school. I’m afraid of speaking to lecturers, not to a teacher and I’m afraid of meeting new people not my friends. Having said that, Ms Reoch recently said this in our ESL class. “Be active and brave. You are stronger, braver and smarter than you think. Don’t just be passive and quiet because you are ESL person”. She is right. I made my own way here, there’s nothing I can’t do! So fellow graduates, I urge you today to embrace the challenges you face at the moment and take the opportunity. Don’t forget the key to success is self-confidence.

YEAR 12 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2011

YOLNDA CHEN
JENNIFER HAN
HOLLY JANG
SUJI KIM
JACQUELINE LAM
ASTER LAW
YOONSUN LEE
JOY LI
STELLA LIANG
LILY LIU
NIKKI MU
ASHLEY ZHANG
CLAIRE ZHANG

WE ARE LEADERS IN ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE:

One team of students recently reminded us of what Riverside does best - teaching. This time it was a parent who helped to show us what can be achieved when girls are taught to think laterally and to work in teams. Thanks to Ruth McConnell we entered a team into the Science and Engineering team Tournament of Minds (TOM) challenge and became the Northern Sydney Regional finalists. At the state finals we performed extremely well. The girls had to design a sieve that worked to separate three types of mixture (sand, lollies and pebbles) and also present this sorting as part of a narrative drama performance where these ingredients held special significance for an imaginary society - then perform within 3 hours. This was a challenge that stretched our girls but did not overawe them and out team work was excellent. A special thanks to Ms McConnell for opening this
opportunity for us. We are dedicating an assembly to this success so that girls can be inspired to join the TOM team next year.

WE LOVE TRADITION

At the Sports Assembly, Ms Kelly unveiled the restored trophy originally presented to the State Champion Swimming School in 1926, even before our school was opened. We then won this trophy in 1964 and 1966 – and kept it! It is a beautiful piece of artwork with a hand engraving on silver of two swimmers about to dive into the pool.

Laura Crockart, our Sports Captain for 2011-12, was particularly impressed. She is pictured here with her grandmother, Joan Marscham, an ex-Riverside girl of 1941-43 and her grandfather, Robert. Laura is a champion swimmer and one of the stars of the team that led to us winning the Zone Champion Swimming girls’ school again in 2011.

Ms Kelly also unveiled a trophy for the Annual Inter house competition with another glorious art deco sculpture in silver on an oak shield. It is the George Iddon Shield. If anyone knows of George or the origins of this trophy from 1959 would they please let us know?

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

Sophie Taylor Year 9 and Laura Crockart Year 11 competed in the Swimming Australia State Teams Challenge over the weekend, with Sophie coming first in the 100 and 200 freestyle. Laura came first in the 800 free, both breaking records in each event and Laura being declared 15/16 years swimmer of the meet. Maybe all those early mornings do pay off.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

TRAMPOLINING

2011 CHS Trampolining – Nicola Bolton Year 9
Second in Trampolining
Third in Single Mini (Ryde as a relaxing / competition)

Laura Barrett Year 10
Second in Double Mini

Haylee McGrath-Hogan Year 10
Second in Trampolining
Third in Single Mini

Anne Vivort
Third in Trampolining

Rosie Bissett
Second in Trampolining

Combined high Schools Athletics
- Ebony Burnard – 2nd in U12 shot put U14 1500m walk; 5th in 800m
- Xanthi Friel 5th in U17 high jump
- Ximena Gellen – 9th U13 javelin

Ebony is going on to the All Schools competition which includes state, private and Catholic schools.

The Sportswoman of the year is Rosie Bisset.

WONDERFUL MATHEMATICS RESULTS

The NAPLAN results show that our students grow in numeracy from Year 7 to Year 9. One reason could be the high expectations the Mathematics staff have of every student. To inspire our high achievers, the Maths staff encourages participation in competitions.

The most recent was on Wednesday when a team of 8 students from Year 8 travelled with Mr Saad and Mr Hatcher to the Year 8 Talented Maths Day for Northern Sydney Region schools – including private and Catholic schools. Students had to participate in teams of 4 to solve challenging problems within time limits. When finished, the students ran to the solutions table and time penalties applied. We were in the top 8 of 20 participating schools.

Congratulations girls!
2012 SRC LEADERS

Year 11 into 12

Hannah Bisset  
School Captain

Lauren Gard  
School Vice Captain

Rayyana Amin  
Coen House Captain

Amy Pham  
Mallinson House Captain

Sidra Hameed  
McKenzie House Captain

Imogen Stahel  
O’Harris House Captain

Xanthe Wills  
School Performance Captain

Laura Crockart  
School Sports Captain

Yr 12 Special Awards 2011 – Graduation Ceremony

Caltex Award – Best All Rounder – Caoife Power

Reuben F Scarf Award – Commitment to her studies: Victoria King

Judy King Bursary – for supporting students at University - Eliza Scarpellino and Jasmine Chan

The Sydney Sae Soon Presbyterian church Award  
For commitment, consistent effort and desire to improve - Dwwani Gohel

Pierre de Coubertin Award – Sporting Achievement –Jessica Dobis

School Medallion – Outstanding school service - Alex Warnes-Wagstaff, Patricia Lor, Krystle-Jane Ng, Carla Kassab

P & C Award - Citizenship Awards - Daphne Klianis & Leanne Whyte

Macquarie University – Consistently High Academic Achievement - Maddie Causbrook

ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award - $500 from Australian Defence Forces - Carla Kassab

Year Adviser’s Award - Julia Readett

Sharon Douglas Prize for Innovation and Creativity (TAS nominated) - Natalie Choi

Nominated Student for the UNSW Academic Achievement Award – Florance Yuan

YEAR 7 SCIENCE ZOO EXCURSION PHOTO COMPETITION

Year 7 Science annual excursion via ferry to Taronga Zoo: Taxonomy & Classification was highlighted this year with some outstanding entries in our Zoo Photography Competition.

Highly commended in the following categories were: 
Geat Animal Shots: Jazeelah Siddiqui 7S, Annie Liu 7D, Rachel Branch 7S, Holly Braham 7O.
Alarming Shots: Alison Jones 7D, Kate Cronin 7B
Funniest Shot: Erica Kim 7B, Yasmin Keeble 7S
Best Plant Shot: Holly Braham 7O.

Kaitlin McClohgry 7B, our overall winner loves photography and submitted highly commended photos in every category, says she “sees something interesting and takes a shot”. Kaitlin’s dog is her favorite subject. She received an Australian Geographic gift vouchure from the Science Department where she selected a model of a “Buckyball: carbon-60” which impressed all the Science teachers.

In addition, Kaitlin, a keen equestrian, has just successfully competed with her 11 yo quarterhorse Ordie in Western NSW, winning 6 ribbons.
Kaitlin McCloghry “Leap frog” (Winner)

Kaitlin McCloghry “The Thinker” (Winner)

Congratulations to all entrants and to this young Scientist of the future with a “great eye”.
Thank you to all Year 7 who were wonderful ambassadors for Riverside. The Taronga Education Officers were very impressed with your behaviour and knowledge.

David Russell & Tracey Warzecha
Yr 7 Science Co-ordinators

WE EXCEL IN CHEMISTRY:

Outstanding Chemistry Results in The Royal Australian Chemical Institute National Chemistry Quiz 2011

Congratulations to the following students who impressively competed against 19, 014 candidates in the Senior Yr 12 division of this international competition. Competing schools totalling 1,567 included Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Germany and China.

High Distinction:

Keziah Colsell & Remy Miles (both Yr 11 in Accelerated HSC Chemistry)

Figure 1: Keziah Colsell & Remy Miles

Figure 1: Keziah Colsell & Remy Miles

Distinction:

Felcia Lai, Anne Lee, Rachal Poon, Florence Yuan (Yr 12), Samantha Falon, Amy Pham, Alice van Tilburg (Yr 11 in Accelerated HSC Chemistry)

Credit: Sarah Hansen (Yr 11 in Accelerated HSC Chemistry) & Dhwani Gohel (Yr 12)

Of our 16 candidates, 9 received a distinction or high distinction.

Of particular commendation is that the Year 11 Accelerated HSC Chemistry class competed at Yr 12 level and had to complete this examination in the midst of their Preliminary exams; several of them after their English Extension 1 exam!

Congratulations all who entered.

A wonderful result. The Science department is very proud of your diligence and ability.

Ms T. Warzecha
HSC Chemistry

DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY PRACTICE TRIP

The following students have successfully completed the first component of the Duke of Edinburgh practice trip. Friday 2 September and Saturday 3 September

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<td>Goodwin, Annabelle</td>
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The students, along with Ms Natasha Miller, Mr Allen James and Ms Andrews attended the trip.

Friday 2 September, we left Riverside at 7 am and met our canoe guides from Kangaroo Valley safaris at 10 am at Bendeela Camp ground on the Kangaroo Valley River. The biggest issue was fitting food, clothing and equipment into water proof barrels that were then put in the canoes for the trip. The day was overcast but calm water conditions.

We paddled for 11 km’s, stopping at one point for lunch. This section took us about three hours to complete.

The campsite chosen had small shrubs and trees around with plenty of grassy patches to pitch the tents and a camp fire site. After tents were put up, firewood was gathered and dinner was started. Some interesting eating ideas.

As the sun set about 6 pm, the camp fire was started quite early and many marshmallows were roasted. Lots of fun, conversations and attempts at spooky stories.

The night had its hazards as it was pitch black and leaving the tent to go to the toilet was a problem as there were many wombat holes around. Around 3 to 4 am it got really cold and many of us were woken by this. Sliding down the sleeping mats was also a problem for some of us.

Up at 6 am and breakfast and packing up the campsite for an 8 am exit back onto the water. Well that was the plan. It took us longer to pack up and so left at about 8.30. We then continued down the river as the fog lifted to an absolutely pristine day. Again we paddled for 11 kms to Tallowa Dam – making much better time than the previous day. We got to the dam and our bus around 11.30am and headed back to Sydney via the Kangaroo Valley pie shop – the best pies in the world!! So they say. We had a quiet trip back as most slept.

Back at school around 2.45 pm – No dramas.

I would just like to thanks Allen and Natasha for their support and easy going nature that made all this trip so enjoyable. The students are truly outstanding and many found the trip to be the biggest physical challenge they had ever undertaken. The sense of achievement in completing the trip has been echoed to me as I run into the girls in the corridors this week. They are bursting with enthusiasm.

Allen is going to arrange a debrief meeting with them in the next week.

I will be advertising for expressions of interest for Year 8 and 9 before the end of term.

Sue Andrews
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

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**NAPLAN INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

To explain our results personally, we are conducting two sessions where the student reports and tests will be explained by the DP Katarina Nikoletich, Mr Paul Jones, Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning and me. We will also explain the Riverside girls’ results overall so you can hear about our achievements in literacy and numeracy in year 9 and also the year 7 results. It is commonly regarded that year 7 results are really an indication of what the students bring to the high school from their primary school. These results help us to identify gifted writers, students who need further assistance with their literacy and numeracy and also help us to establish our targets.
for the school plan. We will make time to explain the processes we use to use the NAPLAN results as a diagnostic tool.

You are invited to attend one of these meetings in the staff common room:

Evening Meeting  Wednesday October 12  7pm to 8pm followed immediately by the P and C meeting

Breakfast Meeting  Friday October 14
8 am to 9 am followed by a late continental breakfast prepared by our Coffee Club girls (Cappuccino and muffin for $3. Please RSVP 98164264 by Thursday October 13 for catering)

B Kelly

PRIMARY STUDENTS TASTE HIGH SCHOOL LIFE AT RIVERSIDE

Riverside goes Primary or Primary students taste High School life at Riverside

Gifted and Talented Program at Riverside Girls High School

A group of Year 8 and Year 5 students have collaborated in an Enrichment Program which focuses on a series of literary, technology and visual arts workshops at Riverside Girls High School. Two programs ran concurrently. The focus of the literacy program is the creation of a Digital Story involving the development of a concept, composition of a narrative complemented with images, sound and music. The visual Arts program focused on creating ceramic tiles which will be assembled into a ceramic mural/mosaic for display at the school. The Year 8 Extension students from RGHS have acted as mentors to the Primary students from 7 local Primary schools; Drummoyne, Ryde East, Gladesville, North Ryde, Boronia Park, Hunters Hill and Putney Public Schools. Working in small groups of 3 or 4 they have effectively coordinated their skills and talents to produce a variety of imaginative concepts. Over the 4 weeks the students have had the opportunity to experiment with technology and multimedia to bring their concept to life or to create using the circle as a significant shape in art and in life, often loaded with symbolism their ceramic tiles.

The Primary school students have gained an insight into High School life and the Year 8 students have enjoyed the leadership opportunity. The program has enabled the students to develop their skills in visual literacy and creativity while benefiting from a collaborative environment. The last week on Thursday 15 September, will culminate in a presentation of their Digital Story and Ceramic tiles to their teachers and parents with certificates being awarded to the students.

Ceramic tile creations

X FACTOR SUCCESS!

Congratulations to our girls Genevieve Warzecha and Lucy de Silva who came third in the Junior and Senior categories of Hunters Hill X Factor talent competition on Friday 16 September 2011. Next year we need a larger representation in the audience for the ‘Peoples’ Choice Award’

ON STAGE NOMINATION

Congratulations to Julia Readett and Eloise Hodgson of Year 12 for their nomination to Onstage. Onstage is a showcase of the top HSC Drama Group and Individual Performances, and is held in February at the Seymour Centre.

Both girls were nominated for their Individual Performances. Julia’s performance ‘Diary of a Madwoman’ is an adaptation of Neil Armfield’s ‘Diary of a Madman’ set in the Victorian era, and Eloise’s performance ‘Minced Meat’ is a recontextualised adaptation of ‘Sweeney Todd’.

We wish both girls luck in the audition process and congratulate the whole year 12 Drama class for all of their outstanding Drama performances and projects.
Proud Supporters of Hunters Hill Rotary Functions

Hunters Hill Rotary’s generosity to our school continues with 3 Scholarships of $1000 each for our Year 9-10 students. In November we will be advertising for applicants to these AURORA scholarships.

Antiques & Collectables Fair

Presented by the Rotary Club of Hunters Hill
Saturday 19 November 2011
10am to 4pm

Sunday 20 November 2011
10am to 4pm
Admission $7.00 daily / $13.00 Weekend
Concession $5.00 daily

Enquiries may be phoned to John: 0437 212 121 or Helen: 0412 089 224

Back To Hunters Hill Weekend

One of the main events in the Sesquicentenary celebrations is the Back to Hunters Hill Weekend, November 18-20. A weekend where we invite old and new friends back to Hunters Hill. Over the weekend there will be many Open Days, tours and walks, exhibitions, the Sesquicentenary Dinner and the Picnic Day featuring James Morrison.

On the 19 November 2011 Riverside Girls High School is open between 11 and 1 pm for the “Back to Hunters Hill Weekend”. All ex-students welcome to walk through the school.

Local Schools, Local Decisions

We are writing to you following the Minister for Education and Communities announcement regarding Local Schools, Local Decisions earlier this term.

Mr Dean White, the School Education Director for the Middle Harbour Network of Schools, will work across our Region to facilitate conversations with you that are designed to provide feedback about how to best enhance quality teaching and learning.

Mr White and the Regional P&C have organised the consultation meetings listed below for you, to be held across the Region during the school holidays and Week 1 of Term 4.

This initial consultation period is short unfortunately and we apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause you.

However, it gives us all the opportunity to think carefully about the educational opportunities for our young people in Northern Sydney and how we can better focus our resources to meet and expand their future educational horizons.

Northern Sydney Region school and regional staff, students, and the PPA and SPC Associations are also being consulted.

We hope that, despite the short notice, you will be available to attend one of these meetings.

If you wish to participate in one of the meetings please email Mr White dean.white@det.nsw.edu.au the details of the meeting that you would like to attend.

Northern Sydney Region - Parent Consultation Meetings
Central Monday 26/9/2011, 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Chatswood Public School Hall – 5 Centennial Ave, Chatswood
Tuesday 11/10/2011, 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Turramurra Nth Public School Library – 237 Bobbin Head Rd, Nth Turramurra West
Tuesday 27/9/2011, 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Pennant Hills Public School Hall - Trebor Rd, Pennant Hills East
Wednesday 5/10/2011, 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Dee Why Regional Office, Meeting Room – 72 Fisher Rd, Dee Why

If you have any queries about the consultation and Local Schools Local Decisions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr White by either e-mail dean.white@det.nsw.edu.au or telephone, 9941 3000 or fax: 9941 3030.

Jane Simmons, Regional Director, Northern Sydney