Calendar Dates

Term 3 SEPTEMBER

7th  Student Leader Induction Ceremony
8th and 9th  Combined High School Athletics
14th  Zone Trampolining Championships
15th  Sport Assembly
20th  Year 10-11 SRC Day
21st  Year 12 Farewell Assembly
22nd  Year 12 Graduation Evening (7.30pm)
23rd (last day)  Year 12 Revue

Students return Monday 10th October

Principal's Report

I would like to congratulate our new school leaders. They have been chosen by both the students and teachers for their listening skills, their ability to make the students' opinions widely known and to raise awareness of both community issues and people in need. I have met Hannah, Lauren, Laura and Xanthe in different capacities in my first four months here and look forward to working with them closely.

Captain   Hannah Bisset
Vice Captain  Lauren Gard
Sports Captain  Laura Crockart
Performance Captain  Xanthe Wills
Coen Captain  Rayyana Amin
McKenzie Captain  Sidra Hameed
O'Harris Captain  Imogen Stahel
Mallinson Captain  Amy Pham

More about our student leaders in the September edition.

The pursuit of excellence

The famous scientist, Harry Messel, who wrote the textbook I used in Yr10 Science at Parramatta High in the 70s once stated, “I’m not offended if you don’t choose a career in science, but whatever you do, do it in the pursuit of excellence. If you’re the best garbage man around, just as long as you are the best one around, that’s all that matters.”

What a great philosophy – strive for excellence in whichever field you feel passionate about. In this edition we celebrate students who have pursued excellence in the fields of mathematics, science or engineering. I hope you enjoy their stories.

This week I attended the University of Sydney’s consultation breakfast with Dr Karl and the Dean of Science, Professor Hambley, who discussed with secondary principals ways to encourage students to study science at tertiary level and in particular, Sydney’s new Agricultural degree for 2013 on Sustainability. Principals pointed out ways in which we teach this at school. I spoke glowingly of our SRC energy audit and the practical measures these student leaders have encouraged us to use to lower our energy use. They also spoke on the importance of studying 2 Unit Maths and any science for the HSC because they believe these subjects develop the analytical skills needed both at Uni and the workforce, irrespective of the particular occupation.

Recently we have shown how our school excels in showcasing the maths/science and technology skills of our girls. We are now the northern Sydney region champion in the Tournament of Minds competition in the Maths/Engineering contest. In two weeks our team, Rachel Branch and Lilli Gaynor of Yr7; Sian Sykes and Rebecca Sykes of Yr8 and Elisa Lu, Julia Hood and Teresa Fischer of Yr10, will compete in the state finals. This challenge is about lateral thinking and problem solving whilst working in a group.

Also thank you to their facilitator, one of our parents and P&C regulars, Ruth McConnell.
Later in the magazine you will see the article about those students who have excelled in Mathletics. This program is financially supported in the school by the P&C. It develops students’ ability to complete mathematical equations quickly.

Under the leadership of Mr Allen James in Science, our girls are also participating in the Enviro Expo at Gibberagong Environment Centre at Bobbin Head National Park. Julia Hood, Natalie Ken, Sophie Zappavinda and Claudia Widjaja all of year 10 are the leaders of groups of primary students who will explore questions on sustainability, worm farms and water quality at this Department of Education and Communities location. This is another very active way of developing links with younger students in our locality.

2011 is the international year of chemistry. School students around the world are invited to explore one of the earth’s most precious resources, water, and then to share their investigations globally - possibly making this the biggest chemistry experiment ever. This experiment was launched at Riverside Girls with Yr8 students who explored the role of chemistry in water quality and purification. Mr James began the experiment and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute spokesperson, Ms Hine, attended in March 2011. This has been followed up with Alice Van Tilburg of Yr11 attending the Analytical Chemistry Symposium at Macquarie Uni in July. This opportunity came about as we are an academic partner of Macquarie University.

All Yr9 attended a workshop on recycling. This was a Hunters Hill Council initiative to develop students' positive environment values.

In July, Florence Yuan also attended an international science school at Sydney Uni. Along with students from China, New Zealand, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, UK and USA, she explored scientific topics including quantum physics, obesity and its solution and the real possibility of invisibility. They also explored the psychology involved in decisions made by scientists. This culminated in a gala reception for all students to share their eagerness to study science at Sydney Uni in 2012.

So, we have been busy celebrating the wonders of maths and science urged on by inspiring teachers.

As the assemblies start which recognise our new leaders, sportswomen and year 12 students, I look forward to meeting more parents and community members. You will be pleased to know that Ms Judy King will be the guest speaker at the Graduation Evening.

Belinda Kelly, Principal
fundamentals in the scientific methodology that the Riverside Science Department has incorporated into its teaching modules and assessment tasks.

It was a wonderful opportunity for Alice to see Science beyond a graduate tertiary course and the infinite possibilities of combining her two passions: creative design and science as a career.

And from Alice “I would have to say the presentation on Chemometrics was by far my favourite. The way the speaker (Dr Richard Brereton, University of Bristol, UK) explained the developments in the interpretation of instrumental data made complete sense to me. I think I could have attended an entire day of speeches on data interpretation alone. I also found the presentations on self assembled molecular films & solar cells (Dr Hans Coster, University of Sydney), Analytical Reference materials, Column bed Heterogeneity (UWS), and the development of biosensors for pathogen detection (Dr Oliver Laczkka, University of Barcelona) very interesting. Attending the symposium gave me insight into some of the professions involved in chemistry and I learnt a whole stack of new facts about laboratory instrumentation. Overall I had a really great day spending time in the best possible way: immersed in science. I’m really glad I made the most of this opportunity to have fun and learn some interesting new things.”

It was a great way to celebrate the International Year of Chemistry by highlighting future directions to further serve humanity.

Alice Van Tilburg
Ms T Warzecha
(Accelerated HSC Chemistry, Science Dept, RGHS)

Our group from year 9 entered the MANSW (Mathematical Association of NSW) competition for Investigating Mathematics. Have you ever thought about the geometrical patterns, measurement, and building designs involved with the Harbour Bridge? Our group decided to investigate about “the mathematical theories behind the Harbour Bridge”. We learnt that the Harbour Bridge had a geometrical pattern of triangles. These triangles are like series of patterns that support the bridge from collapsing. Another word for this pattern is called the “Truss”. We patiently wait to hear the results which will be announced by the end of August.

Our group members are: Angela Yueh, Annabelle Xie, Emily O’Loughlin, Lucy Wu, and Linda Yu.

SUPER ACHIEVEMENTS FROM MATHLETICS

The following students at Riverside have been acknowledged by receiving the Mathletics Achievement Award for Outstanding Results in Concept Mastery.

Congratulations go to Gabrielle Positti, Emma Meharg and Gurleen Kaur of yr 9 and Danielle De Wit and Wilasinee Prabhawat of yr 7.

“We’re thrilled that Riverside Girls High School is part of our community and so far your 902 students have improved their results by an outstanding 32% while completing a total of 478658 Live and 82632 curriculum questions.” 3P Learning August 2011.
All students have access to *Mathletics* and need to continue accessing the site on a regular basis from home and other outside school venues (like public libraries). The school thanks the continued strong support from the P & C in its funding for this program.

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**2011 NSW Public Speaking Competitions**

We are delighted that Year 11 student, Geer Brennan was in the state final of the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Award.

This competition is open to senior students in all schools throughout NSW. Each contestant delivers a prepared speech of eight minutes on a topic of their own choice based on an article in *The Sydney Morning Herald*. They then present an impromptu speech on a topic provided by the Adjudicators. The six schools represented in the state final are Kirrawee High, Prairiewood High, Riverside Girls High, Shore School, Sydney Grammar and Trinity Grammar.

A small cheer squad of talented debaters and speakers and Mr Lasaitis were in the audience to cheer on Greer. Congratulations Greer at achieving your goals!

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**We are a strong community**

This term we lost our wonderful computer coordinator, Sharon Douglass. The regional IT personnel acknowledged the forward thinking shown by Sharon in her technology planning for the school. They complimented her foresight and attention to detail when working with our team to provide both the IT resources and access we sometimes, I am sure, take for granted. Our computer hardware, access and storage are some of the best in the region. We were fortunate to have Ms Douglass on staff.

Whilst many of us were at Sharon’s funeral, the geographers and half of year 10 were doing their mandatory site study at Bondi. We were very supported by local staff with Deputy Principals from local schools and consultants coming to supervise classes whilst every teacher who wished to was able to attend Sharon’s funeral. This shows we operate as a real educational community.

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**Thankyou support staff**

We supported our staff for Support Staff Recognition week. I am sure our SAS know how important they are. It is always good to be reminded that an extra smile, word of encouragement (or extra food or chocolate!) can make a difference to a person’s day. Below are Lesley and General Assistant Robert with Mr Blundell.

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**Our teachers work hard and have fun**

It is a busy time with HSC marks and marking of practical works. Thanks to all. That’s why it was great to see so many staff at the *Yr 10 into 11 evening*. Ms Nikoletich organised a very successful and informative evening.

At Riverside Girls we continue to develop our staff so they can achieve greatness with the students. Here they are brainstorming and then evaluating the programs we have to develop the resilience and coping skills of our girls.

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Mr Moran HT Science
(a general good guy and big clown!!) supporting our day for Ronald McDonald House.
Our helpful and committed parents

We are very fortunate to have parent/carer support for some recent initiatives. We have Ruth McConnell as the Tournament of Minds facilitator; Greg Tunnock on the Communications Team and also on the panel for the selection of our Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning and parents willing to travel to Victoria on our ski trip for Yr 9. We also had parents at our professional learning day for staff at the beginning of Term 3 and Hannah Thorleigh has been an amazing hockey knockout coach. Here is some of their feedback:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in both this workshop and the staff development seminar yesterday. To be honest, beforehand I was a little apprehensive about how the teachers would react to having parents participate. However, this was totally unfounded; the teachers were genuinely warm, welcoming and enthusiastic about parent involvement – as Ruth (McConnell) said in her parting words, a very positive experience.

Mr Greg Tunnock

Dear Belinda,

I was recently fortunate enough to be ‘allowed’ by my daughter Tali, to accompany her and some of the year 9 girls on their ski trip. I wanted to tell you what a wonderful experience it was. The organisation by the staff was brilliant, leaving nothing to chance and the trip functioned like clockwork.

The students were also great, they were eager to participate and relished the opportunity they had been given. Their behaviour towards the adults and towards each other was also a delight. I am just sorry that I don’t have a daughter in year 8 this year.

Best regards
Rafael Chemke

From Ruth McConnell.....

It was their first time in the game and they were up against a team that had won three years in a row. But in the end, we triumphed and won the Maths Engineering challenge at this year’s North Sydney Regional Tournament of Minds lateral thinking challenge. The girls will now be heading to the University of New South Wales to compete in the State Final on Sunday, September 11th. There, instead of six weeks to devise a solution to a challenge, they will have three hours!

Over the past six weeks, the team had to build a crane made of 100g of paper and glue that was capable of lifting up to 1 kg of weight. They spent their $40 budget on props and wrote a narrative where their crane, named Spudnik as the load had to be made of vegetable material (theirs was potato and orange peel for colour) had to be used to solve a problem. Despite a last minute malfunction, their crane lifted 1.5kg and gained valuable bonus points.

At the state tournament, the girls will have a box of supplies from which they will build some type of device. Last year, the teams had to build a hand with movable fingers that could lift objects out of a box when attached to a member’s arm which was not allowed to bend. It is a long and very mentally challenging day, and we wish the girls the best of luck when they take on students from around the state. Go Riverside!

As the facilitator for the team, I would just like to say what an impressive group of girls they were to work with. I was especially impressed by their self-sufficiency and cooperative spirit. A group of girls who did not know each other came together, and in six weeks put together a winning solution to a difficult maths engineering challenge in a program they had never even heard of before.

They learned so many skills that will serve them well in their remaining years at Riverside and beyond. Some of the most important ones were: how to overcome setbacks, recover and move on (basically how to improvise when things don’t go according to plan as they so often don’t in life); how to recognize the talents of others and use them to their best advantage; how to work within a budget; how to manage time, especially when there doesn’t seem to be enough of it; how to critically assess their work to determine if, in fact, they are on track; how to tap into their creative spirit and how to live up to their responsibility and complete the tasks they’ve been assigned within the group. I am glad I had the opportunity to work with this talented group of girls.

We also received this email from a teacher at Gladesville Public School who was coordinating their Athletics Carnival

Hi Sue (Andrews Head Teacher PDHPE)

I just wanted to thank you for allowing your girls to officiate at our carnival. They worked brilliantly throughout the day and already I have received lots of compliments from staff and parents about their fantastic manners and the level of commitment they have shown. At all times I found them to be polite and willing to accept responsibility. They showed initiative and the ability to keep the interest of students.

Overall, they were an excellent advertisement for Riverside Girls. Thank you very much for all your organisational efforts.

Cheers
Gladesville Public School
We care about others

Members of the SRC visited Ronald McDonald House and developed further respect for this charity which we supported in earnest (whilst in circus dress theme) on August 12.

Congratulations PDHPE who, because of their involvement in Girls in Sport Intervention and Research project, received a grant of $5000 to facilitate the introduction of relevant practices and polices within our school community to encourage daily physical activity amongst our girls. Riverside provided the control school for the study with our current year 10.

Congratulations to Riverside’s talented U12 cross country team, who was the first placed public school team, at the recent NSW CHS State carnival. The event was held in appalling conditions, at the rain soaked Eastern Creek raceway. Representing Sydney North, the team of Ebony Burnard, Catherine Olgilvie, Sophie Kevern and Jadine Zajic were placed third overall in the All Schools competition. The winning school, Pymble ladies College was from Combined Independent Schools (C.I.S).

Congratulations to the following girls who placed 3rd at the recent Swimming CHS State Championships.

Emma Tinsley of Yr 9 is participating in the show jumping section of the Berry Public Interschool Equestrian championships on Saturday 17 September. She came to the office yesterday to get our logo for the side of her saddle cloth! This must be a first for Riverside!

Senior Dance Ensemble News

Congratulations for making the NSW State Dance Festival ‘Dancing Spirit’ and the 2011 School Spectacular ‘Imagine’. All your hard work and dedication has paid off! A big thanks to our choreographer Tamara Mitchell.

If you would like to support our dancers by attending these amazing performances, you can purchase your tickets via the following methods:

State Dance Festival – Monday the 12th September
PH: 93517940
WEB: www.sydney.edu.au/seymore

School Spectacular – 25.11.11 & 26.11.11
PH: 1300 883 622
WEB: www.ticketmaster.com.au

We love our sport!

Laura Crockart, our new sports captain for 2012 represented NSW at the Janet Evans mete in California in the 400 and 800m freestyle. She came 2nd in the 800m where she broke the NSW record. She will attend the Australian Youth Coach Camp in January 2012.

RIVERSIDE GOES MAD OVER HARRY POTTER!

A Harry Potter theme was used to raise money for the Make a Wish foundation.
More student news…..
Deborah O’loughlin – is away in Sweden at the world scouting jamboree. Here’s the news from her mum:

‘One of Emily’s interests is scouting. Emily has been a keen scout since she was 6 years old. This year is the World Scouting Jamboree, which is being held in Sweden. The town holding the Jamboree has 25,000 residents and the jamboree organisers are expecting 38,000 scouts from around the world. What a shock to the system that will be for that little town! There is a contingent of 200 attending from Australia, 120 scouts and 80 leaders. Emily attended the Australian Jamboree in 2010 and had a fantastic time. The Jamboree itself is 12 days long, however, the Australian contingent arrive 3 days prior to the official start, and have some time to visit Copenhagen first. At the end of the Jamboree, the Australian scouts are paired off to spend 4 days in a home stay environment, with a scouting family, in one of the different locations in Sweden. Following this, the scouts are offered an optional weeklong tour, visiting parts of Denmark, Sweden and Norway. They even go to the Arctic Circle!’

Internet Safety

Please remind your daughters to keep information such as their name, address, pass words, phone number, school and even credit card number to themselves. When signing up to a chat room, they should use a screen name that is a nickname and not easy to work out. The same goes for choosing passwords – don’t make them easy to figure out. If your child is going to put photos on the Internet, ensure they don’t show them wearing their school uniform – this can be enough to identify your child’s school. Also ensure that any photos are not the type that would attract unwanted attention from strangers. More great advice at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click

Parent & Community Report

The following are the focus for the P&C in Term 3:
1. Cyber bullying is once more making the news. We have recently heard on TV, a teenager has taken her own life. Girls if you feel in any way uncomfortable with comments on Facebook, or any kind of cyber bullying, please refrain from responding, but instead report such comments to your parents/teacher/school adviser or anyone in authority. Be assured that these issues will be dealt with the utmost discretion.

2. Please do not forget to submit your tax returns. Remember, there are quite a number of educational tools that you can be reimbursed.

3. Please continue to support our Saturday markets.

We will be looking into having another "Working Bee" day hopefully in early Spring. Further details to follow. Also:

1) Wine fundraising e-mail has been sent out. The closing is soon approaching. We are looking forward to the parents to support this drive as we need all the funds to assist on certain projects.

2) The P&C will be giving a donation to the Breast Cancer Association. We offer our condolences to the family of the late Sharon Douglass. She will be sorely missed.

3) We wish to thank and acknowledge the parents who regularly attend our P&C meetings and also we are happy to see new parents attending.

4) The P&C wishes to take this opportunity to wish all our senior students the best of luck for the upcoming examinations.

Next meeting: Wednesday 7th September at 7.30pm. It will not be in the Common Room, but in the main administration block, closer to the car park.

Thanks

Avril Semyonov
President P&C

From:
GILLIAN MAURY
SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
RIVERSIDE GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL
MEADOWBANK PUBLIC SCHOOL
0418 660243
GILLIAN.MAURY@det.nsw.edu.au

Dear All,

If you have recently been working with students who are feeling very stressed about the HSC, you may like to recommend they get a little extra help to manage their stress. In Term 3 the Health Psychology Unit will again be running the popular 4-week Managing HSC Stress program. This program is designed for students who are struggling with stress, but can also be useful for those with difficulties like low self-esteem, anxiety or low-mood.

The registration form for this program is attached. Registration is now open, so please encourage any appropriate students to get in touch with us.
We also offer individual therapy and are looking at running the Taking Charge program in 2012, so if you know of a student who is struggling we have a range of services which may be able to help.

Kind regards,
The Health Psychology Unit
University of Technology, Sydney
Ground Floor, 174 Pacific Highway
Greenwich NSW 2065
Tel: 02 9514 4077

The City of Ryde’s Youth Environment Prize Art Competition is open for another year.

Open to young people (aged 12-25) who live, work, study or play in the Ryde area, this competition offers entrants the opportunity to express their thoughts about Ecosystems and Biodiversity or Recycling and Resource Recovery through the mediums of Waste to Art or Multimedia Art.

Full details of the competition including prizes and entry forms can be found at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/yep Please contact Helen Kerley or Janice Nicholson on 9952 8222.

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Host an international high school student in February 2012 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in February for one or two semesters from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan, the U.S.A and Canada. They will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, are fully insured and have their own spending money. Call S.C.C.E now on 1800 500 501, email scceaust@scce.com.au or visit our website (www.scce.com.au) to be part of this rewarding experience. Request our booklet of student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

Robert Lindsay
National Business Development Manager
University of Wollongong
www.uow.edu.au/future/events

Creative Arts Information Night
UOW’s Creative Arts degrees and application processes have changed.  
Information session on September 27 from 3.30pm – 7.30pm

HSC in the Holidays Sept/Oct
Interactive workshops run by Senior HSC markers.  www.hscintheholidays.com.au

Degree Spotlight – Bachelor of Economics and Finance
New degree in 2012.

University of Wollongong Campus Tours
Group Campus Tours are conducted Monday - Friday during NSW school holiday periods
2011 Spring: 26/09/11 - 7/10/11
2011 Summer: 12/12/11 - 23/12/11
Tours at 10am and 2pm.
Bookings can be made online or by calling 1300 367 869.  

Macquarie University Events

Open Day
Saturday 10 September 2011, 10am – 4pm
Register now to:
1. Receive a free coffee or sausage sizzle on the day
2. Stay informed of event details
3. Receive notification when online planner is available
4. Stay informed of upcoming giveaways
www.openday.mq.edu.au/

Uni in a Day
Thursday September 29 2011, 8:30am – 3:30pm
For Year 10, 11 and 12 students.
Students will be able to choose their own subjects, plan their timetable and see what happens in a normal day on campus.
http://www.mq.edu.au/uniinaday

UAC Directions Newsletter
Applications for Educational Access Schemes (EAS) open next month.
UAC 2012 International Booklet will be sent to schools and institutions soon.
Applications for international study in 2012 open in early August.
www.uac.edu.au

International Film School Sydney Future Filmmaker scholarship competition
Open to Australian residents 17+ years old.
Prize: 2 year scholarship of an Advanced Diploma of Screen and Media
Prize value $44,000.
Closing date: 21st October 2011
info@ifss.edu.au

NSW Marine Industry Careers Guide
The Australian marine industry employs 29,000 people.
Skillsroad
A Resume Builder which will give you a simple resume in Word format.
A Career Quiz which helps you choose a job that’s right for YOU.
www.Skillsroad.com.au

Raffles Scholarships
8 Scholarships offered for 2012
One full-fee and one half-fee scholarship for
Bachelor of Accountancy
Bachelor of Commerce
Bachelor of Design
Bachelor of Arts (Visual Communication)
Applications close 30 September 2011
http://raffles.edu.au/apply-now/4-scholarships/australian-scholarships

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme
The scholarship provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who
are intending to undertake study or are undertaking study in an entry level qualification in an eligible
health related discipline at an Australian university or TAFE (Certificate IV and above).
Closing date: Friday 16 September
Free call: 1800 688 628
Email: scholarships@rcna.org.au

The CSIRO Parkes Observatory Open Days
8-9 October, offering guided tours up and through the famous radio telescope.
In addition to telescope tours, there will be regular talks by astronomers on a range of astronomy
related topics, Q&A sessions with astronomy and engineering experts, and a look behind the
scenes of the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder.

Women in Physics Lecture Tour - The dark side of the Universe
6.30pm, Tuesday, 13 September 2011
Location: Sydney Observatory
Cost: $5 RSVP required.
Phone: (02) 9921 3485

Academy of Information Technology, Sydney
30 September & 7 October, Games & Animation workshop
Designed for students who wish to explore the world of digital media.
Level 2, 7 Kelly Street, Ultimo
T +61 (2) 9211 8399 F +61 (2) 9211 8355
E events@ait.nsw.edu.au

Application Forms from your careers adviser or T 8588 4782 or E tjordan@think.edu.au

PARENTS AND STUDENTS
This news letter is an edited version of the MHS careers newsletter.
Riverside GHS is a subscriber to mhscareers.com
Parents and students are able to receive these messages directly by email, by registering your
email address at:
http://www.mhscareers.com/ContactUs.html