Calendar Dates

**Term 3**
8 June - Zone Athletics
15-17 June - School Musical ‘ANNIE’
15 June - P&C Meeting
20 June - Trial HSC Exams begin
22 June - Yr 10 &11 Parent Teacher Evening

Principal’s Report

Thank you all for the good wishes as I begin my principal's role at Riverside Girls High School. My first four weeks have been eventful and everyone – students, staff and the community – have made me feel very welcome. My first impressions are of a school proud of its traditions and with a calm energy where everything happens efficiently and with commitment. A great example of this was the Athletics Carnival where the team of teachers contributed to an enjoyable day many students will remember as one of their high school highlights – the 1980’s theme and year 12 participation certainly contributed to this.

At the public education week assembly last week, attended by the Mayor of Hunters Hill, Mayor Susan Hoopmann, I acknowledged the extracurricular opportunities provided to our girls by our teaching and support staff. Many of these are outlined in this edition of “Currents”. Even though these opportunities enrich students’ school life, my vision for Riverside is of a school where we focus on providing quality teaching and learning experiences in the classroom (or equivalent). Improving student learning outcomes, with a focus on literacy and numeracy achievement, is what drives Riverside. And this can only be realised when the welfare programs are supportive and the classrooms safe and nurturing. This certainly is the case at our school.

In the past four weeks I have attended the P&C and enjoyed being here to see their members clean up the front garden, plant more grevilleas and spread mulch across the native garden bordering Victoria Road. Thank you for this much needed work.

We have had one retirement – Mr Tony Bragg from Maths, and Sharon Douglass, our IT specialist, has taken extended leave due to illness.

On behalf of the school I wish them both the best. Thank you to the teachers who have supported initiatives that will make the environment here more sustainable – Mr Allen James who is driving the school’s environment club towards their goal of an outdoor classroom and permaculture garden and held a fundraiser barbecue at Bunning’s on Mother’s Day raising $1000 towards this cause; Ginnese Johnston for keeping us focussed on planting natives in our grounds and our two SRC teachers, Renae Lidman and Sara Antunes for taking on the SRC Regional initiative for Junior students to audit our power use and make a five point plan to reduce energy consumption at Riverside Girls. More to come about this…

There have been many individual student successes in competitions including Greer Brennan who is one of the four Northern Sydney regional finalists competing at the state public speaking awards in June. Greer continues to amaze audiences with her confidence and well-structured arguments. Our teams – debating, mock trial, model United Nations and knockout futsal continue in their various competitions. The Open soccer played so strongly against Mackellar Girls and should be proud of getting to round 4 of the knockout girl’s competition.

“Deeds Not Words”

One of our students recently lost everything in a house fire and the senior girls have been busy organising fundraisers for her. They decided on something different to a mufti day. So, on June 9 there will be both a cake stall and a concert in the hall to showcase the performance pieces of the HSC Music candidates. I believe some teachers will also be invited to showcase their talents (or lack off!) Entry will be by gold coin or it will be supervised personal study period for period 4. I would like to think every student will attend this concert. So thankyou girls for your deeds which really show care and teamwork.

Uniform Policy

I believe arriving at school in uniform is one way of showing pride in our school and pride in self. In the past four weeks, I have noticed an improvement in uniform and I am grateful to the
students who have responded to my comments in the playground as I walk around to meet the girls. Some seniors in particular continue to push the limits. So, to reinforce this improvement, I have gained support from both the P & C and SRC for this consequence. Senior students who arrive at school out of uniform without a note (which gains them an ‘out of uniform’ day pass from Ms Andrews) will be sent home. Parents/ carers will receive a phone call to let them know that their student is out of uniform before the student leaves the school premises. They will be expected to return in full uniform. This consequence has been explained on assemblies and there have been discussions on ‘correct uniform’ during term 1 and since I have been here. So there is no need for further warnings. This policy takes effect on Wednesday, June 1.

Mayor’s visit
Hunters Hill Mayor, Mayor Susan Hoopmann attended out Public Education Week assembly to present an award from Google to Patricia Lor of year 12. Patricia was recognised for her success at a Sydney University extension course in computer programming. The Mayor commented on the kindness of our students and the talents of the actors and band who presented a piece from “Annie”. I certainly look forward to this production.

Belinda Kelly

Parent Portal
The new Parent Portal will be available to all parents soon. The portal will be accessible via our website www.riversideghs.nsw.edu.au, and allows all parents to login to the school Intranet and access a myriad of information enabling you to be far more aware of what is happening at school.

Internet Safety.
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

SCHOOL MUSICAL:
We are just weeks away from the hit Musical ANNIE! The students and staff have been working extremely hard to ensure all hearts are touched by this amazing story!

Tickets are on sale now at the school office:
Performance dates are the 15th, 16th and 17th of June commencing at 6.30pm.
Refreshments and BBQ will be on sale.
Ticket prices:
Child: $5
Adult: $10
Family: $25

Parent & Community Report
We had our Working bee on Saturday 21st May. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped moving barrels of mulch, digging and planting new plants. One of our yr 7 students Gabrielle Morgan showed us her skills in gardening, thank you Gabrielle. Also, a special thank you to our new principal for making those lovely coffees and muffins.

Perhaps at the beginning of Spring we will have another Working Bee and hope to have more volunteers.
Please support the musical production Annie. Production runs from 15 – 17 June. The P&C will be selling some refreshments etc, and we will be sending out an e-mail for some volunteers.

Please support the Sydney Organic Markets which are held every Saturday at our school. By buying goods from these markets, the school gets a percentage towards school activities/fundraising efforts etc.

NEXT P & C MEETING
Date: Wednesday 8 June 2011
Time: 7.30 pm
Venue: Common Room

Avril Semyonov
President P&C

Work place learning at Riverside Girls High

Changes to the curriculum, the lifting of the minimum school leaving age as well as the changing nature of the workforce have seen the range of workplace learning opportunities offered at Riverside expanded greatly over the last few years. There has also been an expansion of partnerships with employers, TAFE and Private Training Providers (RTO’s).

Riverside offers girls the opportunity to undertake structured Work Place Learning in a variety ways including:

- Voluntary Individual Release Work Experience – open to all students.
- Mandatory VET Work placement - for students studying a VET subject.
- School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships - open to all students.
- Individual School to Work Transition planning – students having an identified need.

Individual Release Work Experience - All students over the age of 15 are able to undertake Work Experience. This is a voluntary, program and not all girls will do it. It is for students who have a genuine interest in finding out about a particular career. It allows students flexibility and choice. Girls can do one week or day per week. It can be done from Yr9 to Yr12 and they can go as many times as they want as long as they catch up any worked missed. Not having a compulsory week allows students to get the best employer, not just the one who is available the week the school does w/exp..

Structured VET Work Placement
Changes to the curriculum over the past few years have seen an increase the offering of Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects. Many of these subjects include 2 weeks mandatory Work Placement over year 11 and 12. Not only do they count towards the HSC but they also give advanced standing in related TAFE courses. Riverside students choosing 2un Hospitality, 2un Travel and Tourism, 2un Event Management, 2un Retail Services, 2un Information Technology and 2un Business Services all do 2 weeks Work Placement.

2010 saw our first student studying 5units of nursing over Yr11 and 12 for her HSC. This is done at Hornsby hospital and the training provider is the Northern Area Health Service. Riverside also offers selected students the opportunity to start HSC (stage 6) VET subjects while in Yr10 (stage 5) spreading the pressure of HSC over 3 years and including Work placement as part of this.

School Based Apprenticeships (SBA) and Traineeships (SBT). Vocational HSC.
Students can start apprenticeships or traineeships while remaining at school and completing their HSC. This enables students work on a part time basis, earn money and also receive credit towards their HSC for the theory component of their Trainee / Apprenticeship. Riverside students have studied SBT and SBA’s in Animal Care, Real Estate, Fitness Instruction, Hairdressing, Business Services, Retail Services and Hospitality. In addition students can also elect to study 2unit Industry Based Learning as an HSC subject which will give them credit for the practical side of the SBT / SBA. By electing to do a SBT or SBA students can receive up to 9 units ( 5 units for the theory and another 4units for the practical component ) of the 22 units required over 2 years for the award of the HSC.

Individual School to Work Transition Planning
Girls with identified needs are mentored and assisted to complete school in a variety of ways, which can include one or all of the following, attending special TAFE Outreach vocational courses. Undertaking continual or periodic work experience, Referral to specialist agencies.

Some schools continue with the compulsory one week block. Riverside felt a program where school stops and all students are forced to go out regardless of whether they have any career interest, whether they are mature enough or even if they are able to get their desired job in the particular week the school goes out did not offer the best outcomes. The argument that it offered them a chance to experience work has also decreased as a large number of our girls have part time employment and are aware of employment related responsibilities.

We are happy to let any student who would like to try a particular career the opportunity to do so. I can assist in helping students find placements and a Work Experience Information pack is available.
from the Careers office. If you would like to discuss any matters please call me.

Michael Blundell
Careers Adviser

SPORTS NEWS:

Futsal regional knockout champions!!

On Monday the 2nd and Tuesday the 3rd of May we sent two teams in every age group to the regional futsal knockouts. The three age groups are U14, 16 and 19’s. For those that don’t know futsal is a brand of indoor soccer played on a field similar size to a basketball court with 4 field players and a goal keeper. We walked away with 1st and 3rd place in every single age group which is a fantastic achievement and an example of how much depth of talent there is in the school at the present time. There were some surprises on the day with our ‘hotshot’ U16’s side missing out to Burwood girls in their semi-final going down 3-0 to an outstanding defensive unit that we simply could not crack.

Our other 16’s side made it through their semi-final comfortably and managed to overcome all the odds and take out the final in a thriller showing tremendous determination and skill to walk out champions. It’s attitudes and performances like this that make us all proud to be involved here at Riverside Girls High School.

Congratulations girls you deserve it. Good luck at state to the three teams that progressed as champions and well done to the other three teams that narrowly missed out.

Other notices:
A benefit concert is being held for the victims of the Japanese Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster. Our friendly community member who gardens with the girls for an hour every Monday will lead his 18 piece swing band in an evening of music and dance!

Where: Ryde Civic Centre
When: Sunday 5th of June
Time: 3pm-6pm

HUNTERS HILL COUNCIL ARE HOLDING THE FIRST EVER

X-FAKTOR COMPETITION

More information is coming and feel free to discuss this with Mr Lowe.