Calendar Dates

Term 1
8 March open Day 2-6pm

Principal’s Report
Welcome to our new families, friends and students. This Year 7 is now full with 176 students. Our numbers are also very big in Yr 10. What a wonderful way to start the year.

February is the month to celebrate HSC success. We had 18 of our 20 students who gained ATARS over 90 at the High Achievers’ Assembly. Our dux, Florence Yuan (ATAR 99.45) will be studying Science Law, Victoria King (99.05) Architecture and Felicia Lai (99.10) Pharmacy. The two speakers, Florence Yuan and Julia Readett (Captain 2011) praised our teachers. Julia said, “First and foremost, your teachers are your friends. It is not only their job but their pleasure to help you succeed in the HSC. I’ll probably be shot for this, but I urge you to do extra essays and worksheets and hand them to your teachers to go over with you. The HSC is not a secret but if it was, your teachers have the key.” The important messages of the day were that teachers are so helpful here and also that students who choose subjects they enjoy in Year 11 and 12 are more likely to do well.

Open Day is March 8. We hope to see lots of visitors to this highlight of Term 1. The day starts at 2pm, and the official welcome is at 3.30pm in the hall. The P. & C. run a gelato stall and sausage sizzle. You will be able to meet our new P & C. President, Mr Greg Tunnock. Most importantly, you will see our students in action as they guide you around the activities. They are the best advocates for Riverside and we are very proud of them.

On Open Day you will also see our new above ground sustainable gardens. Thank you to the P.& C. for their financial support of this initiative and Ms Ruth McConnell for her assistance in building these raised beds. Our move towards being more sustainable has just received a boost. After 2 years of waiting, we received news that 100 solar panels will be installed on our roof. This will be happening the first week of March. Congratulations on writing a successful submission Mr James!

Congratulations to Sophie Lara Watson of Yr 10 who is now the Youth Parliament representative for Victor Dominelli in the NSW seat of Ryde. Sophie attended the launch at Parliament House with mum and myself to hear the Speaker of the Youth Parliament outline the program. It culminates in the July holidays with the youth representatives passing ‘bills’ in the House. More about this wonderful opportunity in future “Currents.”

Thank you to all those parents who have paid their contributions at the beginning of the year. School funding is a hot topic and your financial support with the General and P&C contributions is very much appreciated so we can plan for additional educational programs.

HOT OFF THE PRESS
Sophie Taylor (10) and Laura Crockart (12) are off to the National Open Swimming Trials for London Olympics on March 17-18. Sophie is a 100, a 100m and 200m freestyler. Laura is a 400m and 800m freestyler. Good luck girls!!!

Belinda Kelly
Principal
P & C Report

The P&C welcomes Riverside students, parents, carers, teachers and staff to the new school year.

The first P&C meeting of the year was held on Wednesday, 8th February 2012, thank you to all the parents who attended. At this meeting, Ms Ann Vogelnest, the new Head Teacher Teaching and Learning gave an overview of her previous teaching experience, and an outline of her role at Riverside, specifically her ICT project to facilitate the teaching of Mandarin via video conferencing from Chatswood High School.

A constructive discussion regarding Assessment and Reporting resulted in a suggestion to conduct a workshop where students, parents and teachers will come together to brainstorm solutions to issues. The P&C are very keen for this workshop to go ahead and will keep parents informed regarding dates and times.

The full minutes to the 8th February 2012 P&C meeting are available on the Riverside website at: http://www.riversidegh.schools.nsw.edu.au/public/website/content/pc/minutes.html

An extra P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday, 29th February to discuss a proposal for Riverside to apply to join the federally funded Chaplaincy and Student Welfare program. Due to the timing of the publication of this edition of Currents, you are most likely reading this after the meeting has occurred. This extra meeting is required because the Chaplaincy program applications close on Friday, 2nd March - before the next scheduled P&C meeting. The meeting minutes will be published on the Riverside website in the same location as given above.

The P&C and parent Music Committee will be helping at Riverside’s Open Day, Thursday 8th March between 2pm and 6pm, by running a sausage sizzle and a gelato cart. Parents volunteer helpers are needed and will be welcomed. Please contact Zoe Thompson <zoe@timeminder.com.au> (P&C) and Rebecca Hastings <hastingsr@optusnet.com.au> (Music Committee) if you are able to help.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14th March 2012 at 7:30pm in the school common room and we welcome all parents and carers. At this meeting, Ms Meghan Cocburn, the drama teacher will be the guest speaker. She will outline the Riverside drama program including details of this years Peter Pan drama evening, the HSC drama results and the future of drama at Riverside.

Riverside P&C Committee

2012 Swimming Carnival

On the 8th of February the sun finally shone this year, and Riverside girls once again gathered on the concrete steps of Drummoyne Pool to celebrate and strive to beat Coen in the 2012 swimming carnival. One keen participant showed their optimism by wearing a t-shirt saying “c’mon let’s win for once”. The house captains did an amazing job in encouraging theme participation and there were a lot of Wallies, Hippies, Tribals and Rios cheering from the stands.

Race participation was also high this year, particularly in the younger years, and all swimmers showed their enthusiasm. Congratulations to the year 12 students who victorious thrashed the teachers in an exciting relay event.

Our age champions for 2012 were:
12Yrs- Chloe Davis
13Yrs- Catherine Ogilvie
14Yrs- Georgia Kenny
15Yrs- Kaitlin Labrie
16Yrs- Sophie Taylor
17Yrs- Laura Crockart.
Special mention to Catherine Ogilvie, Sophie Taylor and Laura Crockart who broke records once again and to Laura for winning the champion of champions race – what a way to finish!

At the end of the day the house results were
Coen – 1st
O’Harris – 2nd
Mallinson – 3rd
McKenzie – 4th.

Thank you to all the teachers led by Ms Miller and to all of the helpers who helped make our swimming carnival once again a successful one. And a BIG thank you to Peter Kenny (father of Danielle & Georgia) from Boronia Park Framing who gave up his time to professionally photograph the carnival. Good luck to all the students representing Riverside at the Zone Carnival on Wednesday the 7th of March.

Inter-house Soccer

The inter-house soccer competition has started this week. The students kicked off with great enthusiasm representing their houses. This competition is an initiative of the SRC to get students involved in different activities.

Volleyball

Congratulations to Dede Stewart who was selected for the Sydney North Volleyball Team which will compete in the NSWCHSSA State Carnival from Tuesday 13 March - Thursday 15 March 2012 at Cambridge Park. A special mention to Rachel Hansen and Claire Fameli who were chosen as shadow players for the squad.

Creative and Performing Arts

Thank you to those that have involved themselves in the extra - curricular programs. We have recruited excellent players from Yr 7 and achieved record numbers of participation in Concert Band.

There are vacancies for beginners and experienced students in String Group and Choir. Please contact Sherrie in the front office if you are interested or have any questions.

Drama

The auditions for "Peta Pann" (as adapted by Ms Cockburn) has finished! If you didn’t get a part its good experience, training and fun to be involved in the chorus. Did you know that Barbra Streisand and Neil Diamond went to the same school and sang in the chorus and school choir?

General

[Image]

ARE YOU A SINGLE PARENT?

Single with Children is a non-profit social group that provides fun and exciting social activities every week specifically for single parents and their children.

It’s a great way to meet or make new friends in your area.

For your FREE copy of our social calendar contact us today!

Call 1300 300 496

Or check out our web site: www.singlewithchildren.com.au

Getting off to a great start

Check out the new School A to Z webcast which features an expert panel answering the most common questions parents have about how they can best support their children at school. Four video chapters cover doing well in class, social life, behaviour and technology. Watch the videos and contribute questions: www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start

Bullying advice

Schools have a zero tolerance of bullying, but with mobile devices such as phones and laptops, bullying can follow children past the school playground. Get the lowdown on bullying from School A to Z: the signs to look for, what to do if your child is being bullied and how you can help your child. There are expert articles to read and videos to watch.
