**Calendar Dates**

3 April  MUSIC EXTRA CURRICULAR ARTISTS  
concert in The School Hall 7.30 – 9pm  
Entry free!

4 April  PARENT TEACHER EVENING - years 7 and 12 in the hall. Appointments necessary

5 April  THE GREAT DEBATE at lunchtime

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**Principal’s Report**

What a month of sharing in student successes! I watched the rowing squad in their first competition. It had to be moved from the Nepean River to Drummoyne because of the rain and dangerous conditions on the river. Congratulations to Amber-Rose Bailey, Victoria Little, Isabella Andrews, Emily O’Loughlin, Kristina Andersen Cooke, Anneke de Vries and Laura Coleman Meyer for turning all those early morning training sessions into successful rows.

The senior leaders inspired us at the International Women’s Day assembly with messages of “continue to speak up for what you believe in”. We had 14 student delegates attend the UN Women’s breakfast at Darling Harbour that morning and the girls were inspired by the stories of a foreign correspondent form the ABC, Sally Sara.

Sophia Murry-Walker (Yr9) has impressed many teachers with her beautiful poem – see the end of the bulletin. Taking time to talk through the imagery and language with her has been a great highlight of my month. I am an English Teacher after all.

We have all enjoyed celebrating Kate Beere’s (Yr 9) trip to Melbourne to meet with Taylor Swift, the US performer. Kate entered a greeting card making competition to honour Taylor Swift’s birthday. Her winning design included cut outs and layout inspired by her work at Riverside including work on “The Figure” unit with Ms Zuffery, her VA teacher. I am sure the confidence Kate has gained from seeing an original idea culminate in a very professional product will lead her to future success in the design field.

Also, I have been working with staff to finalise our 2012-2014 school plan. It will be up on our website from next week.

And, I wish to thank again all the parents who attended the extraordinary meeting of the P&C to discuss the Chaplaincy/Student welfare worker funding application. After much consideration of everyone’s opinions, I have decided to withdraw this application until we have more time to discuss the role and the programs this person would implement. Many staff and parents had questions that we need to answer with specifics before progressing with such a role. However, our students will not be disadvantaged. I would like to thank the P&C for suggesting that student wellbeing is one of their major concerns and that they would consider funding extra welfare time for our students when there is a specific proposal presented to them.

Lastly, a reminder that students who are absent from school need to bring in an explanation note on the day of their return. We have instituted new processes for students who bring in notes explaining absences for exceptional circumstances such as trips to visit sick relatives overseas, elite athletes attending competitions and those attending work with the entertainment industry such as Kate. These processes are working very well and result in the issuing of a ‘Certificate of Exemption’. But the daily absences are not always covered by explanations from home and so will appear on reports as ‘Unexplained’.

I hope everyone in our community enjoys their holidays and especially time with family and friends.

Belinda Kelly  
Principal
P & C Report

The P&C has been active since the last edition of Currents. There have been two P&C meetings, the P&C and Music Committee were involved in Open Day, and the music committee were involved in a full day music incursion.

The first meeting was an extraordinary meeting on 29 February to discuss a proposal for Riverside to apply for the federally funded Chaplaincy and Student Welfare program. The parents and carers at the meeting quickly recognised the benefit of the additional student welfare resource but were divided on whether it should be Chaplain or Welfare Worker. Please see the minutes at http://www.riversidegh.schools.nsw.edu.au/public/website/content/pc/minutes.html for more details.

The second meeting was the regular March general P&C meeting where guest speakers Meghan Cockburn, Drama teacher, and Brett Hunt, Acting Head Teacher, Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), outlined the Riverside drama program including details of this years ‘Peta Pan’ drama production and the high level of HSC Drama results previously achieved by Riverside students. This was an interesting and informative presentation. The P&C unanimously agreed to contribute $1000 to fund the costumes for the Peta Pan production.

Open Day gave the P&C and Music Committee parents the opportunity to promote our school with potential parents and students, as well as providing the friendly facility of a sausage sizzle and gelato cart, and raise a small amount of funds. The atmosphere amongst the visitors came across as positive and enthusiastic for Riverside.

A full day Music Incursion for the Riverside Bands and String Ensembles students was held on 22 March which was supported by the Music Committee parents providing morning tea and lunch for students and tutors.

The Riverside Bands, String Ensembles, Choir and Dance groups will be presenting a MECA (Music and Extra Curricular Activities) performance evening on 3 April at 7:30pm in the school hall. This will be an opportunity for the talents of Riverside’s musicians, singers and dancers to be showcased to parents and carers. Everyone is welcome. The Music committee will provide supper. If you are able to help with supper please contact Rebecca Hastings <hastingsr@optusnet.com.au>.

The next P&C meeting will be on 9 May at 7:30pm in the staff common room. Bill Moran, Head Teacher Science and Ruth Ritchie, Head Teacher HSIE will be guest speakers at this meeting. They will talk about ‘The Big Question’ problem based learning project for Year 10 term 4, which will also establish a link between Riverside and Macquarie University.

We thank all the parents that have helped with activities and attended P&C meetings. There is always opportunity for more parents and carers to be involved and your involvement will be warmly welcomed.

The P&C now use the Riverside Parent Portal to send email communication. Please fill in your email address and enable P&C Information on the My Account section of the Parent Portal to receive email from the P&C, if you have not already done so.

Riverside P&C Committee

RIVERSIDE WINS $50,000 GRANT!

For a number of years Riverside’s Environment Club has been working towards installing solar panels to supplement our power supply and reduce our environmental footprint. In December 2010 our application for a National Solar Schools Program grant was approved. The NSSP is run by the Government which provides grants of $50,000 for schools to fund the installation of solar panels.

The Environment Club led by Mr James

The school is expected to have the grid-connected solar panels up and running, ready for potential 2013 students and parents to see. The panels will be located on the ‘D’ block facing the quadrangle so they will be visible during breaks, and catching the northwest sun. Our 7.05kWp system should power more than 5 classrooms over the whole year. So not only will the panels save power and money, they will also allow students to become more aware of energy usage and the benefits of solar energy.

The school acknowledges the support and technical developments of Solgen Energy.
The Drama Production “Peta Pan”

This year Riverside has planned and is rehearsing another action packed Drama Production with an original adaptation of J M Barry's Peter Pan.

Photo of 3 members of the Peta Pan cast rehearsing their lines on a Wednesday after school in the PS Space

Riverside’s production of Peta Pan – focuses on what happens when girls don’t want to grow up, or if they are not sure of how to do it.

The focus is on the issues relevant to today's adolescent girls and thus our own talented script writers altered Peta's gender. They also sought to bring Barry's original ideas into the 21st century, as Wendy's desire to sew, look after children and to be a good housewife seems limited, if not antiquated!

This is a fresh new take on a classic coming of age story, written especially for Riverside Girls High School. We look forward to sharing this original and insightful production with you and your family! And thank you to the P and C for their generous donation towards our costumes.

M Cockburn
Drama Department.

Year 10 Geography Excursion

Picture and story by Mikaela Parker

On Thursday the 16 February, year 10 Geography students enjoyed an excursion to the coastal walk from Bondi to Bronte. Two busloads of Riversidians arrived at Bondi that hot morning and we all took a seat on the grassy hill before the beach. We were handed yellow work books and after filling out page one-which involved sketching the beachscape- we began our walk.

We took the path up from Bondi and admired the scenery, sad that we hadn't brought our swimmers. We stopped at Mackenzie's Point to estimate the wind strength and sketch an aboriginal painting. After a snack break, we again began walking and reached Tamarama beach, took some notes and set off towards Bronte Beach. There we met a council worker who gave us a talk on water harvesting, bush regeneration and other coastal management strategies. After a long day, we set off back to school-eager to go home and begin our assignments.

Bondi Beach- Picture by Mikaela Parker

Catering for Senior Citizens at the Hunters Hill Town Hall - by Rachel Chow

Alex Vousden, Chenoa Dixon, Emma Shizuka, Kara Thorpe and Rachel Chow from Year 12 Hospitality catered and served food and drinks for the Hunters Hill Seniors Morning Tea on the 21 March.

The girls with the Mayor of Hunters Hill, Councillior Susan Hoopman

A range of treats including sandwiches, scones, cupcakes and slices were produced in the school kitchen for the event, with many other hospitality and food technology students and teachers contributing. Once at the Hunters Hill Town Hall the girls served the platters of food and offered beverages to guests. It was both an enjoyable and rewarding learning experience, as the girls experienced a commercial catering setting first-hand gaining experience which could be helpful on their future hospitality endeavours.

The students and their teachers, including Ms Wark, did a super job catering for the senior citizens at the Town Hall and both the council and the senior citizens were very grateful for our efforts. Thank you to Yr 12 Hospitality!

Year 11 Chowder Bay Excursion
With the salty spray of Sydney Harbour in our hair and a bucket of freshly caught plankton in our hands, a group of 14 enthusiastic Earth and Environmental and Marine Studies students made their way to Chowder Bay. The day began with a Harbour cruise along the Barangaroo Lend Lease development, Walsh Bay and the Prime Minister’s Sydney residence.

On arrival at the Clifton Gardens we were given the opportunity to explore the current research programs carried out by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) and participate in some hands-on fieldwork; an organism study, water quality testing and the option to go snorkelling. The water was cool but our wetsuits kept us warm. Unfortunately the rain made the water a bit cloudy but we were still lucky enough to find a tiny and well camouflaged seahorse along the nets of the bay, along with a very prickly sea urchin and a small school of whiting.

The day ended with a very special sighting of two Little Penguins Special thanks to Mr James and Mr Moran who made the day a huge success.

Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians (MCYA)

Our school has enrolled 49 students into the MCYA. The aims include:

- A greater interest in and awareness of the power of mathematics;
- A desire to succeed in solving interesting mathematical problems;
- The discovery of the joy of solving problems in mathematics.

For more information please visit:


NAPLAN – Numeracy update
Practice papers are now available!!
Simply download from the parent portal.

To assist your daughter in her preparation for the Naplan tests which are in May, please encourage and allow her sufficient time to attempt these under exam conditions. (Answers are also provided.)

CAREERS

Students interested in pursuing medicine and other health courses need to sit the UMAT on 25 July 2012. MedEntry is a government accredited Registered Training Organisation specialising in UMAT preparation over a 2 day workshop. They also offer discounts. Please see our Principal Ms Kelly and visit www.MedEntry.edu.au for more details.

Creative and Performing Arts

The Band and String Group Incursion was held on 22rd March in the Hall, performing spaces and the Gym.

The girls reported this was a tremendously enjoyable and successful educational experience being tutored by specialist instrumental tutors from the Sydney Opera and Ballet Orchestras.

We are especially grateful to our conductors Graham Hunt, Nick Jeffries and Adrian Keating for their assistance securing the services of tutors like Mark Bruel to teach our exceptionally talented oboe (Lucy Burke Yr 10) and bassoon players (Emily Lin Yr 8)

In this photo we see our saxophone tutor Kristen with our altos and tenor saxophones at the band incursion.
This Music Night is on 3 April commencing at 7.30 in the school hall. This will showcase our Bands and String Groups and student performers. We hope to see you there! Entry is free and you can support our school by purchasing tea, coffee and a raffle ticket!

SPORTS REPORTS

Golf
Congratulations to GiSu Kim for qualifying for the Sydney North Golf Match Play final series to be held on March 27 at Wyong Golf Club. The winner and runner up for this competition will compete at the CHS Match Play championships in May. GiSu will also compete at CHS Stroke play championships at Wentworth Falls on May 1st.

Swimming
Riverside performed exceptionally well at the Sydney North Swimming Carnival at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on 13 March. Congratulations to the following students who have qualified as Sydney North representatives at the CHS State carnival held at the start of April. They are: Catherine Ogilvie, Georgia Kenny, Ashley Wisniewski, Taylor Byrne and Danielle Kenny. The U13, U14 and U16 4x50 relay teams all qualified for CHS carnival as well! Great job! Thank you to Ms Natasha Miller and Ms Sophie Miller for organising the zone team.

Trials for Olympic team
Sophie Taylor and Laura Crockart competed at the National Open Swim competition in Adelaide which was also the trials for the Australian Olympic team. They performed admirable achieving PB’s in a number of events. A highlight was Laura’s appearance in 800m freestyle final. Congratulations to all concerned and a big thank you to the P and C for their financial support of our two Olympic Trial swimmers.

Knock-Out Waterpolo Report
By Laura Coleman Meyer

On the 19 of March the RGHS Open Waterpolo team competed in a knock out competition at Ryde Pool. In the first round we played Burwood Girls. It was a very tight game, for most of the game we were neck and neck. At full time the score was 4-4, which forced us into extra time, in the end we came away with a narrow victory winning 5-4.

In Round two we came up against Zone rivals Cheltenham GHS. Our first round win gave us confidence and we played well as a team and took control of the game within the first quarter. We ended the game with an 11-4 win and a feeling of satisfaction. A notable mention and congratulations to Taylor Byrne who successfully defended for us and kept their key player from attacking throughout the game.

Finally we played Mackellar Girls and we swam out knowing that these state players would likely have a win over us. With our heads down, we had a messy first quarter. However, an uplifting talk from Ms Miller saw us all pick up our game and under the leadership of captain Samantha Rose we put up a more convincing ‘fight’ for the remainder of the game. Mackeller ended up beating us 12-4 - however it was our best game of the day.

Overall Riverside had a successful day in coming second, and thank you to Ms Markey and Ms Miller for coaching us.

Rowing
Isabella Andrews won a gold in her D class skulls race – here with coach Ms Andrews.
**At the Drummoyne Regatta**

In between the piercing howls of the tumultuous wind my frost bitten ears made out the words “IZZY THIS IS YOUR RACE! HURRY UP AND GET TO THE START LINE!” I swiftly picked up my pace and somehow made it to the start line where my captive audience was awaiting me; that being a bunch of girls my age who looked at me as if I were personally responsible for this disastrous weather. I told myself quietly “They’re just jealous that their boats have not been endowed with a name consisting of such a fierce nature as mine. “Dream Boat”.

The Boat Race Officials asked us wee race women “ARE WE READY?” This was followed by a piercing sound that engulfed the atmosphere around us and with that striking siren each of us went off with a bang with only one thing running through our minds: Peddle to the Medal.

I find that the most difficult aspect of racing is trying to control the constantly lingering urge to look around, which is something that you must never do! Through such a foolish act one removes themself from the zone, stops concentrating on pushing hard and holding their chest up and instead finds themselves falling behind the others due to their lack of concentration. The other element of rowing racing is that the distance is long and seems to quadruple when you are out there on your own and you begin to contemplate why you ever allowed your insane mother to enter you in this race.

At the start of the race I was coming third out of five people. I then thought about how much better it would sound when I told my friends that I came second rather than third so I decided to push my legs down a little but harder which propelled me onwards. Now, thanks to my sudden burst of competitiveness, I was coming second which I was pretty content with. The girl out in front was eons ahead of me so I resigned myself to silver place. As I saw the finish mark coming up I searched my mind for words of wisdom given to me via my mother that would spur me on to try harder. Somewhere hidden around “Isabella, when you slouch like that you look constipated” and “Isabella, always try before you buy, you don’t want to marry a dud”, I located “No one ever died from trying too hard.”

At that moment I felt a rise of adrenalin and I rowed like a demon, catching well up to girl who was winning at the time, until I reached what I had thought was the finish line. As I passed the floating buoy I heard no siren indicating that that was the end of the race. It suddenly dawned upon me that I still had 250 metres to go. With that painful realisation it clicked that I had the chance to not come second, but first, which would be way cooler to tell my friends. I could even post it on Facebook if I wanted.

With 100 meters to go the girl and I were neck to neck , pulling and pushing as hard as we could so that we could each get to the finish line before the other. The screech BEEEEEEP alerted my opponent and I that we had finished the race. As we grinded to a halt we looked at each other, both puffing, panting and coloured a shade of red similar to that of Sebastian the Crab. We simply smiled, not knowing who had won, content within our efforts. The pain and the nerves seem a small cost for the pride that we are resonating.

My parents then came past in a speed boat and yelled to me “IZZY HURRY UP AND GO COLLECT YOUR MEDAL!” and at that moment I shrieked with happiness and paddled back to the Drummoyne pontoon to collect my medal. It was a pretty successful day. 😊

Written by Isabella Andrews

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**Equestrian**

Kaitlin McCloghry in year 8 competed in the NSW equine School Sports Championship in Manilla (23-25 March). She won show jumping and came 4th (out of 180) in dressage, 5th in bareback and 3rd (out of 20) in pairs. Congratulations to this outstanding equestrian champion!

**Sailing**

Adele Phillips of year 7 is off to the NSW Secondary Schools Sailing Championships over the holidays in the Flying 11 class. We wish her well.

**Soccer news**

The open soccer team played on 27th March vs Gorokan high school. They played a great game and won 5-0 (2-0 at half time). First goal by Georgia Stevanovic followed by goals by Jemma Cairns. Rosie Bisset, Jemma Cairns again and the fifth goal came from Alex Vousden. Well done girls!

All girls played really well and the defence was rock solid! This was a great start to the knock out soccer competition this year!

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**School Photos**

The School Photos took place in the school hall on Tues 27th March. Thanks to all staff and students for their cooperation and enthusiasm. The photos will be ready for collection in about 6-8 weeks. That’s later in term 2. Listen to the daily announcements in roll call for collection details.

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**Managing HSC Stress Program**

The Higher School Certificate can be stressful for many students. However there are things that you can do to get through Years 11 and 12 with less
stress and reduce the impact that stress has on your academic performance.

The UTS Health Psychology Unit has been running Managing HSC Stress programs for many years now and is pleased to be able to offer this program again in Term 2 2012. Cost: $90.00 Private Health Insurance may apply. Registration is essential as numbers are limited. To register call 9514 4077 or email Health.Psychology@uts.edu.au

And from the classroom

In Time You Will Realise

Daughter,
In time you will realise
not all girls are cruel,
not all boys lie.
You will realise there are other paths to beauty,
beyond make-up and surgery,
diets and bra size.
You will realise friends come and go,
Love you and leave you
stay stable or move away faster than the tide
and that’s okay.
You will realise its fine to be sad,
normal to feel alone
but important to stay smiling.
You will realise a pure heart is your key,
honesty is rare
hard work is valued.
You will realise that school is just one step.
One perplexing, pedantic, painful worthwhile step
towards bigger and better things.
You will realise that some people walk
and it hurts,
but sometimes it’s for the better.
You will realise
School may make your head pound
"friends" may make your body throb
and boys may slice your heart open
but people grow up,
the important things become simple
and in time you will realise that everything is going
to be okay.

Sophia Murray-Walker  Year 9

More Holiday Activities

Hunter's Hill Council presents
Free Course - this holidays!
April 19 & 20, 2012
Henley Cottage
(156/215 Victoria Rd, Hunter)
11 - 3.30pm

The crew from Machine Music
will show you how to record,
create and edit music using your
computer. This is an introductory
course for anyone interested in
music, production & for
digital creation.
Easy to get to by bus and also
includes (free) lunch.

bookings essential: 9879 9449 or events@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

This March Edition of The Riverside Currents was proudly edited by
Mr Brett Hunt & Ms Lenore Glansbeek with
thanks to all staff, students and community members
for their contribution. All enquiries about the school newsletter should be directed to Susan in the office.