Term 2 2012 Welcome Back!

Calendar Dates:

- 9 May – P&C meeting 7.30 Common Room
- 15-17 May - NAPLAN

Principal's Report

This busy term started with a Staff Development Day to increase staff awareness of the Aboriginal presence in our region. All staff travelled to the Muogamarra Native Reserve near Cowan to see rock engravings and enjoy education in bush food and traditional practices.

(While many of the teachers were out of their comfort zones Ms Ginnese Johnston Science Teacher and Yr 9 Student Advisor was in her element on Staff Development Day Term 2)

A big thank you to our new professional learning team (Ms Nikoletich, Ms Glansbeek, Ms Vogelnest, Ms Chamaoun, Ms Mishra and Ms Warzecha) for organising this excursion for staff. We felt very special being the first school staff group to go to this site which is only open to public 4 weekends a year and to Northern Sydney region staff 3 times a year. What a privilege!

Our next step is to take this learning further and collaborate with our Aboriginal consultant and experts in curriculum implementation for increased opportunities to teach sustainability and Aboriginal education.

Sometimes, students surprise and I would like to congratulate Elisa Lu of Year 11 for following her dreams and entering the youth comedy festival as a stand up comedian. She is yet to show her talents to us at school preferring to be the quiet achiever in the classroom, but we wish her well in her pursuit of glory on stage!!

Another surprise amongst the study body was to find our string group of Olivia Ellis, Jessica Ellis and Tori Masters, all of Year 7 who wowed the audience at MECA Night (Music extra Curricular Artists). They also played exceptional background music at Ms Markey’s farewell morning tea. Thank you girls.

The Duke of Edinburgh program continues to flourish and recently six girls participated in the Silver expedition to Kangaroo Valley with Ms Natasha Miller and Ms Holly Bergmann from HSIE as the supervising teachers. It is this commitment to our girls and ensuring they have valuable learning experiences outside the classroom that makes Riverside staff so special. Without these two teachers, the program would not have gone ahead so a big thank you.

My focus for this term is to improve uniform especially amongst the senior students. At the last assembly for term 1, the captain, Hannah Bisset echoed the thoughts of many of the student body in an appeal to students to improve uniform amongst other things. She said, “wearing our school uniform makes us part of a team” and why this is important especially since some students “wear the uniform inappropriately so that it looks indecent”. I thank the SRC and Hannah for her involvement in showing girls why we have a uniform and remind all girls, parents and carers that the policy for seniors is that they will be sent home to get into uniform before attending classes. It is only if we are consistent giving this message - from students, staff and family - that a change will happen.

Year 8 parents would have received an envelope with their daughter’s ESSA results in them and a letter explaining that these results supersede the others posted home by our school last term. These results have been resent by the DEC as there were problems with some results and scaling across the state.

Best wishes
Belinda Kelly

P & C Report

The Riverside P&C welcome the school community to term 2.

For the P&C, the term has started with it participating in a selection panel for Mathematics class room teacher.
The next P&C meeting will be on 9 May at 7:30pm in the staff common room. All parents and carers are invited and welcome to attend. Bill Moran, Head Teacher Science and Ruth Ritchie, Head Teacher HSIE will be guest speakers at this meeting. They will talk about 'The Big Picture' problem based learning project for Year 10 term 4, which will also establish a link between Riverside and Macquarie University.

On 2nd April a School Funding Forum with Parents was held in Canberra. All Australian school parents were invited to this forum, to participate in the live theatre audience or online. During this discussion, the Federal Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett answered questions about school funding reform.

The discussion focused on the Review of Funding for Schooling Panel's final report (the Gonski Review), the Australian Government’s response to it and the way forward for schools.

School Funding Forum with Parents 2 April recording can be viewed at: http://theatre.deewr.gov.au/schoolfundingforum-parents-02april/


Riverside P&C Committee

Thanks
Greg Tunnock
President P&C

Teaching at Yanco Agricultural High School

I took on an opportunity to teach in a country school for the duration of term 1 this year and wow…what a term it was!

Yanco is primarily an Agricultural High School 8 hours from here. It attracts students all over the state who have a passion for Agriculture.

Yanco is a boarding school with over 300 students living on site. It was exciting to actually experience living on the grounds of a school and sharing many dining experiences with the students and staff 2-3 times a day. As well as teaching, I was able to deliver extra curricular activities anytime, may they be after school, evening and or on weekends. And so my rapport with these genuine, honest and respected students was somewhat sped up when compared to such a rapport that is established 9-3 only 5 days a week.

To deliver programs and teaching styles somewhat different to what they had experienced previously was refreshing for the students. To deliver a more insightful senior course in Visual Arts was fantastic and opened these students’ eyes to the bigger world of art than what they were used to. It could be described as another world at Yanco as they aren’t surrounded by such artistic galleries and resources as Riverside is. So much so, I even drove them to Sydney to experience Art Express as an overnight excursion. Some had never even seen Sydney before. A thrill for all involved! The staff and students were welcoming and helpful from the outset, which made my time even more memorable. I simply can’t thank them enough! Teaching in the country is everything I hoped for and more!

I’m looking forward to maintaining a working partnership with Yanco’s Creative Arts Faculty in the form of Video Link up lessons and other professional development opportunities.

Graeme Lowe
HT of Creative and Performing Arts

Ms Lou Markey Retires

On the last day of Term One Ms Markey (one of our most experienced maths teachers) retired from 35 years of teaching. The tone of the farewell was very happy as Ms Markey is fit and well and looking forward to travelling around Europe and remaining active improving her “golf handicap.” She also intends to keep herself busy with casual teaching. Ms Markey’s career was celebrated in the common room with exceptional speeches and musical performances from her students.

Ms Markey with First Violinist Karen Kong

Mr Pang will be filling Ms Markey’s position until the appointment of a permanent teacher through interview.

Thank You Ms Markey! We will miss you!!

Congratulations Ms Sattout-Day

The DEC likes to celebrate teachers’ contributions to education and training in NSW with special certificates. This month Ms Sattout-Day received acknowledgement for 30 years of service.
Congratulations and Riverside is lucky to share your expertise.

**ANZAC Day 2012**

We were very proud of our students in the Sydney Anzac Day March with the NSW D.E.T. MARCHING BAND and televised on the ABC TV; Holly Luke – Paddon (Trumpet,) Leanne Weismantel (Flute) and Hanna Luke- Paddon (Saxophone) Great work girls! Thanks for volunteering!

The school remembered Anzac Day with a very special school assembly on Friday 27 April. A highlight was the school choir that sang a medley of songs from the war years.

Many students and teachers were moved by the service that included a very nice solo vocal performance by Larissa Williams (Yr 12) who sang the famous tune “Lilli Marlene” in both English and German. Holly Luke – Paddon (Yr 11) played the “Last Post” an exceptional conclusion to the day.

The Guest Speaker was our own teacher Mr Hunt who spoke about the effect of war on his grandfather Eric Regan (an ambulance man taken POW in Greece) and consequently the effects this had on his mother and himself. Many teachers and students took an interest in Mr Hunt’s story of the effect of war. Credit must go to Mr Simon Miles and Yr 9 History for organising a remarkable and educationally valid Anzac Day Assembly.

*Well done!! We will remember YOU!*

**Duke of Edinburgh**

In term one Ms Miller and Ms Burgmann took 6 students on their first silver trip to the Kangaroo Valley River for three days and two nights. The following girls bravely went on this trip: Julia Hood, Elisa Lu, Emily O’Loughlin, Arabella Snedden, Rachel Ewings and Deborah Ewings.

They saw many animals on their trip: snakes, goannas, wombats and this is not trip for the weak hearted! Julia got hit by leeches twice!!

It was a successful trip and the students had a great time. The teachers are still recovering!!

*‘An Adventure to Remember*  
*Duke of Edinburgh – Silver Award’*

As the sun shone over Sydney on 22 March, 6 happy little campers and 2 courageous teachers set off on an adventure through the wilderness of Kangaroo Valley. The trip began with an 11km paddle along the Kangaroo River and Lake Yarrunga where we set up camp and prepared to indulge in an ice cold dip to refresh our worn out bodies. It was at this point that we discovered our first leech victim and all chaos broke out, surprisingly it seemed the onlookers were more concerned than the actual victim herself. The evening was then spent feasting on delicious food and marshmallows, until two uninvited guests decided to gate crash on the party, luckily our two furry friends (brush tail possums) were more interested in our garbage to bother us too much. Unfortunately during the night the wind picked up and we all struggled to paddle to the other side of the river for our bush walk. Nevertheless we all made it and were ready for the challenge that lay ahead of us; we were even blessed with a beautiful view from the top of the escarpment and a siting of a mysterious looking snake (which we later identified as a Broad Headed Snake). Ms Burgmann was even fortunate enough to have an oversized and somewhat frightened goanna basking in the sun next to her kayak.

As night fell and we looked back over our afternoon adventures to the cave and an ancient Aboriginal site we were greeted by our old friends and a new visitor, a hairy nosed wombat who spent the evening rubbing against our tent in search of food. I must admit we were all quite exhausted when we awoke for our final journey back home and to civilisation. I think we can all agree that we will never undervalue the magnificence of our own bathrooms ever again (toilets included). A special mention to all the silver adventurers, Rachel, Deborah, Emily, Arrabella and Elisa who made the journey such a wonderful experience and an extra special mention to the teachers, Ms Andrews, Ms Miller and Ms Burgmann for organising and optimising the enjoyment of all the participants.

*By Julia Hood Year 11*

**Student Leadership Conference**

On the 16 March, SRC students from years 8 to 12, Ms Lidman and Ms Karoliny attended the Student Leadership Conference.

The program started with two sessions “Leaving a Legacy” and “the Untold Principle of Leadership” and for the rest of the day we split into two groups to attend the elective sessions. It was a great benefit for all of us to go.
The SRC students are very appreciative of the school for the amazing opportunity to attend such an informative conference and we’re looking forward to leaving a legacy on this school that will help girls for many years to come.

All reported the conference was an amazing opportunity to explore what it means to be an effective leader while meeting many other students from NSW.

**Creative and Performing Arts**

The Music Extra Curricular Artists (MECA) night was a very successful variety show that was enjoyed by performers and audience alike.

While the highlight was the Choir and the Concert Band, many individual items were showcased including the string groups. Pictured below are the Year 7 trio: Oliva, Tori and Jessica together with Karen.

**Year 11 Geography Excursion to Narrabeen**

On Tuesday 21 February, Year 11 Geography students excitedly packed their bags and headed off to the beachside suburb of Narrabeen in Northern Sydney.

We journeyed up to the Narrabeen headland where we made notes, sketches, took photos, used maps and geographical instruments and identified the types of vegetation found in that area. We then made our way onto the sand dunes of Narrabeen Beach where we undertook fieldwork on the functioning of the sand dune ecosystem. We collected primary data such as temperature, wind strength and direction, gradient, soil moisture and vegetation types that we could incorporate into our research assignments on the features of the Narrabeen Dunes.

After lunch we travelled down the road to Collaroy beach to view the oceanfront development and discuss coastal management plans and strategies.

It was a fun-filled day of learning, discussions, mud, sand and seawater that has helped us all to grasp a deeper understanding of geography and fuelled us as intellectual and practical geographers. On behalf of all the students I would like to thank Ms Bergmann and all the HSIE teachers for organising this excursion.

By Karina Campbell Year 11

**CHS State Swimming Carnival**

At the CHS State swimming carnival in term 3 (week 1) Riverside’s swimmers performed exceptionally well. Out of the 15 swimmers competing, 13 have qualified for the All Schools Championships. Cathy Ogilvie won silver in the 100m butterfly and bronze in the 50m freestyle and placed fourth in the 200m freestyle. Ashley Wisniewski won a bronze medal in the 100m Backstroke. Sophie Taylor won gold in the 100m freestyle and silver in the 200m freestyle. Laura Crockart won gold in the 400m freestyle and bronze in the 200IM.

There were many other outstanding individual performances from Taylor Byrne and Danielle Kenny in the U16 freestyle events. In the 4 x 50 relays the U16s won Gold and the U13 and U14 teams won a bronze medal. The All Age relay and Open Medley relay teams placed fourth overall.

A fantastic result from all our swimmers, competing at such a high level. Well done!

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**INVITATION**

Mothers, grandmothers and special ladies are invited to a Devonshire tea on Wednesday 9 May in our school hall from 10-11.30 am to celebrate Mother’s Day and the National Year of Reading.

Hope to see you there. Please RSVP to the front office on 9816 4264.