Please note these upcoming events!

29th June  end of term
Tues 17th July  Term 3 commences Wk B
22nd August  Community Forum

Our Principal’s Report

This is an exciting newsletter full of information about learning opportunities at the school.

You can see that the Science faculty has been busy. I was very delighted to hear that one of our students, Sophie Lara Watson of Yr 10 who attended the Extreme Science Experience with Miss Mishra, had her question to a panel of three scientists judged as the best of the day. Professor Stewart Crozier, recognised for his development of signal correction technology to improve the resolution of MRI machines, had to answer:

“I’m a big fan of science fiction and when you were talking about how the MRI was able to decipher thoughts, it reminded me about George Orwell’s prophecy in 1984 about the thought police. Do you think this is a possibility?”

I wonder how he answered this? Congratulations to the six potential scientists who attended this extraordinary event and made the school proud.

As of next term there is a new role in the school, a LAST (Learning and Support Teacher) who will be starting as part of the Every Student Every School initiative. This LAST will work closely with teachers to develop their skills in being able to support all students’ needs in every classroom. Please see the attached invitation to the Information Evening at Ryde about this initiative.

Teachers take their role very seriously and therefore do not participate in strike action lightly. It is disappointing that the public’s perception of the reasoning behind the Wednesday June 27th strike is that it was for more pay. It was in fact a stand against some of the reforms of Local Schools, Local Decisions. Teachers believe these reforms are putting financial savings before student outcomes on the education priority agenda. At the next P&C meeting, our federation rep Paul Jones will be outlining the teachers’ perspective on this reform and I urge you to come along and hear Paul’s comments.

We will be starting Term 3 with a very exciting program for 60 lucky Yr 10 students. They can attend ‘Mindfulness’ sessions, delivered by a practising psychologist for one period a week for the first six weeks. This is a perfect way for students to prepare for senior studies by building skills to support them through the inevitable stresses of HSC preparation. This program builds students’ resilience, lifts their mood, teaches strategies for stress reduction and also highlights emotional regulation. We are the first and only school in Australia to trial this ‘Mindfulness’ program and I sincerely thank our welfare team for organising this. The first 60 girls to get their notes in are very lucky. You can Google ‘Mindfulness’ to see the value of this program. For Riverside it is free but if you were to do a commercial ‘Mindfulness’ course, it would be $600 plus. I would also like to thank Wendy Chamaoun HT Welfare for negotiating the workbooks for free and these will provide a very valuable ongoing resource for participants.

I hope you have a lovely holiday. As you can see from the newsletters this term, Riverside continues to be a very busy and active learning centre. All who work here and study here certainly have earned their holiday.

Belinda Kelly, Principal

Our P & C Report

June was another rewarding month for the Riverside P&C. The June 13th P&C meeting was on a cold winter’s, State of Origin football night, yet was well attended. Good attendance makes the P&C much more effective and in turn improves your daughter’s education, thank you.

Five additional parents undertook staff and teacher selection panel training on June 5th. Thank you to the parents who have made themselves available for selection panels. Helping to select the right staff and teachers is a positive way to assist your daughter’s education. Thank you also to Ms Kelly for running the training.

Everyone enjoyed the Peta Pann production on the evenings of the 7th and 8th of June. Congratulations to all involved in the production. The P&C were very proud to have donated funds for the costumes and sets. Thank you to the parents and students who sold refreshments. This was well patronized and added to the positive community atmosphere as well as raising some funds for the P&C.
Parents helped with the next phase of the Riverside Sustainable Gardens during the week of June 25th to 29th, with the construction of a pond, aquaponics growbed and a vertical garden. Thank you to the parents who helped.

Parents and carers are invited to attend the session at the Staff Development day on: Quality Teaching and differentiation with a Project Based Learning focus. This session will be from 9am to 12pm on the 16th of July and includes a 1/2 hour morning tea. This is a great way to get first hand knowledge of the ongoing refinements in whole school education at Riverside. Please register at Riverside Girls High School office on 9816 4264, if you are able to attend.

The next P&C meeting will be on the 8th of August at 7:30pm in the staff common room. All parents and carers are invited and welcome to attend. Paul Jones will be guest speaker at this meeting. He will provide the teachers’ perspective on the state government’s proposed Local Schools Local Decisions policy. There will also be a tour of the newly refurbished and upgraded kitchen classroom.

Thanks
Greg Tunnock, President P&C

Peta Pann

On the 7th and 8th of June Drama and Music staged a theatrical production in the hall. It featured;

A matinee for Primary Schools

Outstanding musicians

Dedicated Crew

Pirates and Indians
Yr 10 Music

This term Yr 10 Music studied the topic Musical Theatre and Deborah Ewings brought in a collection of programs!!

Year 10 TAFE course

A number of year 10 students recently completed a Youths Pathways program with Crows Nest TAFE youth outreach. They completed questionnaires to determine their learning style and personality profile as well as prepared resumes and practice interview techniques. Careers Counsellor from Crows Nest TAFE talked to them about career pathways. They finished the course with a clearer vision of where they are headed and how they can get there.

Schools Reconciliation Challenge

As highlighted last edition of Currents. Umi Graeme (10) attended the award ceremony of The Schools Reconciliation Award where she was presented with 1st prize for the Year 9-10 category in front of her family, friends and teachers. Umi submitted a charcoal portrait of Australian indigenous writer Alexis Wright which was completed in Visual Arts while looking at the topic of portraiture.

You can see the artworks in the foyer of the Australian Museum for free until August at 6 College Street, Sydney.

9T Science Extension Aboriginal Perspectives

Ms T Warzecha

Year 9 Science study an environmental topic: Our Earth Handle with Care. The 9T class participated in enrichment activities to incorporate Aboriginal perspectives with special focus on the Guringai people of the Hawkesbury Basin. This program was inspired by our RGHS’s staff Term II P/L day at the Muogamarra Field Study Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Caring for Country.
The students responded to an open-ended research task to establish with justification whether the Guringai handled our Earth with care with respect to ecology, conservation, resource management or spirituality.

Many students were confronted by lack of information as a result of lost oral history and the bias in early colonial writings which supported Terra Nullius where evidence of Guringai practices were perceived as primitive and lacking in merit. 9T concluded that land management was far superior to what was currently occurring globally.

Students also studied Bush Tucker, extending their botani knowledge by identifying and adopting established plants in the school’s native garden. They have generated photo/name/information plates to identify each indigenous use.

The highlight for everyone was applying aboriginal rock engraving peck & groove techniques to carve B U S H T U C K E R letters into sandstone rock which features in the Bush Tucker garden.

The students said:
- Learning about this unique culture that is so significant to where we are living gave me a new way to think. All core subjects should follow suite with indigenous perspectives (Zuhaira Amin)
- Society is not just about us. We got to experience Aboriginal culture in a new and more natural way. (Penny Wu)

- Practical is so much better. We got to source our own materials and create a peck and groove carving like the Guringai. (Alex McLean)
- The significance of the damage done to the Muogumarra carving site by the Old Northern Road going straight through it was really sad. I really liked that we could try to use the rock carving methods in the Bush Tucker garden.

Yr 7 Science News
By Mr Russell & Ms Warzecha

A bid for Sydney Catchment Authority!

By designing and building a water purifying apparatus 50 mL of muddy water had to be made as clear as tap water! Teamwork, design principles and lots of fun feature in these lessons!

Magic Forces in Action

7Y and 7P have been applying their levitation skills during the Forces in Action topic. Perspex wands have been used to great effect turning pages!!! Wingardium Leviosa! Does Professor Flitwick work in RGHS Science Department?
On June 15th we travelled to the Sydney Exhibition and Convention Centre where the conference was held.

The day began with a 50 minute "Meet a Scientist" session. One of the scientists told us that he had a trip of a life time coming up next year. We all thought that he was travelling to amazing places like Europe or America or even Antarctica but no he was just going into space!!

Session 2 involved a guest speaker who was a Senior Research & Instrument Scientist and she talked to us about the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and what she was currently researching.

I took part in the workshop of "Our Bionic Future" where we were taught about all things related to sound and how it can affect us. We participated in some research experiments so we were asked to listen to many words being said as if we were an elderly person or a 25 yr old rocker listening to it. It made us all realise that if we don't preserve our hearing starting from today, in the future we will start developing problems with listening that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

For workshop 2, I attended the "Get Your Insides Out" session which involved us analysing MRI, CAT and X-ray scans. We were taught how each of the machines worked and the images that they could produce and how we can use these scanners to detect health issues. Our first challenge was to analyse a box that was put through the MRI scanner and we had to figure out which fruits and vegetables were in the box and how many there were. For the next challenge we were given scanned images taken from 4 joints from the human body and we had to see which parts of the body they were from and why.

It was a really fun and rewarding experience to learn about all things science related and meeting students from across NSW, we had the privilege of meeting such inspirational scientists and taking part in Australian Bionic Research. I would love to come to this science conference again next year but sadly it's only for year 10's so for all year 9's who have an interest in science you should definitely put your name up for this next year!
senior scientists. Some of the achievements of the speakers were outstanding and quite inspirational.

Overall, the day was interesting and was a good opportunity for Australia’s future scientists to develop further skills in areas of interest. The whole experience was quite informative and quite overwhelming. It’s definitely something to be repeated.

I'm A Scientist... get me out of here!!!

Students accessed scientists across the world in research institutions ranging from 3M(USA), Curtin Uni (WA), Mt Stromlo Observatory (ACT), Garvan Institute (NSW), Australian Centre for Blood Diseases (VIC) and UCLA (California,USA).

Students designed criterion to assess the merit of each of their 5 allocated scientists and posed questions via email and real time chat to determine a winner via elimination rounds.

The level of excitement was greatly apparent when RGHS finally went live and their scientist responded instantly to their questions and thoughts across the world. Apparently the participating scientists were “blown away” by the level of our engagement and depth of our questions both scientific and ethical!
Well done girls…

Congratulations to the following girls in the Riverside Girls KO Baseball team on their convincing 17-0 win against Narara Valley HS in the final of the Sydney North Region competition.


Well done girls on a terrific effort !! From your coach, Ms Hather

Thank you
To our wonderful coaches who continue to inspire our students to sporting success: Mr Lowe and the volleyball team fought a hard battle but went down 3 games to 1 in the regional finals; and the athletics team supervisor Ms S Miller who led the team to be Zone Athletics champions.

Knock – Out Baseball

Mr Lowe and the senior volleyball team

To the TAS faculty for organising a Big Morning Tea which raised over $300 for cancer research in memory of Ms Sharon Douglass.

Ms Wark and Ms Ferraro enjoy the ‘pink’ morning tea theme
Our Band Plays On……

Our extra curricular opportunities are one of the features of Riverside. The band is looking forward to more opportunities for performances following on from a great term with Mr Hunt as conductor. They have quite a repertoire ready.

However, in terms 3 and 4 Mr Hunt will once again be Head Teacher of CAPA as Mr Lowe will be on leave. Nick will be returning as conductor. Thank you Mr B Hunt for your commitment to the band girls and best wishes Mr Lowe.

Kitchen Update

The new kitchen is progressing at a fast rate and this week the combi oven, kindly donated by the P&C (to a cost of $14,000), arrived. There will be a tour of the new kitchen at the next P&C meeting on the 5th August and the official opening will be on September 5th. Also, parents of Yr 10 students will be able to walk through the kitchen on subject selection evening.

Since 1980 Moocooboola, Hunters Hill Festival has been bringing the community together in celebration. With over 200 stall choose from expect to find a wonderful selection of art, craft, designer clothing and jewellery, plants, antiques, bric a brac and much more.

A fantastic array of music and performance will keep you entertained; Featuring jazz, dance performances and folk music. Free Animal Farm, Circus Playground, Games and Challenges, jumping castle and much more.

THE GRAND PARADE: 9.30am. With the Parade comes all the colour, fun and excitement of the fair.
DOG SHOW: 11am on the top oval. Win prizes for the best owner look a like, best trick and Dog of the Year.

For more information and media enquires contact Adrian Black (Hunter’s Hill Council Events Coordinator) on 9879 9400 or events@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

NOTICE

STUDENT WELFARE PARENT FORUMS

These occur once each school term in the staff common room and all parents are welcome.

The Term 3 forum will be held on Wednesday evening 15th August beginning at 7.00pm.

A copy of the invitations sent home with each student may also be found on the parent portal.

Please note this date in your diary.

MATHS WORLD by Mr Saad

Imagine this problem………..

Suppose P and Q both represent prime numbers such that 5 x P + 7 x Q = 109
Could you find the value of the prime P ?

The answer can also be found on the noticeboard outside the maths staff room

Number teaser # 5
The Department of Education and Communities is implementing a new approach for meeting the additional learning and support needs of students with disability in all NSW public schools through its strategy “Every Student, Every School". A Learning and Support Framework will be developed in all NSW public schools to improve support for students with disability, wherever they enrol. A wide range of projects will be put in place during 2012 and 2013 to establish the Learning and Support Framework and assist all public schools to better meet the diverse educational needs of their students, including those with disability.

An information session for parents will be held locally to explain the details behind “Every Student, Every School”. The session will be held:
- Wednesday 1st August – Ryde Secondary College, Forrest Rd Ryde. (Meeting in H-Block off Forrest Road) from 6-8pm.

If you would like to attend, please contact Leanne Mulligan at Hornsby office on 9987 3900 or at Leanne.Mulligan2@det.nsw.edu.au
Careers Day
Tuesday 19/6/12 was a great day as Ms Wearne’s Yr10 English class enjoyed a Make Up Skills Workshop to help them prepare for a job interview. Lynette from Advanced Personnel Management also joined in on the day to help the girls get part time employment. Thanks for organising this for us Ms Wearne!

CAREERS NEWS

On behalf of the entire staff we wish all of Yr 12 and all our school leavers the best of luck in their future careers. May they have the best of fortune in their future careers - Mr Blundell

Meadowbank College of TAFE
HSC PREPARATION COURSE –2012
July Holidays HSC Revision Course—July 2-6, 9.30-4.00pm
Use your holidays wisely and achieve maximum results in your HSC study preparation. These structured courses will be taught by experienced and practising HSC teachers. Boost your HSC score by participating actively.

Attending this course, you can:

- Review past exam papers
- Increase exam confidence and preparation
- Access useful exam time management and exam tips
- Overview subject material
- Improve essay writing skills

Price: $275.00 for three (3), three hour tutorials of your choice and optional three (3) hours tutorials @ $90.00 per tutorial.

Students may choose any combination of attendance. Three (3) sessions X three hours each.

Register now  Contact: Helen Holmes and Mike Horan on 9942 3796
Email: NSI.ME.HSCPreparation@tafensw.edu.au
ADMISSION TO MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCE COURSES

UMAT Registrations closing soon
The test is used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine, dentistry and health science degree programs.
UMAT 2012 will be held on 25 July 2012. UMAT is offered once a year only.
Registrations close at 5pm AEST on 1 June 2012.
Late registrations will be accepted up to 5pm AEST on Friday 15 June 2012 on payment of a late fee of $65 in addition to the registration fee of $210.
http://umat.acer.edu.au/

UNSW Computing Winter School
For students who are interested in learning more about Computing. Info and registrations online www.computing.unsw.edu.au/schoolsprograms/winter-school/

Macquarie University Information evenings and events
Yr 10 Parent Information Evening 13 June
Business and Economics Information Evening 25 July
Macquarie Law School Information Evening 22 August
OPEN DAY 8 September
Uni in a Day 27 September
Non-Current School Leaver Information Evening 31 October
School Leavers Information Evening 12 December
http://www.mq.edu.au/future_students/undergraduate/important_dates/

AFTRS SCHOOL HOLIDAY FILM & TV COURSES
Acting for Film & Television (2 - 4 July) for 9 - 12 year olds,
Digital Animation (9 - 11 July) for 12 - 17 year olds
and if you’re 15 - 18 check out The Real Filmmaking Workshop.
To find out more contact us on open@aftrs.edu.au or T 1300 065 281
http://aftrs.edu.au

Young Filmmakers Workshop
10 Jul – 12 Jul 2012
If you’re between 11 – 17 and you’re ready to learn how to create a short film this is the course for you.
At Metro Screen in Paddington.
Classes run Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 10am – 5pm each day.
Cost: $345

Video Game Design for Kids Workshop
10 - 13 July.
This workshop aims to teach basic design and development skills for video games.
Cost: $425
T. 02 9356 1818
Paddington Town Hall, Cnr Oatley Rd & Oxford St
metro@metroscreen.org.au

Top tips for first year uni students
Gemma Mann is the first year experience co-ordinator for CQ University.
http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2012/01/25/3415649.htm
**MyCareerMatch**

**International Student Admissions Test (ISAT)**
Registrations are OPEN until 26 October 2012.
This site is for international students applying to a selection of Australian universities.

**Meet a Keeper**

**Taronga Western Plains Zoo (Dubbo)**
Meet a Keeper is a one-day program for school students aged 14 years and over who have expressed a keen interest in pursuing a career at the Zoo, but can't attend the School Work Experience.
This unique program includes a seminar presented by a talented panel of Zookeepers, Zoo educators and other Zoo staff members.
Students have the opportunity to learn about all aspects of zoo-keeping, including:
- Qualifications required
- Career opportunities
- Core responsibilities
- Careers structures and wages
- Mystery behind-the-scenes tour
- Tuesday 7th August 2012
- Tuesday 16th October 2012
- Tuesday 20th November 2012

*This event is for WESTERN PLAINS ZOO DUBBO 2012 Taronga Sydney dates yet to be confirmed*
CHECK THE ZOO WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

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**National Careers & Employment Expo**

30 Aug - 01 Sep 2012
Thursday & Friday: 9am – 4pm, Saturday: 9am - 4pm
FREE ENTRY
Venue: Sydney Showground, Olympic Park
The National Careers & Employment Expo and WorldSkills Australia are pleased to announce that they are joining forces again in 2012 to create the largest 3-day careers, skills, education and employment event in Australia
T 1300 667 121
info@eoc.com.au
What is Uni in a Day? Uni in a Day is your chance to taste some of what university life has in store for you. On Thursday 27 September we will be opening our doors to Year 10, 11 and 12 students for the day, to experience a day in the life of a uni student, and answer some of your questions about what University is all about.

You will be able to choose your own subjects, plan your timetable and see what happens in a normal day on campus. Registrations for this year's Uni in a Day will open at the end of 2012. CLICK ON THE LINK TO REGISTER

http://mq.edu.au/future_students/undergraduate/parent_and_teacher_resources/activities_with_macquarie/photos_from_uni_in_a_day_2011/alert_for_uni_in_a_dayRegistrations.jsp

SOME Information for this newsletter is taken from the MHS Careers service. RGHS subscribes to this service and parents and students are welcome to use the website or receive the newsletters. To receive MHS Newsletters by email, register your email address at: http://www.mhscareers.com/ContactUs.html

UTS INFO TECH Scholarship winner
2011 Yr12 Student Krystal Ng has been awarded a place in the prestigious Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship Program at the University of Technology (UTS) for 2012. Krystal will receive $43,500 and undertake two fulltime industry placements with different sponsor organizations. Scholarship recipients are also mentored by industry leaders.

Krystal's Secret to Success or “Why an ATAR of less than 98/100 isn't the end of the world.”

Krystal had wanted to get an ATAR in the mid to high 90’s and while her results were very good she was disappointed with her ATAR. However while at Riverside Krystal involved herself in a variety of extra curricula activities including being a member of the Legal Studies Mock Trial Team. She was also elected to the Student Representative Council. In her vacations she worked as a volunteer assisting a Legal aide solicitor. Krystal was very keen to learn about Information Technology and when the school did not have enough students to run a 2 unit Software Design and Development (SDD) course in her year she enrolled in the one year adult HSC course at Meadowbank TAFE and completed the 2unit SDD course during Yr11 gaining a Band 6.
As a career she was considering Law, Business, Accounting and Information Technology and couldn't decide. When she asked me what she should choose I said, “That's your choice and you could probably do any of them, so……. don't choose any…. WAIT and see what your ATAR is. You should keep your options open. Apply for everything you can. Then when you know your results see what you are offered then you can choose. You are intelligent, keen, enthusiastic, you get on well with people and you're hardworking. Any employer would be lucky to get someone like you.”

Krystal applied for almost everything including Business, Accounting and Information Technology scholarships and cadetships. She went along to information nights, researched prospective companies and university courses. When it came to being interviewed she was well prepared, confident and was able to show she had done more than just study.

**Good marks are important but they aren't the only thing employers look for.**

Michael Blundell
Career Adviser