This newsletter can be found on our website

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Sept</td>
<td>2013 Student Leaders Induction</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Sept</td>
<td>Year 7 Games Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>17 Sept</td>
<td>Sports Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Sept</td>
<td>Year 12 Graduation 7.30 pm</td>
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Our Principal’s Report

Thank you to the parents and friends who attended our community forum. We had 52 participants which we were pleased with - despite the fact that every student received an invitation for their families or themselves to attend. The evening was very positive and the collaboration was certainly fostered by the round table set up.

We have also asked the questions of staff and so have a lot of feedback to listen to about future planning.

The forum concept was welcomed by parents and family. They have asked for a similar format next term to go through assessment at the school.

It is clear we need to improve communication with the community and also to make more of the opportunities to promote our student successes.

A summary of the feedback will be placed on the parent portal and shared with staff and students.

We have some work to do to show why we are a great school.

Congratulations to Karen Kong (10) who wowed a full concert hall at the Opera House at the Festival of Instrumental Music, The Banksia Concert with her solo. Her contemporary piece was quite challenging to play but beautifully executed. This solo acknowledges Karen as one of the top violinists in the state.

This month we said goodbye to a very special person who absolutely adores Riverside. It was hard to say goodbye to Robert Bennett our General Assistant who is taking leave before retiring. Thank you for years of commitment to our school, Robert.

We are busily preparing for the graduation for our yr 12 and thank you top the P&C for their $2000 donation to the yr 12 graduation.

Best wishes
Belinda Kelly

Our P & C Report

August has been a month with plenty of opportunity for parent involvement in the Riverside community.

At the P&C meeting on 8 August, Paul Jones the NSW Teachers Federation representative at Riverside provided the teacher’s perspective on the NSW Government “Local Schools, Local Decisions” changes. Paul raised a number of concerns the teachers have about these changes and asked for parent’s understanding as the teachers work with the NSW Government to have some aspects of the changes modified to provide better educational outcomes for students. For further information see: 8 August P&C minutes: http://www.riversideg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/public/website/content/pc/minutes.html


The Riverside Community Forum, “What makes Riverside different?”, held on Wednesday 22 August, was well attended by a good mix of students, teachers, staff and parents. The discussion was constructive and positive. The information collected will be collated and published on the parent portal.

The MECA (Music and Extra Curricular Activities) performance evening held on Friday, 24 was a wonderful showcase of musical and performing arts talents of Riverside's students. This was well attended by students, teachers and parents. The P&C and parent music committee provided food and refreshments.

The next P&C meeting will be held on the 12 September at 7:30 pm in the staff common room. All parents and carers are invited and are welcome to attend. At this meeting Katarina Nikoletich, Deputy Principal will be providing information on the canteen re-tendering process as the current contract expires soon. Belinda Kelly, Principal, will also talk about a proposal to outsource the Uniform Store to a private contractor.

Thanks
Greg Tunnock
President P&C

Events during August

Ms Cockburn presented her HSC Drama class’s trial practical performances. This was an amazing display of talent and it was great to see Mr Tony Bragg (retired Maths teacher) there to support the HSC students he coaches on a Thursday.

The mock trial team coached by Mr Miles made it to the first elimination round. We made it to the top 32 in the competition. It's a great result - only the second time we've made it this far.

Sophie Taylor of yr10 is the new national schools’ 100 m freestyle champion winning in record time. She placed second in the 200m. Sophie Taylor’s success in the pool was written up in a local paper as a “Junior Sports Star”.

The school has proudly financially supported students who attend extension courses out side of school such as Mind and Morality, and engineering camps. We also helped Anna Batshoun of yr 12, to attend the United States Studies Centre HSC summer school course, America: Rebels, Heroes & Renegades. This will support her Legal Studies course. She graduated on the University of Sydney's Open Day on Saturday 25 August at the Law school. What an experience!

Rosy Browell yr 10, Cassie Siepen yr 10 and Siena Hoban yr 7 were referee and line judges respectively for the primary schools (Gladesville vs Turramurra) final soccer game. They did a fantastic job. This is becoming something we are very good at with our Captain Hannah Bissett, recently refereeing another primary school soccer final.

Three Principals from Switzerland

They are visiting to see NSW public education in practice. They were interested in visiting an all girls’ school, as these do not exist in Switzerland. The Swiss are interested in teacher exchange and the DEC is promoting Study Abroad and Study Tour programs – not necessarily to Riverside. One of our students thoughts on the day – On Friday 24 August, we had some very special visitors, 3 Principals from Switzerland. They came to explore the possibility of student exchange sometime in the future. Some French students, including myself, showed them around the school. It was a great opportunity for us to practice our German and French. They were lovely and it was a great day.

Tournament Of the Minds

Our Tournament of Minds teams excelled at the Sydney North round. We have one team in the state finals on September 9 and another, which, despite an engineering malfunction, when the twine critical to their design broke, managed to power on and present
a very tight creative narrative which scored highly with the judges. Thanks to Ms Nikoletich and parent, Ruth McConnell for mentoring these teams.

The Applied Technology team (Regional Winners) above. Kalei Barger, Renae Barber, Jessica Ellis (7) and Sian Sykes, Rebecca Williams, May Hingston, Colleen McConnell of year 9. The Maths and Engineering team of Emma Jones, Rebekah Owen (yr 9), Sophie Lara-Watson 10, Sappho Spiers, Carla Astore, Bianca Laycock and Olivia Ellis of yr 7 is below.

Larissa Williams also wowed audiences at the MECCA night and then again for our visitors from China. Her backing group, the senior strings and Enoch Kim on drums, included three Yr 7 strings and our exchange student Veronika Roedel from Germany, also on the violin. Larissa is studying Music 2 for her HSC.

**Chinese Visitors**

Twenty four principals from Tianjin in China, a large city on the coast near Beijing, visited as part of their two month study program at Sydney University. They visited a northern Sydney school once a week. They commented that our girls are happy and that we have a very positive learning environment where high expectations result in high academic achievement.

They loved the formal part and then relaxed. The teachers’ openness classrooms, Michael Blundell organised a feast and Andjelka Nikic organised quite a day. Thank you!

Best of all the students from VET IT and our International students really enjoyed their hosting role. Many students have also talked about how interesting they found the interpreter experience during the assembly.
I hear the visit to your school by the Tianjin principals went really well. I know they were impressed.

Many thanks to you and your staff and students for showing what terrific schools we have here in Northern Sydney and giving the visitors an authentic taste of education in Australia.

Xie xie ni wo de NSR pern yo

Jason Miezis, School Education Director, Northern Sydney Region –

**TAS new kitchen**

The 5 September is our new commercial kitchen opening. The TAS staff has been trying out the combi-oven (donated by the P and C) and recently tested out scones on the staff. They were delicious! Hopefully the test kitchen will continue a little longer for staff morning teas!

**Goodbye**

We said goodbye to our exchange student from France, Charlotte Sutto. She has been very helpful in developing the oral skills of our French students. Two year 10s are off to France on exchange in November for 3 months. We continue to support these cultural exchanges.

**Orienteering**

**Riverside Girls the Champion School!**

The Sydney North Orienteering championships took place at St Ives Show ground on Friday 3rd August.

Riverside had forty entrants for the event, most of which were novices. The day began with the competitors placed in small groups and were led around the course by volunteer members of Orienteering NSW.

The girls were taught how to read the course map, locate key land features and how to find north without a compass, this proved very challenging for some.

The courses ranged from an ‘easy’ 2.5 km to a ‘hard’ 5 km course depending on the age group. The competitors were challenged physically and mentally and developed decision making, problem solving and leadership skills. They were also required to trust themselves and the decisions that they made.

Overall, it was a very fun day with lots of smiles all round. Age champions were Renae Barber (12/13s), Anastasia Baldwin (14/15s) and Anne Vervoort (16+), and Riverside Girls the Champion School!
Our Jackie wins national song writing contest

Ms Wang reports “Jacklyn Szetu” recently won a song writing contest for National Youth Week. She was one of four finalists chosen in the “Junior RockIT” category.

Jackie received a gift voucher for $3000 from the Billy Hyde music store. Wow! Thank you for the music Jackie!

The Forensic Chemists in Yr 12

Traditionally, Year 12 doing Chemistry have been using molecular model kits to make models of various molecules. This year, we decided to try using icing fondant to make models of glucose, fructose and galactose (which possess the same number and type of atoms) and learn how these molecules arrange and bond differently to make a variety of more complex compounds giving each one their unique properties.

The Forensic chemist can use this information to help solve problems.

Besides the enjoyment of making these models, this exercise also gave students an opportunity to compare, assess and evaluate the suitability of using a different medium - using sugar (icing fondant) to make models of sugar molecules.

Check Mate!

Chess Coordinator, Mr Hatcher reported three girls; Carmen Salter, Ida Bahmani and Sophia-Murray-Walker, thoroughly enjoyed their day playing in the NSW Interschool Girls Teams Challenge.

Their opponents included Sydney Girls Hornsby Girls, Ascham Senior School and St George Girls High School.

All players were polite, respectful and friendly on the day. The highlight for our girls was Sophia’s win that took just four moves, well done Sophia!

Carmen said: “So much fun, everyone was so nice, and the chess was challenging”. Sophia said: “We had a great day meeting all the girls from other schools and playing chess! Great way to end the chess season”. Ida said: “It was loads of fun playing different girls and schools, definitely do it again”.

Well done to the three girls for being great ambassadors for Riverside.

Taronga “Enviro Forum”
Environmental Education Centre
Field of Mars - 4 August 2012

Spending a whole school day in a zoo filled with exotic animals, on a lovely sunny day was reality for four lucky Riverside students. With the exception of the sun, Mr Russell, Krishani, Kristen, Mikaela and I were set free in Taronga where we then busied ourselves by traversing its wet grounds; brainstorming some ways in which we were able to make our school environmentally friendly.

Although the distinct smell of “wet dog” lurked in the back of our senses, it wasn’t enough to curb our single-minded determination to find the perfect ‘Riverside Mascot’. We came up with innovative ideas to educate others, and the equally-as-original name; Lorrie the Lorikeet.
Whilst the best part of the trip for Kristen was seeing the gambolling fairy penguins and the sleepy, majestic lions, Krishani’s highlight was splitting up into groups and meeting new friends. It was obvious that Mr Russell loved the convention as he extolled the Enviro Forum’s aptitude in empowering students towards taking positive action as leaders. Likewise, I was given the wonderful opportunity to voice my thoughts of the convention in a video and was gifted with a smile and thanks by the spokesman of Bangladesh.

Mikaela also said in what we can only assume was in a joking manner, that the most valuable lesson she had learnt was “how to control people,” no doubt, through subtle persuasion and indiscernible urging.

All in all the Enviro Forum was a major success in which students -and even teachers- learnt valuable lessons and brilliant tips. In doing so, it took us one step closer to making our world environmentally sustainable for future generations.

Rosa Jee

CHS Gymnastics

The CHS State Gymnastics championships were held on 6, 7 and 8 August at the Hunter Sports Centre in Newcastle.

Riverside Girls High had eleven students representing Sydney North. Two students in the Rhythmic Gymnastics (RG) competition and nine girls in the Women's Artistic Gymnastic (WAG) competition.

The girls displayed a high level of skill, style and grace in their events, impressing all with their performances. Holly Gilbert won two silver medals and was placed fourth overall in the R.G competition and Maia Kostic-Woolcock won a silver medal for ball/ribbon.

In the Artistic gymnastics competition Catherine Ogilvie medalled in Level E vault and bars, Sasha Kendall received silver for her Level D Floor routine and Holly Threlfo won bronze for Vault in Division B.

Well done girls! That’s Gymnastic Work!

Sydney North Athletics

The largest contingent from the school in many years!

Sydney North Athletics championships took place at the start of Term 3 at the Sydney Athletic Centre, Homebush.

Riverside had 30 students representing the North West Met girls’ team, the largest contingent from the school in many years.

The students performed very well on both the track and in the field.

Special mention to Ebony Burnard who won the 13 years Age champion award and medalled in several events.

Xanthe Friel, Chloe Davis and Amy Sneddon also won medals in their events and will represent Riverside at the CHS championships in September.

Well done!

Success in NSW High School Equestrian Championship

Kaitlin McLoghry (was featured in the recent currents edition. Last weekend she represented Riverside in the 3 day competition riding her 12 year old Quarter horse Ordie.

Kaitlin gained 1st place in three events!

She also came 2nd in five events and 3rd in two events and progressed to a higher skill level in Show Jumping.

Congratulations Kaitlin!
A Trip Down Memory Lane

Friday the 10 August, the day Riverside dipped into the deep pool of nostalgia and immersed ourselves into the memories of our childhood.

Riverside was flooded by the characters of our childhood with Mickey and Minnie Mouse mostly in abundance, balloons and streamers decorated the quad just like our kindergarten birthday party with streamers spun around every tree trunk and long strings of balloons placed in every practical spot 2m above the ground.

A vast amount of school spirit was raised with girls flooding in left, right and centre at Recess 1 and Recess 2 to get their hands on one of the delicious treats made by a huge amount of girls, having their face painted or having a crack at their luck with a Lolly Guessing Competition and a raffle.

Rayyana Amin reports she will never get to experience serving Mario, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, the Banana's in Pyjama's ever again - it truly was an unforgettable day despite the torrential winds and cold weather which had all the potential to spoil the mood of the day!

At lunch time the rain started falling but it had no effect because the hall was flooded with the sounds of the girls singing and dancing to karaoke. And thus the hall emptied out as the bell for period 4 rang and the day was over.

With the day over and a success, the total raised was $1836.15 where all of this money goes towards the Oncology Childrens Foundation What a great day it was Riverside! Thanks to everyone!

The Community Forum

Was held on 22 August in the school hall and it was well attended by staff, students, and the community

Ms Sophie Miller and Hannah our school captain at the community forum.
TAFE NSW – NORTHERN SYDNEY INSTITUTE

Careers Expo

Tuesday 11th September 2012, 2pm–7pm
Meadowbank College

Find out more about your career, study and employment options. Speak with teachers, counsellors, and employers about courses, entry requirements and career opportunities in a range of industries. Find out about our new Degree programs. Representatives from all Faculties, Industry Associations, Apprenticeship and Traineeship Centres, and major employers will be available.

Address: Meadowbank College, Block P, See Street, Meadowbank, 2114

- Presentations
- Demonstrations
- Competitions
- Giveaways and prizes
- Expert Study & Career Advice

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Riverside Girls High School has developed a five stage strategy to help students gain a sense of personal responsibility for their behaviour and learning.

Riverside Girls High School is an optimistic community which focuses on:

- working towards a harmonious environment
- solutions rather than problems.

We work to build collaborative relationships that reinforce excellence in teaching and implement a student management system which creates a positive environment based on consistent and known procedures and consequences.

We would like all students to become responsible for their behaviour and learning. The stages system is designed to help students if they need to get back on track so that they can become responsible young adults and successful learners.

**The Stages**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Stage 1</th>
<th>Minor misbehaviour. A teacher talks to a student about how they can improve their behaviour because minor misbehaviours are disrupting teaching and learning or impacting on the school community. The student might seek the support and advice of their Year Adviser to assist them to make the necessary changes to their behaviour.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>If the behaviour/s that were of concern at Stage 1 have continued over a period of time or the student did not co-operate at Stage 1. Or, if misbehaviour is more serious or is a combination of minor misbehaviours than that which merits stage 1 a student is placed on Stage 2. Whilst on Stage 2 the student has a conversation with the teacher and plans how they might work towards changing their behaviour. The student might seek the support and advice of their Year Adviser to assist them to make the necessary changes to their behaviour.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>Students are placed on stage 3 if they have not been successful in improving their behaviours at stage 2 or they demonstrate unacceptable behaviour that is beyond Stage 2. Students will be interviewed by a Head Teacher and will generally be placed on a ‘Behaviour Contract’ which will outline the goals the student needs to work towards. They might be excluded from class in one or more subjects for a period of time. The Head Teacher will inform parents that the situation has occurred. If the misbehaviour occurs outside the classroom it will be dealt with by the Deputy Principal, Ms O’Neill. Students who are on Stage 3 in more than one subject will need to see the Deputy Principal, Ms O’Neill, and an ‘Improvement Program’ will be implemented. Parents will be informed and may be asked to visit the school to discuss the issues. In some cases, students will be withdrawn from class for a period of time as ‘time out’. Students on Stage 3 might be issued with a suspension warning if the behaviour merits it. This is the decision of the Principal.</td>
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| Stage 4 | Stage 4 is a result of persistent ongoing misbehaviour or totally unacceptable behaviour in or outside of class. This might include disobedience, defiance, aggression, harassment and abusive behaviours. Placement on Stage 4 will result in a suspension warning. It might also result in:  
→ an “in school” suspension in some or all subjects  
→ withdrawal of playground privileges  
→ exclusion from excursions / participation in representative sport  
→ use of a ‘Behaviour Monitoring Booklet’ in all / some subjects  
→ ongoing monitoring of the student behaviour.  
Ongoing poor behaviour whilst on Stage 4 may result in a Formal Suspension. |
|---|---|
| Stage 5 | Stage 5 results in a Formal Suspension. A student on stage 5 has engaged in behaviour that is totally unacceptable during class, in the playground, at sport, on the buses or on an excursion or whilst representing the school by wearing a school uniform. This might include:  
1. Continued Disobedience - breaches of the school discipline code such as, but not limited to: refusal to obey staff instructions; defiance; disrupting other students; use of alcohol or repeated use of tobacco.  
2. Aggressive Behaviour - including, but not limited to, hostile behaviour directed towards students, members of staff or other persons, including: damaging the property of the school or students; bullying (including cyber bullying); verbal abuse, and abuse transmitted electronically such as by email, SMS text messages or by other electronic means.  
3. Physical violence  
4. Use or possession of a prohibited weapon, firearm or knife.  
5. Possession, supply or use of a suspected illegal substance  
6. Serious criminal behaviour related to the school  
A student who is suspended may not attend school or participate in any school activities until the suspension is resolved. Suspension provides students and their families with an opportunity to reflect on the concerning behaviours and to discuss options and approaches to foster improvement. It also provides an opportunity for the school to plan strategies which will assist in supporting students when they return from suspension. In the post suspension stage the school works with parents in assisting the student to rejoin the school community through the development and implementation of a Post Suspension Return to School Plan. Suspensions can be short (up to four days) or long (up to 20 days). If these do not resolve the matter, expulsion from this school (to enrol at another high school) may result, or in extreme cases expulsion from all schools (no enrolment at a public school). |

Please remember that MOST Riverside Girls never need to be placed on a stage, and we truly hope your daughter is also responsible for her behaviour and learning and never lets herself or her school down.
Community Announcement

Ryde Library will be hosting an exhibition by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute called ‘Healthy Chemistry’.

This exhibition shows how being healthy is a matter of good chemistry. A large part of staying well involves maintaining the balance of chemicals your body transforms, uses and then loses in everyday life.

It covers a number of topics of the Dept. of Education curriculum for lower high school students.

This travelling exhibition brought to you by The Royal Australian Chemical Institute and sponsored by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

View this wonderful exhibition at Ryde Library from Friday 10 August to Tues 18 Sept 2012.

Children's and Youth Librarian P: 9952 8367 | E: gwyllie@ryde.nsw.gov.au | www.ryde.nsw.gov.au

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Riverside is Online

No time to logon and register to receive information from us via email?

Complete this form and we will do it for you!

Please tick one or more of these options

☐ 1. Let me know when Currents is uploaded by sending an email link to the online version

☐ 2. keep me informed of P&C news and events via email.

☐ 3. send school newsletters home via email

How to return this slip to us:

1. Ask your daughter to hand it in during roll call or at the front office

2. Email the information to us at riversideg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

3. Mail it to us Riverside Girls High School Bag 3 Lane Cove 2066

If you are experiencing difficulties logging onto the Parent Portal please phone the office and ask to speak to Susan.

If Susan is not available Joyce can take a message for you.

We will get back to you asap.