Calendar Dates

**November**

**Term 4**

Monday 1  *Ryde Schools Spectacular
             Opera House 7pm
             Singers, dancers, school band performing

Monday 8  *School Certificate tests Year 10
           *International Students Day

Tuesday 9  *School Certificate tests Year 10

Wednesday 10  *School Certificate computing skills test

Thursday 11  Back-up day if needed for S.C. computing skills test

Friday 12  *Last day of HSC exams
           *Farewell assembly for Ms King 2pm school hall, parents welcome at assembly and afternoon tea at 3.15pm

Tuesday 16  *Year 7 swim school grading day
           *Year 12 formal

Wednesday 17  *Year 10 not returning in 2011, may sign out

Thursday 18  *Year 11 presentation assembly
             10.30 am and rehearsal 9am in hall

Friday 26 & Saturday 27  *Schools Spectacular
                        Entertainment Centre including matinee 1.30 pm
                        Fri 26 November

Monday 29  *Year 10 presentation assembly
           10.30 am and rehearsal 9 am in hall

Tuesday 30  *Year 7 swim school theory day

**December**

Friday 3  *International Disability Day

Tuesday 7  *Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day, 8.00 am to 11.30am

Principal’s Report

1. **HSC 2010**

   Year 12 will complete their HSC exams on the 10th November. They will receive their HSC results from the Board of Studies on Wednesday 15th December. Their university entrance score, now known as an ATAR, will be issued by UAC (University Admissions Centre) on Thursday 16th December. The girls have gained some excellent results this year and we are anticipating some excellent HSC results at the end of this term. The HSC Visual Arts major works will not be assessed until the first week of December so we do not know yet if we have received any nominations for Art Express.

   Thank you to all Year 12 parents who attended the Year 12 Graduation on 23 September. It was a lovely evening and we hope the girls will remember it fondly in the years to come. I certainly will.

   The Senior Leaders final address to the school at the Year 12 Farewell Assembly at the end of Term 3

2. **Year 11 Presentation Assembly**

   Originally the presentation assembly was to be held on Wednesday 17th November but we have moved it to Thursday 18th November. There was a clash with an important Year 11 excursion on the 17th November.

   Year 11 will receive awards for outstanding achievement, most improved and consistent application to their studies. They have already
received their final Year 11 report at the end of term 3. On the term 4 timetable, Year 11 have already been listed as Year 12 2011. Their first HSC assessment task for each of their subjects will be held in Week 9 this term, from Monday 6th December to Friday 10th December. A full schedule of the assessment tasks will be issued to the students shortly. It is important to remember that the school-based HSC assessments account for half of the final HSC results and half of their university entrance score. There will be a further 3 tasks per subject spread throughout terms 1, 2 and 3 in 2011 as well as the Trial HSC in Term 2.

The enclosed information from the NSW Public Education Alliance contains an important message for all public school parents. The review, launched this week by the ALP minority federal government, gives thinking Australians a once in a generation opportunity to influence changes to the current flawed funding formula.

It is time to invest significantly in public education in Australia. Politicians on both sides of the two major parties at both federal and state levels seem terrified of losing votes if they acknowledge that some overfunded private schools should have their funding allocation amended. All schools in Australia should be benchmarked against a minimum resourcing standard to ensure that all schools can deliver a quality education to young Australians. Any public school below the minimum resourcing level would then need the shortfall funded immediately. Funding according to educational needs makes a lot more sense than funding by SES formulae which rely on addresses and post codes. Oversize classes and insufficient funds for learning support students in those classes in NSW public schools are no longer educationally sustainable for a “clever country”.

Any parent wishing to participate in the Riverside response to the funding review (as outlined in the information sheet) should contact the P & C President, Avril Semyonov and attend the P & C meeting on Wednesday 10th November at 7.30 pm. P & C groups in every public school in NSW should send a response to the funding review. A response group could be organised at the next P & C meeting. Responses are due at the end of this year.

Staffing changes
The following teachers will not be returning to Riverside in 2011 and we wish them every success in their future careers and life choices.

* Mr Ross McMillan, Head Teacher Visual Arts and Music, is retiring

* Ms Tina Blong, Science, is also retiring

* Ms Sarah Jeffery, English and History, has transferred to St Mary’s Senior H.S. (much closer to her home at Katoomba)

* Ms Tina Kenny, HSIE, has returned to further full time study

* Ms Wendy Mortimer, Visual Arts, will become Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts at Barrenjoey H.S. next year. Congratulations to Ms Mortimer on her promotion to Head Teacher.

* Ms Rose Daniels has been seconded to client services at the Staffing Directorate of the Department of Education for 2011.

Ms Peterson (English and ESL), Ms Tao (TAS) and Ms Mihailou (TAS) will continue their maternity leave in 2011 but they will return later in the year. Ms Cockburn will return from maternity leave in Term 1 2011 for 3 days a week.

Ms Monica Buzacott has been appointed to English and Drama and we congratulate her on her permanent appointment to teaching.

A new Head Teacher C.A.P.A. (Creative and Performing Arts) will be appointed later in term 4.

Judy King - Principal

P & C Report

The NEXT P & C MEETING which is the AGM will be held

Date: Wednesday 10 November 2010
Time: 7.30 pm
Venue: Common Room

Avril Semyonov
President P&C

avrilse@hotmail.com

HSIE Report

Vietnam Veterans Visit

Our annual visit from the Vietnam Veterans on Friday 23 July was a fantastic event to which all year 10 responded. The openness of the veterans to discuss their experiences is truly amazing and we learnt of their day-to-day experiences and the hardships they faced during the war.

Bernie Cox talked about the experience of walking through the forest and having Agent Orange sprayed on the jungles around them and being covered in the chemical. Wendy Shulz told of her experiences on the home front, waiting for word on her husband. We were also shown historical artefacts such as the Winchester Magazine from the machine gun.
The most enjoyable part for many students was when the veterans answered questions. Some of the questions are quite personal yet the Veterans were very pleased to answer them. Everyone enjoyed it when one student was dressed in army gear and when equipment was passed around.

We all have different impressions and thoughts on how right or wrong Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War was but these veterans were young men that were asked to do extraordinary things for their country and were brave enough to do it. We were also delighted to receive for the library a book from Bernie Cox detailing the history of his unit for which we are very grateful.

Mock Trial Report

On Wednesday the 5th of May, the Riverside Girls mock trial team battled their opponents St. Augustine’s, a private boys’ school who have had a long-term experience in mock trial competition. As the hour drew closer the tension grew higher, and soon the St. Augustine’s team were greeted by a member of our team, Sarah Ghamraoui, and one of our welcomed guests, Honey May Arcilla.

After undergoing many training sessions of hard work our team was well prepared to take on the challenge. The barristers Anne Batshoun and Naveen Rehmani, together with the solicitor Greer Brennan and witnesses Lauren Gard and Taylor Fang, and our Court Officer Lauren O’Toole, were able to win the case!

However, in the end we missed out on the winning of the trial 207-194. As the St. Augustine’s team are all senior students with over a year’s experience, the Riverside Girls team thrashed the St Augustine’s team by winning the case by presenting stronger arguments.

All this wouldn’t have been accomplished without the help and support of the fellow mock trial members, spectators, and last but definitely not least of all, our wonderful coaches, Ms. Ritchie and Ms. Reoch. We would also like to thank Mr. Miles for giving up his time to further help and prepare us for the big day. We are very proud of what we have accomplished so far and look forward to the upcoming mock trial.

Riverside and the Weather Channel smash world record

Schools across Australia and The Weather Channel smashed the Guinness World Record for the world’s largest interactive weather report as part of National Science Week today. To break the record, 502 schools measured the temperature in their playground at midday AEST on Wednesday the 18th of August and submitted the readings to The Weather Channel, via weatherchannel.com.au/bigreport, who broadcast the results. Ms Daly’s year 10 Geography class were the fortunate students who took part in this event.

Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to Greer Brennan in Year 10 who is the runner up in the state junior public speaking competition. The competition was held last week at the NSW Art Gallery. Both Greer and the winning student from North Sydney Girls H.S. will represent NSW at the National junior titles on the 8th November.

Greer has represented Riverside in several challenging public speaking events in 2009 and 2010 and we are delighted by her achievements. We hope she will continue to compete at senior level in the next 2 years.

“It was great to link the teaching and learning of Geography to a national event like The Big Report” said Ms Daly.
The Weather Channel trounced the previous record held by the BBC, in the UK, who had 261 schools submit the temperature.

**Australian Maths Competition**

We are proud of the 221 girls who sat the Australian Mathematics Competition in August.

Ninety four girls received a Certificate of Credit and the following gained the **Certificate of Distinction:**

- Vivian TONG (7)
- Rosie BISSET (8) Prudence Award Winner
- Kate MCFARLANE (8)
- Emily O’LOUGHLIN (8)
- Natasha EFFENDY (9)
- Linda DU (10)
- Bridget MARCOVICH (10)
- Ashley REED (10)
- Annie JUNG (10)

**Congratulations to all girls!!**

We look forward to you continuing to achieve excellent academic results at Riverside right through to the Higher School Certificate.

**Australian Language Certificates**

This year many LOTE students once again entered the Australia-wide Assessment of Language Competence tests. The LOTE staff would like to acknowledge the outstanding effort and achievements of the students in the Years 9-12 elective classes who excelled in all areas of the competition and received the following range of wonderful results:-

**High distinction** awards were received in areas of the competition by:-

**Year 9 and 10 German**
- Kaitlyn Beck, Jessica Falon and Sarah Willcoxson

**Year 10:**- Lauren Gard, Stephanie Lewis and Larissa Williams

**Year 12 French (Beginners)**
- Moira Deutinger, Zoe Finlayson, Annabelle Foo and Lily Matthews

**Year 12 Italian**
- Persephonie Jamons

**Distinction** awards were received in areas of the competition by the following students:-

**Year 9 and 10 German**
- Year 9:- Akasha Holley, Madeleine Karakaidos, Emma Southeron and Lucienne D’Silva
- Year 10:- Rachel Chow, Laura Crockart and Sidra Hameed

**Year 10 Italian**
- Georgia Apostolopoulos

**Year 11 and 12 German**
- Year 11 :- Florence Yuan
- Year 12 :- Courtney Cohn and Lily Matthews

**Year 12 French (Beginners)**
- Melissa Arbabi, Courtney Cohn, Hannah Felton, Catriona Gilkes, Mao Shizuka and Kathryn Weismantel

**Year 12 Italian**
- Constance Apostolopoulos, Elizabeth Salvagio and Matilda Simpson

The following students are also to be commended on their successful participation in the competition and their impressive levels of achievement (including the achievement of many credit awards).

**Year 9 German**
- Kanna Campbell, Antonia Ferreira, Renee Huang, Tori McArthur and Alicia Thomas

**Year 10 and 11 German**
- Year 10:- Matilda Batten, Linda Du, Sora Graham, Hannah LaMacchia, Emma McIlraith and Bethany Vousden
- Year 11:- Lydia Hahn and Alexandra Wames-Wagstaff

**Year 10 Italian**
- Maria Buenaventura, Vanessa Campisi, Mary-Rose Clamp, Alesha Dietz, Lauren Flinn, Xanthi Friel, Caitlin Gordon, Pauline Hovsepian and Olivia Munro

**Year 12 French Beginners**
- Chalatorn Krongsing

Well done to all of you who participated. We are very proud of your achievements and look forward
to seeing another round of fabulous results next year!

Ms Udell, Ms Antunes, Ms Austin and Ms Crocco

Family First Aid

St John’s Ambulance Australia will be conducting a course in Family First Aid during school hours in Term 4. Parents will learn life saving skills such as:

- Resuscitation
- Control of Bleeding
- Management of Shock
- Wound Management
- Burns
- Bites and Stings
- Acute Illness
- Poisoning
- Fractures and Sprains

The cost of the course is $85 and is held during school hours, so you can drop your children off then complete the training. St John’s goal is to have one person in every family trained in first aid. Contact your school now to enrol.

An International Future for Students

This is an opportunity to make a difference for your future by hosting a Southern Cross Cultural Exchange student. You could enhance your studies, your travels, and your career. Learn of new opportunities, attitudes, and have fun teaching Australian culture. Carefully selected international students arrive in early February from Europe, the USA, Japan and Canada. Check out our brochure, BRING THE WORLD TO YOUR HOME on the Southern Cross Cultural Exchange website www.scce.com.au. If you want to seize this opportunity while still in secondary school, contact SCCE on 1800 500 501, and fill in the Host Family Application Form. The February students are being matched now!

Parenting Courses & Workshops

During Term 4 the Northern Sydney Central Coast Health Services are offering a number of courses that assist parents in effectively communicating with their children. The first of these workshops starts on Wednesday 27 October from 7pm to 9.30pm and costs $40 per person. Five-week courses will also commence from Wednesday 3 November costing $150 per person, with each session lasting for 2.5 hours

For details of workshops and seminars phone 9887 5830 or go to their website at: www.nsccahs.health.nsw.gov.au/caparenting.htm

Mobile Phone Fundraiser

Over the past two years, a collection box for mobile phones has been placed in the Library for used mobile phones. At last count, we had achieved the target of more than 100 phones. These phones were collected last week and we expect the school to receive a cheque shortly for $200 that will be donated to one of our charities.

It is estimated that there are 16 million old mobile phones just lying around in office and home drawers in Australia alone! These phones contain toxins that must not find their way into landfill sites. These phones can be recycled and earn money for our school.

Simply bring in your unwanted phone, no matter its age or condition and drop it off in the box in the school Library. With over 1,000 students, and the disposal rate of mobiles, we should have many more than we have collected so far, so get those used mobiles into the recycle box. This will not only help the school, but the entire planet and is a great way for children (and parents) to learn about recycling. For further information call Peter on 0410 511695 or go to the website www.envirofone.com.au

IMPORTANT NOTICE to all Parents/Carers and Students

Could all parents please advise of any change of circumstances or details with address/work phone numbers/contact numbers/ Emergency contact/email address by either:
Phone 9816 4264
Fax 9816 5409 or
Email: riversideg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Students can also obtain a mauve change of details form from the student services counter or the student administration office.

REMINDER: A note is required for any student absences as soon as the student returns to school.

Leichhardt Swimming Club

If you are interested in joining a local swimming group that caters for children and parents of all ages from 4 to 70 years, then consider joining the Leichhardt Swimming Club. They have been meeting at Leichhardt Pool on Saturday mornings since 1961. You can swim up to three races each Saturday with the emphasis on friendly competition and fun, ending with a carnival at the end of the year. The season started on October 9,
so if you need more information on how to register, visit their website:

www.lscswimclub.org.au

or speak to President Anne Marie Whelan on:
0411 238 020

Internet Safety Tip

Remind your daughters to keep information such as their name, address, pass words, phone number, school and even credit card number to themselves. When signing up to a chat room, they should use a screen name that is a nickname and not easy to work out. The same goes for choosing passwords – don’t make them easy to figure out. If your child is going to put photos on the Internet, ensure they don’t show them wearing their school uniform – this can be enough to identify your child’s school. Also ensure that any photos are not the type that would attract unwanted attention from strangers. More great advice at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click

Farewell Assembly for Ms King
Friday 12th November 2010
at 2pm in the School Hall

Parents are welcome to attend the farewell assembly for Ms King who will be retiring at the end of this term after 16 years at Riverside and 45 years overall in public education. The assembly will be followed by an afternoon tea in the school’s common room at 3.15pm

L. Markey
Relieving H.T. T and L
Event Organiser
The Uniform Shop

Profits from the Uniform Shop go to the school

Opening Hours
The Uniform Shop is open every week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday before school (8.30 - 9.00am) 2nd Recess (11.45 – 12.05pm) and at lunch time (1.00pm - 2.00pm) in the Uniform Shop located next to the Staff Common Room.

Contact:
Lesley Ph: 9816 4264 ext 136

Junior School Blouse (White) $28.00
Junior Blouse (long sleeve) $30.00
Junior Skirt Royal Check $55.00
V-Neck Wool/blend jumper with logo $55.00
V-Neck Wool/blend vest $35.00
Polar fleece jacket with logo $40.00
Trousers navy (2 pocket stretch boot cut) $45.00
Senior Blouse (blue) (Yrs 11 & 12) $28.00
Senior Blouse (long sleeve) $30.00
Senior Skirt Navy $35.00
Scarf $10.00

Payments:
Cash, cheque or credit card are accepted
Cheques should be made payable to Riverside Girls High School

Exchanges & returns
Please encourage your daughters to try on samples before purchase.
Goods will only be exchanged if they have not been worn.
If items need to be exchanged, please return them in their original packaging with the docket.

The Uniform Shop News

- Polar fleece jackets with Riverside logo are now available for $40.00.
To the Parents & Citizens' Association Secretary, Principal and Teachers Federation Representative

Review of Funding for Schooling — Have Your Say!

The NSW Public Education Alliance invites you to join with us in encouraging public school parents and care-givers, community members, principals, allied staff and teachers to contribute to the Review of Funding for Schooling, as outlined below by the Federal Government:

"On 15 April 2010, the former Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, announced that a review of school funding arrangements will commence in 2010 and conclude in 2011. This is the first time since 1973 that funding arrangements for all schools have been reviewed....All Australians with an interest in school funding will be given the opportunity to contribute, and build the strongest possible platform for long-term investment and improvements in educational outcomes beyond 2012. The review will examine all funding to all schools. The review will be transparent, open and consultative.” (Review of Funding for Schooling, www.deewr.gov.au/fundingreview)

This review is an important opportunity for NSW public school communities to have a say on schools funding. We believe a new system should be based on state and federal governments' fundamental responsibility to ensure equal opportunity for all children by providing and resourcing a high quality public school in each local community. Our aim is for every one of our 2240 NSW public schools to contribute to the review. In addition, it is hoped thousands of individuals will do likewise. This effort will be matched by our counterparts nationwide.

A submission can be sent via the internet, post or fax. It does not have to be a formal document that is complex and complicated. A submission is simply the means for an individual or school community to have a say on a future schools funding system that would better meet the needs of students. It could be in different forms: handwritten letter; email; printed document; photographs; video recordings; DVDs; pdf and word documents. Further information to assist in the preparation of submissions will be available soon.

Schools are encouraged to allocate time at a Parents & Citizens meeting, staff meeting or a specially organised activity early in Term 4 to discuss and prepare submissions. It is expected the closing date for submissions will be the end of December, 2010.

What matters most is that as many people as possible from public school communities tell our story about how governments can better meet our students' educational needs.

Yours sincerely

Helen Walton, President
NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations

Geoff Scott, President
NSW Primary Principals' Association

Cheryl McBride, President
NSW Public Schools Principals Forum

Christine Cawsey, President
NSW Secondary Principals' Council

Bob Lipscombe, President
NSW Teachers Federation