Please note these upcoming events!
7&8 June Theatrical production of “Peta Pan” in the School Hall starts at 7pm.

Our Principal’s Report

Public education has been in the news of late but not for the right reasons. The government’s decision to progress with its Local Schools Local Decisions legislation has moved the focus onto funding and a principal’s decision-making and away from teachers and students.

Yet, during May at Riverside, events and student achievements have once again shown that teachers are the driving force behind a quality public education.

Our teachers have formed a reading team with members across all faculties. They planned the Mother’s Day morning tea where Devonshire teas, baked by the girls, were shared with mums, grand mums and special friends in the hall (9 May). This function celebrated the year of reading and was a great success. Without the energy and ideas of the staff, this event would not have been as engaging. Here is some of the feedback:

I have just returned to work after attending the Mothers Day morning tea at the school. Just wanted to say what a wonderful morning it was.

The scones were delicious, the tea hot and the company great! Enjoyed the music speeches and trivia questions.

Thank you so much for hosting such a great morning tea!

Regards, Yr 7 mum

Then, our visual arts teachers inspired students to enter the NSW art competition to celebrate Reconciliation Week.

Last Friday evening I attended the Schools Reconciliation Challenge Awards ceremony and exhibition launch at the Australian Museum.

Umi Graham of year 10 came first in the yr 9-10 category. Of the 36 state awards, Riverside was the only metropolitan school to win a prize, apart from Newtown School of Performing Arts. There were over 1000 entries. The official letter of congratulations says, “Your school’s contribution is highly valued and appreciated. We were inspired by the commitment shown by educators and students across the state for reconciliation”. So, on behalf of our school, thank you to our VA teachers Ceara Kearney and Kirsten Duncombe, for seizing the opportunity to enter this competition.
And this week, the welfare team held a conference to enjoy time to talk together about positive ways to support learning. I arrived to hear Ms Tao talk about the power of the subconscious and Ms Johnston discuss the value of mindfulness. Both approaches are based on the ability of individuals to control their thinking and move it onto a positive pathway. Initiatives based on these approaches are planned for the near future and they have my complete support. This team of school leaders is a very special part of our school.

I therefore believe that excellence in public education is on show at Riverside. More coverage in the media of the work of inspiring and dedicated teachers would be wonderful.

Best wishes
Belinda Kelly

Our P & C Report

During May the P&C participated in the selection for the appointment of a new Mathematics classroom teacher to replace Ms Markey, who retired at the end of Term 1.

At the 9 of May P&C meeting, selection panel training was organised to allow additional parents the opportunity to be involved in future selection panels. This is a beneficial way for parents to be involved with the school community.

The P&C were very happy to have provided funding of $53,350 for selected school projects at the May P&C meeting. Thank you to all parents who have paid their P&C levies making this important contribution possible. Please see the minutes of the May P&C meeting at http://www.riversideg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/public/website/content/pc/minutes.html for funding allocation details.

The P&C will be supporting the Riverside Peta Pan production, on the evenings of Thursday 7 & Friday 8 June, by selling refreshments beforehand and at intermission. Rebecca Hastings will be coordinating this but needs some help from other parents. If you could help, please contact Rebecca on 0401 917 347.

The next P&C meeting will be on 13 June at 7:30pm in the staff common room. All parents and carers are invited and welcome to attend. Peggy O’Neill, Deputy Principal and Anne Vogelnest, Head Teacher Teaching and Learning will be guest speakers at this meeting. They will be discussing investigations staff will be carry out in 2012 to assess the potential use of iPads to enhance learning at Riverside.

Greg Tunnock
P&C President
On behalf of the Riverside P&C Committee

New TAS Kitchen

Work commenced on our new kitchen on Monday 14 May. We received a $200K grant for this work and a generous $18K from the P & C to ensure the kitchen was brought up to a full commercial standard. The largest item is the $14K for the combi oven. With a fully commercial kitchen, students can gain a Cert II for Hospitality. The work should be finished by the end of June.

Painting of the upstairs corridors, three classrooms and doors started this week. We have chosen a bright and happy colour scheme of greens and grey complemented by blue or rose features.

There are so many ways that our students excel here are some of the latest

Charlotte Snedden (Yr 11) has been invited to attend the introductory workshop/audition for the Talent Development Project 2012/2013 Intake at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in September. To be selected to attend this first workshop is an achievement in itself!! Charlotte will be working with many high profile consultants and from these sessions and consultant feedback, students will be selected to move into the first phase of the 2012/2013 TDP Program.

Karen Kong (violin) and Holly Luke-Paddon (trumpet) recently performed in the combined orchestra at the DEC Arts unit ‘InConcert’ performance at the Sydney Town Hall. We are so fortunate to have musicians of this calibre at Riverside.
Lucy Bourke (10) and Greer Brennan (12) shone at the zone public speaking. Greer has moved on past regional level to the state finals. Lucy is a very competent speaker who is destined for success in the future.

Laura Crockart will be going to the Pan Pacific championships in Hawaii in August to swim in the 800m freestyle.

The Mock Trial team had a close result losing only by 2 points in their competition.

The Knockout Volleyball team is in the regional final game on Friday June 1.

Sailing 2012
By Anne Vervoort and Greta Quealy Yr 10

Here at Riverside (not surprisingly) we have an affinity with the water as can be seen with our fantastic results in all water based activities.

Last month in this school magazine we featured the achievements of our swimming squad and rowing champion - Louisa Andrews.

In this issue we pay tribute to the brave, strong and intelligent girls that pit themselves against the elements in sailing.

On Tuesday 14 of April we went up north to Belmont to compete in the 2012 CHS Sailing Championships.

Anne Vervoort sailed a Flying 11 with her crew Jess. The first day no-one sailed because it was really windy so they were very relieved. The rest of the days they did sail, the last day (Saturday) being the best.

Greta sailed in a really old cherub with her friend Emma. The regatta wasn’t too serious for them, as they were sailing in a boat they don’t usually sail. Which did mean they had their fair share of capsizes...

Deidre and Claire sailed in their MGand. Adele sailed a F11 like Anne too! It was a brilliant and incredibly fun regatta and we can’t wait until next years!

Amnesty Market Stall 2012
By Anne Batshoun.

On Thursday the 5 April 2012, the Riverside Amnesty Team held an Amnesty International Market Stall in order to raise awareness of human rights issues. The focus of our stall revolved around the issue of refugee rights. The many girls involved on the day, did an excellent job of selling a range of human rights badges, tattoos, cakes and cupcakes – as well as informing girls about the many misconceptions concerning refugees!

The Amnesty stall was a great success as all Badges and cakes were sold, and by the end of the day, all Riverside students were proudly wearing human rights stickers, badges and tattoos!

Many girls showed their support by signing up to the Amnesty website, taking action by joining the Amnesty student group, and purchasing badges and cupcakes to support the cause.

As a result, the Amnesty team managed to raise over $700 which was sent to Amnesty International in order to assist refugees in need.

However, Riverside’s success did not stop here! Pictures of the event were published on the Amnesty International Facebook page as ‘picture of the week’ (with many likes) and additionally, a fellow Amnesty member, Mohra Ahmadzai, wrote an article regarding the stall which was published on the Amnesty International website!

The Riverside Amnesty team wishes to thank Mr Jones for his time, effort and devotion as well as all the girls and teachers who participated, contributed and supported the worthy cause. Congratulations Riverside Amnesty team for holding a fantastic market stall, and making a difference!

Annual O’Harris Fundraiser
By Imogen Stahel, O’Harris Captain

A ‘furry day’ themed mufti was worn on the day and many cupcakes and sausage sizzles were sold to support funds for the welfare and protection of animals in RSPCA care.

Our retired Riverside deputy, Mr Craig Teece, was invited back to Riverside to give a speech on the day, for a charity that he dearly supports.
Not only did Mr Teece arrive, a visit from 6 of Mr Teece’s own pet dogs came as well –This was appreciated with a long “awwwwww” sound from the girls!

An RSPCA representative, Claire Kendall, told all the girls about some success stories of the RSPCA which definitely made everyone aware of how the money they donated would help the RSPCA in future endeavours.

Miss Kendall was a role model for girls wanting to work in animal protection. Mr Teece also gave a speech supporting the RSPCA and many extra donations followed the assembly.

Overall, the O’Harris house was extremely proud of their efforts, raising over $2000 during the day! Thanks Girls!

**History Excursion**

Earlier this year Year 10 History classes were treated to an experience with a visit by Australian Vietnam Veterans. In the morning, we went down to the hall to listen to (and participate in) a talk about experiences during the war. We were also lucky enough to hear the view of the war from different perspectives, including that from the famous entertainer Lorrae Desmond (from A Country Practice).

There was also a 3D display of a typical scene from Vietnam, showing underground tunnels and the topography where the war took place. We also saw rations and ammunition, and some students even tried on the uniform!

In the afternoon, the history classes went on a walk to Gladesville Hospital. We walked through the grounds and had lunch at a park near the Parramatta River. After lunch, we had a bushwalk down by the river, filling out worksheets on local colonial and indigenous history as we went along. After we had finished the walk, we headed back to school. It was an enjoyable day and we all learnt a lot.

We would like to thank Mr Folkard and all the history teachers for a very memorable day!

**KO Baseball**

The School KO Baseball team are now Regional North Champions after defeating Narara valley High 17-0!

**Choir**

Choir rehearsals are on Tuesday lunchtime and all girls are welcome to sing along.

Our next major performance is at the Town Hall on August 1st and we are working on the combined choir songs. The rehearsal parts can now be downloaded from the school intranet.

The choir teachers wish to express their appreciation to all the yr 7 girls in the choir and the student leaders, especially Deborah Ewings, Rihanna Lewis and Larissa Williams for their assistance and continued valued contributions. Thank you girls!

**Student Welfare Forums**

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

The Term 2 evening was held on 23 May featuring Ms Iverach, Yr 7 Advisor.

Ms Chamoun would like to announce the next forum will be held on Wednesday evening 15 August beginning at 7.00 pm.

Note this date in your diary and please notify the school if you are attending as we would love to see you there.
**Athletics Carnival 2012**

A triumphant day!
By Sahmiha Axe

Many students decided to go with the Olympic theme with costumes from previous Olympics, Greek goddesses/ gods, and the Olympic logo.

The races were exciting! Many of them ended in a very close call with furious competitors having a fierce and fair race against each other.

The weather was one of the plus points for the day. It was a little cold to start with, but the sun was still shining. The races kept everyone entertained throughout the day.

One of the main highlights of the day was the relays. Students representing Coen, Mallinson, O’Harris and McKenzie ran in order to claim glory for their houses. It will be interesting to see which house will be the winner for the 2012 Athletics Carnival. The day was overall a great one!

**Notice to Advertisers**

We value your enquiries about advertising in this School Magazine- however we are currently formulating a policy congruent with DEC guidelines to enable us to accept paid advertisements from private enterprise.

**Letters to the editor**

We encourage your feedback. We appreciate your ideas and contributions. Please email your feedback and ideas to:

Until next month best wishes from your editors
Mr B Hunt & Ms L Glansbeek

With our sincere gratitude to all the contributors, staff, student and the office SASS staff

**NETBALL PLAYERS WANTED**

The Balmain PCYC still has vacancies in their under 12’s and under 15’s netball teams. If you are still interested in playing netball for this season could you please contact Daniel at the club on 9810 2234.

They have 2-3 spots in both the 12’s and 15’s, both teams play in Division 1 and they train Thursday Afternoons, 12’s train 4:30pm-5:30pm and 15’s are 6-7:30pm at Richard Murden Reserve, Hawthorn Parade Haberfield.

**REMINDERS FROM THE STUDENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:**

- We would like to remind students to bring their ID cards every day and use them whenever they come to the office.
- If you need a replacement card please come to the Student Services Counter. Replacement cost $2. It takes a few days to print.
- LOST PROPERTY – we encourage all students to come and collect their items in Student Administration Office. Mobile phones please see Ms O’Neill.
- The Uniform shop is closed on Wednesday.
Dominello speaks out on domestic violence

Rylie MP Victor Dominello wears two plastic wrist bands and they're not for good luck.

"One wrist band is a gift from Aboriginal people and he wears it in his capacity as NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

He wears the other as a symbol of his commitment to support White Ribbon Day and its campaign to end domestic violence against women.

Mr Dominello spoke about his wrist bands at Riverside Girls High School on Thursday as part of White Ribbon Day school promotion organized by past WRF Mosman Gladstone, team coach Zoe Alexander and other senior students.

"I wear the Aboriginal wrist band because I am absolutely committed to improving the living conditions of Aboriginal people," Mr Dominello said.

"And I wear this other (_domestic violence) wrist band because it's a campaign close to my heart and I hope it will be close to your hearts as well.'

Riverside's female students dressed as men for White Ribbon Day and Mr Dominello urged them to accept domestic violence and to campaign against it.

"What Zoe has done today is ignited a spark in your minds and planted a seed in your hearts," he said.

"It is my hope you'll go out into the community with this message and change people's attitudes to domestic violence."

Students could make an "important first step", he said, by talking to their fathers and brothers about domestic violence against women.

He said that this type of violence was not limited to "white burqa" but included physical or psychological violence against an elderly other female family members.

Like Mr Dominello, teachers at the school have taken the White Ribbon Day Pledge and the school proudly announced its stand against domestic violence on its Victoria Road noticeboard.