

Calendar

What's On

Term 1 Week 3

Friday 11 February RDA Orientation
Sports in School

Week 4

Monday 14 February Captains & Prefects
Induction assembly

Tuesday 15 February It's Academic

Wednesday 16 February Meet the teacher afternoon

Thursday 17 February Maroon for a day. Mufti day

Friday 18 February RDA
Sports in School

Week 5

Tuesday 22 February Scripture starts

Thursday 24 February Swimming Carnival

Friday 25 February RDA
Sports in School

Principal's Message

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a great holiday.

Yesterday at the morning assembly I spoke about starting the school year successfully. As many parents are unable to be here for our assemblies I would like to explain a little of what I spoke about.

The beginning of a new school year is the opportunity to make a new start. In fact, with the right attitude, you can make this year successful and enjoyable. There is no doubt if you are hard working and being successful you will also be happier, healthier and more optimistic about your future. Here are some tips for success from people who have already learned some of the hard lessons of life. See if you can learn from them now and make this year your best year yet.

- Stop thinking "if only" - if only I had more money, if only I was taller, if only I was more clever, if only I'd done more study. Take responsibility for yourself. Work with what you have. No-one else but you can turn your life into what you want it to be. Your teachers are here to help you all the way.
- Set your own standards and live up to them. You are your own hardest critic and while you may be able to fool your parents or your teachers you can never fool yourself. Success and happiness come from feeling good about yourself, enjoying the results of your efforts and having self-respect. That is why it is so important to be able to stand on your own feet and take pride in what you achieve.
- Find enjoyment in your learning. People who read widely, go to good movies, enjoy music and are interested in how the world works, are the people who make successful students. If you spend all day looking in the mirror, you won't learn very much at all. Develop your curiosity. Ask questions. Seek answers. That's what learning is all about. And the more you enjoy it, the more successful you will be.
- Learn from criticism. We all learn from our mistakes and from people who know more than we do ourselves. Seek feedback on your work. Welcome criticism. Ask for more details of what is wrong with your work and then find out how to make it right next time. You are not always going to be top. Nor are you always going to be bottom. Ignore the highs and lows and work on the in-betweens. A positive attitude towards criticism will help you improve your performance in the classroom just as it does on the sports field.
- Intelligence takes time to develop. Your brain grows the more it is used. Give yourself the time to master new ideas and new skills, knowing the more you practise the more you will improve. It is as simple as that.
- Successful people set goals. If you drift through life, then you have to take whatever fate chooses to hand you. If you work towards your goals, however, you can take charge of your own future.
- This year, work for yourself! Be determined to achieve the best you are capable of! Good enough isn't good enough for you!

Welcome

I would like to welcome Mrs Belinda Weisback to our staff. Mrs Weisback is replacing Mr Stephens.

I would like to welcome Mrs Jenni Burnelek. Mrs Burnelek will be class sharing with Mrs Weisback.

Welcome Ms Vicki Anderson. Ms Anderson has worked at Riverstone PS for many years and this year will be class sharing with Mrs White.

2011 Classes

This year we have formed 19 classes. They are KH with Mrs Holman, KK with Miss Kelly, 1/2K with Mrs Krumins, 1/2PW with Ms Pugh and Miss Weller, 1/2S with Ms Shaw, 2/3WA with Mrs White and Ms Anderson, 3/4C with Mrs Camilleri, 3/4WB with Mrs Weisback and Mrs Burnelek, 5/6L with Mr Lewis, 5/6W with Miss Wesley, 5/6F with Mrs Finn, 1/4R with Mrs Reddy, 4/6E with Mrs Elliott, 5/6G with Mrs Govender and 1/2L with Mrs Sciberras. We will also have four Preschool classes.

As you can see, thirteen of the nineteen classes are composite. When we are forming classes we are very careful to create a balance of children in each class. In each class there are children with varied learning styles and abilities. If your child is in a class with younger children, this does not mean that your child is not smart nor will it hold them back in their learning.

At Riverstone Public School teachers plan their programs together and all children in a grade are given the same program no matter what class they are in. Teachers manage different grades in the one class by grouping children according to what they already know and giving small group instruction.

The children benefit greatly by this mix. Not only does this allow students more individual and small instruction, they are able to mix with a greater number of children, develop independent learning skills and develop more friendships to improve their social skills.

The teachers at Riverstone Public School are very experienced at this as we have composite classes every year. We also have a large number of support staff who work together with the class teachers in literacy and numeracy times. This year Mrs Hall, Mrs Gummerson, Mrs Baldock, Mrs Heard, Miss Weller, Ms Smith, Mrs McKenzie and Mrs North will be assisting students throughout the school. We also have extra support for students provided by Miss Greenaway, Mr Gummerson and Miss Sewell.

Many parents use homework as a measure of the class program and the teacher. The Department of Education and Training is very clear that children need to only be doing 10 minutes of homework a night by the end of Year 2 and up to 20 to 25 minutes a night by the end of Year 6. The most valuable aspect of homework is to listen to and supervise your child's reading every night. If you would like more homework for your child, we have a number of good suggestions that you can use to support your child's learning.

Children need time to settle into their new class and get to know their new classmates and teachers. There will be no changes as all the classes have been carefully considered.

Maroon for a Day

All of us have been shocked and moved by the devastation caused by the Queensland floods.

Along with hundreds of other schools around NSW, we want to lend a hand. So, on Thursday 17 February, we are going to be Maroon for a Day. Your child is encouraged to wear something maroon and make a gold coin donation.

All the money collected will go towards assisting Queensland public schools affected by the floods.

The floods damaged more than 90 Queensland schools. Six TAFE institutes and more than 80 government child care centres have also been affected. We hope you will join us in this worthwhile effort.

Wednesday 2 March is P&C day

"Try a little Kindness" is a day for our school community to officially recognise and celebrate the contribution made by our local P&C association.

Tuesday 8 March is International Women's day

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global event that celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. More information can be found at www.internationalwomensday.com

Hot weather

Remind your child to protect themselves from the sun and heat exposure while at school by:

- reducing their exposure to the sun, wherever possible
- wearing the broad-brimmed school hat in the playground to protect their face, neck and ears
- Playing in shaded areas, particularly during peak UVR times
- Drinking plenty of water
- Using 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen

Here we go for another great year!!

Peter D'Ermilio

Principal

Start time

Just a reminder that there is no supervision of children before 8.25am each day. Teachers start at this time and will be on playground duty from 8.25am to 8.55am.

If you **have** to drop your child at school before this time we ask that they sit under the COLA to minimise their risk of harm until the teacher starts.

K-2 Assemblies

Term 1

Week 4: 1/2 K Mrs Krumins

Week 5: 1/2S Ms Shaw

Week 6: 1/2P Ms Pugh

Week 7: KH Mrs Holman

Week 8: KK Miss Kelly

Week 9: 1/2K Mrs Krumins

Week 10 1/2S Ms Shaw

Assemblies for K-2 are on Friday mornings 9:15am-9:55am.

Front Car Park

The car park at the front of the school is for the use of the school executives and visiting departmental personnel only.

The bus bay areas are for the use of the taxis that drop-off and collect the students that are in our Special Education classes and must be left vacant until 9.30am and after 2.15pm every day.

P & C News

Thanks to Officeworks

The P & C would like to extend our sincerest thanks to **Officeworks Castle Hill** for their generous donation of 150 art smocks, which have been distributed amongst the Preschool and Early Stage 1 classes. We'd also like to thank Katherine Stannard for her effort towards making that possible.

Come shopping with us - in Melbourne!

On September 23 - 25, the P & C have planned a Melbourne shopping Trip as a fundraising event for our school. The cost is \$300 and includes travel by comfy coach, bed and breakfast (Sat night/Sun morning), shopping tour on Saturday including morning tea and lunch. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Trudie on 0410 684 446.

Places are filling fast, so make sure you pay your deposit as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is open Friday mornings from 8:45 – 9:30 am.

Meeting

Our next meeting is on Monday, 21 March at 7pm in the library. All are welcome to attend.

Mrs Rachel Jack
Secretary P&C

Book Club

At various times during the year you will receive brochures for our Book Club. Mrs Kylie Robinson is a parent volunteer who runs the Book Club on behalf of the school. Being conscious of the cost of students returning to school, Kylie has decided not to send out book club brochures in Term 1. Book Club will return to normal in Term 2.

Sports News

Swimming Carnival

Riverstone Public School Swimming Carnival will this year include all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and will be held on Thursday 24th February at Riverstone Pools. This is a compulsory school day and all children are expected to attend. No teachers will be at school on this day as they are all attending the Carnival.

The carnival is planned in such a way as to provide opportunities for maximum involvement for all students. Events at our carnival include age races (50m & 25m), relays and novelty events only. There will be no free swim.

Please be aware that Riverstone Pool is an open air pool and students are to bring a hat and sunscreen which should be applied regularly throughout the day.

Parents are welcome to attend the carnival.
Spectator admission will be \$2.40.



Sports in schools

Sports in Schools is being offered to all students K-6 again this year in Term One. The payment of \$4.00 needs to be given to your child's class teacher by **Thursday morning**. **NON PAYMENT WILL MEAN NON ATTENDANCE.**

Regards,
Mr Lewis
Sports Co-ordinator

Don't Risk Injuring a Child

The 40km/h speed limit in school zones operates between 8.00-9.30am and 2.30-4.00pm on school days - be aware of the time or you could get fined.

Children can be unpredictable and hard to see. It's important that parents and carers observe local school safety initiatives when dropping off and collecting children.

Penalties are high, new fines and demerit point increases include:

- Speeding - minimum fine of \$128 and four demerit points
- Approach children's crossing too quickly to stop safely - \$384 fine and four demerit points
- Double parking - \$231 fine and two demerit points
- Stopping on or near a children's crossing - \$308 and two demerit points
- Illegal use of mobile phone in school zone - \$308 fine and four demerit points.

The worst penalty is knowing you've caused an injury to a child.

Tough Teeth

Protect your child's teeth by encouraging them to clean well:

- Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, especially before bed
- Brush your teeth and gums gently and properly
- Use a toothbrush with soft bristles and a small head
- Floss properly to clean between your teeth.

Looking for a dental health clinic? The NSW Centre for Oral Health recommends calling (02) 8821 4300 during business hours and quoting your suburb. From there, parents will be given the contact details for their local oral health service.

Community Noticeboard

Riverstone Public School, as a service to parents, will advertise community events that may be of interest. Riverstone Public School does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility for the management or organisation of these events.

Riverstone Families Connect

BREAKFAST CLUB

Thursday Morning
8.15am—8.50am

All students are welcome to come along.

Students must leave the Breakfast Club to line up for class when the bell goes.

Breakfast Club will start on Thursday 10th February.



Thursday 17 February

Maroon for a day!

Wear maroon and donate a gold coin to the Queensland Public Schools affected by the floods.

Nepean High School

for the Creative and Performing Arts

Email: nepean-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Blacktown City Show

11, 12 and 13 March

Blacktown Showground,
Richmond Rd, Blacktown

Please check the website for further information on entering arts and craft items or just visiting the show for a fun day out.

www.blacktownshow.com.au

Do you think you can dance, perform, create?

Nepean High School is a selective school for the creative and performing arts.

Talented students with a strong interest in Dance, Drama, Instrumental Music, Vocal, Visual Arts, Digital Media and Photography, are encouraged to apply. Local (in area) students wanting to be part of our selective Creative and Performing Arts Program must also audition or present a portfolio of work.

To be a part of the **2012 Year 7** cohort of creative and performing arts students, or for more information contact the school 47287200 or website nepean-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au for an application package.

Closing date for applications is 11th March 2011



**Education
& Training**
Child Wellbeing Unit

Join our team
to help keep our kids safe

Become an Aboriginal Assessment Officer at the NSW Department of Education and Training Child Wellbeing Unit.

Aboriginal Assessment Officers provide advice to Department of Education and Training staff about appropriate responses to safety, welfare and wellbeing concerns for children and young people.

Come along to our Yarn Up sessions to find out more about these positions:

Tuesday 1st February 2011
3:30pm – 5:30pm
Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative College
13 Mansfield Street Glebe

Wednesday 2nd February 2011
3:30pm – 5:30pm
Butucabin Aboriginal Corporation
28 Pringle Road Hebersham

Thursday 3rd February 2011
3:30pm – 5:30pm
Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation
187 Riverside Drive Airids

The focus of the information sessions is to:

- provide an overview of the key responsibilities of the position
- highlight policies and procedures relevant to applying for the position, such as the Working with Children Check
- provide advice on how to apply for the position, including addressing selection criteria and interview skills.

For details of the information sessions being held in your community, please contact:

Christine Foreshe
Aboriginal Assessment Officer
Child Wellbeing Unit
T 9269 9422

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

www.det.nsw.edu.au



....making a difference....

Richmond Community Services Inc in partnership with Wesley Mission is pleased to offer a free workshop for Dads & Mums:

“MAKING ENDS MEET” - THE FAMILY BUDGET

FOR

PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED 0-18 YEARS

WHEN:

Monday 4th April
10am—12 noon

**BOOKING
ESSENTIAL!**
02 4588 3502

Email:
admin@rcsingo.org.au

WHERE:

Richmond
Neighbourhood Centre
20 West Market
Street
Richmond
NSW 2753



Learn how to:

- **Create your family budget**
- **Set and achieve financial goals**
- **Plan and spend wisely**
- **Avoid getting into debt**



Quit Smoking Support



WHAT IS SMOKING REALLY COSTING YOU?
Health Problems? Money? Relationships? Infertility?

The W.A.S.H. House, Mount Druitt in collaboration with Anglicare is holding the **FREE Breathing Space** program for women who are thinking about quitting and would like information and support through the quitting process

In the 6 Week course you'll learn:

- ✓ The stages of quitting
- ✓ How to deal with cravings
- ✓ Smoking and your wellbeing
- ✓ The hard facts about quitting
- ✓ How to cope with relapse

Breathing Space:

QUIT SMOKING SUPPORT FOR WOMEN
6 weeks at the
W.A.S.H House Mount Druitt:
Thursdays 10.00am-12.00pm
10th February- 17th March
Light morning tea provided

WHETHER YOU JUST WANT SOME INFORMATION ON SMOKING, OR YOU ARE READY TO TAKE THOSE FIRST STEPS TO QUIT, THIS GROUP WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE SUPPORT YOU NEED. QUIT AT YOUR OWN PACE, NO PRESSURE!

Booking starts **Monday 31st January 10am**

Drop-in to the W.A.S.H. House
Mon-Fri 9.00am-4.00pm
Lot 5 Kelly Close, Mount Druitt
Or call the W.A.S.H on 9677 1962

Learn Maltese with Skola Maltija Sydney

Enrolments are now being accepted for 2011.

You AND your children from Kindergarten to Year 6,
can study the Maltese Language and Culture in a
friendly atmosphere.

Classes commence on 12th February 2011 on Saturday
during school terms
(adults & children's classes held at the same time)

To ENROL NOW please call;
Principal, Mrs Jane Borg 0402 167 439 or
Mrs Antoinette Mascari on 9899 1938
or email us on skolamaltijasdney@yahoo.com.au

High School students can enrol with the Saturday School of
Community Languages through their high school. For more
information please contact Mr Charles Galea on 9674 2970.

Skola Maltija Sydney is a program of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Inc.

Our school is part of the
NSW Community Languages Schools Program
(NSW Dept. of Education and Training).



A special welcome to
Riverstone Public
School to all our
Kindergarten and
Preschool students
and their families.

A special welcome
also to all our
students in
Years 1 - 6 and their
families.