

RIVERSIDE CURRENTS

Riverside Girls High School Parent & Community Newsletter

February 2008

Calendar Dates

Term 1

February

- Wednesday 13 Special Assembly – HSC 2007
High Achievers
P & C Meeting, 7.30 pm,
Common Room
- Friday 29 Year 11 Study Skills morning

March

- Monday 3 HPV & HEPB1 inoculations for
Years 7-10, School Hall
- Tuesday 4 HPV & HEPB1 inoculations for
Years 7-10, School Hall
- Wednesday 5 International Women's Day
Assembly
- Wednesday 12 Zone Swimming Carnival
P & C Meeting, 7.30 pm
- Thursday 13 Open Day, 2-6 pm**
- Friday 21 Good Friday
- Monday 24 Easter Monday
- Friday 28 School Cross Country

Principal's Report

Welcome to 2008

We welcome some new teachers to R.G.H.S. this year. We hope they will enjoy their time with us.

Ms Andrews is replacing Ms Pendergast as H.T., PD.H.PE. She joins us from Doonside H.S.

Ms Renae Lidman has joined us from University to teach English and Drama.

Ms Alison Fowler has joined us from university to replace Ms Morrison in the HSIE faculty.

Mr Profilio is relieving H.T. in HSIE replacing Ms Morrison who has transferred to Gosford H.S. We will be interviewing for the new H.T. HSIE next week. Ms Cheryl Brown will represent the P. and C. on the panel. No current H.T. transferred to the position in December so we are proceeding with the merit selection process.

Ms Shirley Gregory has joined us in the HSIE faculty replacing Ms Costa for the first part of Term 1. This position has also been advertised and interviews will be held a few days after the

20th February. Casual teachers (those without a permanent position) are eligible to apply.

Ms Laundry from the TAS faculty received a permanent appointment to Willoughby Girls High and starts on 11th February. We are very sorry to lose her but we are pleased she has gained a permanent position after waiting several years for one as a casual teacher.

We are very pleased indeed that **Ms Karbic**, also from the TAS faculty, has been appointed to a permanent position with us. It is a shame we could not get both TAS teachers appointed to us. Ms Karbic has also waited years for a permanent appointment.

Outstanding HSC Results 2007

The teachers of Riverside Girls High were thrilled with the HSC results of the year 12 class of 2007. Three girls will receive a distinguished Premiers Award for achieving band 6 (over 90%) for all 10 units studied.

Irene Wenjing Liu, DUX of the school with a **UAI of 99.95**, achieved band 6 in all 10 units. Irene gained first place in the state in Chinese and third place in ESL English. She has gained entry to the Actuarial Studies course at Macquarie University.

Nancy Lin (UAI 98.45) gained band 6 in all 10 units and will receive a Premiers Award. She will study Commerce at Sydney University.

Ketty Hsiao (UAI 97.60) also gained band 6 in all 10 units and will receive a Premiers Award. She also intends to study Commerce at Sydney University.

Eve Heppell (UAI 95.95) gained third place in the state in Spanish Beginners. She will study Arts at Sydney University.

These four students join 23 other girls who received over 90.00 for a UAI (out of the 102 eligible for the UAI) which was certainly cause for celebration. This number represented 26% of those eligible for a UAI. Riverside was listed **96 times in the distinguished achievers lists** for band 6 results and was listed **86 in the Top 200 Schools** list for the HSC of 2007.

The 1050 students enrolled at Riverside Girls High at Gladesville come from a large number of suburbs in the inner west of Sydney; from Millers

Point and Pyrmont in the city, Balmain, Leichhardt and Abbotsford in the inner west, as well as Ryde, Marsfield and Ermington in the north west and west of Sydney. The outstanding achievement of the year 12 class of 2007 in the HSC makes all members of the Riverside community proud to be a public comprehensive school.

On Wednesday 13th February we will present school medallions to these high achieving students to acknowledge their outstanding success. Our HSC Assembly is one of the highlights of the school year. A full summary of the 2007 HSC results will be available on Open Day 13th March between 2 pm – 6pm.

**Open Day
Thursday 13th March, 2008
2 pm – 6 pm**

**Official welcome in the school
hall at 3 p.m.**

***All welcome, especially 2008 Years 5
and 6 girls and their parents.***

***Displays, tours, activities,
information tables, music,***

Apology to Aboriginal Australians from the federal parliament

All students will witness the apology from the Prime Minister on Wednesday 13th February. We have acknowledged on our street message boards that it is a proud day for all Australians. The Director General of the NSW Dept of Education has asked all public schools to ensure that teachers and students share this very significant moment in our nation's history.

2008 Enrolments

We have 1040 students this year. We welcomed about 40 new enrolments from China, Korea, Thailand, interstate and other local and not so local schools.

There are 147 in Year 12 for the 2008 HSC and we wish them well in their studies for 2008.

We have 193 girls in Year 7. Unfortunately a few students decided to accept places in public selective schools over the December-January break, with a small number changing their mind and going to private schools. The loss of 12 students in Year 7 is significant and it will make a difference in our overall staffing allocation from the government for 2008.

In effect, it results in about 6 periods being taken out of the timetable. This is not a huge loss but we are always disappointed when we have to reduce anything on the timetable at all but as you are aware, public schools are staffed on the numbers as at 8th February 2008.

P. & C. Meetings

These meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the school common room. We hope to see lots of parents attending the 2008 meetings.

The scheduled P. & C. meetings for 2008 are:

13 th February	11 th June
12 th March	13 th August
9 th April	10 th September
14 th May	12 th November

J. King – Principal

New Staff Members

Shirley Gregory – HSIE

I am really pleased to come to Riverside Girls High School, with over 20 years teaching experience including industry, TAFE and for the past 5 years in high schools. The teaching of the majority of my classes in the HSIE faculty equips me well for this block of teaching at Riverside.

Alison Fowler

Last year I completed my Graduate Diploma in Education majoring in English and History at Macquarie University. Prior to that I had been working for a non-profit senior's organization, so working with young adults and teenagers will be a big, but welcome change for me. I was lucky enough to do my practicum at Riverside, so I feel very fortunate to be working here this year. Outside of school I enjoy snorkeling, cycling and reading, although never at the same time.

Renae Lidman – English/Drama

I completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of New England, majoring in Theatre Studies, as well as a Graduate Diploma in Education, focusing on Secondary Drama and English. I am interested in all aspects of Performing Arts and have taken on the role of Drama Coordinator at Riverside.

Wendy Mortimer - Visual Arts

I came all the way from Guangzhou in China in 2007 for the opportunity to work at Riverside Girls High School. In Guangzhou, I was Head of Creative Arts K-12 at the Utahloy International School.

Prior to China I worked in a variety of state and private schools in NSW as a visual arts coordinator and classroom teacher. I am currently undertaking a Masters in Education at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga.

My passion is art and culture and the role of the artist in our diverse contemporary world as well as my puppy, Lulu.

Making Babysitting Better

A handy new guide has just been published to make babysitting a better, safer and more positive experience involved. Developed by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, the Babysitting Guide offers practical information and advice for kids working as babysitters and for parents hiring them.

To make it easy to use, there are separate versions for kids and parents, with specific tips and suggestions that each will find useful. There's also a Checklist that both can use to make sure the babysitter has all the essential information they need, like emergency contact details, arrival and departure times, house rules and other key facts. A study by the Commission looking at children at work found that one in five young people work as babysitters, making it the most common job undertaken by kids. Providing more information for both young people and parents was a key recommendation coming out of the study.

"In developing the Guide, we wanted to come up with a resource that would help kids get a good start in what is often their first job," said Ms Gillian Calvert, NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People. "But we also wanted to help parents, and highlight the important role they can play by providing the right environment for their babysitter," she said.

Prospective babysitters can use the Guide to prepare for the job and as a reference while they work. Tips include what to ask before you start, the do's and don'ts of babysitting, things you need to know about looking after children and useful

contacts and emergency numbers to keep handy. It also provides links for further information and advice.

Parents can use their Guide to understand their responsibilities when hiring a babysitter, and how to work with their babysitter to get the best results. Tips for parents include things you can do to prepare, like stocking up on first aid supplies, leaving clear instructions and showing the babysitter around the home.

"Parents need to be sure that the babysitter understands what's expected of them," Ms Calvert said. "It's a good idea to get together before the first session, to introduce the sitter to the kids and explain the house rules. It's important to agree on a rate of pay up front, so there's no confusion. When the session is over, it's also useful to have a chat about how things went, to see if there were any problems on either side, Using the Babysitting

Guide and Checklist makes it easy to get things right," Ms Calvert said.

The Babysitting Guide was developed with the help of around 50 young people from high schools and TAFE colleges around NSW. The Babysitting Guide for Young People, Babysitting Guide for Parents and Babysitting Checklist can be downloaded for free at www.kids.nsw.gov.au.

Dental Services

Should any students need access to the Dental Health Services Clinic for assessment or treatment; their parents need to call the Northern Sydney Dental Call Centre. It is important that your child has regular dental check-ups from either your private dentist or the local child dental clinic. If you wish to attend a local dental clinic please phone the Call Centre on **1300 789 404**.

You will be required to provide your Medicare number and answer some questions about your child that will enable them to provide your child with the most appropriate care.

Can You Help?

Would you like to give a bit of your time to brighten up the lives of some people? Gladesville Community Aid's Volunteer Visiting Program is urgently looking for a few volunteers who would be able to help to visit people in their homes and who are isolated and lonely. If you can spare an hour or so a week or a fortnight please call **Magdalene on 9817 0101**.

Training and support will be provided and all information about volunteers and clients are kept private and confidential.

Your volunteering makes a lot of difference to yourself and to others!

Mobile Phone Fundraiser

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. Belair Public School, for example, raised over \$2000. Every old mobile phone collected will raise \$5 for the school. Simply bring in your unwanted phone, no matter its age or condition and drop it off in the box in the school office. This not only helps 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

Career Change?

Did you want to study at university or TAFE but thought it was too late or too hard? Perhaps you feel the need to build up your skills and

confidence and/or gain the necessary year 12 equivalent qualifications to help you succeed in further studies. The Tertiary Preparation Certificate (TPC) may be for you!

Interested? Contact Melissa Knudson (TPC Coordinator) at North Sydney College of TAFE for more information.

Phone 9942 0743 Email
Melissa.Knudson@tafensw.edu.au

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

What better way to see in the New Year than to host an international exchange student. Expand your family's horizons and make a friend for life. Unlike a boarder, the student participates as one of the family, including helping with chores, following house rules, and joining in the fun. Southern Cross Cultural Exchange currently has over 100 students from Europe, Canada, USA, Japan, Brazil and Colombia, who will arrive late January 2008 for a few months. SCCE is a non-profit organization with 24 years experience in exchange programs. Hosting is voluntary and students bring their own spending money as well as being covered for medical and educational expenses. Please ring now for student files and more information on:

Toll Free 1800 500 501

Parenting Courses & Workshops

Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service is offering parenting courses for Term 1, as detailed below. The courses aim to assist parents to understand teenager development and keep lines of communication open. Parents learn how to resolve "issues" between teenagers and themselves and to deal with teenager anger in a constructive way. The first workshop will be held at Chatswood on Wednesday 27 February between 7.00pm and 9.30pm at a cost of \$40 per person. The course commences on Wednesday 5 March through to 2 April, 2008 from 7.00pm to 9.30pm at a cost of \$125 per person. For further information contact Coral Tree Family Service on 9887 5830

DRUG & ALCOHOL FORUM

North Shore Rotary, in collaboration with Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Drug and Alcohol Service will be holding a forum at the

ZENITH THEATRE, CHATSWOOD

At 7 pm on 8 APRIL 2008

Dr Glenys Dore will be the keynote speaker. Dr Dore is a Consultant Psychiatrist with the Service and her main clinical, teaching and research interest is in the area of those who have both mental health and substance use disorders. She is also a Clinical Lecturer with the Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Sydney. She will speak about risk factors for drug use in adolescents, and how parents and young people can work together with the right knowledge to keep safe.

