

RIVERSIDE CURRENTS

Riverside Girls High School Parent & Community Newsletter

November 2005

Calendar Dates

October

- Monday 17 HSC Exams begin
Friday 28 Study Skills Seminar for Year 12 2006

November

- Monday 7 Board of Studies School Certificate Tests Year 10
Tuesday 8 Board of Studies School Certificate Tests Year 10
Wednesday 9 Swim School Grading Day
AGM for the P. & C. 7 pm
Common Room
Friday 11 Final day HSC Exams
Monday 14 Year 12 Formal
Monday 14 Senior Uniform Sales Day for 2006 Yrs 11 and 12
Wednesday 16 Yr 11 Presentation Assembly 10.30 a.m.
Wednesday 23 Sports Awards Assembly
Friday 25 Schools Spectacular
Saturday 26 Schools Spectacular

Principals Report

2005 HSC

We wish all Year 12 every success as they begin their HSC exams on Monday 17th October. The last exam is on Friday 11th November. There are some outstanding students this year and we have been very pleased indeed with the significant progress they have made throughout senior school. We look forward to the results on Friday 16th December.

Friday 11th November 2005

We just need to remind all Year 10 parents that the Year 10 Formal held on this evening at the Sheraton on the Park is not a designated school function and teachers will not be present. The formal has been arranged by the girls themselves supported by a group of parents.

Congratulations to Ms Myers

On the 14th November Ms Myers will be presented

with a "Pride in Workmanship" award by the Gladesville Rotary Club for her excellent work as an English and Drama teacher and as a Student Year Adviser. Ms Myers is also musical director of the Ashfield Musical Society, currently enjoying a successful revival of the ever popular West Side Story.

We have enjoyed a great deal of support from the Gladesville Rotary Club over the years and we appreciate the recognition they have bestowed on several of the teachers and office admin staff.

Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day

Thursday 8th December 7.30 am – 11.30 am

We are looking forward to enrolling 210 new Year 7 students on the 8th December. This means we will have 7 classes in both Years 7 and 8, maintaining our total school enrolment of 1030. We will have 69.4 teachers in 2006, our largest staffing allocation yet. If you know of any prospective Year 7 enrolments who may have changed their mind about coming to RGHS in 2006 it is essential that they inform us immediately so we can keep faith with the waiting list.

Public Education Under Threat

I commend the article, "Who does the heavy lifting" on page 6 to all parents and community members. It is the first of a series of short articles which highlight the failure of successive state and federal governments to resource the public education system to the level of quality which it deserves.

All of us have to fight to prevent the ongoing marginalization and residualisation of public schools, public hospitals and public transport.

Congratulations to Ms O'Neill and Mr Slow

We are delighted about two recent promotions at Riverside.

Ms O'Neill, formerly the H.T. of the very large TAS faculty has been appointed as deputy principal, replacing the recently retired Ms Pritchard.

Mr Slow from the English and History faculty and formerly our systems co-ordinator has been appointed as H.T. Administration, replacing the recently retired Ms Price.

Their commitment to Riverside is inspiring and unquestioned. Their colleagues are delighted by

their appointments. Sometimes schools get lucky with staffing and we certainly got lucky this year with these 2 merit appointments.

Ms Rose Daniels, currently H.T. English at Hurstville Boys High School has been appointed as our H.T. Teaching and Learning. The DET has allowed us an additional H.T. position because our enrolments are now over 1000. We were able to select Ms Daniels from a pool of current HTs outside RGHS who expressed interest in transferring to the newly created position.

Mr Karl Evans, whose daughter is a Year 8 student, represented the P. & C. on all 3 selection panels and the school is most grateful for his involvement in this most important task.

New Calendonia (Noumea) Excursion/Study Trip

Eleven girls from Year 9, 10 and 11, accompanied by Ms Rudelle (LOTE) and Ms Maury (School Counsellor) enjoyed a fabulous week in Noumea recently. The girls had plenty of opportunities to practise their French conversation and listening skills. It really was a terrific opportunity to extend their knowledge and experience of another culture and we are very grateful to Ms Rudelle and Ms Maury for accompanying the girls for the seven days. The teachers were very pleased by the way the girls represented the school and their families with such distinction while overseas.

Congratulations to Elisa Duffy Year 10 for being chosen as one of 40 finalists from 650 entrants in Young Scientist 2005 (organized by the Science Teachers Association of NSW). The awards were presented at NSW Parliament House last week. Elisa received 3 awards for her scientific investigation into *"factors affecting the rate of hydrogen production in an electrolytic cell"*. The standard of the entries from the finalists was much appreciated by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, the well known Science academic and popular TV presenter and author.

Looming Teacher Shortage

Six teachers have retired this year, Ms Pritchard (deputy), Ms Price (H.T. Admin), Mr Jones (H.T. Science), Mr Yin (Science), Ms Sini (French and Spanish), Ms Foster (Learning Support). Four others have retired in 2003 and 2004. I sincerely hope that lots of our Year 12 graduates will replace them as fine teachers in the future. The mass retirement of "baby boomer" teachers is supposed to really make a big impact in 2008-2010. It is a problem in most western countries and a real challenge for governments to develop policies which will attract the top graduates to teaching.

Judy King

Sport

Open Soccer Knock Out

Following a bye in the first round, Riverside Open Soccer Team advanced to the second round of competition where they faced North Sydney. The team consisted of Katarina Kraft, Nina Blundell, Kate McGuinn, Kate Butler-Howell, Emily Colechin, Lauren Butler-Howell, Jessica Francis, Tara Macdonald, Alexia Malamas, Kathy Turner, Hannah Vousden, Ashleigh Peplow, Brittany Olssen, Elysia Vikas, Melinda Lee and Captain Sally Macintyre, with reserves Miriam Mouhabi and Jade Foley. .

At the completion of the first half Riverside was leading by 4-0. In the second half a determined North Sydney outfit tried to stop Riverside's attack, but after a slow start Riverside shot 8 brilliant goals to seal a 12 goal win.

After an easy game the Riverside girls knew the competition could only get harder, especially against the team they faced next; Concord High. Concord in the past has always been a challenge. With a few girls sick or out injured a depleted Riverside team was reminded again that this would be no walkover. Two early goals helped Riverside to a handy early lead before half time. At the end of the game Concord's defense managed to keep the score line to just 3-0 for yet another Riverside win.

In the third round Riverside faced Burwood Girls. Over many years the Burwood and Riverside matches have always been tight, with the last two season's games ending with Riverside winning in penalty shootouts. Although Riverside had played a solid game, after half time the score still remained only 1-0. With just seconds to go in the match a Riverside victory was unsure as Burwood came fighting back with a beautiful breakaway goal. With the scores locked extra time was played. It was at this point in extra time that a magnificent corner was taken by Riverside. Ashleigh Peplow received the ball at the corner of the penalty box and slotted in the goal, thus ending Burwood's season and advancing Riverside to the area final.

Riverside had made it to the final against Pennant Hills High. The game was played on a picture perfect afternoon down at River-Glades. In the first half Riverside, in their usual style put through three classic cross and volley goals. After a reasonably easy first half the Riverside team knew that 'Penno' wouldn't let the score line get away as it had in the first half. In the second half it was a different team that took the field. After some brilliant defense from our team, Riverside managed to seal a 4-0 win with a late second half goal. Riverside was Zone Champion!

To qualify as Area Champions Riverside had to compete against over 300 school teams in NSW. Riverside had made it to the final 16 teams. With many years of trying to get that 'trip away' the team had finally achieved their objective. The side travelled to Armidale to compete against Duval High School. It was a seven hour trip made even worse when an unfortunate incident saw Nina lose her beloved sun glasses in a tragic road accident. When the team arrived in Armidale in the late afternoon, the thinking amongst team members was 'this year we can get through anything'. After an outing to the local RSL club for dinner, the team returned to cars that were layered in thick frost and a temperature gauge reading minus 1 degree. It was freezing that night but by next morning it was a much colder minus 7 degrees.

During the warm up for the match, Riverside knew that this would be the hardest match they had played so far. In the first half the score was 1-0 to Duval, the first time Riverside had trailed through the season. The score line however could never alter Riverside's high spirits. Riverside showed this when they came back with a beautiful goal off the boot of Katarina that put us back into the match. With the score leveled at 1-1 and only 8 minutes left, both teams were racing for victory. Duval managed to sneak a late goal past the Riverside defence sealing their hard fought win and earning them a spot in the state semi finals.

Duval went on to win their quarter final 6-1 and then into the semi finals where they were defeated by the Hills Sport High who in turn went on to defeat Hunter Sports High 6-1 in the State final.

Thank you to Mrs Palmer, Mr Dunne and all the parents and family for supporting, driving and coaching us throughout the season. A special thank you to all the year 12 players; Sally Macintyre, Brittany Olssen, Lauren Butler-Howell, Melinda Lee and Elysia.

Year 7 & 8 Touch Football

On August 23rd Riverside entered 3 teams in the Balmain Touch Footy carnival at Timberall Park, Five Dock.

All three of our teams played well and did Riverside proud in the manner in which they competed. All teams played six games and at the end of the rounds our Year 8 team qualified for the final against Alexandria Park. All day Alexandria Park had looked like the 'stand-out' team, but our girls went into the final determined to come away with a win. We got away to a 2-0 lead, but Alexandria Park pegged us back and at full time it was 2-2 and we had to play 'drop-off' and 'golden try' in extra time. Both teams played themselves to a standstill (they had already

played for 140 minutes). Alexandria Park scored when we had 'dropped-off' to 4 on 4 and won the game.

The Riverside team of: Mel Brown, Laura Francis, Rebekah Frankam, Sarah Hardy, Jayde McLean, Brittany Spackman, Rebecca Spackman, and their coaches Nina Blundell and Cindy Edwards should be extremely pleased with their efforts as should our other two teams and their coaches Hannah Vousden, Katarina Kraft, Simone Andersen and Amy Bell.

A big thank you goes to parents who assisted with transportation.

M. McCauley - PD.H.PE Dept

Congratulations to Eva Leone – Yr 7 who came 6th in the Combined High Schools State Athletics 12 yrs shot put.

Ski Camp 2005

On Sunday, the 24th July, fifty one Year 9 students, three teachers and three parents travelled by bus to Bright in Victoria. After a day's drive the group arrived at their resort-style accommodation around 5 pm. A generous, three-course dinner was served after everyone had refreshed themselves after the trip.

On the first day of skiing next morning, the group were driven up to Mount Hotham which took around 45 minutes, where they were divided into ski-school groups. They then went off with their respective instructors for a fun lesson.

For the first lesson there were the usual stacks. As the day was drawing to a close, during one of our last runs, a fog began to cover the mountain. Holly Browne tried to dodge a 'slow' signpost but unfortunately collided with it..

That night Ms Palmer, Ms Markey, Gala and Holly went to Bright Hospital. Ms Palmer drove but was not familiar with the vehicle. Firstly, she didn't know how to unlock or lock the car doors, how to turn off the marching trumpet music on the CD player or how to turn off the car light. And most importantly, she didn't know how to get to the hospital and kept cruising past the fire station before finally arriving at the hospital.

The next day was windy, cold and raining. Many of the girls retired to the café to drink hot chocolate. Several times Ms Myers got stuck on chairlifts – sometimes solo but sometimes with other kids. She described these experiences as "I blew like a tissue in the wind"

On Wednesday, everyone (except Holly, who was looking forward to watching Oprah's interview with Celine Dion) got on the bus and endured the long drive to Falls Creek.

It was a great day of skiing, topped off by a stunning stack executed by Jo, who slid 50 metres down the mountain on her backside. Another brilliant crash involved about 15 girls. Some of them (simultaneously) slid half-way down the mountain without their skis, which had fallen off at the top. The others were still at the top, their skis in the air and their heads in the snow.

Thursday's skiing was the best, with great weather. Everyone was sad knowing it was the last day, but it finished on a happy note. Jessica Edkins' dad, Greg, took some girls cross-country skiing in the wilderness and got completely lost until the group saw a chair lift in the middle of nowhere and jumped on.

That night, after skiing for the day, awards were given out, and included the "Cool Babe Awards" for girls who helped out and did their part – there were four Cool Babe Awards given to Gala, Hayley, Kat & Leah Day.

Another award was the "Grover Award" and was given to people who did stupid things. The prize was to keep safe a soft Grover (from Sesame Street) toy. Many people received this award.

After these awards were given, we had games and contests including Trivia night, Talent quest & Funniest Home Videos.

Everyone on the trip including the parents and the teachers had guardian angels, which meant that someone also on the camp had to be extra nice to them and help them when they needed it.

We had a great time, made new friends and most of us have improved our skiing.

Thank you to Ms Markey, Ms Palmer Ms Myers, Wolfgang Kraft, Jim Jameson, Greg Edkins for making the trip very memorable.

by Holly Browne and Gala Hazell

Aerosol Products Banned at RGHS

Owing to the serious nature of the allergic reactions of members of the Riverside community to aerosol products such as deodorants, hair spray, body spray the school community is banning these products.

Aerosol products are not to be bought onto the school grounds.

Students are asked to use pump sprays instead of aerosol cans, or use liquid or paste forms of products. Pressurized aerosol products emit

unnecessary volatile organic chemicals and produce a fine mist that is easily inhaled and absorbed into the lungs and bloodstream.

Teachers have been asked to confiscate any aerosol products found at school and bring them to the Deputy Principal. Parents will be informed that the products have been collected from their daughter and that they can call into the school and collect the product.

Products will not be returned to students. Please support us to ensure the safety of all our students.

Ryde-Hunters Hill Community Transport

Are you interested in doing volunteer work? Ryde-Hunters Hill Community Transport is looking for people to join their team of volunteers. The following positions are available:

- Assistants for shopping and social outings
- Mini-bus drivers for shopping and social outings
- Car drivers for individual transport
- Management Committee member

Telephone: **9816 5000**

Are You the Parent of a 4-16 year old?

Macquarie University is looking for participants to be part of an exciting research project. They are investigating a range of factors that might be linked to childhood and adolescent anxiety disorders. They are looking for children and mothers who have suffered from anxiety as well as those who have never suffered from anxiety.

The research project involves completing a few questionnaires, speech tasks, and interviews. Mother and child will receive a total of \$20.00 for their time and to assist in any travel expenses.

If you are interested in learning more about the project, please contact Natalie Gar on 0404 618-685.

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 on:

887 75288

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Book Fair

Book donations are urgently needed for the Lifeline Book Fair. Books old and new, CD's, DVD,s and Computer Games can be delivered **at any time** to "The Shed" at our Book Depot, rear of Scout hall, cnr Polding and Ignatius Roads, West Lindfield. Unfortunately we cannot pick up donations.

All proceeds from this fundraising will support Lifeline's continuing work with people in crisis in our community. If you would like to know more about Lifeline, log on to www.lifeline.org.au/hornsbykuringai

EBM Insurance

As parents we like to think our children are going to be safe, whether they are at school or elsewhere. Unfortunately the reality is accidents do happen. At these times parents or guardians can find themselves with monetary concerns as well as worrying about the welfare of their child.

Since 1995 StudentCover (previously known as StudentCare) Student Accident Insurance has been a leader in providing that assistance.

We have designed a simple way for individual parents/guardians to choose to insure their children, at an extremely cost-effective premium, **in fact just \$25.00 per year**, or part thereof.

EBM Insurance Brokers have been in business for almost 30 years and are one of the ten largest insurance brokers in Australia. The insurer is American Home Assurance Company (ABN 67 007 483 267 AFSL 230903) and they are one of the world's leading Insurers with an exceptional claims history.

With potential payments up to \$500,000 and many other benefits of lesser amounts, \$25.00 is in our opinion extremely reasonable. In fact the reaction we often get is one of surprise at the extensive coverage of such a low premium.

The policy is available now from our new StudentCover website www.studentcover.com.au Full details are provided and you should be sure to read the Product Disclosure Statement before making application.

The School does not make any recommendation in relation to this insurance

Serenity NSW Inc

- *are you taking anti depressants?*
- *do you suffer from anxiety and depression?*
 - *are you constantly worried?*

*Call the Anxiety Infoline
1902 261 534*

*available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
or*

*attend Serenity NSW Inc support meetings,
second Saturday of each month 2 p.m.
60 Victoria Rd, Gladesville*

All welcome, no set charge

Who does the heavy lifting?

A tale of two countries

If you walk into any New Zealand private school be prepared for a surprise: they don't have high fees, they have the same rules and obligations as state schools, their dealings with staff and students are the same and all schools are funded according to the needs of their students.

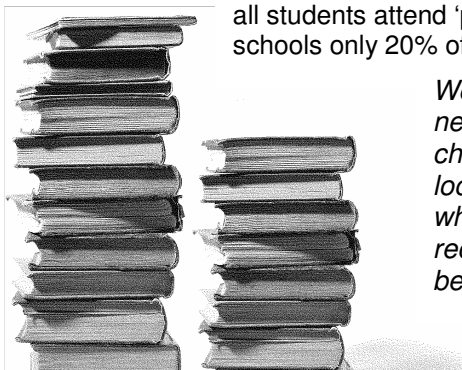
They are really not "private" at all, in the sense that we use that term in commerce. Along with state schools they are part of the government's delivery of education to all of the nation's children. In fact public and private schools in most developed countries exist alongside each other in this way. The real surprise is that Australia is almost the only country that funds private schools, but requires far too little of them in terms of their public responsibility.

This is not an argument for making private schools part of our state system. But there is a strong case for seriously examining exactly what 'public' obligations should be taken on by all schools as a condition of being given a rather large slice of your taxes.

So what are 'public' obligations? They include obligations under public legislation to do with discrimination and freedom of information. You could include enrolment (and expulsion) practices and those relating to student welfare, staff employment and development. Any public school principal could give you a list.

Many government-funded private schools do the right thing and willingly meet their public responsibilities without being asked. Catholic systemic schools are well known for their attention to equity and social justice and even some high fee schools do outstanding work for students with disabilities.

However, most choose not to do this: while one-third of all students attend 'private' schools only 20% of



students with disabilities end up attending private schools. The private sector's share of the 'heavy lifting' drops dramatically when you add consider other disadvantaged groups.

This can be fixed easily by redirecting more funding to the private schools who are doing their share of this 'heavy lifting' and less to those who, in effect, 'cherry pick' the students who might be easier (and cheaper) to teach.

Many if not most private school principals might agree. There is a destructive competition amongst schools which (indirectly) use public funds to compete against each other as well as against public schools.

If the present situation sounds chaotic it is exactly that. It is also very wasteful in an economic sense. At the expensive end our private schools are massively over-resourced. While governments seem to favour marketplace reforms, such competition between schools does not deliver better outcomes for all students. The evidence is clear from the results: while Australian students do well on international comparisons the gap between the best and poorer performers is wider than ever.

One thing is certain: what we have in NSW is not sustainable. It does not work and has to be fixed.

Chris Bonnor
President, NSW Secondary Principals' Council
Judy King
Principal, Riverside Girls High School
Deputy President NSW SPC

We would like to share these thoughts with parents over the next few months. This is the first in a series. Other topics will challenge the myths about public and private schools. We'll look at some of the arguments about funding of schools and what should be among the obligations of schools which receive public funds. Finally we'll point the way towards a better future for students in all schools.

- Help us create a fairer landscape for all schools and students in NSW -

CONTACT: School Office PH: 9816 4264
Jenny Evans: Wednesdays

PRICE LIST

Junior School Blouse (White)	\$30.00
Junior Blouse (long sleeve)	\$30.00
Junior Skirt Royal Check	\$50.00
V-Neck Wool/blend jumper with logo	\$55.00
V-Neck Wool/blend vest	\$35.00
Trousers navy (2 pocket stretch boot cut)	\$45.00
Trousers navy (non stretch boot cut)	\$45.00
Senior Blouse (blue) (Yrs 11 & 12)	\$30.00
Senior Blouse (long sleeve)	\$30.00
Senior Skirt Navy	\$35.00
Scarf	\$10.00
SALE ITEMS – Junior Blouse (Table) (size 10 & 20)	\$20.00

Uniform Shop News – Please read this section

- **Exchanges and 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.

- **Scarves** are now available in two colours, navy and sky blue. Sky blue stock is limited.

PAYMENTS BY CASH, CHEQUE OR CREDIT CARD ARE ACCEPTED
CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO RIVERSIDE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

Profits from the Uniform Shop go to the school

RIVERSIDE CANTEEN TERM FOUR 2005

SANDWICHES

VEGEMITE	\$1.50
PEANUT BUTTER	\$1.50
BAKED BEANS	\$2.00
CHEESE & TOMATO	\$2.50
CURRIED EGG	\$2.50
EGG & LETTUCE	\$2.60
CRISPYBACON/AVOCADO	\$3.20
HAM AND SALAD	\$3.20
COTTAGE CHEESE/SALAD	\$3.20
CHICKEN	\$2.80
CHICKEN/LETTUCE MAYO	\$3.20
CHICKEN AVOCADO	\$3.70
CHICKEN SALAD	\$3.40
CHICKEN SATAY LETTUCE	\$3.40
SALMON LETTUCE MAYO	\$3.70
SALMON SALAD	\$3.80
TURKEY CRANBERRY	\$4.00
TURKEY CHEESE AVOCADO	\$4.20
SALAD	\$3.00
SALAD WITH SWISS CHEESE	\$3.40
TUNA LETTUCE MAYO	\$3.40
TUNA SALAD	\$3.50
ROAST BEEF SALAD	\$3.20
EXTRAS ADD	\$0.50
ON ROLLS OR BAGELS	\$0.50
TOASTED ADD	\$0.40

IN ADDITION

HEALTHY FILLINGS IN WRAPS AND TURKISH PIDE	\$3.50
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SALADS

PASTA SALAD	\$2.50
GARDEN SALAD	\$2.50
TUNA OR CHICKEN SALAD	\$4.50
THAI BEEF OR CHICKEN	\$4.50
99% FAT FREE YOGHURTS	RRP
FRESH SUSHI LUNCHBOX	\$2.80

FRESH FRUIT

SEASONAL FRUIT from	\$0.60
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HOT FOOD

LIGHT MEAT PIES	\$2.50
LIGHT SAUSAGE ROLLS	\$2.00
MEAT LASAGNE	\$3.50
PENNE BOLOGNAISE	\$3.50
PIZZA SINGLE	\$2.20
CHICKEN BURGER	\$3.50
BEEF STIR-FRY WITH RICE	\$3.50
CHICKEN & VEG. RISOTTO	\$3.50
CHICKEN & CORN ROLLS	\$1.70
TOASTIES	\$2.50

VEGETARIAN SELECTIONS

INDIAN SAMOSAS	\$2.00
VEGIE BURGERS	\$3.50
VEGETARIAN LASAGNE	\$3.50
VEGETABLE RISOTTO	\$3.50
VEGETABLE ROLL	\$2.50
SPINACH AND CHEESE PUFF	\$2.20

LOW FAT CAKES AND SLICES

DATE AND OAT SLICE	\$2.00
BANANA BREAD	\$2.00
MUESLI SLICE	\$2.00
FRUIT BUN	\$1.20
LOW FAT MUFFINS	\$2.40

ICE CREAMS AND ICES

SELECTION OF LIGHT ICE CREAMS AND WATER ICES	RRP
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COLD BEVERAGES

PLAIN MILK (300ML)	RRP
FLAVOURED	RRP
SOY DRINKS	RRP
NUDIE JUICES	\$2.80
NUDIE SMOOTHIES	\$3.50
ORANGE,APPLE,PINEAPPLE	
APPLE & BLACKCURRANT JUICES	\$2.00
SPARKLING APPLE CAN	\$2.00
SPRING WATER (500ML)	\$1.80
LIGHT SOFT DRINKS	RRP

