

RIVERSIDE CURRENTS

Riverside Girls High School Parent & Community Newsletter

November 2007

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Calendar Dates

Term 4

November

- Wednesday 21 Year 11 Presentation Assembly, 10.30am
- Thursday 22 Year 10 Peer Support
- Friday 23 Year 10 Peer Support
- Tuesday 27 Year 8 Dept. Education Science Test for all Year 8 students

December

- Monday 3 Year 9 Science Fair, Hall
- Tuesday 4 Year 9 Science Fair, Hall
- Wednesday 5 Year 10 Presentation Assembly, 1:00pm, last day for Year 10
- Thursday 6 Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day, 7.30am – 11.30am
- Monday 10 Year 7 Swim School
- Monday 10 Year 12 HSC Assessment Week to Friday 14
- Tuesday 11 Year 7 Swim School
- Wednesday 12 Year 7 Swim School
- Thursday 13 Year 7 Swim School
- Friday 14 Year 7 Swim School til 12.30pm
- Tuesday 18 Years 7, 8, 9 Presentation Assembly 1.30pm
- Friday 21 Last day of Term 4

Principal's Report

1. Staffing Changes for 2008

Ms Sue Andrews has been appointed as the new Head Teacher PD.H.P.E., replacing Ms Pendergast who has been Head Teacher at Riverside for the least 10 years. Ms Andrews has been at Doonside High School as Head Teacher - PD.H.P.E. and Head Teacher - Teaching and Learning. She was formerly the coach of the Australian school girl's soccer team. We welcome Ms Andrews and farewell Ms Pendergast, known as JP to her colleagues. She has been a terrific Head Teacher and we were lucky to have her with us for the last 10 years.

Ms Renae Lidman has been appointed to English and Drama from the graduate recruitment program. She is a very welcome addition to our English/ESL/Drama faculty, replacing Ms Piper who extended her leave beyond 2007.

Ms Meghan Cockburn was appointed to English and Drama a few weeks ago at the beginning of term 4. Before her appointment Ms Cockburn was a valued casual teacher at Willoughby Girls High school. We hope the two new Drama teachers will build on the excellent work done in Drama over the last few years by Ms Myers, Mr Jones, Mr Lasaitis and Ms McAuley.

There may be some changes for 2008 and we will report on those in the December newsletter if we know the details then.

2. Significant Achievements by Year 12 Students 2007

Tamara Mitchell has been selected for "Call Back" for HSC Dance. This is the equivalent of Art Express in Visual Arts. Tamara's performance piece will be featured at the Seymour Centre in February 2008, along with the best dancers in the 2007 HSC.

Hannah Jenkins has been nominated for Art Express for her Body of Work. 800 works have been selected from the 9,000 works submitted by HSC Visual Arts candidates. We do hope Hannah's work will be chosen in the final selection to be exhibited at the Art Gallery and David Jones Gallery in early 2008.

Danielle Ayrton has been awarded a C.H.S. Sporting Blue, a prestigious award for her achievements in trampolining at a national and international level. She will be awarded the Blue at a C.H.S. dinner in December. Ms Palmer, Ms Nagle and I will be attending to celebrate with Danielle. A C.H.S. Blue is a long established sporting tradition in NSW.

Steve Waugh was awarded a C.H.S. Blue for both soccer and cricket and Mark Waugh for cricket in Year 12 at East Hills Boys High School. Danielle is in very good company.

3. P & C Meetings

Unfortunately there were only small numbers at the AGM on Wednesday 14th November, so the

AGM will be postponed to early term 1 in 2008. We really would like to see more parents at the P & C meetings on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. There are only 8 meetings a year and it is an excellent opportunity for parents to be included in the development of school priorities.

If any parents can support us on Thursday, 6th December for year 6 into 7 Orientation Day 7.30am to 11.30am we would really appreciate your involvement. Parents assist with school and sports uniform sales and orders, bus information and general enquiries. Ring the P & C president Cheryl Osborne on 9878 3028 or email cherylosborne@optusnet.com.au if you can assist on the day.

We have 203 confirmed enrolments but we need all of them to arrive on 6 December, to ensure we keep all of our staffing. We have a few vacancies because our ceiling is 210. If you know anyone at all who may have changed their mind about enrolling in Year 7 in 2008 it is essential that they inform us immediately.

4. Year 12 (2008) Assessment Week - Monday 10 December to Friday 14 December

The final day for Year 12 (2008) is Friday 14 December, unless they have some HSC assessment items to complete in week 10, beginning Monday 17 December. The first HSC assessment task for all students in all subjects is scheduled some time in week 9. We have timetabled the tasks this way in the one concentrated week for the last 2 years and it works well. It gives the new Year 12 students and teachers the opportunity to do 8 weeks straight teaching and learning at the required standard for year 12 HSC before the assessment tasks begin.

5. Death of Celine Lai Year 10

We are all doing our best to cope with the tragic loss of a 15 year old student. It has been a difficult time for us and it has challenged us to look at what we are doing at school to support students who are depressed and angry and overwhelmed with the challenges of life. We are constantly refining our approach to bullying and harassment but it is such a complex area that simple solutions evade us despite our best efforts. If any parents have any insights or suggestions for us about dealing with the intensity of adolescent anxiety and depression (often linked to bullying, but not always) then we would be pleased to hear from you.

Do email me: rgphrin@optushome.com.au

J. King - Principal

P&C Report

Attendance at P&C meetings gives parents the opportunity to directly interact with the Principal and/or the senior executives of the school, as well as participate in the development of plans and

policies running at the school. These plans and policies cover areas such as the schools approach to student welfare and discipline, finance, excursions and many others. For the P&C to exist and thereby assist and support the school, we need parents to attend our meetings.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, during term time, at 7.30 pm in the staff common room. They generally conclude by 9.30 pm.

Our November meeting and AGM unfortunately could not be held last night, the 14th, due to a lack of numbers to constitute a quorum of 5. Therefore the AGM has been rescheduled to the first meeting of next year to be held on **Wednesday 13 February 2008**. Nominations have been received for each of the executive positions, so your attendance at the meeting will not mean "you get saddled with a position you don't want". Please come just to show your support for, and find out what's happening in, your school.

Working Bee

In order to spruce up the school grounds prior to orientation day, the P&C has organized a working bee for Saturday 1 December from 11am to spread mulch, remove weeds and tidy up the garden areas adjacent to the car park at the front of the school. Please bring gardening equipment suitable to carry out these tasks. Refreshments will be provided. The school will greatly appreciate any assistance/time you can give.

Help Required at Orientation Day

The school has asked for parent assistance on year 6 into 7 orientation day. Assistance will be required with uniform sales and on transport and general school information tables. Helpers are required from 7.30 to 11.30 am, if you can help for all or any of this time please contact Cheryl Osborne, ph 9878 3028 or email cherylosborne@optusnet.com.au. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated. The band committee will also be operating the gelato cart, with sales from approx 9.30 am to 2 pm. If you are able to assist with this activity please contact me and leave your name and number.

Best wishes to all families for a happy and safe Christmas, New Year and school holiday break.

Next meeting of the P&C, will be the AGM on Wednesday 13 February 2008, at 7.30 pm in the staff common room. All parents are welcome

Cheryl Osborne, P&C President
Ph 9878 3028
Email cherylosborne@optusnet.com.au

Australian Language Certificates

This year many LOTE students once again entered the Assessment of Language Competence tests. We would like to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the girls in the Years 9, 10 and 11 elective classes who excelled themselves in all areas of the competition.

The following students received one or more certificates of distinction:-

Year 9

Maito Nishiwaki, Courtney Cohn, Moira Deutinger, Zoe Finlayson, Tamika Hodgson, Karina Kubovicova, Kumbelin Levin, Constance Apostolopoulos, Persephone Jamons, Elizabeth Salvagio, Bianca Schings-D'Agostino, Jessica Zibellini

Year 10

Alicia Constantine, Halcyon Powe, Beatrix Sheldrick, Anna Andronikashvili, Bella Bianchino, Melanie Brown, Ella Callanan, Lucy Goldstein, Jessica Kutis, Jade Prothero

Year 11

Elizabeth Jameson, Katarina Kraft, Kristina Minni

Special congratulations to the following students who achieved certificates of high distinction.

Melanie Brown, Halcyon Powe, Moira Deutinger and Jessica Zibellini

The following students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are also to be commended on their successful participation in the competition and on their impressive levels of achievement.

Year 9

Zoe Nightingale-Lee, Melissa Arbabi, Samantha Barker, Joyce Chew, Catriona Gilkes, Stephanie Harb, Colette Laney, Vicki Lor, Daisy Muljono, Imogen Reece, Larissa Connolly, Lucy Pritchard, Madeleine Randall, Tilly Simpson

Year 10

Sarah Barnett, Jordan French, Victoria Green, Zoe Linton, Jade Milne

Year 11

Cathy Chen, Kim Nguyen, Rhona Zhao, Kate Butler-Howell, Lauren Ellis, Emma Shuttleworth

We would like to encourage all language students to participate in this activity in the future as it really enhances your language skills. Well done to all of you who participated. We are very proud of your achievements and we look forward to seeing another round of fabulous results next year!

The LOTE staff

World Vision Fundraiser

On Wednesday 7 November, Riverside Girls was proud to present Samantha Freestone from World Vision, a cheque for over \$21,000 raised during the 40 Hour Famine in August this year. After participating in a young leader's day in June, Cassandra Chan led a group of SRC members in promoting the 40 Hour Famine and over 350 students from all years registered to raise money for the children and families of Laos. Teachers and parents maintained a patient approach to girls sitting on the floor and refusing to use furniture or refusing to speak for the two-day period. Thanks to the girls and the sponsors of the event that proved to be the most successful fundraiser ever held at Riverside. Congratulations to Cassandra and all the participants and sponsors.

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!

Keeping in Touch-School Partners

Macquarie University's Experience Program gives students from Partner Schools the opportunity to attend a lecture in an area of interest. This program is for students in Years 11 and 12. Bookings are essential. Please visit www.schoolpartners.mq.edu.au and click on the University Experience Program link to view the lectures available and download the booking and evaluation forms.

A parent information evening will be held on 5 December 2007 where speakers will address the issues of the UAI and how to manage stress in the HSC. Each evening will have a different focus thus participants may wish to attend more than one evening in the series. Please visit www.futurestudent.mq.edu.au for more information and to register your attendance. Bookings are essential. Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the evening.

Mastering the HSC

The School For Excellence (TSFX) is a private education institution that provides educational services to Year 11 and 12 students. Our prime activity involves the development and delivery of revision courses before examinations, intense weekly tuition classes, study skills lectures as well as specialised courses that prepare students in advance of each term

Our first program is based on our highly popular study skills lectures that have been running in Melbourne for 10 years, and will be held at the University of New South Wales on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 November 2007. These unique and powerful lectures are designed to motivate, empower and organise students and ensure they are provided with the necessary skills and information to maximise their HSC scores. Students will learn vital skills that will optimise performance in assessments, as well as strategies that will maximise learning and cut down on study time! Valued at over \$150, these lectures are **FREE OF CHARGE** to students studying Year 11 or 12 in 2008. We do, however request that those students participating in this program donate any loose change they can spare to the **Kids Help Line** representatives that will be in attendance on the day.

Students may obtain application forms and further information by calling the School for Excellence on 1300 364 173 or from our website at www.tsfx.com.au.

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

Carols by Candlelight

Hunters Hill Council will be holding their Carols by Candlelight celebration at **Boronia Park Oval** on **2 December 2007 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm**. This wonderful community event is filled with the joy of Christmas and will be in keeping with the traditions of previous years, with the primary schools to appear early and secondary schools to follow. The finale will once again be a visit from Santa and a fireworks display.

If you miss this opportunity then you might consider attending the Carols Evening to be held at Birkenhead Point the following **Friday, 7 December between 6.00pm and 9.00pm at Dunlop Reserve Park near the Birkenhead Point Marina**. There will be activities, entertainment and a selection of tantalising food and beverage options for the evening. One of the highlights of the evening will be choir performances by local schools.

