‘From the Principal’

Well, what a great start to the 2014 school year it’s been—despite the heat! We’ve been extremely pleased with the calm start we’ve had to the school year. There are always some students who find coming back to school after a long holiday challenging but even those students have quickly settled in to their classrooms. This is largely due to the excellent preparation and organization of our staff. Well done everyone!

We have 35 new students joining our school community this term. I’d like to extend a very warm welcome to these students and their families.

I’d also like to welcome back existing students and their families. I’m sure that by working together we will provide a supportive learning environment for all members of our school community.

At the end of last year Jill Moore was appointed to the position of Deputy Principal at Riverdale School for the next 5 years. Jill has been a classroom teacher and Teaching and learning Co-ordinator here since 2007. She brings with her knowledge of the school, curriculum and students. We welcome her appointment to the school and I look forward to working with Jill as a member of the leadership team.

We have been very fortunate again this year to have had most teachers appointed before the beginning of the school year. This has certainly contributed to the smooth start to the year. We welcome Sandra Conn and John Douvartzidis to our permanent teaching team. We also welcome back Chris Rule (PE/Health), Gail Brown (Music/ R/1 teacher) and Tammy Dow (R/1 teacher) for 2014. Yvonne Dohnal (teacher librarian), and Scott Whelan (Yr 4/5 teacher) have been appointed for the year. We are awaiting final approval for appointments for Marj Francis and Caroline Doherty who will be working with Denise and Janese’s classes.

The staff and I look forward to maintaining and further developing positive relationships with all members of our community as we strive together to develop expert learners at Riverdale School.

If you have time please stop and say hello in the mornings after I’ve opened the gates.

Kathryn

DEVELOPING EXPERT LEARNERS/ QUALITY BEGINNINGS

The first few days of school are always crucial. It is the time of the year when the development of positive relationships begins between all members of our school community.

There are opportunities for students to be involved in the creation of Homegroup expectations, the agreements that support student behaviour and learning outcomes within each class. Teachers and students also re-visit the Grievance procedures, Anti-bullying and Riverdale School’s Behaviour code. These underpin our school values and positive school culture.

This year all classes will be focusing on these themes during the first two weeks as part of a Quality Beginnings program. Please look out for a class newsletter at the end of next week with information about what the children have been learning and discussing.

On Wednesday 19th February (Week 4), we will be having an Open Morning. This will be a great opportunity for parents and grandparents to visit classrooms and become familiar with the goals and expectations that your child will be working towards this year. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

SCHOOL TIMES

8.45am-3.05pm

The school gates open at 8.30am with teachers on duty in the courtyard and playground. A bell will ring at 8.40am indicating it’s time for students to line-up ready to go into class. A final bell at 8.45 signals the start of the school day. Please support your child in getting to school on time as being on time starts the day on a much more positive note.

If your child is late to school please tell your child’s teacher the reason for lateness either by note or verbal message. The same applies to student absences. Lateness and absences will be followed up by staff.

School finishes at 3.05pm and it’s important to realise that learning programs continue in classes until the very end of the school day. Parents can support students in their learning by reinforcing our agreed behaviours of calm interactions by keeping the noise outside classrooms and in the courtyard to a minimum.

EARLY DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL

If your child needs to be picked up early from school a parent needs to go to the front office to sign the student out and collect an ‘Early Dismissal’ card which is then to be given to the homegroup teacher.
SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

It was wonderful to see so many students returning to school in their school uniforms. Please remember that it is an expectation that all students at Riverdale School wear the school polo-shirts and windcheaters. If you need to purchase new tops please come in to the Uniform Shop and a member of staff will help you. Also a timely reminder to the girls during the hot weather that shorts worn to school must be knee length shorts, not ‘short shorts’.

Polo shirts for the Year 7 students are available from the uniform shop - they have 'Year 7 Riverdale School' on the collar. Orders will be taken this term for year 7 windcheaters which will have the names of all Year 7 students on them.

Students are required to wear a bucket or wide brimmed hat during outdoor activities and at recess and lunch times. School hats are available for purchase from the uniform shop. (Whilst a green school hat is preferred, for existing students, any colour hat will be acceptable for this term, however when repurchasing hats or for new students a green hat will be expected to be worn.)

Footwear is often an issue at school. Students need to wear shoes that enable them to participate safely in all school activities. Sneakers and sandals are the most appropriate choice for students. Thongs are not appropriate footwear for school.

Materials & Services Charges 2014

$210.00

All families would have received a Tax Invoice for 2014 School Fees in the post. All Material & Services Charges are due to be paid within 4 weeks of your child/children starting school (21st February). Thankyou to the parents who’ve already been in and paid their fees. They can be paid by cash, cheque or credit card. (We now have EPTOS facilities) If you would like to pay your fees by instalments please speak to Sharon in the office.

School Card 2014

If you think you may be eligible for School Card please complete an application form, which is available from the office. Applications for School Card must be completed every year and for every child starting during the year. Parents must make the application at each child’s school. Bring in your current Pension/Health Care Card when applying.

During the holidays it was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Steve Watson, husband of Lisa and father of Flynn and Hannah, both students at Riverdale School. Steve passed away suddenly on Thursday 9th January. Lisa is one of our canteen managers and many of you will have come in contact with her over the last few years. As a community we offer our condolences and support to Lisa and the children.

DIARY DATES

Please keep an eye out for information about the following events

Week 3
* Tuesday 12th February Governing Council meeting 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Week 4
* Wednesday 19th February - Open Morning, 9.15-10.30am. Parents are invited to come and meet their child’s teacher and have a look around the school

Week 5
* Mon 24th February – Friday 28th Swimming lessons for Reception - Yr 5 students at Salisbury swimming centre.

Week 6
* Friday 7th March - Tentative date for Pupil Free Day.

Week 8
* Monday 17th March—Friday 21st March. Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

Week 9
* Wednesday 26th March - Governing Council AGM. Parents are invited to attend the AGM to hear about the successes of 2013 and the plans for 2014. Students will be on hand to share their learning. As part of the meeting new Governing Council members will be elected. Please consider joining this interested group of parents.