As we pass the halfway mark of the term members of our school community can already look back with pride on events that have happened.

In Week 4 we held an Open Morning between 9.15 and 10.30am. About 20 families took the opportunity to come along and see Riverdale School in action. Students had the chance to share their learning with our visitors and it was great to hear them speak confidently about the tasks, their purpose and outcomes.

Parents will have another opportunity to hear about the successes of our school at the AGM on Wednesday 26th March. I will be reporting to the school community about the achievements of 2013 and the directions we are heading in 2014.

The focus on ‘Quality Beginnings’ has paid dividends across the school with staff being explicit about their High Expectations in relation to behaviour and academic achievements. Students have been trying hard to uphold our school values at every opportunity and this has led to a calm learning environment for our students.

A performance by ‘Braveheart’ focusing on anti-bullying, complemented the conversations being held across the school as do the activities around ‘Bullying—No Way’, the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence to be held on Friday March 21st.

You as parents can play a major role in helping us to ensure that Riverdale School is a safe, happy learning environment for all. Talk to your children about interacting positively with others, speaking respectfully to all and not using violence to solve a problem.

Together we can make a difference.

Kathryn

POSITIVE PLAY

To support the Quality Beginning Program staff have initiated a weekly Positive Play time. At this time all students who’ve been following class and yard expectations go out for 30 minutes to participate in extra social skills activities. In the past few weeks that has included Big ball soccer, parachute, dance, skipping basketball and Golden Child.

Those students who have been sent to buddy class or the office or who have missed out on play due to their yard behaviour do not participate in the positive play activities. Instead they are supervised in a classroom and have time to reflect on their behaviour.

As students have become more aware of the program we have seen a change in attitude by some. Students are seeking help to resolve issues.

We believe this is a way to promote positive behaviour across the school. House points are also being given to students who uphold our school’s values. These will go towards the Good Sport Shield that is awarded on Sports day in Term 4.

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.
**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.

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.**

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**GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**Annual General Meeting**

Would you like to know more about how the school is run? Have you thought about joining the Governing Council? The Governing Council is a group of parents who meet twice a term to share information about the school including finances, learning programs, staffing.

To become a member of Governing Council parents nominate before the Annual General Meeting. At the AGM the council is selected. Please nominate on supplied nomination form.

This year’s AGM is to be held on Wednesday 26th March in the Hall. A short report will be provided by Kathryn Gilmour (Principal) and Sharon Wilton (Admin/Finance officer) detailing the successes of 2013 and the direction for 2014. Each home-group will set up a display of work in the Hall and students will be on hand to share their learning with parents.

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**Assessment & Reporting**

**Student-Parent-Teacher Interviews**

Notes for Parent/Student/Teacher interviews have been sent home to families. This is an essential part of our reporting process and these interviews will be held during Week 8, Monday 17th March to Friday 21st March. If you didn’t receive an interview note please contact your child’s teacher.

The 15 minute interviews are an important time for staff to discuss the current and future learning of your child. It is also a time when you can talk with staff about questions you may have about your child’s learning. It is a good idea to identify these questions on the sheet that comes with your interview booking time.

We look forward to meeting with all parents during this time so we can work together for the best learning outcomes for your child.

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**Excursions and Payment Timelines**

Please be aware that this year we are needing to adhere strictly to the timelines set out in excursion notices. Payment and consent forms must be received by the dates stated on the note. This is in part because of the need to confirm buses earlier than we used to have to do.

We aim to give families at least 3 weeks notice of upcoming excursions. If you are unable to pay for an excursion before the due date but want your child to go please talk to Kathryn, Jill or Sharon. Payment plans can be organised so that children don’t miss out.

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**DIARY DATES**

**Please keep an eye out for information about the following events.**

**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.

**Week 10**
- Saturday 5th April - **Family Portraits**. Brochures sent home this week.

**Week 11**
- Friday 11th April - **Last Day Of Term**. School finishes 2.05 pm, early dismissal

**TERM TWO**

**Week 1**
- School resumes Monday 28th April. First bell 8.40 am for 8.45 am start

**Week 2**
- Tuesday 6th of May - **Year 6-7 Aquatics**. Information to follow.

**Week 4**
- Tuesday 20th of May. **School Photos**. More information to follow.