**Principal’s Report**

**Dear Parents**

**Riverbank PS and The Ponds HS ANZAC Day Service**

Today we held our special assembly with The Ponds HS to commemorate 100 years of ANZAC. It was a very moving occasion, and I would like to thank our year 6 leaders and school choir for their contribution to the service. Our thanks to special guests Able Sebel Ben Hilton, Private Amanda Mitchell, Sergeant Daniel Amiet and Mr Jack Thomas a WWII Veteran.

**The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)**

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will be sitting the tests next month. The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students according to the following timetable:

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas of:

- Writing 12 May
- Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) 12 May
- Reading 13 May
- Numeracy 14 May

In NSW, NAPLAN is administered by the Board of Studies.

**Riverbank Public School Band**

Our school band auditions are underway. Notes were sent home last week.

**School Fees**

A reminder to families school fees are to be paid by this Friday, 1st May. Over 65% of families have still not paid their fees. Money is only receipted on a Monday and Wednesday until 1pm.

**School Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop will be open every Tuesday morning from 8.30am to 9.30am in the foyer of the office. You can place orders in the uniform letter box in the school office throughout the week with payment and your order will be filled on a Tuesday and sent to your child’s classroom.

Students should now be wearing full winter uniform; being long pants for the boys and winter tunic with white blouse and red tie for the girls. Girls may wear either white socks or navy tights (no leggings). The zip jacket, jumper and tracksuit jacket can be worn on any day.
School Newsletter

Our school newsletter will be uploaded on the school app even weeks this term and will also be on our new school website. No paper copies will be sent home. Should you require a paper copy there will be copies available in the school foyer.

School Website

Our new school website will be live from Wednesday 6 May. In our first year we have set up a Department of Education website.

Opportunity Class placements for students in Year 5 2016

Opportunity classes cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Applications for opportunity class placement are considered mainly on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment. This year, the Opportunity Class Placement Test for current Year 4 students will be held on Wednesday 22 July (Term 3).

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2016, you will need to complete the form which has gone home with all Year 4 students last week. Please note that this form is a notice to us that you intend to apply only. You will still need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student’s email address) by 15 May 2015 (Week 4). The application website opens on 27 April 2015. There are no paper application forms this year. No late applications will be accepted. Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be sent home as a booklet to all those who return the ‘Intention to apply’ form. The information booklet is also available at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement.

Cross Country

Our cross country carnival for students in Years 3-6 and students in Year 2 turning 8 this year will be held this Friday 1st May. Students can wear their sports uniform and a coloured shirt to support their house group.

Athletics Carnival

Our School Athletics Carnival will be held on Monday 4th May 2015. This carnival is part of our school sports curriculum and qualifying athletes will represent our school at the Ridges PSSA Zone Carnival. All children in Years 3 to 6 are required to attend. Children in Year 2 who turn 8 years this year are also invited to attend.

The carnival will be held at AH Whaling Reserve, Mileham Ave, Baulkham Hills. All parents are welcome to attend.

The buses will leave at 9.15am and all students must attend.

K-2 will hold their own carnival at school on the same day.

Please remember teacher supervision commences at 8:30am. Some students are arriving as early as 7:45am.
Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29 Apr</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1 May</td>
<td>Cross Country 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Assembly 2pm (3S to run)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 4 May</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7 May</td>
<td>Mothers Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8 May</td>
<td>Winter PSSA commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 12 May - Thu 14 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Years 3 and 5</td>
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Attendance and Travel

Due to recent changes to the DEC Attendance Policy, from the beginning of 2015 family holidays and travel are no longer considered under the Exemption from School Procedures. Travel outside of school holiday periods is now counted as an absence.

Parents are requested to visit the school office prior to travel to consult with the principal and to fill in an 'Application for Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel'. Travel is considered to be domestic or international travel for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons, and should be specified on the application. Educational, social and participation reasons should be specified on the application. Please include travel documentation, such as travel itinerary or e-ticket, with the application.

Where a principal considers that the travel is appropriate during school term, a ‘Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel’ will be issued. Please note that the absences will be recorded as “L” – Leave. Whilst I understand that travel during the school term is occasionally unavoidable, I encourage you to take holidays during school vacation periods whenever possible.

SPORT UPDATE

Due to the inclement weather the Cross Country Carnival has been postponed. We hope to run it on Friday of Week 2. The course will be run around our school and through the high school. I would like to thank the many parents who have volunteered their time to help make this a successful carnival.

The top 8 children from each group of competitors will then represent our school at the Ridges Cross Country Carnival in the coming weeks.

Winter PSSA will start in Week 3. Miss Sant and Mr Trovato will be taking our Winter Teams of Girls and Boys Newcombe Ball and Boys Soccer. As our school grows we will be able to add more sports to our roster – hopefully next year. Our Athletics Carnival has come upon us quickly. We are joining with the High School and will be using AH Whaling Reserve at Baulkham Hills. Any parents who would like to be involved please ensure you return your helper notes during Week 2.

Ms Cathy Thoroughgood
SCHOOL WELLBEING CORNER

It has been great to see all of our students working towards receiving as many keys as they can. Students have been focusing on achieving keys in all areas, both in the classroom and on the playground.

All students are encouraged to achieve keys across all areas:

- **YELLOW KEY**: Care for Others
- **GREEN KEY**: Think Before Reacting
- **BLUE KEY**: Respect Yourself
- **RED KEY**: Work Together for a Non Violent Way
- **BLACK KEY**: Expect the Best

The HIP program offers a whole school approach to building relationships through communication, co-operation, trust building and conflict resolution.

Mrs Slater
Well Being Coordinator

Creative and Performing Arts:

As we begin term 2, our performing arts groups have jumped straight back in, working as hard as ever in their rehearsals.

Our choir have been practising very hard for our debut performance at our ANZAC assembly with The Ponds High School on Wednesday 29th April. We would love it if you could join us for the special occasion.

The 3-6 dance group were sent out a letter last week, requesting permission for students to begin after school rehearsals. Please remember to return these notes to Mrs Govender, so we can begin as soon as possible.

The Year 1 and 2 dance group are recommencing their weekly rehearsals this week on Thursdays at lunch time.

Our band program has begun!

Thank you to all the parents who joined us at the band information night, and to those students who have returned their band interest form.

The band program will run on Wednesday afternoons from 3:15pm – 4:15pm, beginning this week with auditions for those students interested in playing woodwind instruments.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you there over the next few weeks.

Ashleigh Edwards
Performing Arts Coordinator
Scripture at Riverbank PS

Scripture will commence next week on a Wednesday afternoon.

K-2: 2-2.30pm
3-6: 2.30-3.00pm

If you have not returned a note your child will attend the non-scripture group.

Mrs Banerji

Scripture Coordinator

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS

K/1L with Miss Loui

K/1L have done an amazing job of settling back into the routines of school after the holidays, even with all this crazy weather! We have already achieved so much in the first week and it was fantastic to see all their eager little minds ready to learn.

This week we have been focusing on ANZAC Day in preparation for Riverbank’s first ANZAC service on Wednesday. K/1L have been reading ANZAC Day stories and discussing the author’s intentions, identifying what it means and listening to an ANZAC song, exploring the lyrics and how the music made us feel. As K/1L had made poppies in the library with Ms Whelan, we created our own ANZAC Day wreaths and had lots of fun making them. Kindergarten students wrote a sentence describing their wreath, while the Year 1 students wrote about what ANZAC Day meant to them. Finally we looked at how ANZAC biscuits are made, wrote a procedure together and then ate them!

We are looking forward to our ANZAC Day Service. Lest we forget.

We wear poppies on ANZAC Day and we will not forget the soldiers that died on ANZAC Day. Two countries fought together and that was Australia and New Zealand. We remember the people that died and fought for us and protected us. We are sad and we miss the people that died. They fought in the war and we will not forget the past.

Abhay (Year 1)

My wreath is beautiful because it has red poppies. Kayra (Kindergarten)
ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE
Exerts from the Student Leaders' reflections

It was a struggle to wake up at 4 'o'clock but we all did it. That was probably the hardest bit of the whole day. We met Mrs Brown at Riverstone RSL and she gave us the school banner that we proudly held up while we were marching. Once we reached the end of the march the man announced “Riverbank Public School” and we looked at each other with pride and smiled a little.

Rohan

5:30am, it was still dark and the stars were shining as bright as diamonds. Anzac Day is on the 25 April where we remember the people who suffered and sacrificed themselves for us. I had butterflies in my stomach as we drove to Riverstone RSL. I walked over with my Dad thinking What will it be like? Will it be a once in a lifetime experience? After the march was completed we stopped near a choir and a wreath laying statue. I got to represent Riverbank Public School and another boy represented The Ponds High and together we laid a beautiful wreath. The dawn service was like magic. I loved the ceremony and overall I had experienced an amazing thing and have been filled with the ANZAC spirit.

Adriana

On 25 April the school leaders went with Mrs Brown at 5:30 for a dawn service. When I got there it was really crowded and I was looking for the other students and Mrs Brown. It was so dark. The service was extremely moving and I was grateful to be part of the experience.

Arman

It was early about 5:30 in the morning. It was freezing cold. I got dressed and put on my grandad’s medals. We held the school banner as we marched in the parade. The overall experience was sad and amazing for my first ever Anzac Day Dawn Service.

Olivia

You are invited to
Riverbank Public School

2016 KINDERGARTEN
INFORMATION SESSION
10 June 2015 @ 9.30-11.00am
OR
17 June 2015 @ 6.30-8.00pm
RELAY FOR LIFE

Our beautiful P&C Secretary, Kristy Mcguiness, has been involved in Relay For Life for the past 5 years and needs help to raise more money for cancer awareness.

Lily Mcguiness (1/2N), Kristy’s daughter, participated as well by walking. Very much a family commitment, as the picture indicates with Kristy, Steve, Piper and Lily.

What is Relay for Life?

Relay for Life is an American Cancer Society sponsored event that raises money and awareness for cancer. It is a 24-hour event that is held in cities and small towns worldwide. Teams of participants’ camp overnight at local athletic tracks, taking turns running or walking laps. The theme of 24 hours, non-stop participation is to recognize that when someone has cancer, it does not stop -- the cancer is present 24 hours a day and doesn’t sleep.

Quote from Kristy –

“We've been doing this for 5 years. The girls walk too. It goes for 24 hrs and is held this year Saturday 16 May to Sunday 17 May at the Park at Wrights Road Kellyville.

People just need to go to the link below, click donate and pick an amount or write their own amount. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be emailed.”

Please click onto the link below to support Kristy and her family.


Lesley Parsons
P&C President

PLEA FOR THE VICTIMS OF NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

The recent 7.9 magnitude of the earthquake in NEPAL which has killed more than 5000 people and more than 1.5 million victims are in need of urgent help.

To help the survivors and rebuild this beautiful country we need your kind help! Please donate if you have any of the following items

CLOTHING  SHOES  TENTS  BLANKETS  SLEEPING BAGS  TORCHES

You may place your donations in the school hall in a bag or box marked ‘NEPAL EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS DONATION’ by Friday 1 May, 2015. Your small donation can make a huge difference to the victims.
**Premier’s Reading Challenge**
A note has been issued to all students with important information about the Premier’s Reading Challenge. It would be fantastic to see as many students as possible participating in the Challenge this year, being our first year. The web address for the PRC is [https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html](https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html). It has everything you need to complete the challenge. If you don’t know your DEC username, please see your teacher or Ms Whelan. 

*Happy reading!*

**Scholastic Book Club**
The next issue (Issue #3) has been distributed and orders are due back by the end of Week 3 (Friday 8th May).

Please return ALL ORDERS TO THE LIBRARY

Don’t forget…...all orders earn our school valuable rewards points to help purchase resources for our schools.

**Library Monitors**
We will have a meeting on Tuesday of Week 3. Please come to the library at 1:30pm, after eating time 😊

**Borrowing**
We were aiming to have K-6 students able to borrow books as of this term. Unfortunately, due to a major delay in the supply of our book covering, this will have to be delayed a little further. At this stage, it is anticipated that we will implement a staggered start to regular borrowing, beginning with Kindergarten classes. They will only be able to borrow one book per week, until our collection has increased. All K-6 students were issued with a library bag, courtesy of Mrs Brown. Please ensure this is labelled with your child’s name and brought to school on library days. If your child does not have the school-issued library bag, any suitable bag is fine. Books WILL NOT be allowed home without a suitable library bag.

**TPHS students are welcome to visit the RPS LIBRARY during their lunch time 12:30pm – 1:10pm**

**BOOK COVERING**
Any parents who are able to assist with the covering of library books, please drop in to the library and let Ms Whelan know, or leave a message with the front office. Once our shipment of book covering arrives, we will organise a working bee in the library.

*Thank you.*
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Lesley Parsons P&C President
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term two. As a parent I am glad that term one is out of the way. Our children have settled in well and it has been extremely busy term one. New uniforms, lunch boxes, hats, shoes and not to say the least meeting new teachers, students, parent and carers. And taking on the role of P&C President. It has been wonderful.

Welcome to all the new families who have started at Riverbank Public school. I am sure you will settle in well.

I must say all the students look smart in the winter uniforms.

Easter Hat Parade and Raffle.

It was a delight to see so many people turn up for the Easter hat parade. I have to say, with my experience over eight years of my children attending school. I think that may have been the biggest gathering of parents to support the children for Easter. Congulations to all the 42 winners of the Easter hampers, (to many to name) it was a lot of fun. Thank you to Belinda Turkmani for helping out. We worked hard to get them wrapped and organized. But my delight was that with all donations from either Parents, Carers, Woolworths, Mrs Brown, Belinda Turkamani and myself we were able to have 320 children go home with either a little hamper of Easter eggs or Jelly Beans. And also every Staff member from the office to the canteen to the Library had a bag. Thank you. Cannot wait for next year!!

Thank you to the following people/business who donated to the Easter raffle.
Norwest OOC $50.00 Coles/Myer card
Woolworths WHERE 480 Easter eggs
My Treasure Gifts and Homeware $10.00
Coles Stanhope $ 80.00 Gift Card
Sempre Bella $85.00 Beauty Voucher

P&C Levy

Invoices will be sent home to each student in the next few weeks for the P&C Levy. This levy is to assist Riverbank Public School P&C in acquiring more resources for our school. These resources may be for extra, shade, trees, technology or even a veggie garden. Without your help and support including Community, parents, carers, small and large business. These goals are never achieved. And what are these goals? I hear you ask! Come along to our P&C meetings. Come ask some questions, suggest an idea, form new friends. You never know what may happen! These fees will be $80.00 per child per year.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

The P&C has a second hand Uniform shop. Contact us via email to make arrangement for donations. riverbankpandc@gmail.com

Parents below is information in relation to traffic awareness and updates. PLEASE PLEASE be aware of what you are doing in and around both high and primary schools. Our Children are so important to us. There is a lot of building construction on and near our schools. Children
need to be extra careful when riding on footpaths and roads. And adhere to road rules. As a P&C we will advise you of changes and reminders. But please as parents ensure children have helmets and protect gear on. And remind them of the road rules.

Traffic News

The Traffic Committee are in need of volunteers to assist with the morning rush outside the main entrance on Wentworth Street. The Volunteer would be responsible to assist parents who “kiss and drop” to make sure the children make it safely inside the school grounds and where requested, assist parents with the alighting of passengers. A fluorescent vest will be available from the Office with the Volunteer being required from 8.20am until 8:50am. If you wish to volunteer to assist with this, even if its 1 day per week please contact John Smith via Riverbank P&C email, riverbankpandc@gmail.com. Please indicate what you are inquiring about in the subject matter. Please also leave your name and a mobile number so I can contact you.

After the settling in of term 1, a review has been conducted in conjunction with Blacktown City Council relating to the signage around both Riverbank Public School and The Ponds High School. As a result of this, there will be minor changes to the signage in the coming weeks. This will affect traffic on Riverbank Drive and Wentworth Street who wish to drop off and pick up passengers/goods. Please check and be aware of the signage as heavy penalties apply particularly within the school zone times of 8-9.30am and 2.30-4pm school days.

Included for your perusal is a reminder of the road rules relating to signage and pedestrian crossings. The Roads and Maritime remind us that;

“You must give way to pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning. You must also give way to pedestrians – even if there is no marked pedestrian crossing – if there is any danger of colliding with them.”

In addition; you must not stop on or within 20 metres before or 10 metres after, a children’s crossing.

Road Rules 2014 – Rule 172 Stopping on or near a pedestrian crossing

(1) A driver must not stop on a pedestrian crossing that is not at an intersection, or on the road within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing, unless the driver stops at a place on a length of road, or in an area, to which a parking control sign applies and the driver is permitted to stop at that place under these Rules.

Rule 167 No stopping signs

A driver must not stop on a length of road or in an area to which a no stopping sign applies.

168 No parking signs

(1) The driver of a vehicle must not stop on a length of road or in an area to which a no parking sign applies, unless the driver:
(a) Is dropping off, or picking up, passengers or goods, and
(b) Does not leave the vehicle unattended, and
(c) Completes the dropping off, or picking up, of the passengers or goods, and drives on, as soon as possible and, in any case, within the required time after stopping.

"Required time" means: if there is no indicated time-2 minutes

183 Stopping in a bus zone

(1) A driver must not stop in a bus zone unless the driver is driving a public bus... that is:
(a) Dropping off, or picking up, passengers, or
(b) Stopping for the purposes of a regular bus service.

If you have any queries relating to traffic that you would like clarified or further explained in upcoming newsletters please email John Smith via the Riverbank P&C email.

riverbankpandc@gmail.com

Regards
John Smith Traffic Committee

Mother’s Day Stall

When 7th May 2015
Where School Hall
Cost $5.00 for mother’s day gift
$1.00 for variety of card stock

Follow up date on the 8th May 2015 if stock available.
Where School Hall
Time 8.30am till 9am only

Raffle $2.00 a ticket or $10.00 for 5.
Drawn on Friday 8th May 2015

Calendar for Meetings 2015 and 2016

Where: Riverbank Public School
Address: 25 Wentworth St The Ponds 2769
Room: Staff Room block A
Time: 7pm
Date: 4th Wednesday of the month.
Parking: Is first gate on Wentworth St (Nearest end of Riverbank drive). Please park near the basketball courts.

Calendar for General Meetings and AGM.

2015 Meetings

Term 2
27th May 2015 @7pm
24th June 2015 @ 7pm
22nd July 2015 @ 7pm

Term 3
22nd July 2015 @7pm
26th August 2015 @7pm
September No Meeting School holidays

Term 4
28th October 2015 @7pm
25th November 2015 @7pm
December No Meeting School

Term 1 2016

January 2016 to be advised.
24th February 2016 AGM and General Meeting
23rd March 2016

I cannot stress the importance of these meetings, especially if you are a financial member.

Having a P&C means that we can raise funds for our school, that is not always provided by governments. Raising these monies can provide extra resources, for the Library, PSSA, Special Needs Class, Band, Choir, Garden just to name a few.

Please find attached a membership form if interested in becoming a financial member.
Please place in an envelope with $1.00 and address to P&C Membership and receipt will be sent to your child.

For Parents/Carers who are wanting to make cash donations to the P&C, please contact the President Lesley Parsons and or Treasurer, Cindy Wright
email: riverbankpandc@gmail.com.

Have a wonderful fortnight on behalf of the P&C Team
Lesley Parsons President