Hi All,

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2016. It has been a year filled with hard work from everyone and dedication to the school has been immense. It has also been a challenging year for many and I extend my thanks to all who have rallied and supported each other. It has been a pleasure ‘steering the ship’ through these times.

Our students continue to amaze us all!! They engage with their learning programs and try their best, often producing truly awesome results, we are very proud of them. I cannot speak highly enough of Riverside staff. They provide a quality education and are continually seeking to extend student capacity towards being independent learners.

We are all on an exciting journey; our Graduates will leave us and we wish them well, for those returning students and families in 2017 we look forward to re-engaging our journey. Together we can achieve great things for our students - our school is a great school - our approach and activities enhance each student’s journey toward lifelong equal and active participation, giving them every opportunity in later life for inclusive participation.

Graduating Students: our graduating students will be farewelled at the formal Riverside Schools Student Graduation Ceremony on Friday 9th December. I thank you all for your contribution to Riverside ESC during your primary school years.

2017 Enrolments: We have some spaces available for new enrolments for 2017 (students must meet ESC criteria), offering a full K-6 program. If you know of any prospective students, please invite them to contact the school for further information. Our office closes for the year at noon, Friday 16th December, and reopens January 27th, 2017.

2017 Student Commencement: Students commence school on Wednesday 1st February. Please ensure that all uniform and school supplies are attended to early. The School’s Uniform Shop is open on the morning of Friday January 27th. Further details are in this newsletter.

School Reports: Student reports are ready and will be sent home on Friday 9th December. It has been a pleasure to read through all the reports, finding in them so many stories of achievement and great progress, for which staff, students and families can feel pride. Well done to everyone.

Happy Holidays: In closing this newsletter and the year, may I extend my sincere thanks, firstly to all the staff at Riverside ESC who work tirelessly in and out of classrooms in order to provide the best educational experience for your child; and secondly, to all our students for your work ethic, your attendance and your behaviour. Weary we may be, but it is a good state of tiredness that comes from a year of commitment to best possible learning outcomes. May I also add thanks to all the parents & carers: your support of the school has been wonderful throughout 2016 and your contribution is deeply appreciated.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe holiday period, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jim Douglas, Principal
Hello to all parents and caregivers associated with Room 31.

It is difficult to believe that the 2016 school year is drawing to a close. As such, it is a time for reflection on the year that has been and calling to mind a multitude of highlights.

They include the children’s excitement and participation in the drama we performed of Michael Rosen’s picture book *We’re Going On A Bear Hunt*, the enjoyment they showed dancing to *Hi! My Name Is Joe*, the sheer number of times they requested and sang with gusto *10 Little Indians*, the focus and emotional engagement of the children with the big book *The Hungry Giant*, their loud and raucous engagement with Jez Alborough’s picture books *It’s the Bear* and *Where’s my Teddy*, the children’s acceptance of and improved use of key-word signing, and the children’s laughter and anticipation of the ‘tickle monster’ verse in the song *I’m Not Afraid*.

There is much to celebrate, too, in each child’s emerging behavioural abilities: the improved tolerance displayed toward their peers; the degree to which self-regulation and self-control improved, leading to better focus and greater independence; the enjoyment of ‘riding’ in our egg-carton car; engagement in more co-operative play as the year progressed; and the positive relationships established with each staff member who is part of our Room 31 team. These are but a few of my highlights as your child’s kindy and pre-primary teacher. If you asked each staff member, I’m sure each would have fond memories of different parts of our year.

As exciting, eventful and rewarding as our year has been, I am sure that we all -- children, parents and staff -- are looking forward to the Christmas break and the happiness and relaxation it brings. I would like to thank our dedicated staff (pictured left) who have been a part of our classroom this year, for the energy, positivity and consistency that they have provided for our children. As a result, we have seen significant changes in the children that will enable them to access the curriculum more successfully.

Unfortunately, at the end of every school year, it is time to say goodbye to some of our friends. To those families leaving Room 31 at the end of this term, we bid you farewell and thank you for the part you have played in your child’s learning journey. It has been a pleasure working with you and we look forward to continuing our relationship beyond 2016.

On behalf of Room 31, I wish you all a safe holiday, a merry Christmas and a healthy, enjoyable New Year!

Glen Webber
Room 32

Well, it has come to that time again when we start our Christmas celebrations and begin the wind down to end of year. This is our final newsletter for 2016 so I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the parents, grandparents and carers of Room 32. What a fantastic year we have all had. Our students have worked so very hard and accomplished amazing outcomes.

Last week we had our whole school Christmas party at Caterpillar Park. Although it was quite a warm day we still managed to run around the playground and experience the new equipment installed by the City of Mandurah. Santa even rode in on an all-wheel drive wheel chair bringing with him a bag of lollies for each student.

This week we studied the story *Pet the Cat saves Christmas*. We have loved reading the stories about Pete the Cat and completing the follow up activities. Each of the ‘Pete the Cat’ stories has a song with it, so it has been fun singing along to the story also. Here (left) is a photo of Linconn with his ‘Pete the Cat in his Santa hat’.

Last Wednesday we received a visit from some very special friends from Silver Chain. We were able to show off our school work and shared a beautiful morning tea with them. Room 32 students were extremely well behaved and enjoyed showing the visitors how much our classroom and work style has changed since their school days. I was very proud of how Room 32 welcomed these special people into our classroom.

We will be continuing our cooking program right up until the last day of school, during which time your child will be busy making and cooking some yummy Christmas treats. So keep a look out for a Christmas bag full of goodies and special things.

As of week 10, Room 32 will be located in the demountable next to Room 36 (near the basketball courts). This is only for the last 4 days of school. If you are unable to find us please go to the office and they will show you where we are located.

Room 33

Hello everyone. This is Mrs Greenwood writing this latest newsletter. The lovely children and I in Room 33 have now had two to three weeks to get to know each other while Mrs McGuffin is on long service leave and have continued to be engaged in the usual Literacy and Numeracy activities over the weekly timetable.

In week 8 we commence turning all our learning into Christmas themes. Cooking began with a Snowman-shaped Pizza and this week we learnt about the origin of Fruit Mince pies. They originated in England in the 1300’s and were
originally oval shaped to represent Jesus in the manger, the top being his swaddling clothes. During the Stuart and Georgian times in the UK, mince pies were a status symbol at Christmas! Very rich people liked to show off at their Christmas parties by having pies made in different shapes (like stars, crescents, hearts, tears, & flowers); sometimes these fancy shaped pies were made to fit together a bit like a jigsaw!

We have discovered that Meditation has been a great diffuser of anger and a great way to relax. We have found some lovely Meditation and Visualisation video clips on line and the children have asked for it every day since introducing it. Such a simple thing has provided great benefit to us all.

In Protective Behaviour lessons over the last two weeks we have revisited Early Warning signs, reinforcing the idea that the feeling of ‘safe’ is on a continuum and where an individual sits along that continuum is very much a personal experience that depends on current circumstances. Understanding and recognising early warning signs means appropriate responses can be triggered.

We emphasised that we must be persistent in asking for help when we are in a situation that is unsafe, until we feel safe again. This concept was taught through the children acting out a finger puppet skit, involving ‘Wibbly the Wombat’ and friends.

The culmination of week 7 was the lovely whole-school annual picnic at Caterpillar Park. Even though it was a very hot day we all had fun and arrived back at school exhausted. This was what Mr Douglas encouraged us to do, as that would be a “sign of a good time”! We loved Tyler’s comment that Father Christmas would park his sleigh at “Woolies” in town, as there was nowhere in the park to land! He would then catch a taxi to the park! We sang Christmas carols and had a personal visit from Santa.

Our last event of the year was a visit to Rockingham for the Disability Day – another wonderful day and a great final excursion.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, Mrs McGuffin, Mrs Greenwood and all the fantastic Education Assistants in Room 33 would like to wish you and your family a safe and wonderful Christmas!

Room 34

Dear Parents and Carers,

Perhaps like you, it is hard to believe that the end of 2016 school year is upon us! At the end of this week, on Friday 9th of December, our Year 6 students will graduate in a very grand and formal
ceremony to be held in the undercover area. This ceremony is attended by local dignitaries and other special guests, the administrative staff and teachers. All parents and carers of graduating students are invited to attend the ceremony and a morning tea afterwards.

The Year 6 students had their final transition visits to their respective schools last week and met with the teachers they will have next year and some of the other students as well. The high school environment is a much more challenging experience for students and I would encourage all parents and carers to take the time over the holidays to reassure your children of the changes taking place next year and that they will be fully supported in adjusting to their new environment.

Over the last few weeks we have been on excursions to Caterpillar Park and Disability Day at Gary Holland Park in Rockingham. We also watched students from our class and school participate in the ‘Schools Alive’ Choir performance which was the culmination of the years’ work. The choir was absolutely fantastic and the students should be very proud of their efforts.

I would like to thank you all for your assistance this year as a parent and carer group; you have all been very helpful and accommodating and have made sure that your children have had the best experience possible at school.

We could not have had such a successful year without our fantastic Education Assistants. I would like to thank them all personally as they have assisted and nurtured our students, providing support, care and reassurance. Teaching would be made that much more difficult without their dedication and knowledge transfer to both teachers and students.

Best wishes for the holiday season, take care and enjoy the summer!

Alisdair McGuffin, Room 34 Teacher

Room 35

The year is nearly at an end. How quickly it has passed. We are busy now with our Christmas activities – singing, crafts, cooking and writing, plus lots of glitter!

Last week we made some very cute reindeer biscuits. It was very hard not to have a quick taste test before the finished biscuit was ready (and indeed, a few chocolate bud eyes and noses disappeared in the process), and the finished product was very yummy. Our
students were justifiably proud of the end result, which we hope you had the opportunity to share with them.

Please keep the morning of Tuesday 13th December free for the Junior Christmas Concert. We have been practising our Christmas songs and learning some new Key Word Signs as well. We look forward to seeing you there.

Reports have now been finalised and should be with you all shortly. Your children have worked so hard this year and you should be very proud of their achievements. Remember to keep reading with them at home, and when you are having fun out and about use the time to practise the maths and literacy skills they have learnt this year. It will certainly help as they start the new school year by keeping concepts fresh in their minds.

Your child will start to bring their school work home soon. Do take time to go through the work books and art portfolio with your child. They have produced some very good work this year.

All the staff in Room 35 wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. We hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday with your family and look forward to welcoming you all back in 2017.

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**Photo Story: Olden Day Lessons**

Olden Days with Mrs Wiseman and her Gramophone

No smiles for the camera. Olden day photos were black and white.

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**Room 36**

A final 2016 hello from Room 36 to all parents, carers and families.

As our year is quickly coming to a close we have been participating in some wonderful activities to finish off the year. We enjoyed a lovely day at Caterpillar Park with our whole school travelling by
bus to the park. We all had lots of fun on all of the different equipment. Maddie, Lillee and Jasmin said they really loved going on the flying fox. Cody had some fun playing handball with other students while Jai enjoyed playing the drum instruments and getting a bit dizzy on the “whizzy” play equipment. Montana said her best part of the day was meeting Santa and getting some sweets from him. The Mandurah City Council lent us an all-terrain wheelchair which Mr Anderson spent most of the day giving the students rides in.

We all enjoyed a sausage sizzle for lunch followed by a sing-along of Christmas Carols with Mrs Williams and Mr Webber and then Santa arrived on the all-terrain wheelchair. He said hello to all of us and gave us a treat before we had to get back on the bus and return to school. We were all very tired but had a fantastic day.

Room 36 would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season and will enjoy seeing you in 2017.

Room 37

A few weeks ago the inaugural Stepathon was held in Mandurah, with all our students attending. The students were asked to raise sponsor money for the event and last week, Annabelle from the Step charity visited our school to present Joseph with his prize for raising the most funds. He was awarded a brand new FitBit watch. Congratulations Joseph, job well done!

As we wind down for the year, we are fortunate to enjoy some lovely excursions with the students. We just had our annual whole school trip to the local Caterpillar Park for a fantastic day in the sunshine, with a sausage sizzle, a play on the equipment and a special visit from a jolly person in a familiar red suit!

The students who have been visiting Silverchain this year will also enjoy a Christmas party with the residents on Wednesday this week. I’m sure everyone will have a great time.

We use this last newsletter for 2016 to say farewell to our lovely group of year 6 students who are graduating on Friday the 9th of December. We all look forward to an afternoon of bowling in Rockingham to celebrate and finish the year.

From all the Staff of Room 37, we hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and we wish you all the best of luck as you head off to High School next year.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lost iPAD

One of our families has reported their iPAD Air has gone missing, possibly while they were on school site. The iPAD has a pink/burgundy cover with a blue interior. The iPad itself is white. Please contact our school office if you have any knowledge of its whereabouts, thank you.

A Special Thought

“By loving them for more than their abilities we show our children that they are much more than the sum of their accomplishments.”

— Eileen Kennedy-Moore, Smart Parenting for Smart Kids: Nurturing Your Child's True Potential
Sensory Friendly Flicks - Supported by City of Mandurah and Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Rocky Bay is proud to present Sensory Friendly Flicks – a series of movie screenings with modified lighting, sound and seating to suit children living with autism or sensory processing difficulties. These inclusive community events allow families to enjoy their favourite films in a safe and accepting environment.

The Grinch - Monday 19th December 2016, 11:00 AM

Inside Out – Saturday 7th January 2017, 11:00 AM

Book online for both movies at www.manpac.com.au/show/sensory-friendly-flicks or by calling 9550 3900 from 9am-5pm daily. Tickets also available for purchase at the ManPAC Box Office. For more information, please contact Kate Kessler on 9537 5313 or email katek@rockybay.org.au.

Daisy - Regrettably, Christmas is a time when domestic violence is more evident. We draw your attention to a new app which you might like to recommend to someone in this situation, provided by 1800RESPECT in partnership with the Australian Government. It is called DAISY and it connects women to a wide range of specialist services. To best understand the full range of services and applications that Daisy offers we invite you to download Daisy to your own smart phone.

SCHOOL NEWS

School Survey – Add Your Voice

We have received many parent responses as part of the 2016 School Survey and have decided to extend the closure date to Friday this week to give others the opportunity to have a say. The survey is available via a link on our website. If you have misplaced your hard copy and need another, drop in to see us at the school office.

Contact Details and Emergency Details

Are you intending to move over the summer school break? Please phone our office at 9534 0328 or email riverside.esc@education.wa.edu.au before end of the school year. Our office closes for 2016 on Friday 16th December.
OTHER NEWS

Vacswim: Enrol now for Summer School Holiday Swimming Lessons

It is important for every child to learn to swim properly and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim December/January school holiday swimming lessons are run by instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water. Find out more and enrol online at education.wa.edu.au/swimming or telephone 9402 6412. Enrolment closure dates for each program are shown below.

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<th>Program 1</th>
<th>Program 2</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>40 minute lessons</strong></td>
<td><strong>45 minute lessons</strong></td>
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<td>Every week day from Tuesday 3 to Friday 13 January 2017</td>
<td>Every week day from Monday 16 to Wednesday 25 January 2017</td>
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<td>Enrolments close</td>
<td>Enrolments close</td>
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<td>Monday 28 November 2016</td>
<td>Monday 5 December 2016</td>
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<th>Short program</th>
<th>Early start program</th>
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<td><strong>35 minute lessons</strong></td>
<td><strong>45 minute lessons</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every day from Monday 9 to Friday 13 January 2017</td>
<td>Every day from Saturday 17 to Friday 23 December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolments close</td>
<td>(limited Wheatbelt centres)</td>
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<td>Monday 28 November 2016</td>
<td>Monday 14 November 2016</td>
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RIVERSIDE P&C News

SCHOOL UNIFORMS 2017 - The Riverside P&C-operated School Uniform Shop will be open Friday 27th January, from 8 AM to 1 PM.

CHANGE OF SECRETARY - Thank you, Caryn Rance, for your exemplary contribution as Secretary to the Riverside Schools P&C. Secretaries are the unsung heroes that keep the wheels rolling and you have given us all a smooth ride during your tenure. We wish you and your child a successful transition to home schooling.

Caryn will hand over her duties as Secretary at the P&C AGM, to be held in March 2017. Details for the meeting will be circulated early next year.

Riverside School P&C Needs You in 2017: Next year the P&C will have several positions that need to be filled as families leave the school. The P&C will not continue to operate without a full committee which will mean no Canteen and no on-site Uniform Shop.

Get involved, make some great friends, learn some new skills and be rewarded in knowing you’re helping make both schools a better place for our kids. Many hands make light work! Email your expression of interest to riversidepandc@yahoo.com.au.