Richmond River High School - A Caring School of Excellence

Inspiring Learning for Lifelong Success

Cross Country
RRHS CROSS COUNTRY

All these students will compete at the Zone Carnival on Friday 15th May at the Lismore Turf Club.

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ISSUE 10  | TERM 2  | WEEK 1
Richmond River High School  Telephone: 6621 3456  www.richmondri-h.schools.nsw.edu.au  Canteen: 6621 4890
Rattana Bowyer Year 7 headed to Sydney on 25th, 26th and 27th March and competed for the school at Olympic Park. The meet was a bit daunting though exciting and thoroughly enjoyed by Rattana. She did very well for a 12 year old representing her High School and came 28th out of the 32 entrants who swam well enough to make it to State Finals. Rattana is determined to make the State Finals again next year.

Ping Pong excitement for RRHS

Ten students from Richmond River High School attended a Table Tennis Knockout and Gala day on Wednesday 23rd April which was held at the Table Tennis Centre in Goonellabah. While the competition was fierce with Kadina winning the event, fun was had by all. Justin “Chip” Tonks was a shining light for the RRHS team winning 4 from his 5 matches against some stiff competition and should be congratulated for his patience throughout the doubles matches. Elias Boomsma took the approach of “if you can’t beat them, then literally beat them” when he accidently threw the racquet during a rally as a result of sweaty hands. While the two RRHS sides ended up 5th and 6th, all participants enjoyed the day and they should be proud of their sportsmanship, outstanding behaviour and the readily available assistance they provided with scoring and umpiring.

Scott Hogden
Table Tennis Extraordinaire

Bill Turner Cup

On Wednesday the RRHS Under 15’s and the Open Girls’ football teams went to the new Asia Pacific Football Institute’s synthetic pitch to take on Kadina High in the U/15’s and Maclean High in the Open Girls Knock Out Soccer competitions.

In the U/15’s game Kadina took an early lead against the run of play. Shortly after, Alinta Ahrens netted her first goal to quickly level the score. From then on RRHS dominated the game netting another five unanswered goals, with Alinta finishing the game with four goals, Hannah Pierce and Breanne Buckley also finding the back of the net. The U/15 girls will now take on Woodlawn in the second round.

The Open game was a more even affair with Maclean hosting a number of players with representative experience. Maclean dominated in patches and tested our defence from long range however; they were thwarted by a strong defence unit led by Riley McIntyre. RRHS’s striking combinations often got in behind their opponents and were unlucky not to have taken the lead when a goal bound shot was called offside; Lily Mercer and Olivia Collins impressed up front and kept the River in the match. The second half saw RRHS accumulate more possession and despite the open, end to end contest, neither team could find the back of the net in normal time, Maddy Fielder, Cara Brice and Brea Buckley controlled the midfield and steered the team around the park. In extra time Maclean finished off a good passage of play to net the only goal of the game and come away one nil victors in this second round contest. Thanks to all the girls who participated, it was a great effort.

Mr J Eakin Under 15’s Coach
Mr D Bordin Senior Coach
Police Cyber Safety
Talks - Years 9 and 10
Ms Kim Mewing our Police School Liaison Officer conducted talks on Thursday covering Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms. Ms Mewing addressed privacy issues, digital reputation and the legal implications around posting images and text and the how these can have long term legal implications, as well as where to get support.

ANZAC FORMAL ASSEMBLY
On Wednesday we held our Annual Anzac Assembly, our guest speaker was Mr Mathew Hill representative of the Lismore RSL Sub-branch. Mr Hill spoke about what Anzac means to him, relating his experiences in Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan. On Anzac Day, as we remember, he wants us to think about the families of service people, because they also make significant sacrifices to support our military personnel. Our School Captain Zoe Bertuzzi gave the student address and Chloe sang the National Anthem. Thank you to the students who were very respectful throughout and to Mr Tyson for his organisation.

University Showcase
The Uni Show Case was held for Year 12 students from Lismore High and RRHS on 24th February in our MPU.

Representatives from Bond University, Griffith University, Southern Cross University, University of New England, University of Sunshine Coast and TAFE North Coast Institute who each provided a short presentation at the beginning of the session.

After the presentations there was an opportunity for students to freely approach the information stands to collect further information and speak face to face with a representative.

Mr E Weir
Career Adviser/VET Coordinator
Youth Frontiers Mentoring Program

We are very pleased to announce that YWCA will be delivering their Youth Frontiers Mentoring Program in our school across Terms 2, 3 and 4.

Sixteen of our Year 8 students will be matched with sixteen volunteer mentors from the community. Our students will be supported to develop and implement a civic project that will focus on a community issue e.g. empowering women and girls; centenary of ANZAC; youth mental health; sporting achievements/recreation; community harmony; or environmental conservation.

Students and mentors will have 30 group and individual face to face hours over six months culminating in a showcase and awards event. As a result students will develop strong leadership and community engagement skills.

So do you want to be a mentor?

Youth Frontiers is still looking for adults (aged 18 – 80) from the community to be mentors on the program. So if you, or someone you know (grandparent, aunt/uncle, friend or colleague) wants to make a positive difference in the lives of young people from Richmond River High School, then contact the Youth Frontiers coordinator Marlena Basser on 0498023690 or email marlenab@ywcansw.com.au.

CAPA Sydney Excursion

Full Payment due soon!!

The CAPA Sydney Excursion is set to depart on Wednesday the 6th of May. Parents and Carers are reminded that the full payment is due by Wednesday the 29th of April – and kindly request your assistance in either making an interim payment or completing payment as soon as possible, as we have to make payments to venues over the next few weeks. We are looking forward to this excellent opportunity for Creative and Performing Arts students at RRHS.

Mrs L Savins
Head Teacher
Creative and Performing Arts

North Coast Open Touch Football Trials

The trials were played in Ballina on Tuesday 31st March in trying conditions with it raining quite heavily for the last two round matches. Both the Northern Rivers Boys and Girls Teams were only defeated by Far North Coast.

Madison Fiedler was selected in the possible and probables and Harry Brown was named as a shadow player for the Open Boys.

(In the photo: Harry Brown, Madison Fiedler, Malachi Joseph and Lachlan Brown).

Madison Fiedler also made the North Coast Open Girls Soccer. She will travel to Bathurst at the end of April and it is the second consecutive year she has made the team. Congratulations Madison.

Mr T Laverty
Head Teacher PDHPE
From the Relieving Principal
Welcome back to school. I hope that everyone had a relaxing and safe Easter Break. It is good to be back at school seeing how fresh all of the students are looking, particularly our Year 12 students who will be embarking on their last Term 2 of schooling.

Cyber Safety
Yesterday we commenced the first of a series of presentations on Cyber Safety delivered by Snr Constable Kim Mewing. The presentations informed students of the ramifications around using social media, highlighting the common mistakes young people make and provide advice of how to avoid the pitfalls. The next session will be on Monday for Year 11 and 12 students. Constable Mewing will be running a cost free parent session on ‘Cyber-Proofing Your Teenager” on 11th May at 5.30 p.m. in the River Theatre. This will be followed by a 6 p.m. P&C Meeting. We hope you can attend.

Free Tutoring ‘YourTutor’
The online free tutoring service for students in Years 9-12 will commence later this term. Next Tuesday students will attend information sessions at school presented by ‘YourTutor.’ It is important that all students wishing to take up the offer, work with parents to complete and return the paperwork as soon as possible, so that we can get the service up and running. For an overview of how the system works I have included a link to an overview video http://www.yourtutor.com.au/how-yourtutor-works.

Staff Professional Learning
Last Monday the staff undertook professional learning with our new administration and roll marking software system ‘Sentral’. We then commenced work in putting in action our three year school plan. In particular we are working to enhance student outcomes by improving our approach to student wellbeing and resilience, 21st Century learning, assessment, gifted and talented, and working to ensure we deliver an efficient and effective timetable. The school plan is posted on the RRHS Website. I encourage you to have a look.

Peter Howes
Relieving Principal

From the Deputies
Anzac Day March
Students are invited  to march in the Lismore Anzac Day Ceremony. They need to assemble in the Clyde Campbell Car Park (Behind Police Station) at 8.30 a.m. in full school uniform.

Year 7 and 9 Study Skills
All Year 7 and 9 students will be participating in study skills sessions relating to the up coming NAPLAN tests in week 3. These will focus on strategies the students can use around exam technique and stress.

Uniform
As the weather starts to cool it is important that we maintain wearing of the uniform. Jumpers can be red or light grey preferably with the school logo. If you are having any issues, there is student assistance available to help purchase uniforms.

Cheap Thrills
This is a presentation from Brainstorm productions for students in Years 9 and 10 about making safe choices around drinking and drug use. This is a fantastic opportunity that is being provided to all students in Years 9 and 10 relating to these issues. This is being held on Tuesday 28th April.

Tim Laverty
Relieving Deputy Principal

YEAR 12 EASTER RAFFLE
Year 12 raised $861.00 from there Easter raffle. The lucky winners were:

1st - Kerrie Sheridan
2nd - Angela Ward
3rd - Kathy Goulding

Guessing Competition was won by Mr B Wordsworth.

Congratulations to all these lucky winners.

Year 7 Vaccinations
Year 11 & 12 Measles Mumps & Rubella Vaccinations
and
Year 8 Catch-ups are to be held on Thursday 30 April

Richmond River High School  Telephone: 6621 3456 www.richmondri-h.schools.nsw.edu.au Canteen: 6621 4890
Attention all Parents and Carers

You can now purchase school uniforms online from Lowes. It is free delivery for orders over $100 and you can exchange sizes at the shop if needed. The website is - www.lowesschoolwear.com.au

Attention all Parents and Carers

Our newsletter the ‘River Views’ is published every Friday and is uploaded onto our website: www.richmondri-h.schools.nsw.edu.au and emailed to parents whom we have received their email addresses. We do not provide paper copies unless specifically requested by parents and the students need to come up to the front office to collect a paper copy at 3.15 p.m. on Friday afternoons.

If you would like a copy emailed to you then please contact the front office on 6621 456.

The official Richmond River High School Facebook page is here: RRHS Facebook Page

The web address is: www.facebook.com/richmondriverhigh
LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2015 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 7 and 9 at Richmond River High School. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 12th-14th May 2015.

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<td>Year 9 will complete testing during Periods 2 &amp; 3 in the MPU</td>
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<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Writing</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)</td>
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In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 15th May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom will be provided.

Access to special provisions and exemption from the tests must be discussed with your school’s learning support team and the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent/carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your school.

Please feel free to contact the school with any further enquiries.

Ms Jane Ryan -Naplan Co-ordinator
Regular School Attendance

Information for parents and carers

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

From 2010, all New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

1. in school or registered for homschooing, or
2. in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
3. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals don’t consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

Must I send my child every day?

YES. It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child’s hair regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.

Translated information about head lice and how to treat them can be found at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/headlice/infosheet.htm

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice, is not a valid reason for prolonged absences from school.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If your child doesn’t learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.
**Why is arriving at school on time important?**

Arriving at school and class on time:
- ensures that your child doesn’t miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert.
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine.
- gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore.
- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

**What should I do if my family is going on holiday in school time?**

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their child from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations.

If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school principal in advance and request leave and/or an exemption from school.

Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be, you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

**Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport?**

**YES**. Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport.

**Do not keep your child away from school for the following:**
- birthdays
- shopping
- minding other children
- routine check ups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

**What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?**

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:
- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

All absences must be explained to the school. Bilingual absentee notes and further information on attendance can be found on the Department’s website under the heading ‘School Attendance’ at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/education-support/Documents/index_5.htm

The principal and the school has the right to question parents’ or carers’ requests for their child to be absent from school.

The principal may also question any explanation given for a child’s absence from school.

**My child won’t go to school. What should I do?**

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. The principal may seek support from a home school liaison officer or Aboriginal student liaison officer.

**Who are home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers?**

Home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers have been specially trained to help you with your child’s attendance.

They work with school communities to encourage all students to attend school regularly.

For further information about the Home School Liaison Program you should contact the program manager at your local Department of Education and Training regional office. Contact numbers can be found at the website address:


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Student Welfare Directorate
NSW Department of Education & Training

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**Do you have problems with getting your child to school, for some of the following reasons?**

- won’t get out of bed
- won’t go to bed
- can’t find their clothes, books, homework, school bag...
- school lunches not ready
- slow to eat breakfast
- homework not done
- watching television late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- test or presentation at school
- birthdays
- screaming and not letting go of you.

**Here are some suggestions which are based on setting regular routines:**

- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have a set time for starting / ending breakfast. A routine is important.
- Set time for daily homework activities
- Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate
- Be firm, children must go to school
- Provide lots of positive encouragement
- Be firm, a birthday is not a holiday
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child’s hand into that of the teacher and then leave.

**Do you need an interpreter?**

Interpreters are provided wherever possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone Interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.
Make Online Payments

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting the Make a payment.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called 'Other', this is to cover items not covered in the previous headings, ‘other’ can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:

- the students name and class and reference number

OR

- the students name and date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school. You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school. Please ensure that if you use this method to pay for Excursions that you tick the appropriate box on the permission note.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office on 66213456.
PMGY Volunteer Abroad
PRACTICAL, SAFE AND STRESS-FREE PLACEMENTS WITH PMGY

PMGY are specialists in organising structured volunteering programmes for people looking to see the world, meet like-minded people and engage in meaningful volunteer work.

Our programmes operate in 11 developing countries throughout Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. You can assist in areas such as Childcare, English Teaching, Medical Healthcare and Wildlife Conservation.

We’re passionate about volunteering - we understand it, we’ve experienced it first-hand, we’ve got it. Through our volunteer programmes you can engage in meaningful travel within an organised, safe and social environment.

We welcome volunteers from around the world and from 16 years old right up to 60 years of age. So whether you are on a gap year, career break or a university holiday we have the perfect opportunity for you!

AFFORDABLE
Fees from 625 AUD for 2 weeks inc. meals, accommodation & support

EXPERIENCED
Placing over 2000 volunteers across the world every year

RANKED NO.1
Voted the No.1 Volunteering Organisation on Review Centre

SOCIABLE
Meet and work alongside like-minded individuals from around the world

More About PMGY
WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

Plan My Gap Year (PMGY) is an award-winning international volunteer placement organisation based in the UK.

We provide the worlds most affordable, need-driven and supportive short-term volunteer programmes in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Our programmes start from just two weeks in duration right up to six months. You can join us throughout the year as we have two start dates per month.
Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience.
You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a FREE two hour workshop.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TIME &amp; DATE:</th>
<th>VENUE:</th>
<th>BOOK NOW ON:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th May</td>
<td>Lismore Workers Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.etctltd.com.au/rms">www.etctltd.com.au/rms</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm – 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Ph: (02) 6650 1969</td>
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<td>Freecall 1300 359 968</td>
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Helping learner drivers become safe drivers

STRENGTHENING PARENTING for TOUGH TEENAGERS
Parenting with Love and Limits

School Counsellor gauging parental interest:
Based on training in this area and assistance to parents through Adult Community Education courses in the Byron area, Carl is wanting to gauge whether running a 7 week course specially for parents at RRHS would be warranted.
Such a course would probably be on a Wednesday night. Perhaps 6 to 8 p.m., or 7 to 9 p.m.
The course content would follow that used in the Byron courses and is based on the ‘7 STEP PROGRAMME’ coming out of the Savannah Family Institute in USA.

You can read a summary of the 7-Step Process on www.difficult.net
Let Carl know of your interest via the RRHS school website or by phone.

Teen Activity
A Finger Knitting workshop will be held at Lismore Library on Thursday 14 May, 5.00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. Winter is coming, learn to Finger Knit!
All teenagers are welcome to attend this fun, free event.
Bookings are essential for this workshop as spaces are limited.
Enquiries can be made by calling the Lismore Library on 02 66212464.