Study Skills

Years 7 and 9 participated in their first Study Skills session this week in the River Theatre. The focus of the session was on exam preparation and management and with the NAPLAN coming up, many of the students gained valuable skills to implement during that exam time. Some of the key concepts and skills presented were how to participate in Mindfulness to reduce anxiety, how to physically prepare by being healthy, how to use their exam time appropriately and how to answer multiple choice questions efficiently. Students also learned that it is imperative that they start identifying what works best for them before, during and after exams so that by their senior years, students will feel comfortable and confident during stressful exam periods.

The Study Skills program is a new initiative brought about to support student well-being and improve academic performance by specifically focusing on study strategies, time management, stress management and goal setting skills. The program is also designed to bolster the Mentoring and Elevate programs that are currently assisting senior students in preparing for their final years at school.

Mr Hogden, Mr Bordin and Ms Birney
Senior Study Skills Coordinators

Cheap Thrills

Students in Years 9 and 10 this week saw a one man show about how choices can possibly change their lives forever. The students after discussion should now have a better understanding of how choice of friends and good decision making can have a dramatic effect on their lives.
Thank you to all the students who participated in the march last Saturday.
ELEVATE EDUCATION WORKSHOP
This week Year 12 participated in an "Essay Booster" workshop, looking at essay planning, structure and effective essay style as well as other writing forms, important skills in the lead up to the HSC.

CYBERSAFETY LINKS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
Below are some fantastic free web links that may assist you with the ever changing world of technology.

Some concise safety tips from NSW Police

A fantastic free website containing age appropriate cybersafety resources and advice

A free place for young people to gain support

A place where crime can be reported online anonymously

Free counselling and advice for parents

CAPA Sydney Excursion
Full Payment overdue!
The CAPA Sydney Excursion is set to depart on Wednesday the 6th of May. Parents and Carers are reminded that the full payment was due by Wednesday the 29th of April – we kindly request your assistance in either making an interim payment or completing payment as soon as possible. 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
**Anzac Commemoration**

Thank you to the staff and students who provided items for the display in the library, the sale of poppies for the ANZAC Day March has raised $136 for Legacy, well done RRHS.

---

**Exploring Early Childhood**

We have just taken charge of three computerised baby simulators. The babies are programmed to cry and behave like a newborn. Students undertaking Exploring Early Childhood course will take turns to have the baby for a weekend to experience the responsibilities and commitment of child care. The baby requires feeding, nappy changing, rocking and head support just like a real infant. The computer records how well and quickly the student respond to the needs of the baby.

We wish to thank the Richmond River P. & C. and The Rivers College for making it possible for us to purchase these babies and participate in this valuable experience.

*K. Varley, TAS Teacher*

---

**FAR NORTH COAST DANCE FESTIVAL**

The Rivers Secondary College Combined Campus will be performing on Wednesday 3rd June at Lismore City Hall. Students will rehearse at Lismore High School 9:30-12:00 then have dress rehearsal at 12:30 til 3:00 The performance starts at 7:00 p.m. Students meet at Wyrallah Rd Public School Hall, they will open the second half of the show.

Tickets go on sale 8th May, $20 Adult, $15 Student/Concession, Lismore City Hall Box Office ph.1300 066772.

Festival T-Shirts can also be purchased for $22, collect order forms from Miss Dessmann.

*Miss Dessmann, PDHPE/Dance Teacher*
From the Principal
Dear Parents and Carers

Weather
The impending rain event has stayed away for today however we are expecting large amounts of rain over tonight and the weekend. Please keep safe over the weekend and do your best to stay dry. Attached is the link to the SES and BOM sites as these sites will keep you updated about road closures and flood levels. If the expected rainfall occurs in our local catchment over the weekend it could mean that significant flooding occurs. I will keep everyone informed via the school’s Facebook page and local radio stations should the school need to be closed on Monday.


Naplan Testing
NAPLAN testing will again be occurring from 12th to 14th May. These tests are national literacy and numeracy tests and are a great opportunity to find out how each student is progressing in relation to the standards expected in Years 7 and 9. It is important that every student sits these tests so that parents find out what their children are able to do and what things they need further help with.

Enjoy your weekend.
Dave Harvey
Principal

From the Deputies
Your Tutor
On Tuesday students in Years 9 to 12 attended an information session, Your Tutor, an online tutoring service available to students in Years 9-12. The program is being provided by Southern Cross University’s UNI-BOUND Program and aims to provide additional academic support to students across all subject areas. The service is able to be accessed from school or home. All students in Years 9-12 have been provided with an access code which upon activation will allow access to the service. If you have any questions please contact your child’s teacher or Simone Balzer from Southern Cross University on 02 66203362.

To access the RRHS Your Tutor home page follow this link: https://yourtutor.com.au/connect/clients/475/authenticate

Peter Howes
Deputy Principal

ANZAC Day thank you
What a wonderful group of students and staff we have to turn up on ANZAC Day and march for our school. We have over 145 students marching for the school or involved in bands, or cadet groups. The wonderful library staff (Mrs Seccombe and Mrs Murphy) have been working tirelessly each evening making red poppies for students to wear at the march. We asked for a gold coin donation if possible to raise money for Legacy and we have collected $136 to be donated by our school community.

Mrs Seccombe has also created a wonderful display in the library for ANZAC day using poppies, camouflage netting and old uniforms and paraphernalia from the war such as medals and photos on display. It is wonderful to have a staff so committed to making history and other subjects come to life for students and engage them more fully in the meaning of ANZAC day.

Athletic Carnival
If weather permits the Athletics Carnival will be held next Thursday 7th May. This is a normal school day and all students are expected to attend. Students are asked to dress in house colours. Students will be expected to attend school for roll marking then they will board buses and be transported to Riverview Park. Students will be expected to return to school on the buses and then make their way home as normal. There are ways for students of all abilities to be involved in this event and attending school carnivals is part of the student’s high school experience. We expect to see the full compliment of students on the day.

Di Williamson
Deputy Principal
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 66 213 456.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 12th MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 13th MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 14th MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 will complete testing during Periods 2 &amp; 3 in the MPU</td>
<td>Year 9 will complete testing during Periods 2 &amp; 3 in the MPU</td>
<td>Year 9 will complete testing during Periods 2 &amp; 3 in the MPU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 will complete testing during periods 5 &amp; 6 in the MPU</td>
<td>Year 7 will complete testing during periods 5 &amp; 6 in the MPU</td>
<td>Year 7 will complete testing during periods 5 &amp; 6 in the MPU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 home schooling, 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.

Continues over next page
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.

Late 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 children 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 child 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 haircuts
- 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 (School Attendance) at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/lanugagesupport/Documents/index_s.htm

The principal of 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:


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?

Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf 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.

© March 2010
Student Welfare Directorate
NSW Department of Education & Training

English 2
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 school’s website by selecting "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 student’s name and class and reference number
- OR
- the student’s 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.