“PLAY”

I doubt many of our Riverside families would have chosen to send their child to our school because of the approach we have to playing outside, but you need to know we see value in balancing the learning program with breaks. Most parents seem to identify our Christian values, the dedicated staff, ICT-rich learning program or small class sizes as Riverside’s golden ingredients.

There’s a growing base of research about the value of play. Most of it suggests that the benefits go beyond physical fitness, fresh air and muscle tone. Some studies suggest that routinely getting outside to increase the heart rate, for all ages actually, has broad benefits. They report concentration improvements, reduced mental fatigue, emotional stability, increased social maturity and lower levels of stress.

What a huge range of personal benefits, and all from playing – or moving around in the outside air – more frequently! This is part of the reason that in 2016, we have increased our playtimes, without reducing learning time. Additionally, students are able to take a break for a drink at least each hour and teachers are encouraging sensible (in this heat!) outside activities. These are early days, but we are confident that the rewards will be evident in many areas.

There are studies that show that sitting is ‘the new smoking’ in terms of health effects and, ultimately, in the potential cost to society. As changes in our culture result in less students walking or riding to school each day, even the government is looking for ways to reduce the impact of our more sedentary lifestyles. The Queensland Government supports a number of initiatives like “Active Healthy Kids Australia”, which produce a ‘report card’ each year on student activity levels.

What can I do for my kids? Looking at the ‘Nature Play Qld’ website I have discovered some excellent ideas. It’s worth taking a few minutes to look at some excellent suggestions for families there. Also, children need a break from close, focused work, like homework, in that first hour after the 3:10pm bell. As I mentioned last year, playing affords many opportunities for parents to interact with and connect their hearts to their children, too.

Let me finish with the words of the Apostle, John. “I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” (3 John 1:2)

Christian Regards,
OFFICE HOURS
The office is open from 8.30am to 3.30pm each day. We understand that mornings and
afternoons are the ideal time to come into the office but we ask for patience as these are
our busiest times of the day.

FEE PAYMENTS
Thank you to those families who have already attended to payment. For those who
have entered into instalment plans, thank you for advising us of your intention to do so
and we ask that you keep on top of regular payments to prevent falling behind. Should
you be experiencing difficulty and wish to enter into a payment plan please make an
appointment with Mr Humphries to discuss. With less than 5 weeks until end of term we
request you ensure Term 1’s fees are paid before the commencement of Term 2.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
On Friday March 4, 2016 the school is registered to participate in Clean Up Australia Day.
Riverside is responsible for the area from the Nathan Street bridge down to Riverview
Park (through Rossiter Park) so it is a sizeable area to clean up. We will need gloves,
maybe some tongs, buckets or bins and possibly plastic bags. It should be a fun event
and we would love you to come along to help us clean up our beautiful part of Australia!
Permission notes will be sent home closer to the event.

FUNKY HAIR DAY
On Friday March 11, 2016 the school will be taking part in Funky Hair Day. To participate
we ask that you bring along a donation to help people with blood cancer and you can
colour your hair for the day, spike it, curl it, wear a wig, tease it and if you can wear it in
your hair you can wear it for Funky Hair Day (see more information about Funky Hair Day
below)! We do warn parents that before putting anything into your child’s hair please
read the packaging to ensure it is not permanent and it does not damage your child’s hair.
We do not want to see crazy haircuts just for the day but just something fun and happy to
make others remember leukaemia sufferers.
WELCOME BACK MR J

Mr J has finally returned back from holidays and we were happy to have him back for Big Worship this morning. Mr J is our school chaplain and we will be sharing more about our chaplaincy program in future newsletters. In the meantime, if you haven’t met him and see him around please say “Hi”. He’d love to meet you.

SMS FACILITIES - FEEDBACK

In the wake of recent bomb threat activities our attention has been drawn to the possible need for an school SMS facility to contact parents not only for emergency situations but for daily communication, i.e. absence, contact request, etc. In the near future we will be seeking your feedback on whether this would be something that may suit you as a parent for communication with the school. We will keep you posted in the near future once we complete our research.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES

Attached to our newsletter this week is a letter from the National Director of Adventist Schools in Australia outlining the strict child protection policies of all Adventist schools. Our full support for and adherence to the recommendations of the ongoing Royal Commission regarding institutional child safety.
**Principal’s Award:**

**Mikaela Pugh** - Listening and learning well in prep.

**Lochlan Rogers** - Being a calm leader and including younger students at playtime.

**Grades Prep-1**

Amelia Eldridge - For enthusiastic singing in class.

Bailey Murison - Being polite to others.

**Grades 2/3/4**

Ella Wilkinson - Working extremely hard in maths this week.

Lilita Harlock - For displaying positive attitude towards her work, especially in reading and maths.

**Grades 5/6**

Jaliah Dickman-Murgha - Showing great attitude to work.

Terry Teariki - Excellent listening skills and focusing on your tasks.

**Uniform Bear & Tidy Room Award**

The Prep-1 class have taken out the uniform bear and tidy room award two weeks in a row. Well done for keeping your classroom tidy throughout the week and wearing the correct uniform with pride.
INTRODUCING MRS HUMPHRIES

Although some may have seen Mrs Jodi Humphries around the traps at Riverside in 2015, this year, she is involved a little more officially as a mentor assistant for Mrs Tyler. Mrs Humphries is an experienced primary teacher and has also been trained as an “Appretio” reviewer by the Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW), which enables teachers to work on their professional craft and expand themselves in any area of teacher quality. She is working with Year 2 and 3 on Mondays and may also assist with some teacher relief as her program allows. Her ‘real job’ is currently with Adventist Schools Australia, for whom she is writing a new ‘Early Encounters’ Bible program for all the SDA early learning centres in Australia and New Zealand.

DATES TO REMEMBER:
MARCH 1 RACS SWIMMING CARNIVAL
MARCH 4 CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
MARCH 8 REPORTS SENT HOME
MARCH 10 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
MARCH 11 FUNKY HAIR DAY
MARCH 14 INTERSCHOOL SWIM CARNIVAL
MARCH 24 LAST DAY TERM 1
The Learning Centre is progressing well into 2016 with the newer children fitting comfortably into the routine. New friendships continue to form as the children interact, play and learn from each other. An underwater theme has been introduced to the children which will run for a couple of months. The focus will be on learning various sea creatures and sea themed activities. We started by painting big sheets of paper which we have used as the sky and sea, we then added our fish that we painted and decorated. Over the next few weeks more will be added to our sea and we look forward to seeing the wall full of our creations!
COME ALONG TO ANY OF THESE RIVERSIDE/CHURCH EVENTS!

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY – HELP NEEDED
Aitkenvale Youth need your help. Along with Townsville City Youth, they are getting involved in Global Youth Day March 19th where they will “Be the Sermon”. The youth will be taking food parcels to people who need it and providing a meal for the homeless. They need your help to donate non-perishable food items, such as cans of beans or packets of pasta or rice. Please bring your donations to Aitkenvale Church from February 27th or to the Conference Office after February 22nd.

TRUST SERVICES
If you want to update your Family Will in the next year, please use our online booking system found at the following address:
https://trustservices.acuitiescheduling.com/

ADVENTURERS
Adventurers is a personal growth club like Scouts or Pathfinders for children aged 4-9 years. If you are interested in joining this program please contact Sarah Hautaniemi (0439413378) or Liz Thomas (0404098454).
Meeting dates for the year are:- 27 February, 20 March, 23 April, 28 May, 18 June, 30 July, 27 August, 10 September, 29 October, 3 December

REGIONAL THIS WEEKEND
You are all welcome to come and join us this Sabbath for the Northern Australian Conference Regional to be held at Northreach Baptist Church, 38 Canterbury Road, Kirwan. Sabbath School commences tomorrow at 9.30am with the main service at 11.00am.
4 February 2016

TO: Parents of students attending an Adventist Schools Australia school

Dear Parent

Re: Adventist Schools Australia’s commitment to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Assault

I am writing today to affirm my full support for the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Assault. The Commission’s work is absolutely essential to not only understanding institutional failures across the spectrum of Australian society, but even more importantly, to develop better systems to prevent abuse in the first place and to compassionately, professionally and thoroughly handle cases should they occur.

Our school system has been following the Royal Commission’s work closely, particularly in relation to recommendations relating to schools. As a result of learnings from the public hearings and research papers thus far, Adventist Schools Australia is dedicated to continuous revision and improvement of its child protection systems and procedures across the country. One such initiative includes the development of an Adventist Schools Australia National Child Protection Framework, emphasising standardised responses, as much as possible, in all Australian Adventist schools, and ensuring that any investigations and adjudications of cases is independent and transparent. In addition, child protection policies are being revised to ensure they include the key components of recognising and responding to abuse as well as identifying grooming behaviours. To embed the learning, child protection training for all staff and administrators is being significantly remodelled using targeted, standardised content delivered consistently by experts. In turn, our staff will be trained further to ensure that our students learn appropriate protective behaviours.

Our child protection policy is available on our website (under the Leadership tab) or via the following link: http://asa.adventist.edu.au/index.php/Leadership/Child-Protection.

I encourage you to review the policy and to let me know if there is anything you believe we can do better or may have missed. I also encourage you to let me know immediately if you have any concern about sexual abuse, or behaviour likely to lead to sexual abuse, in our school community. And further, if you know of any sexual abuse, I encourage you to report the matter to the police. If you have suffered sexual abuse in an institutional context, you can also tell your story to the Royal Commission: www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au.

There is absolutely nothing more important to me than protecting our school students. Each child is a gift from God, and their childhood and their innocence is a sacred trust. Working together as a community, it is our aim to ensure our children have safe, happy, healthy and positive childhoods.

Yours sincerely

Dr Daryl K Murdoch, National Director
Adventist Schools Australia

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