Hello Riverside family! Welcome back and welcome! I was looking at our enrolment list the other day and worked out that, because of the loss of Year 7 to secondary schools and the influx of new students, only about 40% of our current enrolment was here at Riverside in 2014. That’s significant, and demonstrates that many are moving to our Riverside family to find something different, something more and something that will suit the needs of their children better. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of students this year that I have to start with them. Here is my list of the 2016 “Incredibles”…

Incredible No.1 – The Students!

Our students have made such a stable, homogenous and motivated start to the new year. Even though Miss Bennett was the only Teacher to move away, because of the grade level splits, every student had a new teacher this year except Year 1 and Year 6. So far, though, we have a very positive and especially accepting student body. The new student leaders and captains are doing a phenomenal job and we are seeing real initiative, Christian grace and welcoming behaviour. Well done, Riverside students.

Incredible No.2 – The Staff

The year began on January 11 when our new teacher, Mrs Tyler arrived and Mrs Winship and I were able to work with her and settle her into this new environment.

She would be excused for being a little shell-shocked to be so far away from home and in such unfamiliar territory, but Mrs Tyler has shown creativity, grit, gratitude and maturity since day 1. The staff spent two nights on Maggie for a Staff Retreat to set the year up and vision together about the potential, the possibilities and the preciousness of the learning year here at Riverside. What an amazing – no “incredible” time. You have a great team to work with in 2016.

Incredible No. 3 – The Support

Already in 2016, Riverside (with help from our governing body) has succeeded in securing grants for three separate initiatives run by Independent Schools of Queensland. This funding will help us improve teacher quality, learning programs and school visioning and planning. We have also had amazing offers of support from individuals, parents, community organisations and churches. We are so abundantly blessed and I believe God is the cause of ALL these blessings and offers of support.

As further “incredibles” are discovered this year, please celebrate with us. Keep one eye on the Riverside 2016 Calendar as we journey together through unchartered waters - with Jesus as the true Captain of this ship. Call in and visit teachers or myself anytime if you need to. We’re a team which your child needs.

Have a fruitful 2016!

Christian Regards, Ian Humphries
“CLEAR OUT SALE”
2015 TEA TOWELS
For those of you who missed out or those of you who wished you bought more we are having a sale on the tea towels from last year. We are now selling them for:-

$10 each
$15 for two
$20 for three

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
2016
The first day of school has come and gone so quickly. All the students have settled in well. Welcome to all the new families, friends and teacher’s at Riverside Adventist Christian School. If there is anything we can do to assist you at school please do not hesitate to ask. 2016 looks like being an exciting year!
Principal’s Award:
Sarah Stanley - For being a welcoming and mature Riverside student this week.
Mitchell Hautaniemi - Leadership and maturity in and out of class.

Grades Prep-1
Aaric Solway - For having an eagle eye in reading.

Grades 2/3/4
Seth Ballie-Tarr - For being super this week.
Puna Teariki - For displaying wonderful listening in class and showing her peers and teacher’s respect.

Grades 5/6
Delton-Leigh Pardon - For showing excellent initiative.
Mikki Quilala - Always using exemplary manners.

Uniform Bear
Each week the best uniform class will be pictured with RUB (Riverside Uniform Bear).
Thanks to Mrs Peterson for her hard work in putting together our beautiful bear.
HOME & SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Please come along and join us this Monday February 8th at 3.15pm at the school for our first Home & School Committee meeting of the year. The purpose of the Home & School Committee is to make decisions for fundraising for the school and also how these funds will be spent for the students. This year we have two positions to fill, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested please come along - everyone is welcome. We would love to see more parents involved in blessing and bettering our school program.

GUITAR LESSONS

Miss Martel is again teaching guitar lessons this year. She attends the school every Monday and your children can participate in either a group lesson or an individual lesson. If you are interested please advise the school office as soon as possible. The cost for the balance of term 1 is as follows:-

Group Lessons - $105.00 or Individual Lessons - $210.00

RIVERSIDE WAY

The Teachers have been working with the students on the “Riverside Way”. We would like to be able to publish the “Riverside Way” early this term and have displayed it in all the classrooms. We look forward to sharing this with you all shortly.
PICK-UP & DROP OFF CHANGES

Thank you for your patience while we are getting used to our new car park.
Just a reminder of the zones:-
“Pick up and drop off lane” is to pick up your child **without leaving your vehicle**.
“Park and enter school” in long term parking if you wish to come into the school.

No parking in the staff car parks or in the middle of the roundabout (under trees) please. The more parents we have who line up in the pick up lane, the quicker we will be able to clear the car park each afternoon. We are hoping that once your child (if they are new to RACS) has adjusted to these routines, most parents won’t need to come in every day to help with lunchboxes, hats and reading folders.
Guidelines on Uniform Shoes - 2016

To make things easy (and UNIFORM!), we have produced this document to add visual support to the policies we have for uniform at RACS. The Riverside uniform policy is designed to support reduced long-term costs while providing shoes that are impact-absorbing and comfortable for the wide range of activities students are involved in every day here at school. Many flat-soled shoes are not very supportive and their design for casual use, making them inadequate for the demands of daily school use. Please remember that all sock should be plain white.

**Formal Uniform: Shoe Policy**

Plain, full-cover, all-black ‘polishable’ leather-style shoes (minimal branding - no coloured trims or tags) worn with plain, all-white above-ankle-length socks.

**Non-Uniform Shoes**

Canvas shoes, most skate-style flat-soled shoes and boots are not acceptable.

**Sports Uniform: Policy**

Joggers (white background, white laces, minimal branding and mostly white trims) with non-marking soles worn with all-white, above-ankle-length socks.

**Non-Uniform Shoes**

Canvas shoes, skate-style flat-soled shoes and boots are not acceptable.
What a great start to 2016 for the Early Learning Centre as we welcome 9 new families from diverse backgrounds. As this is only the third week we are operating for this year we are getting to know each other and new friendships are blossoming. The children are familiarising themselves with the routine and are happy to participate and contribute where they can. The centre is excited to see what this year will bring as we watch the children grow in their learning and development, going from strength to strength as they are supported and support each other with love and care.
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. We meet on Saturday afternoons a few times every term. Adventurers will be starting their first meeting 27th February at 2:30 – 4:30 at the Blue Church. If you are interested in helping run this program for our little ones please contact Sarah Hautaniemi (0439413378) or Liz Thomas (0404098454).

SABBATH SCHOOL

You are all welcome to join us every Saturday morning from 9.30am to 10.45am as we run classes for Sabbath School for the following age groups and in the following locations on the grounds:-

Beginners (Age: 0-3) & Kindergarten (Age: 4-7) at the Blue Church
Primary/Junior (Age: 8-12) & Teen (Age: 13-18) at the Blue Church
Youth (18+) and Adult Classes (Open Ages) at the Church Hall

The one hour, weekly worship service follows Sabbath School at 11.00am.

Come and join us any time!
SCHOOL KIDS BONUS IS ENDING JULY 2016!!!
PREPARE NOW TO RELIEVE 2017 BACK TO SCHOOL STRESS!!!

Would you like $500 to help pay for school uniforms, books, sporting fees and equipment, music lessons, camps and excursions, or even a laptop? Saver Plus can match your savings dollar for dollar for education costs dollar for dollar, up to $500. Wouldn’t it be great to take control of your financial situation and learn new skills on how to budget and save? Allow me to introduce you to the

Saver Plus Program

To be eligible you need to:

- have a Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card
- have a child at school now or starting next year, or be attending vocational education yourself
- have some form of household income from work, for example your partner or yourself may have part time, casual, full time or seasonal employment, can also be cash in hand for child minding, ironing, mowing a lawn or similar.
- have not received matched funds from completing Saver Plus already

For details on our next information sessions please contact:

Nikki Storey, Saver Plus Coordinator
07 4728-6786 | 0418 201 533
nikki.storey@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is funded by the Australian Government