“USE ME!”

Nothing quite compares, when I’m in a state of anxiety or illness, with an offer of help from someone who says something like, “Make use of me. I don’t have anything pressing and I’d love to help.”

It’s usually my wife at home. She has a way of making me feel like she will be disappointed if I don’t utilise what she is offering. It’s such a relief. It’s a deep feeling that I have someone on my side who will do what I can’t, work where I’m unable and zoom where I’m spluttering. At Riverside, staff and parents do this all of the time, too! In the office, in classrooms, in small maintenance and big heartedness. We are amazed to see gaps fill and watch the anxiety levels evaporate.

God provides even greater help. His availability is endless, His comfort limitless and His presence tangible.

Riverside has resources that are under-utilised also. As you will read in later pages of this newsletter, we have a new chaplaincy team. Chappy Annette and Pastor Boris have made it clear to me that they intend to connect to every school family. Many times, chaplains are not used when they are needed most.

If your family needs free counselling from someone qualified, call Annette. If your children need to talk to someone, Boris or Annette are here at Riverside on certain days (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) but are able to be called upon in an emergency when required. Pastor Boris is offering to run Bible studies for Mrs Thomas’ class after school on Thursdays.

If you have family in hospital we’d love to visit and encourage them. If you’re struggling to make an important decision - financial, spiritual, relational or social – we have a team, including myself and the teachers, who want to help.

Also (I don’t think many of our families are currently aware of this), our Adventist School system, Australia-wide, offers accident insurance cover for our students in and out of school. The cover includes full-time enrolled Riverside students, between 4 and 19 years of age. They are covered for injury/accident 24 hours, 7 days a week. Our cover with Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT) is the Bronze cover, details for which you can request at the office. This should give peace of mind to every family.

Use Me! That’s the message you need to hear. We are a community. We can do better if we lean on one another.

Christian Regards, Ian Humphries
FEE PAYMENTS

The end of Term 1 is coming up fast. If you have not cleared Term 1’s fees already, please attend to payment at your earliest convenience. As always, should you be experiencing difficulty and wish to enter into a payment plan please make an appointment with Mr Humphries to discuss. With 3 weeks until end of term please ensure Term 1 fees are paid before the commencement of Term 2.

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 temporary, fun and happy to make others remember leukaemia sufferers.

PLAYGROUP IS BACK!!!!

On Wednesday March 2, 2016 we had our first Riverside playgroup of 2016. After a few meetings we have decided that playgroups will now be meeting every Monday at 9.00am. We are looking for donations of toys, games and dress ups (which are still in good condition) which are suitable for the ages of 4 years and under. Please drop any donations into the office.

THANK YOU TO EWAN JONES’ OFFICE

The office of local electorate, Mr Ewan Jones, has kindly provided our school with new flags including the Australian, Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal flags for which we are most appreciative. Separate to our current flagpole display we are looking to display all three flags side by side, in the near future. We will keep you posted.
“RIVERSIDE CLASSROOM HELPER’S PROGRAM”

Our school aims is to create an educational environment in which students are given the opportunity to reach their full potential, and the academic, social, spiritual and developmental needs of each student are met. We are looking for volunteers to help us with that awesome task.

The school invites you to come to volunteer your time and talents in our “Riverside Classroom Helpers” Program. We value you’re assistance as a volunteer and appreciate anyone whose dedication to our students leads them to want to aide us by listening to students read.

We know your time is precious but we hope this invitation will empower you to come in and volunteer. The blessings are always multiplied for all involved. Please feel free to contact the school with times and days that you may be available to volunteer. To qualify, all you need is to love to help students learn! Your help will make a difference to a young reader and together, we can make a difference in the lives of precious children.

SANITARIUM WEET-BIX KIDS TRYATHLON

Next Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 2.00pm Riverside Adventist Christian School will be again hosting the launch of the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids Tryathlon. Last year, we were privileged enough to have Jonathon Thurston attend the launch. This year, we are still waiting to hear who our special guest will be.

The Tryathlon will be held in Townsville on Sunday May 15, 2016 at Riverway Lagoons. It is a fantastic day for not only the children participating but the families who attend to cheer on their children. Every child is a winner!

For more information and to register your child as a participate go to:-  
www.try.weetbix.com.au
**Principal’s Award:**

Terry Teariki - Leadership and doing your best.

Tyler Mahoney - Excellent effort and attitude at the swimming carnival.

**Grades Prep-1**

Ruth Teariki - For neat and tidy work.

Stephen Caldwell - For a great job in math.

**Grades 2/3/4**

Damien Acres - For consistently following instructions and showing how to obey straight away.

Lucas Marshall - For his positive attitude and hard work in class.

**Grades 5/6**

Jakobe Humphries - For excellent effort in maths.

Brooklyn Acres - For super effort and attitude in maths.

**Uniform Bear & Tidy Room Award**

The Year 2-3 class have taken out the tidy room award for the first time this year

The Year 4-6 class have won RUB the uniform bear for wearing the correct uniform with pride. Congratulations to both classrooms!
FAREWELL MRS H & WELCOME MRS P

We have come to a sad time when we have to say ‘farewell’ to our wonderful Mrs H, who has been part of our school for many years. Mrs H is off to pursue her first love - cooking! Many of you may not know, but Mrs H is actually a qualified Chef. Friday March 4 was her final day.

On a happy note we now have Mrs P joining us as a Teacher Aide. Mrs Andrea Payne comes with much experience. Please make her feel welcome at Riverside if you see her around.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

MARCH 4
- CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

MARCH 7
- PLAYGROUP 9AM

MARCH 8
- REPORTS SENT HOME
- TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN PREP PHOTOS

MARCH 10
- PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
- WEETBIX TRYATHLON LAUNCH 2PM

MARCH 11
- FUNKY HAIR DAY

MARCH 14
- INTERSCHOOL SWIM CARNIVAL
- PLAYGROUP 9AM

MARCH 24
- LAST DAY TERM 1
Once again the mighty Red house dominated the Riverside Swimming Carnival. Close behind them was the yellow, Stuart team and then third place was green, Castle team. Well done to all the participants in the carnival. We had some great fun and lots of laughs. A massive ‘thank you’ goes out to Mr Quilala for our awesome house flags. The flags were presented to the House Captains at assembly on Monday. The students are very proud of their houses and their flags and we cannot thank you enough. Well done to our age champions. Age champions are decided on a points basis.
CHAPLAINCY: TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

We have made some adjustments to the way Riverside’s Chaplaincy Program operates. Whilst all chaplaincy involves pastoral care, counselling, student welfare, visitation and a variety of other roles within the school community, we have split the role into two separate parts. Pastor Boris (Jovinov) will continue as a School Chaplain and will be more like a “School Pastor” – taking Bible studies, connecting our school program with the local churches, assisting with our Bible classes and encouraging staff, students and families in their spiritual journeys. He can also help you with arranging for your wedding or funeral needs. Mrs Annette Ellison, or “Chappy Annette” to our students, is our newly appointed Chaplain. She is a trained counsellor with experience in chaplaincy. Chappy Annette has a passion for children and will help with some school programs, counsel and encourage students, counsel with parents and families, coordinate referrals as needed and visit with our school families. Both of our Chaplains work out of the same office and are very happy for you to contact them regarding your personal needs. Appointments can be arranged through Lauris in the office.
The Early Learning Centre is making most of the hot summer days so we have brought back wet play! Such a great opportunity for the children to get outside, get wet and have fun with their friends. We are so thankful to the Robertson family who have kindly lent their blow up slide for the children to use. We will alternate between Wednesdays and Tuesdays so all children can have the experience with using the blow up slide and or the soaker hose. Wet play will provide an exciting activity for the children to look forward to when they attend the Centre and will allow the newer children to build on their confidence to try new and unexplored things and jump in and give it a go!