



Newsletter

TERM 1, WEEK 2

MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2020.

It has been a delight meeting and getting to know your children in our first week of school this year and I wish to say a very big thank you for the warm welcome I have received as I have met many of you in and around the school.

We have a busy term ahead and I am pleased to report that we have had a great first week.

This evening will be our first Parent Information evening and I am looking forward to meeting more of our school community. Please consider how you would like to be involved this year as I believe a thriving community needs connection. I realize not everyone can volunteer their time on the ground, however even knowing that you are praying for our school and supporting your children to come prepared and ready each day is a blessing.

I believe God has directed my husband Ralph and I to come to Townsville and so far, we are loving it. We have settled in our new home and have committed to the School for as long as God wants us here. The rain is such a blessing and having come from drought ridden Outback NSW, we relish the green and flourishing growth. I believe this symbolizes our students and how they will grow this year. Thank you for entrusting them to us. It is an honour and a privilege to care for them each day.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to call or come in for a chat. It is always best to touch base early.

Please read this newsletter carefully as there are a few important items enclosed.

We as a school are praying for God's blessings on each of your homes and lives this year. We all face our own challenges and it is good to know He's got our backs, so if you have prayer requests, please feel free to send them through for us to pray about.

Yours in commitment

Mrs Bronwyn Goodwin

Romans 15:13 "May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

We recognise that life is sometimes tough and we want you to know that you are never alone. If you are struggling with something in your life or that of your family we want to be able to help. Suzanne Slade is a parent at the school and is a professional counsellor. She leads a humanitarian team here in Townsville and is well connected to community based services that may assist you. This may include family counselling, financial counselling, parenting advice and support, grief and loss counselling to legal aid, crisis support and many others services. Please reach out to Suzanne for confidential information that can help during a difficult season. Her number is 0447 477 548.

TERM DATES 2020

- TERM ONE:** Tuesday 28th Jan - Friday 3rd April
TERM TWO: Tuesday 21st April - Wednesday 24th June
TERM THREE: Monday 20th July - Friday 18th September
TERM FOUR: Tuesday 6th October - Friday 4th December



UNIFORMS

On the whole, Riverside Adventist Christian School students generally uphold the uniform code. Thank you parents for your diligence! Please note the following schedule for uniforms:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - FULL FORMAL UNIFORM

Wednesday, Friday - FULL SPORT UNIFORM

Wednesday - SWIMMING DAY - SCHOOL RASHIE AND TOWEL

* **PLEASE NOTE** - the swim rashie order has not arrived as yet, please send your children in plain rashies if you do not have a school rashie.

NO MORE FRUIT PROGRAM

Please be reminded that the decision was made last year to discontinue the fruit program. Typically, the children would have had fruit during second break, so you may need to pack a little more in their lunchboxes.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

School Photos will not be until Term 3 on 31st of August.

GUITAR LESSONS

Our guitar teacher, Andrew Kaye, has had some vacancies open up. Andrew has been teaching here since 2017 and has 14 years playing experience. He is dedicated to providing friendly, enthusiastic and cost efficient guitar lessons and is keen to discuss with any and all aspiring or existing guitarists. Andrew is at the school for lessons on Wednesdays and Thursdays if you would like to enquire.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL - DATE CHANGE

Please note that the date for the swimming carnival has changed, it originally appeared on the school calendar for the 25th of February. We have had to post-pone it until the 5th of March from 9am to 2pm at the Kirwan Aquatic Centre on Hudson Street.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 3RD

Parent Information Night

FEBRUARY 13TH

Prompt Payment Deadline

FEBRUARY 28TH

Clean Up Australia Day

MARCH 5TH

Swimming Carnival

MARCH 13TH

Reports go home

MARCH 16TH & 17TH

Interim Interviews

APRIL 3RD

LAST DAY OF TERM 1!

MRS WATKIN'S CLASS - PREP-GRADE 1



THINGS WE DID IN THE FIRST WEEK AT SCHOOL...

I drew a zoo picture! - Finley, P-1

We made a bee - kind bee. I like the turtle ran off the rock and splashed into the water. It was funny - Cooper, P-1

Reading books and cutting out bees - Lloyd, P-1

Maths Seeds - Louis, P-1

Running around the playground with Cooper and Louis
- Valwyn, P-1

Best part of school is Reading Eggs - Isaac, P-1

I love it here! - Jamie-Lee, P-1

Cooking with play-dough and making - Annie-Jo

The first week of school, in my opinion, was somewhat an OK start to the school year. Even though I kept forgetting to bring important things to school, I tried to keep my head high, and tell myself that the rest of the year would be great. I really enjoyed the swimming on Wednesday. Wednesday is definitely my favourite day of the week.

May our father in heaven look after us all - Hayley, Grade 6

SCHOOL CHAPLAINS...

We are blessed with two chaplains here at Riverside. Pr Chris Kirkwood who spends Tuesday mornings at the school and Pr Alfredo Campos who is here on Thursday mornings.

Below is a word from Pr Alfredo.

Hi Everyone,

the RACS chaplaincy department would like to welcome you all to our new school year 2020.

We are looking forward to get to know you and your beautiful children.

One of our goals is to make you feel welcome and part of our RACS family therefore, as chaplains we are always willing and happy to assist you in your spiritual journey and /or in any other area that you would like us to help.

If you need to get in touch, we are at the school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, alternatively, you can leave a message for us via the office.

Looking forward to an amazing new school year

Pr Alfredo Campos

PRAYER POINTS:

* Thanksgiving for our new teacher and principal - they are answers to prayer! Please pray for them as they settle into their roles and North Queensland and welcome them into our community.

* Thanksgiving for all our new little preppies - may they have a smooth transition into school life and bless Mrs Watkins as she guides them through this.

* The health of our staff, students and families.

* Strengthen and guide our school leaders.

*Prayer for those who have been affected by the fires and for our service crews providing assistance

*Thanksgiving for a good start to the school year.

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Caregivers

I am writing to update you on the Novel Coronavirus.

As you would be aware, the Australian Government has announced new measures that specifically address travel restrictions from mainland China. While there remains a very low risk of transmission in Australia, these preventative measures are being instigated in the interest of public health. I do not expect that these travel restrictions will have any major impact on our school operations and I want to assure you that we will continue to work to ensure any disruption is minimized. Our school will be open this week as usual as we progress through Semester 1 2020.

As always, the health and wellbeing of our students remains our number one priority and I would ask that you remain alert to your child's/children's wellbeing during this time. Children can have a range of reactions during an event like this and, as always, teacher and guidance support is available. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with your child's teacher. We continue to take advice from Queensland Health and the Department of Education in relation to this matter and the latest information is available at Novel Coronavirus on the Queensland Health website. Queensland had already announced and enacted restrictions last week for travellers who had visited China (including Hong Kong), and I reiterate this earlier advice from our health agencies, which remains current:

- anyone who has been in contact with any confirmed Novel Coronavirus cases must self-isolate (self-isolation means staying at home and not accepting visitors) for 14 days following exposure;
- travellers who have visited Hubei Province of China need to self-isolate for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province (noting that the Australian Government has announced this now applies to all of mainland China as explained above);
- returned travellers who have visited China cannot attend school, childcare or TAFE for 14 days after leaving China including Hong Kong.

On a personal level, can I ask that as a school community we all look out for and support each other during this time. Again, thank you for your understanding and attention to this important matter.

Regards

Mrs Bronwyn Goodwin

Principal