Welcome back to 2015 and what was a wet start to our year. Welcome to all of our new Kindergarten students and our new families as well. It is a delight to have you join our school community.

**School Swimming Carnival**

The school swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 18th February. House meetings will be held soon to discuss the carnival and notes will be sent home this week with all of the details about the carnival.

**P&C Meeting**

The first P&C meeting of 2015 will be held next Tuesday 10th February. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

**Congratulations to:**

- Our sport house captains who were elected last Friday at the Primary House meetings. They are:
  - Kookaburra (Corin Cheeseman & Emily Hejduk)
  - Echidna (Darcy Holmes & Ruby Zwaan)
  - Platypus (Savannah Burns & Marley Fausto)
- Our school service students who will help keep the school running smoothly:
  - Angus, Paige, Will, Amani, Lanie and Ashden.

**Mount Riverview Play Group**

The playgroup will be commencing this year on Wednesday 4th February. It has been established for parents, grandparents and caregivers of children aged 0 – school age in an effort to help the transition to school become a little smoother by helping children become familiar with our school environment.

**Induction Ceremony**

On Monday 9th February at 9am, we will be holding the 2015 Induction Ceremony for newly appointed school Captains, Vice-Captains, sports house captains, library monitors and school services.

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### What's Happening At Our School ……

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Class Structure

As the note sent home last week indicated, our school enrolment at the start of this year has allowed us to form a 9th class. This will be confirmed after Wednesday 11th February when enrolment numbers are submitted to the Department for staffing allocations. As explained, if our numbers were to drop before that date then we will need to re-structure our class groups into 8 classes (fingers crossed this doesn’t happen).

Forming classes for a new school year is not an easy decision and not one taken lightly. There are many factors considered when forming classes with the aim being to make a balanced learning environment in each room. Two of the factors in this year’s decision were the size of the year groups and ensuring there is a balanced ability range in each class to ensure literacy and numeracy groupings could be achieved.

The size of each grade in 2015 has had a major impact on class structures. We have a couple of small grade sizes mixed in with a few large grade sizes. In an effort to ensure all classes are as small as possible we have formed multi-age class groupings across all stages. Multi-age classes formed into stages have been an organisational structure available for schools, linked to NSW DET Syllabuses since 1996. Our classes for this year are KM, K/1D, 1/2K, 1/2R, 2/3S, 3/4H, 3/4V, 4/5B and 5/6S.

Our class structures this year will have no negative impact on the teaching and learning programs teachers will use. Aside from literacy and numeracy (which are based on a child’s ability), all other curriculum areas are programmed on a stage basis. There are four stages in primary school – Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten), Stage 1 (Years 1&2), Stage 2 (Years 3&4) and Stage 3 (Years 5&6).

If you would like to know more about class structures or would like to talk about school life here at Mount Riverview in general, please call the office to make an appointment.

Mr Giles

Great Choir News!!

Congratulations to last year’s school choir who sang beautifully on our audition cd.

I am pleased to announce that Mount Riverview Public School has been chosen to sing again at the NSW Festival of Choral Music in October 2015.

Auditions for the Opera House and the school choir will be held soon and we are looking forward to fun filled rehearsals!

Mrs Rodger

Anaphylaxis – a shared responsibility

Being the start of a new school year it is just the right time to remind everyone about anaphylaxis and what we can do as a school community for the families that have to deal with this.

We now have several students at our school who have varying degrees of allergic reaction to nuts and mango in particular. Currently, our student reactions can range from mild allergies to severe reactions which can quickly become life-threatening. For one of our Kinder students (Ronan), it can occur simply by someone else who has eaten nuts or mango touching him – he doesn’t have to have eaten these foods to have a reaction.

For this reason we ask (as much as possible) that nuts and mangoes are not brought to school, which includes peanut butter, nut spreads (nutella), and nut bars. Both of these foods can also be included in the ingredients of other foods.

Obviously, being able to do this is sometimes difficult or at times simply forgotten. With this in mind we implement hygiene procedures at school to try and eliminate as much as possible the likelihood of an allergic reaction occurring.

The procedures taught to students at school are:

a) washing hands before and after eating;
b) washing hands at the end of each play period;
c) using the sanitising spray installed in the classrooms upon entering and leaving the room.

The inconvenience to some children is recognised and appreciated, but the consequences to children with anaphylaxis are extremely serious.

All members of our school community are asked to be aware of the dangers of even the slightest contact with nuts and/or mango for these children.

To help minimise the risk, simply washing hands and cleaning teeth before coming to school would really help.

If there are any questions please contact the office.


**Class Information Night**

Parents are welcome to attend an information evening with their child’s teacher. Teachers will be discussing stage and class academic programs, homework, sports, creative arts and health agendas. This is a wonderful opportunity to familiarise yourself with the program your child’s teacher has planned for the year.

All sessions will take place in your child’s classroom. The parent information evening will take place on **Wednesday 11th February**.

KM, K/1D, 1/2R and 1/2K will be 6:30pm – 7:15pm.

2/3S, 3/4V, 3/4H, 4/5B and 5/6S will be 7:30pm – 8:15pm.

Those parents who are unable to make these times should talk to their class teacher for an alternate time if needed.

**School Entry and Exits**

For safety reasons we ask that all students (and family members) enter and exit the school using one of the three pedestrian gates around the school. There are two on Rusden Road and one on Blackbutt Circuit. Entering and exiting the school via one of the carparks is not a safe practice as we have delivery vehicles using all three driveway entrances at various times each day.

Residents in Students Lane have also requested that people who park in the lane in the morning or afternoons please not park across driveways as residents use the lane to access their properties.

Finally, when crossing Rusden Road outside of the school please use the pedestrian crossing thereby setting a good example for all of our students.

**School Banking**

School banking, for new and existing accounts, will begin on **Thursday 5th February**. The mums who coordinate the program will be set up in their regular place under the COLA.

**Hat Count Class Competition Has Started**

The class hat count competition started this week. Each morning at assembly there is a count of how many students in each class are wearing the green school hat.

At the end of each term the class with the least number of hats missing for the term win themselves a BBQ lunch. The two school green hats are the only ones that count towards the competition.

**School Band**

Band, for **returning band members** from 2014, will **commence on Tuesday 10th February**.

For 2015, Senior band will meet on Tuesday mornings from 7:30am with Junior Band meeting on Wednesday mornings from 7:30am. All band members will have an instrument group session on Wednesday afternoons once Daniel has organised the timetable. A final note will go home outlining times once Daniel finalises everything.

It was absolutely fantastic to see 34 students wanting to join the band program for this year. Unfortunately, as mentioned before, there won’t be that many places available in the band for this year’s program.

Everyone who came to yesterday’s meeting will have taken a note home indicating the instruments they were able to get a sound from. The next step is to discuss with your child whether they would still like to join the band or whether they would like to wait until next year. This is a big commitment so if the desire is not totally 100% then it is perhaps a better idea to wait until next year. If they are still keen then please talk about the instruments they have ticked and which one they would like to be considered for. This note needs to be returned to school as soon as possible so that the remaining places can be filled.

Once the notes have been returned, we will select the students for the remaining places in the band. This decision will be based on the instruments available and the observations Daniel made during Monday’s meeting.

If you child already owns an instrument they want to play (ie. trumpet, etc) then please write this on the return slip.

Once final band numbers are confirmed we will send Term 1 invoices home. Please don’t start paying for band until this happens.

If there are any questions regarding the school band program please contact Mr Giles.

**School Rules**

At this time of the year it is a good opportunity to remind everyone of our school rules. The three rules are:

- Be safe
- Be Respectful
- Be a Learner

These rules are encouraged in both the classroom and playground environments.
School Uniform

We are a very lucky school in that nearly all children are dressed in the correct uniform every day of the school year. Whilst on excursions or camps we are always complemented on how smart our students look. The P&C run the school uniform shop which is located near the library entrance. It is open every Tuesday morning and if there are any uniform needs on other days then Mrs McKellar and Mrs Scaramuzzi in the school office are only too willing to help.

At this stage of the year I am extremely pleased with the percentage of students wearing the correct uniform. The one item I have noticed needs some attention however is shoes. Fully enclosed, black leather shoes are the appropriate school footwear (either the traditional leather school shoe or the modern sport style leather jogger style shoe) which should be worn every day. The exception to this is when classes have their sport day in which case sport joggers can be worn along with their sport uniform. There seems to be an increasing number of students wearing the slip on “slipper” type shoe which from a safety point of view is not appropriate footwear for school.

Throughout the year we have several “mufti” days for fundraising purposes (a gold coin is usually brought to school on the day). Whilst children are free to wear their own choice of clothes on these days we still ask them to dress appropriately. For example, no thongs, sandals, singlets, tank tops, t-shirts with inappropriate words or images, etc.

If you are unsure about anything regarding school uniform then please contact the office.

Scripture and Ethics Classes

Scripture (SRE) classes will commence on Friday 20th February.

At this stage we do not have ethics classes operating as we do not have a teacher or school coordinator. If you are interested in filling either of these roles, or know someone that would be suitable please talk to Mr Giles about what needs to be done. Until such time as we have ethics running once again, students who would normally be in these groups will remain in non-scripture.

The other choices for SRE at Mount Riverview are Catholic and Protestant and Non-scripture. Unless a note indicating a change in choice is sent to the school, students are placed in the SRE group indicated on their enrolment form.

If you are unsure of the scripture group you may have selected in the past please contact the office. If you wish to change your selection, a note will need to be sent to school outlining your choice.

School Photos

School photos have been booked for Wednesday 25th March. All students should wear correct summer uniform on the day. Photo envelopes and information will be sent home closer to the date.

Visitors to the School

ALL visitors to the school are required to visit the office before going to one of our classrooms or contacting students in the playground.

If your child is arriving late or leaving early please remember to go to the office to receive an early leaving / arriving late slip which is then given to the teacher. If there are any questions then please contact the office.

Family Contact Details

At the beginning of each year we ask families to ensure that their contact details are accurate, which include email address and mobile numbers. Thank you to those families who have already updated their details.

Accurate information is extremely important in the event that we have to contact you regarding your child or in the event that we have to declare a catastrophic fire warning during bushfire season.

Financial Assistance Is Available

Throughout the year we have several extra-curricula activities that are held approximately at the same time and have a similar cost each year. Examples include camps, overnight excursions, text books, gymnastics program, swim school, etc.

For various reasons this may become an issue for families within our school. There are however a couple of ways to tackle this issue and to help lessen the burden many of our families feel, especially if they have more than one child at school.

The most popular option used in 2014, was to work out a payment plan with Mr Giles, spread across the desired number of weeks, covering all associated costs within that time frame. This option is becoming more popular because it spreads the costs out over easy fortnightly payments rather than having a few major costs at different points of the year.

If this sounds like something you would like to look into, or if parents require any assistance with school related expenses, please contact Mr Giles or your child’s class teacher. All enquiries are confidential.
Absent From School?

If your child is away from school a note explaining the reason of the absence is required to be sent to school within 7 days of them returning to school. If an absence remains unexplained after this period then a letter will be sent home asking for an explanation of the absence.

Changes have been made to the way extended family trips or holidays taken during the school term are recorded. From this year, a certificate of exemption is no longer issued for such trips and the days will be counted as absences. Obviously, special circumstances do arise from time to time and will be looked at when they occur.

If a student has high absenteeism during the school year a referral will be made to the Home School Liaison Officer.

If there are any questions regarding school attendance please contact Mr Giles.

Lost A Copy Of A Past Educom Issue??

The EDUCOM is now delivered by email so it is very important that all families have an up-to-date email address in order to receive it.

However, if for some reason you need to get a copy of it there is always a copy on the school website – www.mtrivervie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

If you are not receiving your fortnightly issue of the Educom please contact the office to determine why. It is important that our school news reaches you.

School Security, You Can Help

If parents or community members observe any destructive or suspicious behaviour in the school grounds please ring the School Security phone number listed below. All reports are treated discreetly; names do not have to be left with the operator.

School Security - 1300 880 021

UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY
Great Western Highway, Werrington North (Building AO)

Family Astronomy Night
Saturday 14 & 28 February (8pm – 10pm)

SUPERNOVAE, A LIFE AFTER DEATH

The night will include a multimedia presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and viewing of the night sky through the University’s 0.6 metre and 0.25 telescopes (weather permitting).

Cost: $18 adult, $12 child/concession & $50 family

Bookings essential:
Online: http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory
- “What’s On”

Enquiries:
Phone: (02) 4736 0135
(Mon, Wed or Thurs)
or email: penrithobservatory@uws.edu.au

DID YOU KNOW??

Under the Companion Animals Act 1998, No. 87 (14.1.e), dogs are prohibited in school grounds (whether they are leashed or otherwise controlled).

For the safety of all students, toddlers, babies and adults, please do not bring dogs into the school grounds, even on leashes. Some children have a genuine fear and it can be quite distressing for them as well as for parents, particularly those with very young children. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Richard Giles – Principal
School Volunteers
At Mount Riverview we are very fortunate in the number of volunteer parents, grandparents and community members who volunteer their time to help the students at school in a variety of ways.

Anyone who is thinking of helping out at school will need to have completed a “working with children” form here at school unless they have a current form from 2014 in the office. When completing the form you will need to bring 100 points of identification. I have included a list of appropriate documentation below.

If you volunteer at multiple organisations then it may serve you better to do the working with children check at the link below. Along with what you have to do there you will also have to go to the RTA and do the identity check. Their website is http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/

If you are not sure about which procedure you need to do then please see Mr Giles

Proof of Identity
Category 1 – 70 points
(Only ONE form of identification accepted from this category.)
- Birth Certificate/Birth Extract
- Australian Passport (current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled)
- Australian Citizenship Certificate
- International Passport (current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled)
- Other document of identity having same characteristics as a passport e.g. diplomatic/refugee (Photo or Signature)

Category 2 – 40 points
(More than one of the following documents may be counted. The initial document will score 40 points, and any additional documents will be awarded 25 points each.)
- Current Licence or Permit (Government Issued)
- Working With Children/Teachers Registration Card
- ASIC/MSIC Card
- Public Employee Photo ID Card (Government Issued)
- Department of Veterans’ Affairs Card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card
- Current Tertiary Education Institution Photo ID
- Reference from a Doctor (must have known the applicant for a period of at least 12 months)

Category 3 – 25 points
(More than one of the following documents may be counted; each will score 25 points.)
- Foreign/International Driver’s Licence
- Proof of Age Card (Government Issued)
- Medicare Card/Private Health Care Card
- Council Rates Notice
- Property Lease/Rental Agreement
- Property Insurance Papers
- Tax Declaration
- Superannuation Statement
- Seniors Card
- Electoral Roll Registration
- Motor Vehicle Registration or Insurance Documents
- Professional or Trade Association Card

To use more than one of the following documents, they must be from different organisations:
- Utility Bills (e.g. Telephone, Gas, Electricity, Water)
- Credit/Debit Card
- Bank Statement/Passbook

Special Category 4 – Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander resident in a remote area/community
- The applicant will meet the 100-point requirement if the applicant is an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander resident in a remote area/community, and the identity of the applicant is verified by two persons recognised as ‘Community Leaders’ of the community to which the applicant belongs.

Special Category 5 – Person under the age of 18
A child will meet the 100-point requirement if his or her identity is verified from ONE of the following:
- Birth Certificate/Birth Extract;
- Australian Passport (current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled);
- Australian Citizenship certificate;
- International Passport (current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled);
- Other document of identity having same characteristics as a passport eg. diplomatic/refugee (Photo or Signature);

Or
A statement from an educational institution, signed by the principal or deputy principal, confirming that the child attends the institution (statement must be on the institution’s letterhead).
HAWKESBURY HERP ETOLOGICAL SOCIETY presents their
6th Annual Reptile Expo

Sunday 1st March, 2015
9am—4pm

Penrith Panthers Exhibition Marquee Mulgoa Road, Penrith

Prices:
- Adults $10
- Children $5 (12 years and under)
- Family (2 Adults, 2 Children) $25

Exotic reptiles and venomous snakes on display. Class 1 and 2 reptiles for sale. Reptile retailers selling enclosures, food, lighting, etc. Educational & kids shows. Photographs available with some exotics.

For more information contact Tracy-Lee Quinn at expo@hawkesburyherps.org.au
www.hawkesburyherps.org.au

FREE child car seat safety check

2 in 3 car seats are not being used properly

Make sure your child is safe with a free inspection by Authorised Restraint Fitters. You can have your child car seats, harnesses and booster seats checked for safety and fit.

DATE: Saturday 7 February 2015
TIME: 9am - 1pm
LOCATION: Blue Mountains City Council, Carpark, 2-6 Civic Place Katoomba NSW 2780

For more information or to book your place, contact Council’s Road Safety Coordinator (02) 4780 5033.

An initiative of your local council as part of the Local Government Road Safety Program.

Excellence, Opportunity, Care and Success
www.mtrivervie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
**Springwood United Football Club**

Online Registrations are now open on myfootballclub.com.au

For U5 - All Age Women/Men & O35

Registration days at the clubhouse on:
31st Jan. And 1st Feb. 10am - 4pm
4th Feb. 5pm - 8pm

You must be registered to attend grading
Grading will commence 7th Feb. Refer to website for grading schedule or email grading@springwoodunited.com.au

Pre-season trials for Prems. And AAL/1 commence 18th Jan.

See website for further information
For any enquiries please email:
football@springwoodunited.com.au or contact 0407 208 995

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**Penrith City Children’s Choir**

on Sunday 15 February

for its Singing Day

**Tumba, Tumba**

directed by Lucy McAlary

If you love to sing, please join us.

No auditions.

Applications close 13 February.

For further information, contact the Administrator:
Liz Strasser
0418 202 849
pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au