

Riverland Special School
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Riverland Special School

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY SUCCESS SERVICE

Celebrating Ability



Term 1 Week 8 Newsletter 2022 Issue 2



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Week 8. We are well and truly over halfway through this term and it has certainly gone quickly. I would like to start by acknowledging our school community this week because although we generally try to keep our routines and structures consistent throughout the school, I am proud to say that our students and staff have displayed great resilience and flexibility over the last few weeks in what has sometimes been a changing landscape day to day.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the whole school community for your understanding and support as we have navigated through some challenging weeks with restrictions, mandates, quarantining requirements and testing regimes. It has certainly not been without its difficult times; however, your patience and understanding with information changing and supporting the health and wellbeing of our entire school community has been appreciated.

Please read the information on page 2 about Governing Council, and consider joining our wonderful GC in 2022! We would love to have some new members to add to our already fantastic committee, and work as a part of the team to continue to build and create a safe and supportive learning environment for all of our young people. The Governing Council is a great way to meet and connect with other parents and community members and be a part of what is happening within the school. We are looking at holding meetings both face to face and online throughout 2022, to increase flexibility for families to attend. If you have any questions or would be interested in joining, please see myself or contact Minyon Smart (current GC Chairperson).

Our first 2022 Pupil Free Days have now been rescheduled and will be held on Monday 23rd May and Tuesday 24th May (Week 4, Term 2). Over these two days all staff will be engaging in learning conducted by SHINE SA - Teaching It Like It Is - Inclusive Education: Relationships and Sexual Health Education for Students with a Disability. This learning will provide all staff with the ability to deliver a comprehensive relationships and sexual health program for all of our students at school. Thanks to the Governing Council for your support of these days.

Kindest Regards,

Natalie Coote

ATTENDANCE

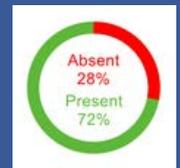
Please remember to inform the school of any planned or unplanned student absences. This may be a written, verbal or phone explanation prior to, or 'on the day' and a follow up note in your child's message book/diary the next day. This will help the school to maintain accurate records.

Our 2022 attendance target is 90% or greater



Year to Date (2022)

The average daily attendance rate Year to Date, derived from student attendance data sourced from the school systems as at 16/03/2022



Previous Week

Attendance rate derived from student attendance data sourced from the school systems as at 16/03/2022



RIVERLAND SPECIAL SCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER

The following has been **postponed** for Weeks 6-9

- Bakery Lunch; Classroom Cooking Programmes
- Excursions; Choir; Shopping
- Extra-Curricular Learning Activities (except for SACE Programmes)

- **Monday 28th March - School Photos**
- **Tuesday 5th April - Governing Council AGM & Meeting - 7:00pm (Face to Face and Online)**



Government of South Australia
Department for Education





Have you considered being on the RSS School Governing Council?

THE BENEFITS TO YOU ARE:

- you get to make new friendships, connect with other parents, share thoughts, opinions & ideas
- become better informed about what is happening at our school and to understand how it works

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOVERNANCE & DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT?

in your role on Governing Council, you work with the site leader to:

- develop & approve local policies
- set the direction and vision of the site and approve budgets and spending
- monitor & review the site improvement plan (ie education outcomes/priorities)
- involve the local community

SITE LEADERS WORK WITH GOVERNING COUNCILS TO:

- give educational leadership
- carry out the site's policies & site improvement plan

AGM

WILL BE HELD AT THE SCHOOL AND ONLINE ON

TUESDAY

5TH APRIL

ALL WELCOME

Contact us

TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE SCHOOL OR REPORT STUDENT ABSENCES

PLEASE PHONE:

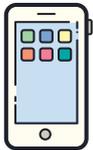
8582 1258



PHONE OR TEXT MESSAGE OUR SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE:

0457 275 691



OR MAKE CONTACT WITH YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM TEACHER USING

CLASS DOJO



ClassDojo

COMMUNICATION



Search for our RSS Facebook group and request to be a member!

Riverland Special School Closed Group

You will be approved by Admin.

This is a private group and is only available to **current** parents, caregivers, families, students and staff.

This group will share important information, updates, photographs, achievements and celebrate student learning!



Please return this slip if you are interested in joining the Governing Council or would like some more information - we would love for you to join our active and supportive team. :-)

GOVERNING COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

I would like to nominate for RSS Governing Council 2022:

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

COVID-19

Due to current COVID-19 directions in line with the Department for Education and SA Health, you are encouraged to keep your child/ren at home if they exhibit any symptoms. This will minimise the risk of spread of COVID-19 in both students and staff at RSS.

Please be aware that you will likely be contacted by the school to collect your child/ren even if they display only minimal symptoms of COVID-19 at this time (ie. coughing OR sneezing OR runny nose).

Many of our students are non-verbal and are not able to explain further symptoms if they are experiencing them. We are a school with many vulnerable students with additional health concerns, and therefore need to be vigilant with students who are displaying even minor symptoms.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility in working with these expectations at this time. Please see Natalie if you have any questions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Changed your phone number?
- Changed your address?
- Changed your Emergency Contact details?

Please ensure that the school has your latest contact information on file in case of emergency.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please ensure that the school has your child's updated medical information, health care plans and medication forms on site as soon as there is any change in the information.

CONSENT FORMS

Thank you to those families who have returned the 2022 Permissions & Medical Update forms. If you still need to complete your child's we would appreciate them returned asap so we can finalise our database.



Key Word Sign
Australia

POSTPONED

Term 2, 2022

Date to be Advised

This course will be available to interested parents - please contact the office for more info.

A Message to our Families



Just a quick note to introduce myself to all those new families to Riverland Special School.

It can be a bit of a roller coaster being the parent/caregiver of a child with special needs - I have a grandson with Down's Syndrome so I have some personal insight into the joys and the difficulties that families can face. I am more than willing to listen if you need someone to talk to, some one to vent your frustrations or simply someone to share with.

I can be contacted through the school and am at school on any day except Wednesdays. In the time I have been at the school I have come to realise how truly special and amazing our students and their families are! I have learnt so much which has assisted my own family in our journey with disability.

On another note, once again we are dealing with the consequences of Covid-19 and some of you are probably very concerned, confused and a little frustrated. Please keep in mind that myself, Natalie and Amy, and all the class teachers are here to help and support you in any way we can.

One of the practical ways in which I can support you is through the *Foodbank hub* - you may have seen a small purple and yellow truck driving around - this is a mini-supermarket which travels around the Riverland visiting some towns weekly and some fortnightly. Most normal supermarket items are available at a much reduced cost, with fruit, vegetables and bread being free of charge. If you would like further information please ring me at the school.

I look forward to catching up with our new parents/caregivers once COVID guidelines allow for school visits. Please keep in mind that we are here to help where we can. Look after yourselves and keep safe. Lesley.

*Lesley Heinrich
Pastoral Care Worker
Riverland Special School
Ph 8582 1258*



As a Pastoral Care Worker my role is to support the entire school community - Staff, Parents/Caregivers and students.

Thank you to those families who took the time to complete the online survey regarding our School Finish times and give us some feedback about the impact it has had on you.

After consideration and discussion at Governing Council, the school day times will remain as trialled this term for the remainder of the school year - please see below.

School Day Times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 8:30am to 3:10pm
Thursday - 8:30am to 2:20pm

Transport

IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

There are 2 types of transport assistance available to our families of students 6yrs & over.

Note: There is also requirements on distance.

1. **DIRECT ASSISTANCE** - Bus/Taxi transport requiring an ED039A form.
2. **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** - claimed at the end of each term & paid by EFT requiring an ED039SWD form.

To apply for either you will need to:

- ask our admin staff for an ED039A form to complete
- have TRANSPORT added to OR discussed with your NDIS planner so it can be included
- provide a copy of the page with your child's name, NDIS number & the current dates

PLEASE NOTE: Once we receive the completed paperwork from you we will forward it to Dept for Transport - Adelaide. There will be a minimum of 10 days to process the application and once this is done you will be notified of the bus run and times. If you require more information please see our school administration.

One (1) alternative address is allowed and if you require further information on this (ED039SWD) please speak to our school administration.

Reporting student absences:

For those times when your child will not be needing a pickup or drop off it is helpful if you could let the transport provider know in advance.

Phone

EXPRESS X

8213 6600

6am - 6pm

Monday - Friday

Bus Hours: press 2

Outside Bus Hours: press 1

Email: bookings@expressx.com.au

Phone

BUSBIZ

8586 6333

from 7:30am

OR

The driver's number that you have been given

LET'S GET RECYCLING!



Wonder Recycling Rewards is a fun and easy program we've created to collect and recycle bread bags at school*. Once collected, Wonder is going to turn the plastic into wonderful things like school play equipment!

Please collect your empty bread bags and send into school, to help us earn reward points to redeem for new sports equipment.

Please empty your bags of crumbs before sending them in! Thanks. :-)

New staff interviews by Hakea Class

Hakea Class have been interviewing the new staff at Riverland Special School. They created their own questions and emailed them to staff. Here are their interviews.

Mr. Brenden Cooper, Teacher

Interview by Patrick

1. What is your favourite food to eat?

I like many types of food, especially Asian food, but my very favourite is probably rice.

2. How do you like school this year?

School this year has been a bit challenging with COVID around but I'm really enjoying having my own class in Redgum.

3. Which schools did you go to when you were a child?

Blackwood Primary and Blackwood High

4. What band do you like?

I like many bands from The Beatles to Wussy. So far this year I've been listening a lot to Big Thief with their new record Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You.

5. Which movie or tv show do you like?

I'm still trying to finish watching Game of Thrones but I find it very stressful. Last year I really enjoyed watching Bridgerton and Sense8, none of which are appropriate for school kids.

6. What car do you like?

I'm not really into cars. My favourites are ones that will get me from A to B cheaply and reliably. I'm very happy with my old Hyundai Excel.



Mr. Luke Heuzenroeder, Teacher

Interview by Aidan.M

What's your favourite colour?

Blue

What's your favourite sport?

Football (AFL)

What's your favourite movie?

Star Wars: Clone Wars

What's your favourite band?

Metallica

Why did you become a teacher?

To inspire young people to achieve in whatever they do!

Where do you live?

Renmark



Miss Sarah Gaylard, Teacher

Interview by Hayden

1. Where do you live?

Berri

2. What is your favourite animal?

Dogs

3. What is your Favourite Colour?

Blue

4. Who is your favourite actor?

Jennifer Lawrence

5. When did you become a teacher?

This is my first year as a teacher!

6. Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher because of some great teachers I had when I was at school.



Shaun Kelly, Teacher

Interview by Patrick

1. What is your favourite food to eat?

I like to eat Beef Schnitzel with Pepper Gravy YUM!

2. How do you like school this year?

I am really enjoying my new experience in teaching at your school!

3. Which schools did you go to when you were a child?

I went to St Alberts Catholic School in Loxton, followed by Loxton High School.

4. What band do you like?

I like a few old school bands eg ACDC, The Angels, Dire Straits and U2.

5. Which movie or tv show do you like?

One of my favourite movies is Tango & Cash and TV show Yellowstone!

6. What car do you like?

Holdens for me! I had HK & HQ Monaros when I was younger. I wish I still owned them now!!



Steven Sullivan, SSO

Interview by Ethan

1. Where do you live? I live in Glossop

2. When did you start working at this school? I started doing odd days at the school in term four 2021, but have started doing a more permanent role in 2022.

3. What is your favorite sport, and do you play sport? My favourite sport is tricky one to decide on. I love Footy (Aussie Rules), Basketball, and also love Ice Hockey. I play Footy and Basketball.

4. Do you have a favorite movie? My favourite movie is Barnyard.

5. What car do drive? I drive a blue Toyota Camry.

6. Did had another job before coming to the school? I have had a lot of jobs before coming to the school. Probably too many.





Miss Greer, SSO
Interview by Ethan

1. Where do you live?

I live in Monash with my family.

2. When did you start working at this school?

I started working at the Riverland Special School in 2022.

3. What is your favorite sport, and do you play sport?

My favourite sport is netball and I might start playing again this year.

4. Do you have a favorite movie?

My favourite movie is Moana.

5. What car do drive?

I drive a Holden Astra.

6. Did had another job before coming to the school?

I worked at Monash Primary and Preschool for 4 years before starting at the Riverland Special School.

Miss McDonald, Teacher
Interview by Noah

What made you become a teacher?

Whilst working in childcare, I became curious about how children learn and how to be a better educator, so I decided to go to university and study teaching.

On my first prac, I loved it and I decided that I wanted to be in the classroom.

What do you think about teaching at the special school?

Everyone here is really kind and helpful and I am really impressed by the students.

What's your favourite movie?

My favourite movie is The Avengers.

Have you lived somewhere else other than the Riverland?

I have lived in Loxton, Seafood, Port Lincoln, Tumbly Bay, Clare, and Adelaide.

What's your favourite sport?

My favourite sport is volleyball.



Sharon Crocker, Admin SSO
Interview by Jasmine

Have you lived in any other state?

No, I have only lived in South Australia

What made you want to work office at school?

I use to work here when we were at the Loader street school, this was 10 years ago so I have always wanted to return and work with students, families and staff.

Disability is something that I have always aspired to and now I am here.

What your favourite tv show?

I love watching Married at First Sight at the moment.

How are you liking working our school so far?

I LOVE it it's the best decision I made!

What your favourite animal?

Dogs, I have two King Charles Cavaliers.

What you like do in your free time?

Nothing, sometimes my brain needs a rest from thinking.



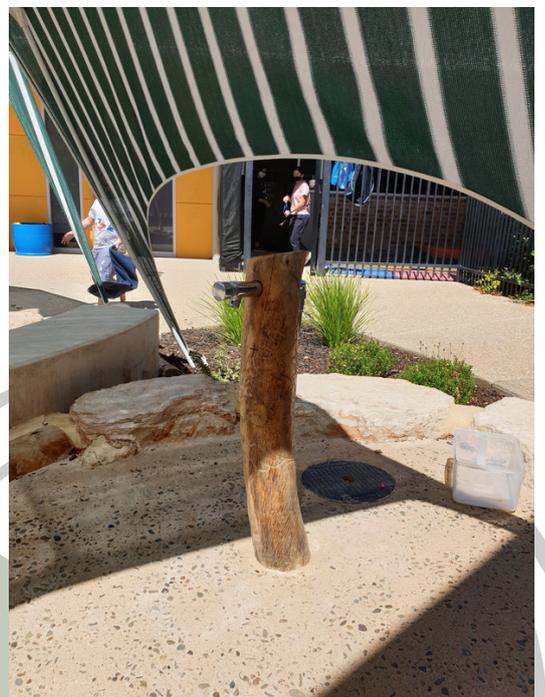
Welcome to
Mr David Krause
who is back
as a part of the
RSS team

as our Groundsman
for 2x days per week!





**our NEW
fencing and sand & water play area
is a winner with our students**





variety
the children's charity



Goodbye Maxi

THANK YOU VARIETY CLUB SA



THANK YOU

OUR SCHOOL HAS BENEFITED FROM THE SUPPORT OF **VARIETY CLUB SA** WITH THE DELIVERY OF OUR NEW TOYOTA COASTER BUS.

OUR PREVIOUS BUS FONDLY KNOWN AS 'THE MAXI' HAS BEEN IN SERVICE AT RSS SINCE 2007 AND WAS READY TO RETIRE.



Hello Coastie





COMMUNITY NOTICES

SPELD SA are heading to Barmera Primary School to run a number of free workshops. These workshops are designed for parents but educators are more than welcomed to attend.

(Participants will not receive a certificate of completion due to the workshops being free!)

Please use the link provided to check out the workshops available and register for a session or two! <https://www.speldsa.org.au/index.php?route=event/workshops>



MORE KIDS MEANS MORE TRAFFIC IN SCHOOL ZONES

LET'S KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE ON THE ROADS AROUND SCHOOL

- ◆ Stick to the signed speed limit
- ◆ Be aware of students distracted by phones and each other
- ◆ Be courteous and model responsible driver behaviours
- ◆ Use allocated drop off / pick up zones
- ◆ Encourage students to use designated road crossings

THINK! ROAD SAFETY

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAPM COMMUNITIES

Government of South Australia

MyTime
Supporting parents of children with disabilities

ARE YOU A PARENT OR CARER OF CHILD/REN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

MyTime is a **FREE** Program for mums, dads, grandparents and anyone caring for a child up to the age of 18 with a disability, chronic medical condition or developmental delay. The Program provides carers "time out" – to relax and socialise sharing ideas with others in similar situations, fun activities include massage, manicures, craft and more.

Berri MyTime Group
Wednesday, during school term, commencing 2nd February, 2022
(Fortnightly)
23-2-22
09-3-22
23-3-22
06-4-22

Time: 10.30am
Venue: Berri Golf Club, Outside deck area

FREE CRÈCHE
Available for children 0 – 5 years

For more information please contact:
Facilitator: Ruth Stokes
0423707817
or
Manager: Virginia Fusco
8159 9474

Government of South Australia
CR Health
Women's and Children's Health Network

DRIVE SLOWLY



Reminder: Please DRIVE SLOWLY entering the road and travelling through the main school gates for the safety of Riverland Special School and Berri Regional Secondary College staff and students. It is a shared road.