

Newsletter

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Annual Presentation Assembly

On Monday the school's Annual Presentation Assembly was held. This is the occasion where the major awards for the year are presented. Completion of Kindergarten, First in Course, Academic Excellence Awards, Citizen of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year, Champion House, Dux of the school. Each term we hold assemblies where effort and conduct is recognised through the accumulation of merit awards, but this occasion focuses on whole of year learning outcomes, community and sporting excellence. We have a range of special awards too, recognising leadership, all rounders and high achievement in particular learning areas. In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of prizes put forward by local families and businesses. Recent new awards included the Pawsey Bursary and the Evans Head Medical Centre Science Prize. Thank you to the many businesses and families that continue to support the young people of our community through establishing and supporting these prizes annually; a valued strength of our community school.

At this Assembly, our 2023 Primary Captains were inducted. Congratulations to the following students who will lead our Primary students in 2023:

- Junior Captains: Carlé Smith and Sunny Mackinnon
- Junior Vice-Captains: Lara Paschke and Carter Geoghegan
- SRC Members: Ayla Gill, Maesea Cooper, Theo Charters & Ryder Lodge



Departing staff

As we reach the end of the year we recognise staff that are moving on from our team.

Mr Adrian Delman is a specialist technology and applied studies teacher in our school. Mr Delman has supported many students to engage in these practical courses in particular the computing and electronics courses. He has led the growth of school computer and associated technology in our school and has enabled staff across the school to make the most of technology in teaching, learning and administration. Mr Delman has been behind the production of student academic reports and, more recently, the timetabling of the school. We congratulate Mr Delman on his promotion to the position of

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please be reminded that students are NOT to arrive at school before 8:30am as there is NO SUPERVISION prior to this time.



Diary

Diary	
Week 1 Term	<u>1, 2023 (Week B)</u>
23-25 Jan.	Holidays
26 Jan.	Australia Day (Public Holiday)
27 Jan.	Staff Development Day (No students)
Week 2 Term	<u>1, 2023 (Week A)</u>
30 Jan.	Staff Development Day
31 Jan.	Year 1-7, 11-12 return
31 Jan-6 Feb.	Kindergarten Best Start Assessments
1 Feb.	Year 8-10 return
Week 3 Term	<u>1, 2023 (Week B)</u>
7 Feb.	Kindergarten first day

Head Teacher Technology & Applied Studies at Southern Cross School of Distance Education. Thank you Adrian for your work and dedication to our students.

Mrs Sam Hawkey is a specialist HSIE teacher in our school. In addition to students achieving strong results in their work with Mrs Hawkey, she has been that teacher for many students – one of the 'go to' teachers, someone with understanding and a listening ear. Someone who genuinely cares. In my conversations with Sam and with students of her classes, her departure to the staff of Mullumbimby HS, will be felt. Thank you Sam for your work and dedication to our students. A lasting and positive mark has been left with many of our students.

Mrs Sue Hunter is a school learning support officer in our school. Mrs Hunter is taking a period of leave before retiring. Mrs Hunter has worked one-to-one, in small group and in class settings to see that each of our students has access to the learning programs offered, and has every opportunity to engage and grow through the school experiences. A remarkable sportsperson in her own right, she has been a wonderful mentor to our students. Thank you Sue for your work and dedication to our students.

Ms Tilly O'Connell is a school learning support officer at our school. She has worked with our younger students. Tilly's caring nature and deep understanding of each of the students with whom she has worked has led to much improved outcomes for the children. Thank you Tilly for your work and dedication to our students.

There are a number of members of staff that have been employed on a temporary basis that will be moving to day-to-day casual work in 2023.

New Staff Appointments

I am delighted to advise that following a merit selection process, Mr Kirt Swanbury has been offered and has accepted appointment to our school as Deputy Principal 7-12. As a substantive Deputy Principal, Mr Swanbury has had extensive periods as relieving Principal at The Rivers Secondary College Lismore High School campus. We look forward to Mr Swanbury joining our leadership team from the commencement of 2023.

Following a merit selection process Mr Josiah Hoyle has been appointed Head Teacher, Personal Development Health and Physical Education. Mr Hoyle is an existing member of our team leading the learning programs in PDHPE, sport and is currently leading the HSIE team. We congratulate Josiah on his promotion and look forward to his ongoing contribution to the leadership team of our school.

Mr Jeremy Burrows has been permanently appointed to our school as a Technology and Applied studies teacher. Before joining our team, he worked as a qualified electrician. He brings experiences in the world of trades work, something quite a number of our students aspire to in life beyond school. Mr Burrows shows a deep commitment to the wellbeing of our students and we look forward to his ongoing contribution to the learning and wellbeing programs of our school.

Italian Exchange 2023-24

The school is currently working to return to operation the Italian Exchange post the covid disruption. Subject to Departmental approval, students in Year 8 and 9 of 2023 will be offered the opportunity to host an Italian student for two weeks during September of 2023, then travel to Italy and be hosted by 'their' Italian in April of 2024. More details and an expression of interest form to come in early 2023. Students will be afforded the opportunity to make staged financial contributions through to late 2023 in order to fund their participation in the excursion to Italy in 2024.

The Anxiety Project

Our school has engaged with a highly worthwhile project focussed on the development of skills in recognising anxious behaviours and how best to respond to them. Training opportunities are provided to school leaders, teachers and learning support officers. Parents will also be offered the opportunity to engage in the learning. Research has shown that with relatively modest adjustments, improvement in academic and life outcomes for students can be achieved. The project operates over a two year period with data captured over that period to assess the impact of the intervention. A short survey is completed, at time intervals, to assess change. The identity of students is known only to school staff. The initiative addresses moderate to low levels of anxiety. For any students identified with more significant need, the school will be in touch with parents with a view to professional support.

Holiday Period

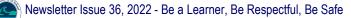
It's been a year like no other, but we have travelled this together and seen many step forward demonstrating qualities and skills not previously known. I hope the break is a safe one for you and filled with much quality time. We look forward to working with you for the benefit of each of our children in the coming year.

A Tribute to Schools' Resilience

Flood affected schools were recognised yesterday at a state ceremony for their role in community recovery and continuity of learning. Two of our senior students, Kimberleigh Lane and Kayla Plowman were there to receive our award.

Rob Walker - Principal





Buddy Readers Thank You

This year has been a very successful year for our Buddy Reading Program. We streamlined the program and upskilled our Big Buddies. Over the year, 38 students participated in the program and every single student has experienced success and growth in their



phonological knowledge. They have developed skills that enable them to decode new words with greater success. This in turn has seen many students develop greater fluency when reading.

The Big Buddies have demonstrated a great deal of perseverance as they have learned and applied new skills. Each of them has had a positive impact on the Little Buddies they have supported. It really is hard to measure the impact these Big Buddies have had on the future learning success of our Little Buddies. The staff are very grateful for the support they have provided our developing readers.

The Big Buddies were rewarded with regular merits and an end of year excursion. Due the weather, we went to the movies in Ballina and had a great day together.

Year 3-6 Rugby 7's

Last Thursday, Evans River in conjunction with Evans River Rugby Club hosted a Primary Schools Rugby 7's Gala Day for Stage 2 and 3. The event was attended by over 120 primary school students in our area. The day was split into 2 parts, with a Rugby skills session run by NSW Rugby in the morning followed by 7's Rugby games in the afternoon. Evans River entered 5 teams across the Stage 2 and 3 boys and girls competition. Everyone at the ground was given a great spectacle as all teams entertained the crowd with some free-flowing and hard-hitting Rugby. The best part of all was that everyone who participated in the day, left with a big smile and an experience they will cherish. Well done to everyone for the way you conducted yourself on the day as all games weer played with great sportsmanship.

Massive thankyou to all the teachers and support staff who helped organise teams and helped out with training at lunch times.

As the day was a huge success, we are looking at hosting a Primary Schools Cup in Term 1 next year and making this an annual event.





Sunflower Success

At the end of Term 3, Bunnings gifted our school with some sunflower seeds, some seed raising pots and seed raising soil tabs. We started with great hopes. The seedlings started out well on our classroom window sills and were sent home over the school holidays to be nurtured with great care. A small number returned having grown significantly over the holidays. We planted those young plants in our veggie garden and continued to nurture with care. We have learnt that growing can be tough. Some sunflowers were enjoyed by critters through the night leaving one resilient sunflower which has grown into a real beauty. We thank Dané Beytell



for bringing this sunflower back to school in such a healthy condition. It has brought a smile to many faces this term.

Chess Competition

A big congratulations to the winners of our chess and draughts competition:

- Year 8/9 Chess: Mia Hull
- Year 6 Chess: Randy Harris
- Year 5 Chess: Eric McKnoulty
- Year 2/3/4 Chess: Amara Alderman
- Draughts: Mahli Kapeen

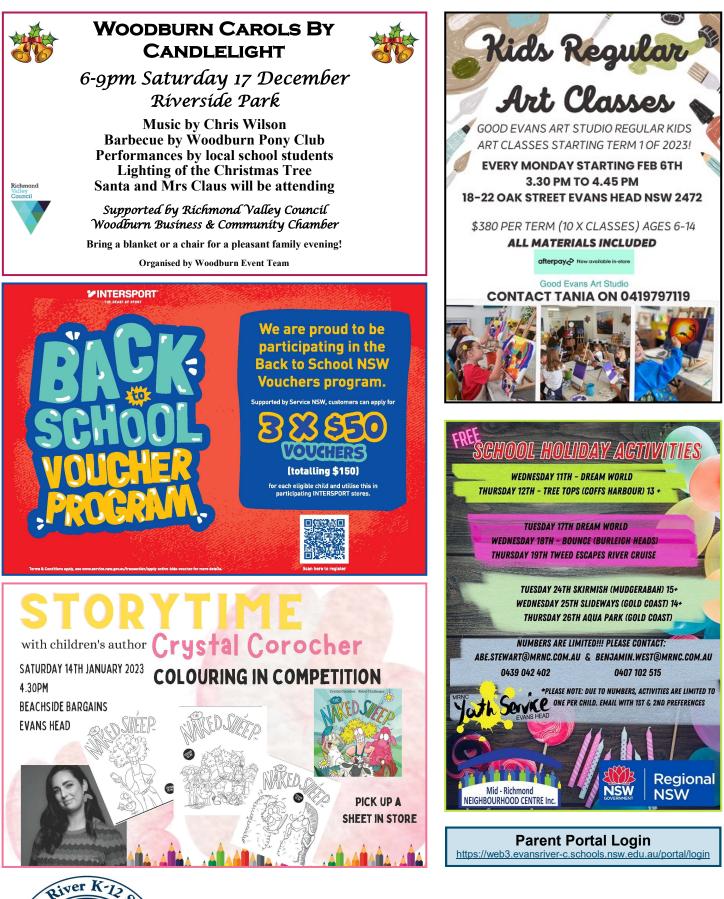
These students will receive a voucher for the school canteen. Thank you to Tatiana from the Canteen and the Library for sponsoring this competition.

Sporting Awards



Uniform Store 2023 Fridays 8:30-9:30am Performance Hall Eftpos Available * The Uniform Store will also be open Monday 30th January 9:00-11:00am for back to school needs







Principal: Rob Walker B:Ed:, M:Ed Email: evansriver-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au Website: www.evansriver.nsw.edu.au

Cypress Street, Evans Head NSW 2473 Phone: 02-6682 6666