From the Principal

**Staffing:** We have been very busy establishing a pool of teachers from whom we will be able to appoint to positions for 2016. This has involved reading the extensive number of applications, interviewing and assessing referee reports. I am very pleased to say that we have an outstanding group of applicants in our pool. We are currently working on our positions for the specialist areas Health and Physical Education and Music. Other staffing positions currently being finalised are Education Assistants and Cleaner in Charge.

**Building Hand Over:** Our handover of the building has been delayed from the 4th December to the 14th December. The office area will be moving into the new administration building during this week. We were hoping to be able to have an orientation of the school by then. Unfortunately, this will now not be able to happen this year. A date in January will be set aside. More details will be sent out to families before the end of the year.

**Kindergarten and Pre Primary Parent Meeting:** These meetings will be held on Thursday 10th December at the Baldivis Secondary College Lecture Theatre. Kindergarten Parents 9.30am to 10.45am and Pre Primary Parents at 11.00am to 11.45am. Details have been sent to the families of enrolled students.

Voluntary Contributions

Thank you so much to those families who have assisted the school by paying the voluntary contribution requested. The contributions allow us to supplement the funding received from the government so that our students have access to quality resources and consumables. We are all collecting voluntary contributions from families and are willing to accept part payments or payments negotiated over a period of time. The more of these contributions that we receive, the more resources we are able to direct to our students. Payment can be made in person at the office using cash, cheque (made payable to Rivergums Primary School) or via direct deposit into Rivergums Primary School’s bank account using the account details below.

BSB: 066 040 Account Number: 1990 3469

Please include your child’s name and room number in the reference box.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any queries in this regard.

From the Associate Principal: Jackie Huts

**Student Services**

Last week myself and the Executive Team met with staff from SDERA to discuss implementation of SDERA Chat at our school.

SDERA stands for “School Drug Education and Road Aware”. SDERA Chat is a Health Promotion program and a whole school approach to resilience, drug and road safety education. This program is aligned with the Western Australian Curriculum and meets the Health curriculum requirements for: Being healthy, safe and active; communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing and contributing to healthy and active communities. This important program will teach students from an early age about drug safety, road safety and how to be resilient. SDERA’S Chat Program will form an important part of our Pastoral Care approach and adds an additional element in preparing our children for the future.

From the Associate Principal: Kerryn Woodhouse

**Early Childhood and Curriculum**

In Early Childhood and Curriculum we have been working hard. Last week I attended professional development on Whole School implementation of Letters and Sounds (Synthetic Phonics). This was very insightful and cemented that Rivergums Primary School will have evidence based, data-driven programs that follow the teaching, learning and assessment cycle.

We have also been ordering innovative and contemporary resources to support student development in literacy, numeracy, science, history and geography, as well as early childhood.

A key feature of the Rivergums school culture will be collaborative planning between teachers within phases of learning. Teachers share ideas, resources and teaching strategies with their colleagues as a means to build the professional growth of the team.

We are really getting excited because we are able to see the incredible learning experiences the students at Rivergums Primary School will be able share in with teachers and school staff.