Dear Parents, Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014. What a great start to the year we have had! We are very pleased with the way in which ALL students have settled into our new school. Staff are also to be congratulated on the wonderful preparation and planning they put into place during the last week of 2013 and the school holidays.

We realise that many parents have not had a chance to have a look around the new site, however we will be holding an event in the not too distant future which will provide an opportunity for parents and friends to have a look around.

Traffic Flow
As you would be aware the management of traffic around the school in the morning and afternoon was a major concern for us all. This was one of the few conditions laid down in the Development Application with Maitland Council. I am very pleased with the way in which Assisted School Transport contractors and parents have assisted with this matter. Whilst there are a few improvements to be made, on the whole I am very pleased with the progress that has been made.

Could I please ask that everyone takes particular care when entering and exiting the school grounds, especially keeping a careful watch on pedestrian traffic using the footpath. As you would be aware, young children don’t always exhibit the levels of concentration necessary when arriving and leaving the school grounds. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Contacting Class Teachers
Good communication between parents, carers and teachers is vital for quality education to occur. We are more than happy for parents to make contact with their child’s class teacher, however, we do prefer that this communication occur outside of classroom hours. It can be a very busy time in the morning or afternoon for all classrooms and this is not the optimal time to be discussing your child with the teacher. All teachers have been provided with some relief from classroom duties. This equates to one day per fortnight. Executive staff have one day free from class duties each week. Could you please ask your child’s teacher what day is best for contact. If you have any concerns you should raise them with your class teacher or Stage Leader:

- Junior School  Amanda Worton  Tuesday
- Middle School  David Nevins  Monday
- Senior School  Tracey Rapson  Wednesday

Of course, please don’t hesitate to contact the school if you need to speak with someone urgently. We are more than happy to assist.

Sports Programs
Most stages of the school have started to organise sport for the term. Sometimes costs are involved in these sports, such as Ten Pin Bowling. If you are having difficulty meeting the weekly costs of these school activities, please let your class teacher know and funds may be available from the Student Assistance funds. We had over $2000 in unpaid sports fees last year and we cannot continue to cover these costs each year.

School Website
I encourage all parents to “check in” with the school website regularly. You will find some interesting information on the website, and many links that may assist you. The school newsletter is always uploaded after publication, so if you have misplaced your copy or want the extended family to know what is happening at the school, a copy can always be downloaded from the website.

We have also recently included a section under the “School” tab with links to our commonly used “useful forms” that can be downloaded. These include, Medication Forms, Student Assistance Application Forms, and Respite Notification Forms.

Please let us know if there are any other sections or pieces of information that you would like included on the website.

www.hunterrivc-s.schools.nsw.edu.au
Respite Notification Advice Form
As a result of quite a few frenzied phone calls in recent times, we are asking that all parents and carers provide the school with advanced notice regarding their child’s respite arrangements.

By providing this advice in advance, it will ensure that your child is sent home with the correct provider on the correct date.

We ask that you provide the following information;
- Dates of respite stay
- Name of the Agency or Provider (we will check these credentials before sending your child with anyone)
- Who is providing the transport; either Assisted Travel or the agency.
- Whether or not your child has medication in their overnight bag.

This will greatly assist with a smooth transition to respite.

I have attached a copy of this form to the Newsletter, you can request a “bundle” of forms from the Office, or you can download a copy from the school website.

School Contributions
As previously advised, Hunter River Community School does not charge any School Contribution Fees. We do however, ask for assistance with the purchase of class supplies; such as Scrap Books, Glue Sticks, Tissues etc. A big thank you to those parents and carers who have already contributed. If you would like to know what to purchase, please ask your class teacher who can advise you of appropriate supplies. Please be assured that all supplies stay directly with the classroom and do not go into general school supplies.

Assisted School Travel Users
Each year the Assisted School Travel Unit provides parents with a copy of the guidelines under which the scheme operates. Each year the school is asked to review those students receiving a service and nominate whether or not the service should continue. Parents and carers are also under an obligation to inform the Assisted Travel Unit of any change in circumstance.

Parents who are not eligible for the Assisted School Travel program may be eligible for the Private Vehicle Conveyancing Subsidy operated by the government. This subsidy assists with the costs of transporting your child to and from school each day. Application forms are available from the Office.

Could I also remind parents who receive this service that at least TWO WEEKS notice MUST be provided for any changes to be made, for example, change of address, change of After School Care details etc.

Assisted School Travel and Respite
Generally, students attending an ADHC Respite Service who currently receive Assisted School Transport, will be transported to the respite house, either on their usual run or on an alternative run. No application is necessary as the ADHC Respite coordinator directly liaises with Assisted Travel. This MAY NOT occur if the nature of the respite is an emergency or filling of a vacancy.

Students accessing an agency other than ADHC and would like Assisted School Travel to consider transporting their child who already receives a service, MUST provide the school with at least two weeks notice. Once the application has been made this will be then considered by Assisted Travel, and may not necessarily be granted, especially if there is no run available.

Nappies
We have a supply of extra small disposable nappies currently available for parents to take. These were recently donated to the school, and we encourage any parent, who has a child at the school, to take advantage of the offer.

Bunnings Barbecue
Thank you to the parents who have volunteered their time to help out at the Bunnings Barbecue this coming Sunday.
Any parents who may be in the vicinity of Bunnings on Sunday, please call in and avail yourself of a sizzling sausage sandwich!
Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of East Maitland who are running this fundraiser on behalf of the school.
Dear Parents/Carers,

We request that parents and carers inform the school when their child is attending Respite. To ensure a duty of care is provided for all children, and to rectify problems we have been having not knowing where the students are going from school and who will be picking them up, we ask that the following procedures are adhered to.

All respite bags are to be clearly labelled with your child’s name on the OUTSIDE.

This form is to be sent into school FULLY COMPLETED prior to your child attending respite.

If FULL INFORMATION is not provided to Hunter River Community School, your child may be inadvertently sent home on their regular transport.

Thank You

Ian Hughes
PRINCIPAL

RESPITE ADVICE FORM

(Please return via your child’s Communication Book or directly to the Office)

STUDENT’S NAME:.............................................................................................................

MEDICATION IN RESPITE BAG: Yes / No

DATES FOR RESPITE:
Commencing Date:………………….. am / pm   Concluding Date:……………………….. am / pm

NAME OF RESPITE PROVIDER:.............................................................................................

RESPITE CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:....................................................................................

TRANSPORT PROVIDED BY:.................................................................................................