



Hello families, carers, guardians and friends.

As this rather hectic 2023 draws to a close, it is good to reflect on this school year.

Our passion for teaching your children continues unabated. Every day is full of delightful moments and many small achievements that tell us our students are learning and growing and becoming more able. Sounds are becoming words are becoming sentences are becoming stories and all are becoming memories of learning at Riverside ESC. I would say it is not only our passion but our privilege to be part of each student's learning journey.

Our teaching and administration team continue to strive for improvement. I acknowledge everyone's contribution toward making this a great school. As one of our parents commented in the recent Parent Survey, "Riverside ESC has been the best environment for our son".

The Parent Survey is now published on our website under the "Our School" tab. Thank you to all who participated; we have learned much from your responses and will be incorporating what has emerged into our planning for 2024.

The Colour Run was a dazzling success and is always a popular event. It was great to see the turnout of families and carers in support of your children.

It is the end of the primary school learning journey for our Year 6 students, three of whom

enrolled with us in 2016. We are proud of all seven of you and your unique abilities and wish you well at the colleges of your choice.

2023 has seen the formation of our new school board. Next year, we look forward to introducing members to our community and to benefitting from their wisdom, experience and willingness to uphold our school.

Much energy is going in to preparing for 2024. Our teaching team is awaiting the outcome of a major grant application that if successful, will contribute mightily to our student assessment resources. A new classroom will be added. Some of our rooms will receive upgraded air-conditioning and improved ventilation.

Of course, it is not just our classroom teachers and EAs that make our school what it is. Our librarian, Michelle Flanigan, continues to delight our students with her knowledge and guidance. Jodie and the cleaning team are just fabulous, capably attending to the necessities of hygiene and property management, and Mark, our maintenance person and gardener, is contributing a sure hand, a positive attitude to problem solving and beds of colour to brighten everyone's day.

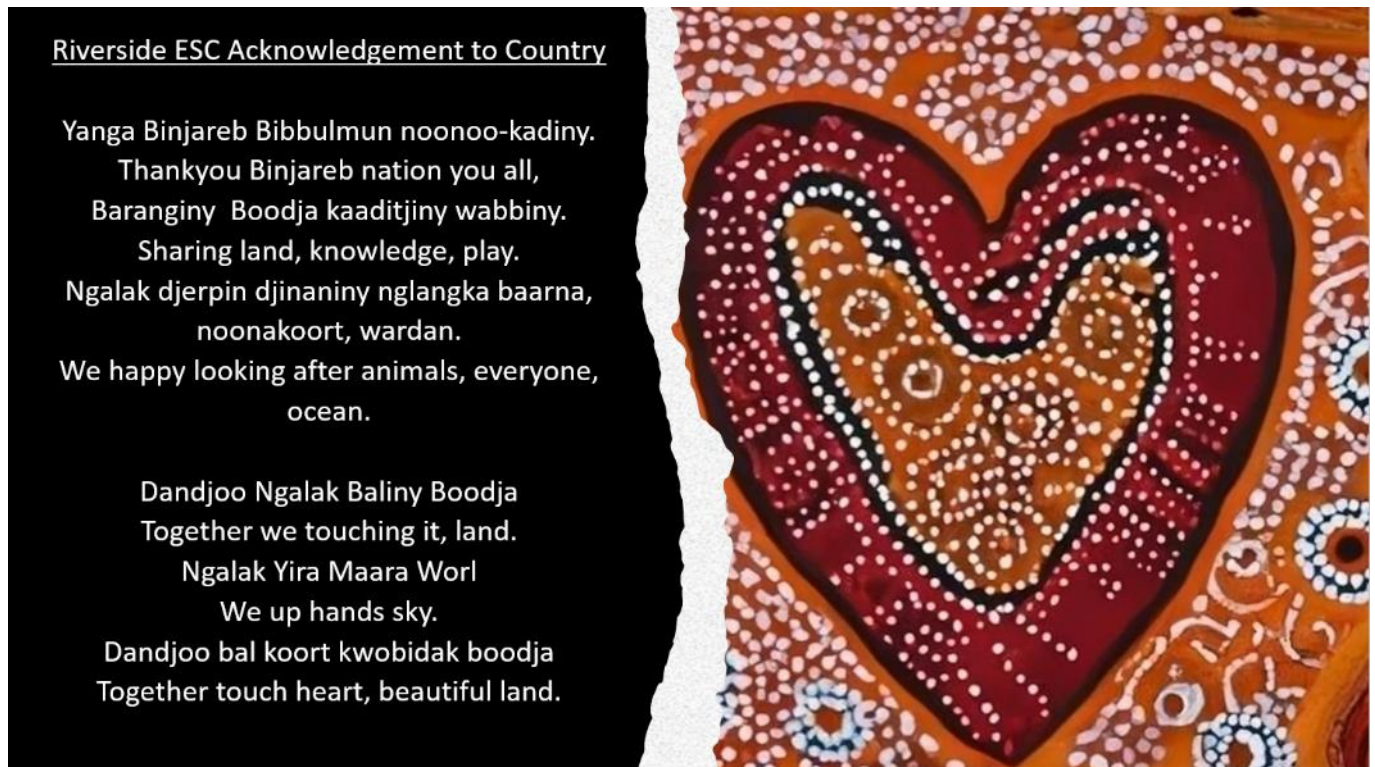
One small but important detail to close: starting date for students in 2024 is Wednesday 31st January. We look forward to seeing you then and wish for all of you a safe, joyful and relaxing summer with your children.

Best regards, Jim Douglas, Principal



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Riverside ESC is proud to publish our Acknowledgement to Country.



Riverside ESC Acknowledgement to Country

Yanga Binjareb Bibbulmun noonoo-kadiny.
 Thankyou Binjareb nation you all,
 Baranginy Boodja kaaditjiny wabbiny.
 Sharing land, knowledge, play.
 Ngalak djerpin djinaniny nglangka baarna,
 noonakoort, wardan.
 We happy looking after animals, everyone,
 ocean.

Dandjoo Ngalak Baliny Boodja
 Together we touching it, land.
 Ngalak Yira Maara Worl
 We up hands sky.
 Dandjoo bal koort kwobidak boodja
 Together touch heart, beautiful land.

This acknowledgement has been prepared by Riverside Schools AIEO, Jemma Hilzinger.

RIVERSIDE ESC'S AMAZING FRONT OFFICE TEAM

We extend a huge thank you on behalf of the school community to Janet and Tara, our office team, for your amazing commitment. You make a huge difference in everyone's lives by managing the always-busy office with such grace, poise, warmth and occasional bit of humour. We are very lucky to have you here at the school.

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

It is that time of year when we pause to consider those families and individuals in our Mandurah community less fortunate than ourselves.

The closure date for contributions is December 12. Hampers will be delivered to the Bridge Builders collection point by Chaplain Jacky Creelman on Wednesday December 13.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

2023

Dec 08 Year 6 Graduation Ceremony
 Dec 14 Last day of school for 2023
 Jan 29 School Office opens

2024

Jan 31 Students commence school
 Mar 29 Good Friday, Term 1 school holidays

ROOM 31

Hello to all parents and carers associated with Room 31,

This term has seen changes in Room 31. Mr Webber has been unwell and unable to continue teaching his much-loved students through to the end of term 4. I have the privilege of standing in for him with these very special little people, selected in part because I have previously assisted with relief teaching and the students know me. Continuity and consistency are our goals wherever possible, aiming to present them with familiar routines and a familiar face. I must say it has been very enjoyable for both me and for the children.

We have been experimenting with amazing recipes for Wombat Stew and Possum Magic creations.

The children are enjoying copying their name, writing numbers and fishing for letters and are progressing both socially and educationally. Please enjoy this selection of photos of some of our activities.



We are all looking forward to our much-deserved Christmas break.

Mrs Sharon Delaporte

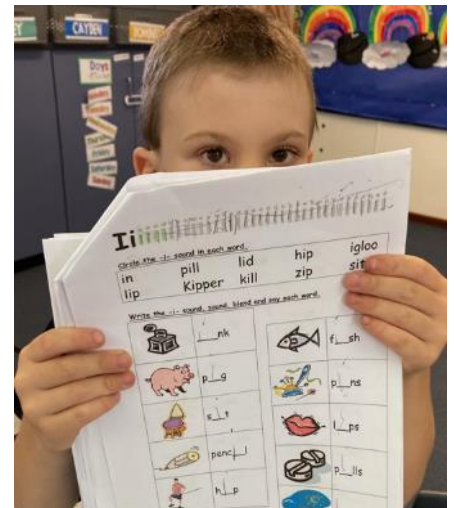
ROOM 32

What an amazing year we have had in Room 32! We have learned so much and been lucky enough to host pre-service teachers and education assistants over the year, including Miss Cassy, Mrs Arthur and Miss Grace.



This term we have continued to explore sea and land animals and complete some information sheets on the life cycle of hens and butterflies.

It has been amazing to observe all students make significant progress in their reading and writing over the year. Feelings of pride and excitement are clear to see in the faces of students showing off their hard work.



Term 3 & 4 have included work on Digital Technologies and our students have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Bee-Bots as well as using some different apps on the iPad, including Rocket Speller. The concentration and joy are clear to see on each the students faces below.

With Christmas and the holiday period drawing ever closer, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a safe and happy break. We look forward to seeing you again in the new year, refreshed and ready for another amazing year at Riverside Education Support Centre.

Tanya Wardle



ROOM 11

It is hard to believe it is already the end of 2023!

Room 11 are finishing the year by balancing learning with fun. We are continuing our learning routine while enjoying some Christmas activities and increased sensory play. We have loved creating a Christmas hamper box together. To align with the Christmas movie we watched as a class, we decided to make the Polar Express. We painted some boxes and paper plates, and have stuck it all together to look just like the Polar Express itself! Our families have very generously donated lots of goodies to go inside it.

Horse riding has come to a finish. The students got to ride around outside of the arena for our last week and went on a treasure hunt to find Christmas ornaments. They then decorated a real-life Christmas tree with the ornaments, while seated on the horse. A couple of Room 11 students also attended a special family day at horse riding to celebrate the end of the year. They attended this on a Saturday with their families, which allowed parents and siblings to join in some fun activities and see where their child has been horse riding this semester.



Students participating in Digital Technology time using Bee Bots.



Sophia and Ruby dressed up for careers day.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the families of Room 11. It was a different sort of year with a change of teacher halfway through, but it was made so much easier due to the support given by the families. It has been absolute pleasure teaching in Room 11 this semester.



Room 11 enjoyed some outside time when painting our Polar Express Christmas hamper box.

All the best for 2024!!

Mrs. Arthur

ROOM 19

Hello families and carers,

It is nearly the end of the year, time has flown by and it has been a thoroughly enjoyable and productive year in Room 19.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people. Firstly, to my education assistants – a fantastic group of ladies who have supported both myself and the students and just generally make classroom life fun and easy.

A special mention must go to the parents. Thank you for 'loaning' me your most precious gifts this year. They are amazing little people. It has been my absolute privilege to have been able to play a small part in their education.

And finally, to the 10 munchkins who make up Room 19. What a journey we have had together. You have made every day challenging, interesting and fun ... and the best job in the world. Good luck to all of you who are moving to new classrooms next year, I am sure you will bring as much joy to your new teachers as you have to me.

Wishing staff, families and especially our awesome students a wonderful Christmas.



Michelle Anderson

NOONGAR STORIES

Noongar Stories in the Noongar garden has been taking place every Tuesday at lunchtimes for all koolung (children) to attend. The children have been learning language during this time and creation stories that often have a good moral in the story to impart wise lessons and advice.

Many of the stories this term have been focused on our birds (djerap) such as the following:

Waalitj – the eagle
 Koolbardie – the magpie
 Wardong – the crow
 Djar Djar – the fairy wren
 Djiti Djiti – the willy wag tail
 Kaa Kaa – the kookaburra
 Manatj – the white cockatoo
 Doornart – the 28 parrot
 Karak – the red tail black cockatoo

The children then do a learning activity after the story time. It is so pleasing that we have strong numbers attending the Noongar garden for Noongar story and language time.



ROOM 36



Left: Riley dressed up as a DJ

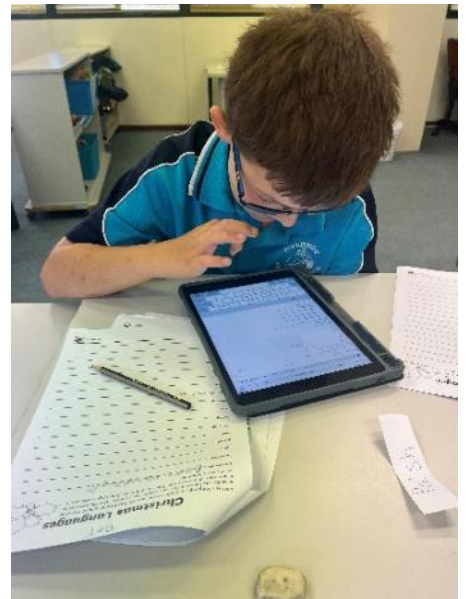
Middle: Valli dressed up as a Hairdresser

Right: Ashton dressed up as a Soccer Player

Hello to all parents, families, and carers of children in Room 36.

We have had a very busy and exciting Term 4 so far with many special events happening around the school. On Thursday the 16th of November, Riverside Schools had a special day for the students to dress up as their dream job. The students in Room 36 loved this idea and enjoyed getting to dress up as different professions ranging from a Police Officer to an AFL player.

This term, the students have been excited for the inclusion of Christmas activities into their learning, whether this is completing Christmas art activities or having Christmas integrated into their learning. So far, the students have completed many Christmas Dot-to-Dots, colouring-ins, and word searches in their free time. They have also made Christmas party poppers and their very own Christmas trees during in-class art activities.



Mitchell using google translate to convert English Christmas words into the Polish translation.

They particularly enjoyed our Digital Technology lesson where the students learnt how to use Google Translate to convert English Christmas words into a different language, where each student randomly selected a different language (such as French, Afrikaans,

Italian, etc.). The students found it very funny and enjoyed getting to learn what words were similar to the English translation and what words were different.

We hope all students and their families have a lovely school holiday and a Merry Christmas.

Miss Terry, Mrs Scott, and Mrs Mullin



ROOM 37

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers of Room 37 Students,

As we near the end of the semester, it is hard to believe another year has almost drawn to a close. It has been a pleasure to teach the students in Rm 37 and connect with parents and caregivers during this time. The students in Room 37 have worked hard this semester and it has been wonderful to see the progress they have made.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank all the dedicated staff in Rm 37 who have provided the support to students so they can work to the best of their ability.

As a class we have had fun innovating our Talk for Writing story the Gingerbread Man, the students have created some interesting and creative new characters and settings. In Maths we have been focusing on money and addition and subtraction. Additionally, we have started our Christmas craft activities, which the students are thoroughly enjoying.



On Friday 1st December, we had 'Move Up'. Students were given the opportunity to visit their new classrooms as well as meet their new classmates for 2024. These sessions were held in the morning before recess and students had the opportunity to participate in some fun and

engaging activities.

Exciting news: the Zen Zone in the primary school has been completed and is now available for all students. This sensory room has been accessed by students in Room 37, providing a valuable resource.



The staff from Room 37 wish all the students and their families an enjoyable and safe summer holidays.

Mrs Stewart, Miss Tonkin, Mrs Hanney, Mrs Somerton

ROOM 10

Hello parents, guardians and carers,

The school year is coming to an end and the students have had a very rich and fulfilling year, showing such enthusiasm to learn and as a result they have achieved amazing success.

In week 6, some students were fortunate to attend camp at Fairbridge. The students enjoyed a giant swing, rock climbing, mini golf, and orienteering throughout the beautiful landscape. Students saw rabbits, peacocks, kangaroos, and an abundance of birds. They participated in archery, where they showed their skills using a bow and arrow. It was a lot of fun and the students who attended joined in, tried new activities and food and behaved beautifully!



In these last weeks, the students have been practicing their sentence writing by retelling events in their lives and creating stories. They have been enjoying playing games, such as Checkers, Chess and Uno and many Christmas activities.



In health, the students have been learning about safe secrets, consent, and cyberbullying. As many of the students use social media platforms and access the internet, it is important for them to learn about how to communicate positively with others and what to do if they feel unsafe when online.

The Year 6 students are getting ready for high school and have enjoyed their transition experiences to their new schools. The year 5's have visited their 2024 classrooms and teachers, and discovered who their new classmates will be.

I thank each student for the wonderful year that we have had. I wish you all the very best for 2024!

Enjoy your well-deserved holiday.

Mrs Blockley, Mrs Medlam, Miss Hamilton-Roberts, Mrs Reid

ROOM 33

Welcome families to Term 4.

For our final newsletter, I would like to start by saying how lucky I have been to come to Riverside ESC this year and get the opportunity to teach your amazing children. The students in Room 33 have worked so hard over the year and have also been lucky to have some fun times too.

Some of the fun activities the students in



Room 33 love about school this year are the Bike Track, cooking, the sensory activities, and craft lessons.

I am so proud of how hard every child in the class has worked. I am even more proud of their efforts to take risks and achieve some 'firsts'. The students have tried new food (and liked it!), and gone to events that can be scary, but these have been fun and taking these risks have let them learn more. The students have made more friends and been able to show off just how clever they really are!

The staff in Room 33 would like to take this opportunity to say Merry Christmas to all the Riverside ESC families and we look forward to seeing you all safe and healthy back again in 2024.

Mrs Sadler, Mrs Brown and Mrs Vincent

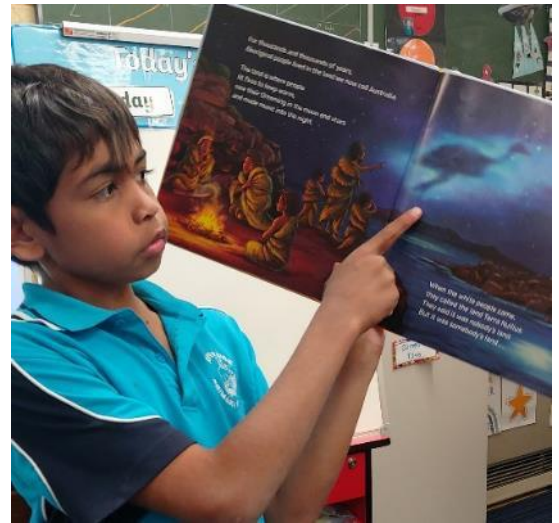


ROOM 4

Hello everyone.

What an exciting year Room 4 have had! It has been a pleasure to teach such a wonderful class.

Thank you to all the students for their hard work over the whole year. It has been amazing to see their progress both academically and socially. As always, it is a privilege to observe what students have achieved through the hard work or earlier teachers and EAs, and to build on those outcomes in Year 6. Each student's growing maturity, social development and academic progress is a testament to all the teachers and EAs at our school.



Jeriley is reading his favourite book about the Emu in the sky.



Term 4 has been a very busy term, including the most exciting event on our calendar this year which was the senior camp to Fairbridge Village in Pinjarra. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves doing lots of exciting activities. See our separate article later in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Sean (left), our star reader who has made the most leaps of progress. Sean has moved up from a Level 3 PM reading book to a Level 10 PM reading book in one year. What a huge leap of progress! We are all so proud of your progress.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support throughout the year. Have a safe summer holiday.



Mrs Gibson, Mrs Shepherd, Miss Raabe, Mrs Carey

SCIENCE update

Greetings parents, carers and guardians,

It's hard to believe that we're already in the final weeks of Term 4. This term has been filled with different experiments, assessments, and exceptional work by everyone. I'm grateful for the hard work and achievements of each and every one of our students.

The junior years have been learning about movement and forces and have been applying their knowledge to better understand how animals and people move. Pictured right is an example of Jai from Room 32 diligently sorting pictures of animals based on how they move.



The middle years have been extending their understanding of contact and non-contact forces by applying their knowledge to new ideas and experiments. One experiment consisted of students creating and designing their own bridges made from drinking straws and cardboard. The students were tested on how much weight their bridges could hold. It's great to see our students applying their understanding to new ideas, to develop their scientific knowledge of physical science further.

Congratulations to Valli (right) for winning the bridge challenge in Room 36! What an impressive achievement.



Our senior years have finished their shoebox mansions, complete with an electrical circuit that includes a light switch and a lightbulb for their rooms. The mansions included theatre rooms, super garages, bathrooms, kitchens and bedrooms. Seeing our senior students applying their knowledge to hands-on creative projects has been impressive.



Room 4 (left) poses proudly with their class shoebox mansion featuring bedrooms, a butler's pantry, a kitchen, a lounge room, a garage and a bathroom.

Congratulations, scientists, on a fabulous year of science!

I would like to extend my thanks to our education assistants for their ongoing support and dedication to creating positive learning environments. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sophia Lewis, Teacher

THE ARTS update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's been a busy, energetic, and fun term of dance, and it's hard to believe that we're almost at the end.

I'm pleased to say that all our students worked hard towards their goals and I'm continually impressed with their creativity, motivation and commitment to their weekly classes.

Our classes have now finished their "Dance Around the World" and "Dance Through the Decades" programs. It was heartening to see students excited to participate in their pretend weekly mystery flight and learn new dances from across the world. Meanwhile, other classes enjoyed travelling in our pretend time machine. Students found great joy in observing the transformation of dance styles over the decades, all while gaining knowledge about the dancers who pioneered these styles.

Classrooms successfully completed their dance unit with a cheerful Christmas-themed dance program that included interactive dance games and activities. The program also featured an exciting "Dance on Screen" segment, which focused on popular musicals on Broadway such as "The Grinch" and "Elf."

Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and dedication throughout the semester. Keep shining and keep dancing!

I would also like to express my gratitude to the education assistants for creating a safe dance environment and sharing their dance moves. Your support has been invaluable, and we are all thankful for your efforts.

I would like to wish all students and their families a happy and safe holiday break and I look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Sophia Lewis, Teacher



Excitement filled room 4 as students eagerly await the mystery destination for their Dance Around the World program.

MOVING IN THE HOLIDAYS?

Your address is important to us for maintaining accurate school records. Please let us know if your child will begin the 2024 school year from a new address.

Also, if your child travels to school by bus and you are moving, you must reapply for transport assistance as soon as possible. Go to <https://www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au/> to apply online. Do this by 15 December 2023 to secure an available seat for start of Term 1, 2024.

Riverside ESC Year 5-6 Camp

Our year 5/6 camp was a huge success. We went to Fairbridge Village and stayed overnight. For most of our students, it was their first time away from home. All the students behaved beautifully and made all of the Riverside ESC staff very proud.



Archery

All of the students enjoyed firing arrows at targets during our archery lessons. Paige and Curtis made their arrows go the furthest and Hunter hit closest to the bullseye.

Orienteering

Our next activity was orienteering. The students were given a map of the whole of camp. The students had to figure out which way was North and find where they were on the map. They had to solve riddles and clues to complete a puzzle. Well done to Noah, Curtis and Espen's team who won the challenge and solved the most clues. The students had so much fun on our bush walk discovering many interesting facts about the campsite.



Giant Swing

Our next activity was a big climb up through the trees onto a very high platform. Some of the students made it to this platform, and we were very proud of their achievement.

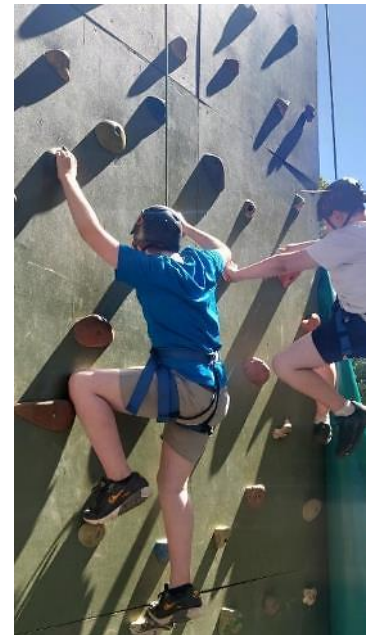
If you look closely, you can see Noah flying the trees at tremendous speed. Congratulations to Noah who made the best Tarzan noise and managed to catch one of the teddy bear targets mid-flight!

Rock Climbing

Our next activity was a rock-climbing wall challenge. Wow! What an achievement! All the students made it to the rock-climbing wall and set themselves a personal height goal. Congratulations to Espen who made it the highest first- he set the bar extremely



high, and everyone was determined to try and beat him. Our fastest climber was Jeriley, and our most determined climber was Curtis. We were all so proud of all of the students for participating. Even the staff had a try!



Mini Golf and Bubbles

Our next activity was mini golf. The students enjoyed a beautiful bush walk through a winding pathway to our mini golf putting green. The students enjoyed trying to hit the ball the least amount of times. Well done to Hunter- a natural golfer, who was helping everyone to control the ball. Meanwhile, Ronnie, relaxing in the shade, provided bubble ambiance for us all.



At night-time, the students enjoyed reading stories, telling legends, playing tabletop soccer, playing with dolls and tabletop Tetris. We played playdoh and enjoyed colouring in. The next day, the students enjoyed axe throwing, playing parachute games, collecting materials for our art project and having a beautiful picnic. All these activities were provided for by our Year 5/6 Café profits.

During our camp, the students enjoyed seeing all of the magnificent wildlife that Fairbridge has to offer. There were fantastic peacocks, many kangaroos, beautiful butterflies and amazing birds to watch. The students absolutely loved the bush walks and studying the night life.

Thank you to all of the students for your excellent behaviour during the camp. It was a huge success.



Mandurah has lots of activities on during the summer holiday period and you can be sure to find something to engage your children and the whole family.

Take a visit to the City of Mandurah [What's On](#) webpage, insert your search criteria (such as choosing an age range to suit your child) and go and explore.

Or simply take time out at the beach or the foreshore or the skate park or Quarry Park. Enjoy your summer. Create your story.

For children aged 11 to 15, check out the City of Mandurah program at mandurah.wa.gov.au/-/media/files/com/downloads/community/programs-and-activities/school-holiday-guide.pdf All events are free but some require registration beforehand so make sure to check program details to avoid disappointment.

MARC School Holiday Club

MARC's School Holiday Club—a whirlwind of fun and fitness designed to ensure your kids have a blast while you enjoy some well-deserved "me" time at the MARC or sneak in a workout.

Gear up for a fantastic holiday filled with activities tailored to each week's exciting theme. The School Holiday Club at the MARC is the ultimate solution for a lively and engaging break for your kids, allowing you the peace of mind to relax and recharge. Join us for an unforgettable holiday experience!

Weekly Themes: Week 1 (2nd - 5th Jan): Min it to Win it.
 Week 2 (8th - 12th Jan): Sensory
 Week 3 (15th - 19th Jan): Lots to Learn
 Week 4 (22nd - 25th Jan): Belonging in the Community

Time: 8:45 am - 11:00 am

Location: MARC Courts

Cost: \$5.40 per visit: Pay as you go for each visit. 3 Passes for \$10.50: Grab three passes in one go and save!

Go to: mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar/recreation-centres/school-holiday-club for more details.