From the Principal’s Desk

This is the last week of Term 1 and Year 12’s are effectively one third of the way through the teaching year, a sobering thought! I had the opportunity on Monday to attend the DECD Leaders Day, at which we were addressed by the Minister for Education, the CEO and 2 world renowned educational researchers. One of the key messages was that “learning is based on what we don’t know.” Ideas arising from this included a need to focus on progress from what we don’t know to new learning. This values the distance travelled or improvement in student learning. Historically, schools have concentrated on achievement levels rather than progress rates. Interestingly one of the groups who have not been well-served by this are some high achieving students. These students are often given feedback that they are achieving at high standards - they get an “A” or a high score in NAPLAN or whatever other test, but they are not challenged to continue their growth/progress. In this way a grade of “A” becomes limiting to progress and potentially the student “cruses”.

The alternative to this is the idea of academic stretch for all students, continually challenging students to make progress. At RHS we have introduced over the last year or so, the idea of “+1 success criteria” - moving students from their current level of achievement to the next highest level.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful break over the holidays.

David Crouch
Principal

RYPEN Experience

Last weekend 3 RHS students: Shikiba, Hannah and Holly attended the Suraysia Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment at Lake Cullulleraine. RYPEN is a leadership skills building program for teenagers aged 14 - 17 years. They left Renmark on Friday 8th of April and returned on Sunday afternoon.

The three students participated in team work and leadership building activities and enjoyed the weekend greatly. All mentioned it to be “an experience of a lifetime”.

“I enjoyed meeting new people and listening to the speakers talk about leadership. The highlight for me was Alysha Herrmann talking about public speaking.” - Holly

“You go in having no idea as to what to expect but you leave with leadership, public speaking and communication skills as well as friendships that will last a lifetime.” - Shikiba

“The highlight was definitely the people! I learnt that if you want to change something you have to aim high and if you fail, that’s just going to make you stronger.” - Hannah

Upcoming events

Week 11
Fri 15/4 Last Day of Term 1
2.30pm Departure

Term 2
Week 1
Sun 1/5 Year 11 Outdoor Ed.
Surf Trip Depart
Mon 2/5 First day of Term 2
Wed 4/5 Awards Ceremony Chaffey Theatre

Week 2
Mon 9/5 Parent Teacher Interviews

Please note that Parent Teacher interviews are to be held in Week 2 of 2nd Term Monday 9th May.

Can you help?

The School Production class requires donations of any 1980's clothing for males and females to suit daywear or prom attire. This may include t-shirts, stone wash denim, hypercolour items, lace, netting, thin leather ties, ra-ra skirts, fluo coloured clothing, leggings, coloured suits, frills and gloves.

Think Madonna, Michael Jackson or Mel and Kim.
If you are able to help, donations can be delivered to the front office or to Wendy Matulic or Tara Camilleri.

Wendy Matulic
**Year 10 Adventure PE Fishing**

During this term students from the year 10 Adventure PE class participated in three fishing sessions during their double lessons. They were very successful in catching a variety of fish, including Silver Perch, Redfin, Callop and Carp. The class also learnt the rules and regulations of fishing in the Murray River and were taught how to make a basic fishing line.

Mark Thiele

**Stage 2 Outdoor Education Kayaking expedition**

As part of the Stage 2 Outdoor Education course the class was expected to take part in a 3 day kayak expedition. For an experience in which the students have not participated in before, they decided to paddle across Lake Bonney before reaching Chambers Creek and other creeks including Loch Luna. The group were assessed on their paddling technique, minimal impact camping, navigation, leadership and team work.

Aaron Camplin

**Aboriginal Family Day**

Recently Renmark High joined with Renmark Primary School to meet with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families during a barbecue at the Skate Park. We enjoyed a range of activities and games and the tug-of-war gave our students the chance to test their strength.

Thank you to all of our families who were able to attend and particular thanks to Chris Laxton and Vikkie Taylor, our Aboriginal Community Education Officers, for organising the event. Thanks also to Woolworths Renmark for providing the food and the Murray Pioneer for this great photograph.

Keryn French - AET

**Premier’s Reading Challenge 2016**

All students have the opportunity, particularly in Years 8-9 to participate in this year’s Premier’s Reading Challenge. The challenge is designed to encourage students to both enjoy and read a wide variety of books. It runs from the beginning of this year until the 9th September during which time students are encouraged to read 4 titles from the Premier’s Reading Challenge book list and 8 of their own choice. The challenge is supported and promoted through the library.

Students in years 10-12 can also participate by reading 12 books of their own choice. The type of award students receive depends on how many years they have participated in the challenge. They range from a certificate to a variety of medals and, for the first time this year, a Reader for Life Gold Award. The book list and student reading records are available in the library but also via the library website at http://renmarkhhs.sa.libguides.com/library. For further information please contact me at the school.

Mandy Smith
Teacher Librarian