Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of Renmark High School

Welcome back to Term 2!

Acknowledging Improvement

At the assembly on Monday morning we acknowledged the improvement in learning of a group of students. These students were those in the top 25% of improvement in NAPLAN from year 7 to year 9. This is a significant achievement for these students. In many ways it is the growth in learning over extended periods, the distance travelled, that is important in the long run. Students who are achieving at higher levels but are stationary in their learning are at risk of not fulfilling their potential.

We have also made a decision that we will acknowledge the 2016 group of achievers, based on growth from year 7 to year 9, at this year’s Presentation Night.

NAPLAN TESTING

Next week is the NAPLAN testing program. You are strongly urged to have your child participate in this program and do their best. They too could earn an acknowledgement award at Presentation Night!

We are increasingly involving students in their own data and before long you will be able to see your child’s data through the Daymap Parent Portal. Students for example, will review their own NAPLAN data to set new learning goals and to better understand themselves as learners. It is not possible to use the information if students do not do the test or don’t do it to the best of their ability.

Partnerships Review

One of the recent innovations in education in SA has been the formation of “Partnerships”, groups of schools that work together on issues of mutual benefit, based on three big ideas:

- Catering for students from birth to 18 in an holistic, seamless and continuous way.
- Identifying excellent practices and standardising these across schools, within our local context.
- Sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise between schools.

Yesterday, the Renmark Partnership was reviewed, by Education Department senior officers. The focus of the review is to look at our data sets (SACE Results, NAPLAN results across years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are examples). Outcomes include a series of recommendations that inform our Partnership Plan and feed into our school’s Improvement Plan. This then drives our Professional learning program, staffing and resourcing decisions.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

You are strongly encouraged to attend the parent teacher interviews this coming Monday night. This is true for all parents and is not just a “conversation about concerns.” Key questions that you could ask are “What steps can we collectively take to improve learning?” and “What processes are in place to extend my child’s learning?” even if they are achieving at high levels. If you are interested in logging on to Daymap Connect (reference: the sheet sent home with reports) we will run a series of demonstrations between 3:30 and 7:30 (on the half hour) to show you how to access this.

If you wish to attend, please contact Stacey at the front office to book. It is definitely not too late.

David Crouch, Principal

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Week 1, Term 2
Friday, May 6
2016

Upcoming events

Week 2
Mon 9/5 Parent Teacher Interviews
Tues 10/5 NAPLAN
Wed 11/5 NAPLAN
Thur 12/5 NAPLAN
Thur 12/5 School Pride / Grounds Committee meeting, 7:00pm
Fri 13/5 Year 8/9 Social, 7:00pm

Week 3
Mon 16/5 Language Perfect Launch Night
Mon 16/5 Governing Council, 7:30pm
Wed 18/5 RHS Cross Country

Week 4
Mon 23/5 France School Trip Information Evening

Week 5
Tues 31/5 Interschool Cross Country
Fri 3/6 Year 8 Immunisations

Hello from Pammy

Welcome back from holidays and welcome to Term 2. I wonder what interesting new things you are going to discover this term. I went to our school Assembly this morning and after listening to the Principal and Assistant Principal finish speaking I left feeling so proud to be a small part of this school. The encouragement to be a proud representative of Renmark High was just one example of how much our school culture is growing and changing for the better. As I looked at the cohort of students dressed in school uniform and saw them listening with respect but also with interest at what was being said, I again felt so glad to be a part of Renmark High School. I am looking forward to this term and am here for all students, staff and families of the Renmark High community.

Pammy, CPW
In Brief

Student Representative Council
At a recent assembly SRC students were presented with their badges and introduced to the school body. The first official SRC event is the Year 8 - 9 Social.

School Pride Grounds Committee
There is to be a School Pride Grounds Committee meeting in the conference room at 7.00pm on Thursday 12th May. We welcome all interested newcomers.

Governing Council
The next meeting of Governing Council will be Monday 16th May commencing at 7:30. Parents are welcome to attend and observe.

Canteen
The school canteen continues to offer a comprehensive range of healthy food options at very affordable prices. Eftpos facilities are also available.

Long-standing Records Broken
Taneesha - U14 Shot Put 9.55m, beating the old record by 21cm (L.Steed 2003)
Brooke - U20 1500m 5:03.8 breaking the old record (T.Johnson 1986, 5:12.35)
Brooke - U20 800m 2:25.35 breaking the old record (J.Mumme 1976, 2:29.4)

RHS Students Participate in ANZAC Day Events
On Anzac Day 2016, I participated in the Student Development Program sponsored by the Berri War Memorial. I was chosen to participate from my Army Cadet Unit in Berri. I went with two chaperones and one Air Force cadet. I flew to Canberra on the 22nd of April and spent 5 days there. On Anzac Day we woke up at 3 o’clock in the morning to go to the Dawn service at the Australian War Memorial then later that day had responsibilities at the Woden Valley RSL (who also supported the Student Development Program). Following this we were sent to the Australian War Memorial once more to participate in the Canberra Anzac Day march as flag bearers for the Woden Valley RSL. The ceremony after the march was very interesting and eye-opening. So many stories were told. We spent the rest of the day wandering through the War Memorial and discovering more and more about war each time we turned a corner. The experience of this program was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me and I loved every single part of it and I would happily do it all again.

Uniform
I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to check their children’s uniform and its compliance with our stated policies. The uniform is an important and visible sign of our identity as a community. Renmark High certainly appreciates the needs of the individual – we spend most of our time engaging with students individually, catering for their needs, but we also have an appreciation of the benefits to students to feel a sense of belonging to something larger than themselves. Uniform is an obvious, easy and time honoured way to do this. Wearing the appropriate uniform and wearing it well remains an important part of our culture and where you are able to help us in this regard it is most appreciated.

To support students and families from Week 2, all students who are out of school uniform will be sent to see Miss Evans each morning. Here they will be assisted to get into uniform by being lent a school jumper for the day. We will also make contact with parents to assist with support for our policy.

Amy Evans, Assistant Principal

Year 8 Drama Fairytale Characters
During the last week of term 1, year 8 Drama students performed to a large audience consisting of year 8-10 students. They performed fairytale’s of Cinderella, Snow White, Jack and the Beanstalk and The 3 Pigs. During the term students focused their learning around stage etiquette, voice, movement, team work, confidence, interpreting a script, characterization, organization of costumes and props, themes and style. Students always get a huge buzz from performing in front of a live audience and it was wonderful for them to see how their learning over the term came together. I am always over whelmed by students wanting other groups to do well during their performances. As a result they will always volunteer to fill in for those students that are absent on the day. All students did their best and were successful. They learnt their lines, performed confidently to an audience and had fun doing it. A great achievement.

Wendy Matulic