From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

Calendar
With this edition of the newsletter is a Term 2 Calendar, as a new initiative. We are trying to give you some advance notice about school events to aid in your planning and hope that you put the calendar on your fridge. The plan is to include this with the end of term report package in future. Schools are however, very dynamic places and things change. The school calendar on the website is “live” and will reflect changes and additions.

Facebook
We have approximately 1300 likes on this page, so many of you will be viewing it already. If you haven’t liked our page (Renmark High School Official), please consider doing so. This is the source of the latest news and information and many quality photographs. We also post our newsletter to our Facebook Page.

Uniform
I recently had a visitor in the school during a break. We stood in the middle of the quadrangle of the school. A 360 degree rotation identified that EVERY student was in school uniform. Chance? I think not. This comes about with the support of our students, parents, staff and community, not chance.

SRC Social
The SRC Year 8 and 9 Social is on this Friday night, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. What a great initiative of the SRC to organise this event. We certainly look forward to students dressing in the theme of “Horror” – appropriate for the date of Friday 13th!

Contacting me
You can contact me on: david.crouch859@schools.sa.edu.au if you wish to do this directly on any matter.

David Crouch
Principal

Attendance
Thank you to families for supporting our school by ensuring students attend school every day and in a timely fashion. International research demonstrates a direct link between student learning and attendance. At Renmark High we are committed to providing our students with high quality learning experiences. When students miss all, or part, of a school day they miss out on opportunities to engage with their learning. It might be easy to think that missing 15 minutes of school a day won’t make a difference, but even skipping Care Group each morning means that a student has lost 75 minutes of learning opportunities in a week. Which equates to about 2 weeks of missed learning in a year! DECD has set a goal of 95% attendance rate for all students in schools. Our Term 1 attendance data shows that we have a way to go to meet this target. Please assist us to reach our target and support your child’s learning by encouraging attendance and contacting our school when your child is absent from school for any reason.

Kirralee Baldock
Deputy Principal

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
Thur 2/6 World Challenge Parent Information Evening
Fri 3/6 Year 8 Immunisations

Week 6
Wed 8/6 SRC Excursion
Thur 9/6 Adelaide Cross Country
Fri 10/6 Student Free Day

RENMARK HIGH SCHOOL FLEXISPACEnThe Flexispace is a new initiative of Renmark High School which aims to provide students with wellbeing and academic support. The counsellors have shifted into this new area (former A18) with the intention of helping individual and/or groups of students to build routines, positive habits and patterns with their learning. The goal for the newly developed space is to have students learning and participating in a variety of programs that fulfill individual needs and to provide students with case-management to ensure that students are supported wholistically. This is a place for all students. Please feel free to pop in a say hello and check out the developing space.

Tamara Hooper
Busy Behind the Scenes
This year the Student Representative Council (SRC) has been busily working behind the scenes to make a difference. An enthusiastic group of over 25 students has been working collaboratively to improve life for RHS students. At our recent induction assembly students were presented with their 2016 SRC badges and the wider student population gained an understanding of the value of this group.
Most recently, the SRC has been organising the Year 8 and 9 Social, which will take place on Friday the 13th of May in the school’s gym. This event provides students with an opportunity to socialise with their peers in a safe and entertaining atmosphere. The SRC has worked collaboratively with the Renmark-Paringa Council, Blue-light Disco and SAPOL to organise this event.
Next for the SRC is a focus on idea generation and new projects for 2016. In our regular Tuesday lunchtime meetings, early suggestions have included the facilitation of more lunchtime activities, new uniform options and improving student facilities.
In the coming weeks the SRC will participate in a development day at the council chambers to build leadership skills and develop an action plan for 2016.
Simon Turk

Learning in the Landscape
This term Year 9 students are participating in a unit of work that integrates the Science and HASS curricula. In this project based learning approach, students will gain skills and knowledge in biology and geography studies.
To date students have visited the McCormick Centre, where they learnt about wetland conservation at Calperum Station and the methods used to monitor the health of wetlands. They have also had the opportunity to visit Banrock Station and see the importance of maintaining a healthy and sustainable wetland as well as the benefits of eco-tourism to the region.
In the coming weeks students will apply their classroom and external learning experiences to our local Bookmark Creek wetland. They will be working in small teams to devise a sustainable plan for the future and present ideas that will increase its profile as an asset to our community and people who visit the region.
Simon Turk, HASS Coordinator

SAPOL Road Safety program – The Fatal 5
This week in Beyond Tomorrow year 11 students were privileged to be part of a very powerful and interactive road safety program presented by SAPOL called The Fatal 5. The purpose of this program is to raise students’ levels of awareness around staying safe on the road.
It discusses road safety issues, including the causes of road crashes such as fatigue, alcohol and drugs, speed, risk-taking, peer pressure and driver attitudes, and ways to reduce the risk of becoming a crash statistic. One particularly powerful aspect covered the emotional experience of the presenter, when he was required to knock on a family’s door to inform parents of the death of their child in a car accident. He asked the students to reflect on this in the context of their family. This was very powerful in influencing the decision making of students around risk taking behaviour on our roads.
Marina Pater, Year 11 Coordinator

Hello from Pammy
Hope your week is going well and that the wintry weather is not too harsh for anyone. Personally I enjoy rugging up in the cold weather, with an open fire and yummy hot comfort food in the evenings.
It’s Volunteers Week and I just want to say what a wonderful job all those amazing volunteers in all areas of the community do. They are quiet heroes who just go about doing things for their community, generally without making a big fuss and quite often without being noticed.
Pammy - PCW