From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

The Future of Work:

I recently attended a workshop on Innovation in Education which addressed the changing nature of the workforce, in particular under the influence of technology and globalisation. Up until now, the impacts have largely involved repetitive unskilled jobs, which have been automated or moved overseas. The next wave in this field is involving computers “exercising judgement” in skilled sectors of the workplace. This has a marked impact on schools and what they teach. The potential is that the education sector will train students for vocations that subsequently disappear.

This is timely for us, with the recent announcement of $2.5M funding to develop a Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) facility at Renmark High School. Why STEM? Because this is the field that government has identified as being the area for future job growth and developing skill sets required for us as a nation.

It is essential that we establish this new facility from the point of view of developing these skills in our students. These skills include innovation, creativity, critical thinking, adaptability to new situations and change, flexibility, digital capability, intercultural understanding and more. The latest announcement is, for us, not only about a new facility per se, but is about how we use the new facility to teach students the skills that they need to prepare them for a very dynamic future work environment. This includes identifying these future high value skills, changing the way, and the what we teach rather than being seduced by the idea of a bright shiny new resource, which may not meet the future needs of our students.

It is also interesting to reflect on these developments in light of the work being undertaken in the Enterprise Academy, in particular the skill sets being developed in innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and problem solving – some of the very same skills identified as high value in the discussion above.

David Crouch
Principal

Welcome to Ilyasi Suraji, who is replacing Jasmine Tassios for Term 3, and welcome back to Narinder Riar who is returning after maternity leave.

Welcome to our Adelaide University Pre-service Students

This week RHS hosted 10 Pre-service students which allows university students to get first hand experience of teaching and life in the country. This experience will, we hope, make it more likely that they will apply to teach in rural and regional schools in their futures and make it easier to recruit quality teachers in our schools.

In Brief

Thanks to the Renmark Lion’s Club for their recent donation of $600 to our school.

Future Planning Expo Evening
RHS Expo is a chance for parents and students to meet staff and ask questions about subjects and curriculum for 2017. Put this year’s Expo date in your calendar; Wednesday 17th August starting at 5.30pm. Not to be missed.

Year 10 Work Experience
PLP work experience will be week 7 this term.

Student Absence
Thank you to parents who are ringing the school or providing written notes to explain reasons for their child’s absence from school.

Donations
We are still accepting donations of items of school uniform. Donations can be left at Student Services.

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Pedal Prix

This weekend 5 of our senior girls; Imogen, Le-Tesha, Adele, Sarah and Sumandip will travel to Adelaide to compete in the six hour Pedal Prix race at Victoria Park. This week the girls completed preparations, adding stickers to their bike. The girls had a ‘crash course’ from Wayne from Tri-State Graphics, who was able to give them tips on applying stickers. The results are impressive!

We would like to thank our major sponsors Gay and Wayne Woosnam from Tri-State Graphics. A big thank you also goes to Jim Roberts for training the girls and for his expertise with the bike mechanics and Smiths Fabrications for the donation of our new headrest.

Alison Coleman
Health and PD Coordinator

Enterprise Academy News

This semester the Renmark High School – Enterprise Academy will return bigger and better. We have a Year 10 and 11 class participating in the E-Challenge including Waikerie and Glossop students. This program will be delivered by the Adelaide University at the Renmark TAFE.

In addition to the E-Challenge there will be 12 – 14 Year 11 students completing a Certificate 3 in Micro-Business. These students were last year’s E-Challenge students. This will be a 7 day commitment, which will run on three separate blocks of time over the semester.

Simon Turk
Enterprise Teacher

ABW Final Results

In Week 10 of Term 2, Year 11 students enjoyed learning about all the aspects of running a business.

This year the business simulation was in the hospitality industry. Some of the student comments to describe their experience included: ‘realistic’, ‘not like our normal school life’, ‘very interactive program, interesting, involving, good way to learn’, ‘the program has given me an insight into business and hidden costs’, ‘our report should include our experience, explain processes we worked through, how we made our decisions with regard to our financial management.’

The results were evenly spread, with each award being won by a different company:

- Computer Simulation - Hotel Dormir
- Trade Display - The Amity
- Written Company Report - Caribbean Royale
- Video Commercial - Empire
- Oral Presentation and Overall Winners - Tranquility.

Thank you to our mentors and presenters from businesses in the community who were generous in giving their time and expertise and in doing so help to make this program an invaluable learning experience for our students. A special thank you to Dave and Glenys Benda who are the prime organisers of the event and to staff who mentor this in addition to their normal duties, at what is for all, a very busy time of the year.

Youth Opportunities

This is a term program for approximately 18 Year 10 students that will run on Mondays beginning Week 2 at Renmark TAFE. It is run by Youth Opportunities trainers and it includes goal planning, development of successful habits, understanding motivation, win/win communication techniques, fostering a positive attitude improving self-esteem and personal leadership.

The Youth Opportunities program is a valued RHS off site program.

Mandy Smith
Youth Opportunities Staff Contact