Tournament of Minds (TOM) is a problem solving programme for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. Teams solve challenges from a choice of four disciplines. Tournament of Minds is one of the fastest growing international school programmes with the involvement of thousands of participants. TOM aims to enhance the potential of our youth by developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a competitive environment.

This year under the guidance of Ms Paroz, our gifted and talented roll call students entered 3 teams.


Language Literature team: Alyssa James, Ines Rueda, Tushita Sheoran, Molly Malone, Ashley O’Loughlan, Taylah Middleton, Caitlin Ramondetta.

Congratulations to the winning Social Sciences team who made it to the State competition!

Mrs James
(Head Teacher CAPA / GAT co-ordinator)
Farewell Year 12

We will be farewelling our Year 12 students for 2013 this term and wish them all the best for their coming HSC examinations early next term. It is through hard work, persistence and some encouragement along the way that you are able to achieve at the highest levels and perform at your personal best.

While I have been in this school for a very short time, it is very clear that the majority of our Year 12 students are fine young men and women who will carve out a positive future for themselves and continue the traditions of excellence at Robert Townson High School.

Senior Leaders

Our senior leaders presented themselves to the whole school staff to make the case for why they each would be excellent ambassadors for the school in the role of Captain or Vice Captain. Mr Kapitanow has worked steadily with our senior leaders through the year on developing their skills and each student was a credit to themselves and their family and all would have been excellent choices for those highest roles.

I would like to congratulate the following students on their election as Captain or Vice Captain. We have expressed to all the immense responsibility and privilege it is to hold a leadership position in the school.

Captains: Khalid al-Najjar and Shamieka Dubois

Vice Captains: Rebecca Fowell and Cameron Rodgers

Senior Leaders:

Geraldine Borland Alisha Douglas Matthew Hudson
Nicole Bowden Manal Hallal Grant Lewis
Emma Costello Melissa Holt (School Ambassador) Jessica Mavroidis
Janice Crouch Shontelle Hourigan Ryan Roumieh

Tournament of the Minds

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the Tournament of the Minds competition and thank you to Ms Paroz and Mr Essex who gave them brilliant support. Very special congratulations to our Tournament of the Minds Drama group who won their way through to the State Championships held at the University of New South Wales on 8th September. They performed brilliantly and were fine ambassadors for our school. Our State finalists were Kaylin Alexander, Luke Blayden, Emilia Bulloch, Bailey Dymitriw, Celina Touma, Tara O’Brien and CJ El Esber

Safe Schools

Schools are some of the safest places in the community however given that we put around 850 young people together on relatively small premises there are times when things go wrong. It is absolutely important for students to report issues of concern to us so that we can do our best to avert problems before they occur.

The classroom teacher is the first point of call, followed by the Year Adviser, Head Teacher Welfare (or Head teacher of a particular subject if the issue is confined to a particular class), Deputy Principal and finally the Principal in the most serious and persistent of these cases.

We will not tolerate violence of any sort, physical, verbal or non-verbal and will give appropriate negative consequences to those students who engage in anti-social behaviours. These consequences may range from warnings in less serious and isolated cases through to suspension in the more serious and ongoing cases that we deal with.

Drama Night

On Wednesday 4th September, our Drama students performed for a large audience and showed how talented and insightful they are in considering and dramatizing current events. The different performances brought the audience from laughter to tears in some very moving pieces. Ms Stevenson and Ms Wood have put in a phenomenal effort to get students ready for the night and they made sure the night progressed smoothly and with great success.

Year 10 Formal

A number of parents have contacted us about a Year 10 Formal event. This is not affiliated with our school and some students are organising it outside of the school. It is a privately organised function, NO teachers will be attending and the school will not be responsible for the actions of any person attending, or for consequences. I am not advising parents or students to avoid the function and I have no reason to believe that it will not be properly conducted. My only concern is that parents are aware that it is a private function and the school plays no part in its organisation.
Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 8, 10, 12)

I congratulate our Year 12 as they complete their schooling and enter final preparations for the HSC. As a group I have grown to appreciate their intelligence and good nature. Despite earlier years of teenage difficulty our graduating class are a credit to themselves and their parents.

On a disappointing note I must report that a number of Year 10 and Year 8 students have recently been suspended from school for aggressive acts. A school is a safe learning environment and we must act when students act in a way that puts the health and safety of others in jeopardy. I appreciate the support of parents in helping develop these young people into responsible citizens.

As term 4 approaches years 7 – 10 are reminded that yearly examinations will be important in placing students in appropriate classes in 2014. Do your best!

Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 7, 9, 11)

Best wishes to Year 11 students as they work through their end-of-course examinations. Term 4 will see them at the beginning of their HSC course and final year of secondary education through to 2014.

Special congratulations go to Katelyn Wassell in Year 12 and her family. Katelyn received a Queens Scout Award in August and I was fortunate enough to attend the ceremony. To achieve this award in Scouting is an incredible feat; some have said it is more difficult than the Duke of Edinburgh Award! It has taken a lot of time and effort (years, in fact) for Katelyn to achieve this award. I was amazed at the portfolios of work that she produced. As part of this award a Venturer Scout has to display exceptional skills of leadership and planning in a particular area. For Katelyn, her chosen area was Outdoor Activities, where she was involved in organising and leading three day camps and hikes for a pack of Venturer Scouts. The photo below shows Katelyn and her very proud father at the award ceremony.

Part of our work with students includes preparing them for the world of work. This can include work experience in blocks of time or more regularly such as one day per week. Many of our students have worked their way through various TAFE courses, work experience and volunteering activities to prepare themselves for paid employment and/or further education and training. Should you need further information about such options for your child please contact Mr Bannura in Careers or Mrs Chapman.

Not only have students been involved in community activities and volunteering, some of our staff members gave up time to help out the Zonta Club of Macarthur recently, prepare birthing kits for underdeveloped nations and sew cushions for people with breast cancer. Many thanks to Mrs Gray, Mrs R.Wright and relatives of teachers who turned up to help. Mrs Hogan and daughters Kate and Liz are shown below busy at work on the day.
Maths and Science Expo

On Friday the 2nd of August, students from years 8, 9 and 10 along with Mrs Sandhu and Mr Sakic attended the Maths and Science Expo at the UWS Parramatta campus. The first session of the day we watched a video about maths and science. Then we watched power points and listen to speakers talk about why we might be interest in being a scientist. We had a break and were allowed to look at different displays about maths and science. The second part of the day we watched fascinating experiments, they chose students to volunteer and help. The day was very interesting and was a great learning opportunity.

By Luke Martino

Our experience there was amazing. Mind blowing experiments such as using music to test the sound waves through flames and testing air pressure with a floating basketball were shown there. Lots of high school students turned up at the University. We would love to go again next year.

By Joshua Virgona, Bonnie Kuru and Zach Fullgrabe

Year 10 Research Projects

During Week 8 of the Term commencing from the 2nd of September, all Year 10 science students of Robert Townson High School will be given a research project booklet. These booklets are to be taken home and signed by the Year 10 student and parent or guardian. All students in NSW High Schools are required to do a research task as part of the Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) Science Course. The research project requires students to undertake a scientific investigation of their choice. The project will go for a total of 4 school weeks (plus 2 weeks holidays) with students doing almost all of the work at home. The final project is due on the 14th of October, though students are required to show their teachers their research project log books at the beginning of every week until the final due date. This task is worth 15% of their total yearly mark.

Year 9 and 10 Homework Books

By this stage all year 10 students in Science would have received their second homework book based on all the topics they will be studying. Year 9 students will have received homework books for all of their topics covered so far this year. Students will gradually be expected to complete the booklet as homework book directed by their individual class teachers. It is important that students attempt the homework book.

Mr P Sakic
Head Teacher Science
Seniors:
For our senior students, school is taking quite a serious turn this month. Year 11 students are preparing for their first major exam – the Preliminary Finals. For Standard and Advanced students that means two, two-hour exams, and for Ext 1 students, an extra 1 hour exam. Studies students have a one hour exam.
And of course it is the final chance for our Year 12 students to finish their courses and revise for their HSC. They have the exam pattern as Year 11, except that Studies students have no HSC exam, so they are smiling! Another person I’m sure will be smiling is Daniel Bezett whose Ext 2 course was completed with the submission of his Major Work – no exam!
Students and teachers will make arrangements for revision and study over the holidays, and students are of course welcome to visit teachers at school next term prior to their exams.
Best of luck to all.

Juniors:
Since last semester students in many faculty areas, including ours, have had access to new laptop computers held in charging cabinets or trolleys. Junior students who won’t be part of the laptop rollout program are gaining great benefit from this quick and easy access to such resources. A wide variety of activities have been made easier or are now possible in a classroom rather than having to gain access to a computer.

Junior final assessments take place in term 4.

Library

The end of term three already! Hasn’t time flown? The winners of the CBC 2013 awards have been announced. Margo Lanagan’s Sea Hearts was the winner of the Older Readers category, The Children of the King by Sonya Hartnett won Younger Readers and the Picture Book of the Year was The Coat by Ron Brooks and Julie Hunt. The Crichton Award which recognises new talent in the field of book illustration went to A Forest by Marc Martin. The winners and most of the nominated books are available for borrowing from the school library.
The school holidays are nearly here so don’t forget students are able to borrow for the holidays, which is the perfect opportunity to spend some time reading. Don’t forget to check the Library page on the school website for information about the latest items added to the library collection.

Year twelve finish formal classes at the end of term three, but are all still welcome to use the school library and all its resources until they have finished exams and signed out of school. If there is anything Year 12 students need to help with study please come to the library and ask.
Keep reading!

Mrs Hogan
We are very excited to see our Hearing Impaired Unit has expanded with our three new students. Welcome Stacye, Kelvin and Vaticana! For the last few weeks, we’ve had exciting events happening.

**Multicultural Day**

We have been doing out drumming rehearsals for the big event, Multicultural Day and the students did a fantastic performance, not only once, but twice! Well done Mrs Morris and the HIU students.

**13th Margo Allen National Deaf Netball Club Championships**

What an amazing achievement after many months of training and persistence to play brilliantly at the netball games! The Varroville Vixens team came 5th in the finals and Matilda Petelo received the ‘Rising Star Player’ award. Congratulations Veronica, Chloe, Mondine, Matilda, Crystal, Stacye and Kehani. The girls would like to thank Mrs Petelo who volunteered to coach the team, Mrs Williams who assisted to interpret during the games, and Mrs Bradley who is the manager for the team. Nova Employment, Lions Club, Campbelltown RSL and other organisations have sponsored the team with funds covered for accommodation, registration fees, transport and uniforms. Thank you for the support for giving the team a wonderful opportunity to play at the NDNCC.

*Over the next few weeks and during Term 4:*

- The HIU drumming band will be doing a performance for the International Deaf Festival on Saturday, 19 October at Darling Harbour.

- The students will be showcasing their artwork for Centenary Afternoon Tea at Sydney Town Hall. It is a school art competition with a theme of ‘Celebrating 100 years: Technology and Friends’.

- Some of our HIU students will be performing for School Spectacular on 29 and 30 November. This is an exciting experience to participate in with all other schools!

Our lovely Year 12 student, Peta Cairnduff will be graduating at the end of this term. Congratulations Peta! Wishing you the best of luck from all of us.

Gemma Beasley  
Teacher—HIU

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**Year 12 Graduation**  
**Wednesday, 18 September**  
**7.00pm in the school hall**

**Year 12 Formal**  
**Thursday, 19 September**
On Thursday, 29th of August, Robert Townson High School celebrated Multicultural Day. Teachers wore orange or traditional clothing and some students wore multicultural day t-shirts.

The sausage sizzle was a success with many students and teachers helping to raise funds. Students also had the opportunity to try traditional food.

A formal assembly was held in the hall with many great performances representing a variety of cultures. Multicultural Day was a huge success celebrating the cultural diversity at our school and around the community.

Elise Jones (year 9)
On Tuesday and Wednesday in week 7, Year 9 Peer Leaders attended two days of leadership training at Teen Ranch in Cobbitty. We were challenged with things like hikes, abseiling, rock climbing, log climbing, high ropes, and were taught bush skills. The time was fun and interactive. We bonded as a group and were able to trust each other a lot more by the end of the experience. We look forward to working together more and helping the new Year 7 students fit into high school life as much as possible!

By Jasmine Haddad (Year 9)
Year 10 and 11 students enjoying some practical activities at the National Gallery in Canberra, after having a tour guide by the gallery educators and viewing the Lichtenstein and Turner exhibitions.

Mrs James
Head Teacher Creative & Performing Arts

A rhino calf has just been delivered from Taronga Zoo to Robert Townson High School! Ms Woods year 8 art class will be designing and decorating the rhino while learning the importance of conservation. This involves a videoconference with some rhino keepers from the zoo. Once painted, the rhino will be displayed around Sydney to promote the cause of conservation.

Mrs James
HSC Visual Artworks
HSC Industrial Arts projects
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<td>18 Lion King excursion Yr 9, 10 &amp; 11 CAPA classes</td>
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Too many students are ringing their parents directly to pick them up from school when they are unwell. This causes unnecessary disruption to classes and frustration for parents when they arrive and are kept waiting while the child is sent for.

Correct procedures for Sick Bay are as follows:

- The students inform their teachers they are unwell and the teacher will send them to the office with a note to be admitted to sick bay.
- The office staff will log the information into our sick bay register and will contact you.
- If your children ring you directly, please encourage them to follow the correct procedures.