Student Representative Council

The Student Representative Council (SRC) plays an important role in our school community. It allows our school community. It allows our student body to have a voice and provides endless opportunities to participate in team building and Leadership workshops, actively contribute at youth forums and develop fundamental organisational skills through fundraising events and volunteering projects.

Each year our SRC grows bigger and better and this year is no exception. This includes the addition of 2 new staff members to our SRC team. We welcome Miss Beeten and Miss Golowiecki.

Our newly elected Student Representative Council for 2014 is:

Year 7  Sakeena Nguyen and Tiana Hoban
Year 8  Robert Rodgers, Tara O’Brien and Olyvia Milligan
Year 9  Aaliyah Campos, Madison Hutton, Logan Neilson and Taylor Ropata
Year 10 Natalie Fink, Kimberley Betts, Rebekah Dematos, Ra’ees Kruyer, Ali Al-Najjar, Lashanna Reys and Shaun Yelkovan
Year 11 Caitlin Ramondetta (President), Luke Blayden (Vice President), Vanessa Hooper, Celina Touma, Emilia Bulloch, April Walker, Amberly Moers, Elijah Mannah and Taylah Middleton (Treasurer).

We look forward to working with you and are excited about a productive year ahead.

Mrs Griffiths, Miss Beeten and Miss Golowiecki
Welcome back and a special welcome to parents new to the school. I have just returned from 6 months working in head office and I have benefited greatly from the experience, some of which is being implemented already. My special thanks goes to Mr Leon Weatherstone who was relieving Principal in my absence. The transition back to my position was relatively seamless.

I would like to welcome Mrs Suzan Erenbay to our teaching staff. Mrs Erenbay replaces Mrs Prelsand who has moved to another school. Though all staffing positions have been filled, our involvement in the new school financing system (called RAM) has resulted in our school receiving extra funding that will be used to improve our student literacy performance and to better engage a number of disengaged students who maybe effecting the learning of others. I will be employing staff into these positions before the end of term.

There is a strong push to get all students into the correct uniform. There will be articles to this effect within so I will not repeat them here. I will continue to support parents who maybe experiencing financial difficulties so please do not let money be the reason your child is not wearing the correct uniform. Student subgroups are trying to look different and “special” by wearing certain items (this year it is draw string boardy style pants). Please work with teachers to ensure all students are the same.

We only have 4 Year 7 classes this year. This is half of the number we had in 2002 when I arrived. Classes were called after the word EDUCATION, now it’s RTHS. Demographic patterns show that this trend of smaller students will increase over the next few years. Accordingly we will be loosing about one teacher for each year until this trend flattens out.

There are a great deal of activities happening at the school at the moment. Check the contents of the newsletter, our website (getting about 1000 hits per week) and our Facebook page.

Creative & Performing Arts

Year 10 Photography excursion - taking photos of Sydney’s architecture.
Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 7, 9,11)

The school has had an effective start and we are insisting on full uniform to meet community expectations and standards. We appreciate the support of parents as we continue with this drive.

I welcome our year 7 and despite a few students not fully comprehending the rules associated with high school students have been adjusting well. I remind parents of contact with the Year 7 Adviser (currently Ms N. Park) if you feel you would like to discuss your child’s progress.

I also remind year 9 that electives are now fixed for a 2 year period and they must complete mandatory hours in these courses to be eligible for the year 10 Recognition of Student Achievement (ROSA). On a personal note, I have been impressed with the improved maturity of the year 9 on their return.

Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 8, 10, 12)

Welcome back to the 2014 school year. I have been relieving for Mrs Chapman this term while she has been on leave and it has been quite a busy time. One of my main goals this term has been to have all students attend school every day, be on time, be in class focused on work, and be in full school uniform. For the most part, students are complying and following our school rules of being safe, respectful learners. Wearing full school uniform is an important aspect of school life. In this newsletter (and on the website) is a full list of what is and isn’t school uniform. All students should wear their uniform to school every day. If they have a sport or PE lesson, they need to bring their full sports uniform to change into. At no time should any student be wearing anything other than the RTHS uniform.

Many of our year 10 students have begun TAFE courses which run one day a week for a 10 week block. Students are studying horticulture, carpentry, hairdressing and automotive. So far the feedback has been positive. We trust this is a rewarding experience for our students as they get a taste of learning outside our school walls. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact our careers advisor, Mr Bannura.

There have been some concerns from our seniors, particularly in regards to study or free periods. Students are not to leave the school grounds during the school day. Study periods are just that, and seniors should use this time to complete study, homework and assessments in the senior study or library. This is a particularly big year for our year 12’s and we need them to stay focussed on achieving their best in all subjects.

On a final note, RTHS says no to bullying. This term I have been dealing with various incidents of verbal, physical, cyber and homophobic bullying. This will not be tolerated. Our Police Youth Liaison Officer has spoken to a number of students already. Please discuss the importance of treating others in a respectful nature with your child. If your child feels they are being bullied, they should tell a teacher and their Year Adviser is usually the best person to contact.

We look forward to an engaging year focused on learning and achieving at RTHS.

Mrs James

For your convenience we now have EFTPOS facilities available at the front office. You can also make payments over the phone using Visa or Mastercard for any school fees or excursions.
Literacy

Literally speaking
No doubt you’re aware that our school practices DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) each morning as part of roll call. DEAR is a form of school-based recreational reading, or free voluntary reading, where students read silently in a designated time period every day in school. Students select their own books and require neither testing for comprehension nor book reports. The message that we are trying to convey is that reading is pleasurable. We hope that reading becomes a habit, and that the vocabularies, spelling, general knowledge and writing skills of our students improve as a result. We ask that you support our school in this endeavour, both by encouraging your child to bring a book to school, and by encouraging him/her to read for pleasure at home as well.

Other news:
Very recently, four teachers from our school commenced training in the Reading to Learn programme, which includes 8 days of face-to-face training workshops and guided classroom practice over the course of one year. Saskia Beeten (HSIE), Erin Griffiths (PE and LST), Scott Swindle (Science) and I (Rebecca Wright- English and Literacy) are unanimously enthusiastic and excited about the programme, eager to implement the strategies in our classrooms and pass on our newly-acquired knowledge to our colleagues after just the first two days’ instruction! The program is designed to integrate reading and writing with teaching the curriculum at all year levels, and it promises to enable all learners to read and write successfully at levels appropriate to their age, grade and area of study.

In the meantime:
You can set your child up for success this school year with some basic pointers. Suggest that he/she follow this checklist, and you’ll help him/her get off on the right foot:

- I attend school every day unless I’m sick, and I get there on time.
- I get 8–10 hours of sleep each night.
- I eat a healthy breakfast in the morning.
- I pay attention in class.
- I write down my assignments for each subject.
- I start my assessment tasks when I get them.
- I complete my homework on time.
- I read for pleasure each day.

_{Read to succeed._

Rebecca Wright
HT Literacy
PDHPE

A reminder to all that students must have a complete change of clothes and the appropriate footwear for all PDHPE practical lessons. The school has a sports uniform that can be purchased from the uniform shop. SINGLETS SHOULD NOT BE WORN IN ANY PDHPE LESSON.

Students are also encouraged to bring a hat, sunscreen and a drink to all practical PDHPE lessons. A reminder to all students, spray deodorants are not permitted at school and will be confiscated by PDHPE staff. Students are encouraged to bring a roll on deodorant.

Craig Innes
Head Teacher PDHPE

Maths

I’d like to welcome Mr James Dawson and Ms Pam Sammut to the Mathematics Department for this term. Both teachers have received a positive reception from the students and praised for their teaching and efforts in the classroom.

Students in Years 7-10 were given a letter to take home at the start of the term outlining the expectations of the Mathematics Department in 2014. If you did not receive this letter, please contact the school to receive a copy.

Students in Years 7-10 should also have undertaken their first assessment tasks for the year by now. Year 12 have their first task in Week 6 and Year 11 have theirs in Week 7. It is important that students are up-to-date with their work in class and undertaking regular, meaningful revision at home if they are to achieve their best in these tasks.

Michael Clulow
HT Mathematics (relieving)

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Friday, 14 March 2014

Students have been given the envelopes for school photos. Any student who did not receive one, or has lost it, please collect another one from the office. The envelopes must be given TO THE PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE DAY with the correct money inside. The office is unable to provide change for the photos.

If your child is absent on this day, there will be a catch up day on Monday 17 March.
What’s happening in English?

Year 7 - Cultural experiences and life stories.
Year 7 have been settling into the new curriculum quickly with an engaging and captivating unit called ‘What’s your story?’ Students have been looking at biographies and autobiographies of famous Australian people from different cultural backgrounds. Classes have been looking at biographies of Hazem El Masri and exploring what it is like to come from a country that experiences civil war. 7R were lucky enough to have a cultural feast this week after looking at Arwa El Masri’s book *Tea with Arwa*. Students got to taste some of the food from Arwa’s culture thanks to a lovely student (and her mum!). All year 7 are looking forward to reading and studying Anh Do’s biography *The Littlest Refugee* and seeing how this famous comedian came to Australia.

Year 9 - Developing world awareness.
Year 9 have been jumping straight into some deep ethical issues around the topic of documentaries. All year 9 classes have been studying the new curriculum unit ‘Documenting Our World’, exploring how documentaries reveal issues and make audiences aware of problems in the world. Students started off with the documentary *The Cove*; an undercover insight into the secret dolphin hunting practices of Japan. Captivated by the compelling issues of environmental sustainability and advocacy, students have been keen to explore how this documentary reveals the hidden secrets of Japan. Students of 9EC have been so interested that some students have even done their own research into how they can help raise awareness! Each class will be exploring their own documentary, such as *Bowling for Columbine, Supersize Me, An Inconvenient Truth and Bully*, relating to particular issues that society is currently dealing with.

Public Speaking Assessment.
It is that time of year again! In week 8, all grades (7-12) will be completing their public speaking assessment task in class. All students are expected to complete the assessment task and were provided with the topics early on in the term. Topics this year relate to the unit that each year group is studying this term. Year 11 and 12 speeches are a little different this year as they need to obtain a related text to be a part of their speech. Next week, students will be expected to start their drafts in class, in preparation for their delivery two weeks later. Students from each class will go on to compete in the year finals, which we will keep you updated about as they get closer. If you have any questions about the public speaking assessment, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s English teacher.
PUBLIC SPEAKING

As part of the English curriculum, each student from Year 7 to 12 is required to prepare a three minute speech and present it to the class. This year the speeches will be held in Week 8 and will start in the first English lesson for the week. All students should be prepared with a transcript and palm cards ready to speak. Please view the list below to see the topics for each year group.

**YEAR 7**

1. My story is ...
2. The day my world changed
3. My most embarrassing moment
4. My greatest inspiration
5. I couldn’t live without ...
6. The thing I value most

**YEAR 8**

1. What is Australian culture?
2. My Australia 2050
3. We should/should not forget the past
4. There’s more to Australia than just sport
5. Australian heroes are sporting heroes

**YEAR 9**

1. To save society, we need to save the environment
2. Conforming is poison
3. It is better to tell the truth?
4. Success requires education
5. Does social media run our lives?
6. It’s important to know the world around us

**YEAR 10**

1. Characters are products of their times
2. Some stories are more important than others
3. There are many truths in fiction
4. Life lessons from literature/what do we learn from stories
5. Inspirational literary figures and the lessons we learn from them
6. Storytelling is important to culture and society

**YEAR 11—Standard and Advanced**

The topic will be Journeys. The speech must include a piece of related material selected by the student.

**YEAR 11—English Studies**

The topic will be The Future. The speech must include a piece of related material selected by the student.

**YEAR 12—Standard and Advanced**

The topic will be Belonging. The speech must include a piece of related material selected by the student.

**YEAR 12—English Studies**

The topic will be We Are Australian. The speech must include a piece of related material selected by the student.
Senior Leaders

Earlier this term the senior leaders ran a very successful Valentine’s Day fundraiser. The school community had an opportunity to purchase a chocolate rose for their loved one. The fundraiser raised just over $140 for the school. Well done to all the Senior Leaders for their hard work and especially to our Vice Captain Cameron Rodgers who was the team leader for this fundraiser.

The Senior Leaders are now very busy trying to put together a SRC training package. Later this term they will facilitate workshops to impart leadership skills on our SRC students for 2014. It is hoped that this training will help SRC members understand their role as student leaders within the school and the need for working as a team.

This term Year 11 students have been given the opportunity to participate in the Achieving Leadership Potential workshops run by the YWCA. Attendance and completion of these workshops is compulsory for students who wish to be senior leaders at the start of Term 4 this year and into 2015. The workshops are free and will be conducted at school on Wednesday 19\textsuperscript{th} March and Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} March. Forms for enrolment into these workshops are due by Friday 7\textsuperscript{th} March (Week 6).

The Senior Leaders are also keen on running another talent quest this year. Stay tuned for more news on this next newsletter.

Mr Kapitanow
Senior Leaders Co-Ordinator

Gifted & Talented

During the January school holidays the School of Education at The University of Wollongong held the LEARNING LABS program. LEARNING LABS is a gifted and talented program for students in years 7 to 10. The 2014 program was the largest to date with 290 students from the Illawarra, South Coast, Sydney and Southern Highlands attending.

Students who attend the program must be academically performing within the top 10\% of their area of interest. Workshops are led by University academics who are leaders in their field. The workshops are innovative and challenging with curriculum pitched at a flexible Year 11/12 level.

During this cycle of LEARNING LABS, three Robert Townson High School students attended the program:

Shaunil Narayan: Industrial Robotics
Joshua Virgona: Industrial Robotics
Caitlin Ramondetta: So You Want To Be A Historian?

Congratulations to these students on successfully attending the program.

Mrs James
Head Teacher CAPA / GAT Co-ordinator
In May 2014, the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers, and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of this national assessment program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13-15 May 2014.

**Tuesday 13 May** – Language Convention test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Writing

**Wednesday 14 May** – Reading

**Thursday 15 May** – Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, Function and Pattern, Chance and Data, Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9, there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not used. For the calculator test, all students are required to have their own personal school approved calculator for the test. If your child needs to purchase a calculator, they are available at the front office for $20.00.

Please note, the school has neither the budget nor resources to supply calculators to students. Students, DO NOT ask the Mathematics faculty or front office for a calculator on the day as we do not have any available for issue.

**Friday 16 May** - A “catch up” day is scheduled for students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or if they have significant intellectual and/or functional disability.

Students with confirmed disabilities or difficulties in learning are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom will be provided for students by the school. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the test are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to disability adjustments and exemption from the tests must be discussed with your school’s learning support team and Mr Morrow, Deputy Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. This form can be accessed via Mr Morrow. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from the tests. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent or carer consent form. Consent forms are available via Mr Morrow.

Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on these websites:

http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html

http://www.naplanforparentsnswo.com.au

Please make an appointment with Mr Morrow if you would like further information about your child’s participation in the National Assessment Program.

B Morrow

Deputy Principal
Welcome back to a new school year. As usual, the library has a variety of new books which are available to borrow. Check the school website for news of our new books.

Students of may borrow books for two weeks and if they do not finish the book they may renew it for two more weeks. This means up to four weeks to finish reading a book. If a book is not returned and not renewed students will receive an overdue notice asking them to return the book. It is important that resources from the library are returned on time so all students can have access to them. If you happen to see a school library book which has been in your house for several weeks just check the date due slip on the inside cover and if it is overdue, give your student a reminder to bring it back. There is so much in the library it is a shame to limit yourself by hanging on to one book for too long.

Mrs Hogan
Congratulations to the students who were successful in making Macarthur Zone teams this year. These students will now compete at the Sydney South West carnival in their respective sports. Students selected were:

**Soccer**
Open Girls: Vanessa Hooper, Perrie Hayes, Jacqueline Vorrias.
Open Boys: Tyler Reid, Warren Moss, Hassen Elkhoeder, Conor Irwin, Bradley Wright, Cameron Wright, Mitchell Brooker, Naderr Alnimer.

**Touch Football**
Open Girls: Jasmine Haddad.
Open Boys: Taikaora Whaanga, Larry Greig-Williams, Jonathon Greig-Williams.
U16 Girls: Mara Fuli, Olivia Culgan.

**Rugby League**
Open Boys: Tulagomanu Salonoa.
15 boys: Brody Vrbanic, William Mapapalangi, Zachary Caruana, Omar Afiouni, Ethan Bellamy, Jai Kelemete.

**Hockey**

Some students have already competed at the Sydney South West carnival and will progress to the Combined High School competition.

**Tennis:** Olivia Culgan, Webb Neggo.
**Golf:** Cameron Banks.

**Swimming Carnival:**
The swimming carnival was competitors only this year and it showcased some impressive talent in the water. Age Champions for this year were:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Emily Raymond</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Riley Lansdown</td>
<td>Rebecca Hangan</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Lachlan Walters</td>
<td>Bonnie Kuru</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Jason Podina</td>
<td>Paige Russell</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Sean Peatman</td>
<td>Natalie Fink</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Emma Lown</td>
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**Zone Swimming:**
A small but committed group represented RTHS at the Macarthur Zone carnival and produced some great results with many students producing personal best times in multiple events.

The standout result of the day was in the 14’s 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay which consisted of Cindy Marshall, Rebecca Hangan, Bonnie Kuru and Katie Wilson who placed 2nd. The girls will now compete for the school at the Area carnival at Bradbury pools this month. This was a courageous swim as three of the girls swam up an age group.

**Good luck to those students at competing in the coming weeks.**

Emily McKenzie (PDHPE)
NO HOODIES
No cardigans
No trackpants
No black stockings
No leggings or tights
No black socks
No sports shoes, except during PE lessons or Sport
RTHS
‘Out of Uniform’
No sports uniform, except during PE lessons or Sport
Robert Townson High School students use art to promote rhino welfare

You wouldn’t be mistaken if you had heard a rhinoceros had joined a class at Robert Townson High School.

But fear not, the life-sized rhino calf is merely an artwork crafted by the Raby school’s students as part of Taronga Zoo’s Wild! Rhinos initiative.

The Year 8 students decorated the rhino calf to raise awareness and money for the zoo’s rhino breeding program and conservation project. The school was among 50 taking part.

Their calf – named Aalije – will join the other schools’ rhino sculptures painted by professional artists in a “Rhino Trail”.

The 125 rhinos will be displayed at parks, shopping centres and public spaces around Sydney before being returned to their home schools. The professional pieces will be auctioned.

Teacher Belinda Wood helped students Moussa Al-Abden, Rachelle Allen, Aaliyah Campos, Christin Dias, Sophia Elasmar, Zach Fullgrabe, Jehaan Gamildien, Briane Gane, Leilani Laban, Mally Malone, Logan Neilsen, Paige Rose and Chelsea Sterling create the piece.
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<th>Week</th>
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<td>1A</td>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>2 Year 11 &amp; 12 Drama Excursion</td>
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<td>2B</td>
<td>5 Yr 11 &amp; 12 Drama excursion—Riverside Theatre</td>
<td>6 Year 10 Survivor Life Skills (ALL YEAR 10)</td>
<td>7 Year 7 &amp; 8 vaccinations</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>3A</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 CROSS COUNTRY YEAR 11 (during sport)</td>
<td>14 CROSS COUNTRY YEAR 7 &amp; 8 (during sport)</td>
<td>15 CROSS COUNTRY YEARS 9 &amp; 10 (during sport)</td>
<td>16 Year 11 Biology Excursion to Woolemai</td>
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<td>4B</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>23 Year 12 Biology excursion Museum of Human Diseases</td>
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<td>5A</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>29 ZONE CROSS COUNTRY</td>
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<td>7A</td>
<td>9 Public Holiday</td>
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<td>8B</td>
<td>16 Public Speaking During English all week</td>
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<td>9A</td>
<td>23 Senior Leadership Camp</td>
<td>24 Senior Leadership Camp</td>
<td>25 Year 11 Drama Showcase evening</td>
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