Congratulations Visual Arts

Outstanding Results for 2013 HSC Visual Arts

Visual Arts HSC Results

Thirteen students sat for the Visual Arts HSC examination last year at RTHS. One student achieved a Band 6 and 42.9 per cent of candidates achieved Band 5, higher than the state result. Fifty per cent of students achieved Band 4, with no student achieving less than this. With the exception of one student, all students met a minimum state determined growth, with three students demonstrating growth well above the state. For all but two students, Visual Arts was their highest subject mark in the Higher School Certificate. These results are consistent with previous years, with students performing better in the Higher School Certificate for Visual Arts compared with all other subjects.

Year 12 student Melissa Stenner was selected for ArtExpress, an exhibition of exemplary artworks by 2013 HSC visual arts students from schools across New South Wales. Melissa’s work will be displayed at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Last year, over 9500 students submitted artworks for the Visual Arts HSC and only 41 were selected for display in ArtExpress at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Melissa was also awarded the Julian Ashton scholarship for her work. Congratulations to Melissa and also her teacher, Mr Heap for his support of all HSC students.

Mrs James
Head Teacher Creative & Performing Arts
In the first newsletter I updated you on the variations to our school staffing which occurred at the beginning of the year. Since then I now can inform you that two other members of our teaching staff will be leaving us to take up promotional positions elsewhere. Mrs Otieno (Science) and Ms Wright (HT Literacy) will be commencing new positions from day one next term. Mrs Otieno has been a long-term memory of our teaching staff and we will miss her dearly. Though Ms Wright has only been with us for one year she has made a significant impact on the way our teaching staff work with our students in improving their literacy skills. I thank them both for the contributions they have made to our school community.

We were aware for several years that 2014 would see a significant reduction in the number of students attending year 7. This pattern will continue for several years. There are currently four classes operating in year 7. Though a few students are having difficulty adjusting to high school life the majority of our year sevens are progressing wonderfully. Their commitment to education clearly comes from you their parents.

This term we began a trial program for improving the literacy results of students in year 8. Though still in its pilot phase we anticipate rolling this program out to all students in years 7, 8 and 9 by the end of the year. The program requires all students in groups of 6, to participate in a literacy development program that builds their skills in reading, writing, punctuation and grammar. Student progress is monitored every lesson and progress measured against a literacy continuum. Currently only 8E are involved in the program but in term 2 this will grow to include all students in year 8, followed by year 7 and then year 9. It is hoped that this small intensive program of development will meet the individual needs of students and allow them to perform better across all subjects. Though currently Ms Wright is overseeing this program a new person will be selected to operate it from term 2 onwards.

This term Miss Jessica Alison commenced work as our new Technical Support Officer to support students with their computer needs. She has only been here a few weeks and has already made a significant difference in aiding our teachers in classrooms with student learning.

I have made mention in past newsletters about Department of Education software that our school is trialling this year. Though it is getting better it is still problematic. Right now we are beginning our school reporting process and due to the untried nature of this new software the process is taking longer than we would like. Delays continue to push our reporting processes further behind. It is also having effect on student invoices, roll marking and other areas of student administration. The software is getting better slowly and I hope that by the later this year it is fully functional.

When students return in term two they will find the temperature significantly less. We have with your support made remarkable progress in getting almost 100% of students in school uniform. The issues that we are dealing with now are minor ones such as multi-coloured shoes or laces. With your support we hope to maintain this high standard throughout the year. The P&C and uniform shop committee argued strongly that the school spray jacket should be brought back as part of the normal school uniform. Accordingly that option is now available for you. In fact apart from the grey pants and maroon slacks for girls students have a choice of a fleecy top, jumper and now a spray jacket. It is during these cold months that we find we get the most variation of the school uniform. Remember that if students choose to wear something warmer underneath their school clothes this is not an issue as it cannot be seen. Any assistance you can give us in supporting the school uniform policy would be appreciated. If I can assist you in any way please do not hesitate to contact me.

Passing of Ms Carter

As you are no doubt aware sadly Ms Tegan Carter passed away unexpectedly in the early hours of Friday, 4 April. Though she had recently been unwell no one anticipated this dreadful news. Both teachers and students have been devastated by her passing. For many the impact will be felt for a long time to come. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tegan's family during this difficult time.

I have shared with Tegan's mother our school community's feelings of loss and love and we hope she found some comfort in the effect that Ms Carter has had on the lives of your children.

During this time your students have been a credit to you and our community. They have been tolerant and respectful, thoughtful and understanding. Though I would expect no less I continue to hold my head up high as I sing the praise of our school community.

Though this time is difficult for all I know that Miss Carter would be proud of the way our students have rallied. We will miss her and celebrate the impact she has had in our lives.

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

Deputy Report
Term 1 has been very long and busy 11 weeks. It has seen our students settling in for the year, completing homework, making speeches and submitting assessment tasks. For year 12, it marks the half way point of their HSC year and their reports will be issued soon after the holidays. The amount of students wearing school uniform has improved this year, however, I do need to remind all students that black socks and tights, board shorts and hoodies or cardigans are not part of our RTHS uniform. Wearing black leather shoes is also important for safety reasons. Our parents who volunteer in the uniform shop do a brilliant job of assisting students and parents with uniform and have had a busy start to the year! If you have any questions regarding our uniform, please check the school website for further information or call the school.

As you aware, I have been filling in for Ms Chapman this term. She will be returning in term 2. I would like to thank Mr Bannura for his work with our students attending TAFE this past term. Our year advisors also do an incredible job in assisting students every day with their studies and well-being. Lastly, thank you to all of the parents and students I have been working so closely with over the last term. I wish you all the best for the remainder of the school year.

Have a safe and happy Easter holiday break.

Mrs James
Relieving Deputy Principal

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

Deputy Report
The end of a busy term. Our new year 7 are starting to understand the difference from primary school. Some students have needed to be re-directed in their behaviour patterns but the majority have adjusted well. I enjoyed the opportunity of meeting a number of our year 7 parents a few weeks ago and will build on these initial introductions. I must commend my year 9 mathematics class who have given of their best and are achieving well. They are a credit to themselves. Year 11 are finding the transition to senior work a challenge but many are thriving in the higher expectations.

I wish you a peaceful Easter break and look forward to term 2.

Mr Morrow
Deputy Principal
Year 11 Drama
Year 11 Drama students had the unique opportunity in Week 7 to attend a free performance of ‘Once in Royal’s David’s City’ as part of a free program run by Belvoir Theatre. As always, students were fantastic ambassadors for our school, watching intently as Brendan Cowell and a stellar supporting cast performed an intense play about a man coming to terms with his life after the death of his mother. Our students have been invited to return to Belvoir Theatre in August to participate in the enrichment program again by watching a performance of ‘Nora’, an update of Ibsen’s famous play ‘A Doll’s House’. Students will also participate in two free workshops with Belvoir Theatre to support their learning about the production. Again, this is a wonderful opportunity and we thank Belvoir Theatre for helping to broaden our students’ awareness of theatre. In Term 2, Year 11 will also be attending a production of a verbatim theatre play called ‘The Laramie Project’. This world renowned play is based on real-life testimony and interview transcripts from the townspeople of Laramie, Wyoming in response to the shocking death of Matthew Shephard.

Students have been given additional information on the background of the play to support the excursion. Any parent who would like more information, please contact Mrs Townsend at the School on 9824-7777.

Year 12 Drama
Our current HSC students have had a busy term attending the HSC Onstage showcase and a HSC workshop on Bertolt Brecht at Belvoir Theatre studios. The practical workshop showcased the performing arts talent we have at RTHS and allowed the students to extend their understanding of one of the most well-known theatre practitioners in the world. Students have now finished their two topic studies and will move into the HSC Group Project in Term 2. Parents and students are reminded that consistent attendance is vital, as students are working in groups for this HSC component and progress can be difficult when group members are regularly absent. Students should also be working each week at home on their HSC Individual Project. This component will be the basis for their next assessment in Week 2 of Term 2. The HSC Drama Showcase featuring all practical works will be held after the HSC Trial exams in Term 3.

Mrs Townsend
On Thursday 27th March and Friday 28th March, the public speaking finals were held to determine the champions for each year. The winners of Yr 7, Yr 8 and Yr 9 will compete in Week 11 for the title of Junior Public Speaking Champion and the Yr 10, Yr 11 and Yr 12 winners will deliver their speeches to decide who will become the Senior Public Speaking Champion for 2014.

Year 7
1st place – Rasmine Giles
2nd place – Brianna Sivell
3rd place – Holli Costello

Year 8
1st place – Samantha Statton
2nd place – Olyvia Milligan
3rd place – Jack Olic

Year 9
1st place – Jordyn Smajlagic
2nd place – Joshua Megaly
3rd place – Moussa Al-Abdeen

Year 10
1st place – Jasmine Haddad
2nd place – Diamond Chong-nee
3rd place – Nathan Rolander

Year 11
1st place – Bailey Dymitriw
2nd place – Emilia Bulloch
3rd place – Jake Stark

The SRC team has been extremely busy this term organising a popcorn fundraising event on the 8th April and secondly, the ANZAC biscuit and rosemary stall in recognition of the day of National Day of Remembrance on the 9th April. All money raised at our ANZAC Day stall will be donated to the Legacy Foundation in support of families of the deceased and incapacitated veterans. Legacy's caring and compassionate service assists over 100,000 widows and 1,900 children and dependents with a disability.

Our Year 11 SRC leaders have recently been involved in Leadership workshops in preparation for their Senior Leader transition later this year, with our Year 7-10 SRC students being involved in teamwork and communication workshops to be held on Thursday 9th April run by our current Senior leaders. These opportunities provide our students with the skills desirable for the organization and production on many SRC facets including fundraising, and whole school projects.
The HSIE department would firstly like to welcome Ms Erenbay to the HSIE department. She will be teaching geography and Business Services this year.

On the 7th March twenty six Year 11 students in the Legal Studies course went on an excursion to Campbelltown Court and Macarthur Legal Centre. They were briefed about how our legal system works by the Court Clark and then went inside to listen to current cases. The students had a great time seeing how their class work is implemented in a practical way within our society.

Our semester one year 7 geography classes have participated in a local excursion to Lake Burrendah. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to conduct geography fieldwork. The other year 7 geography classes will complete this trip in Semester 2.

As for the rest of the year the faculty will be endeavouring to provide the following opportunities for students: a year 10 history presentation delivered by the local Indigenous community; a Mysteries and Disasters excursion for elective History classes; a year 7 HSIE excursion to Katoomba; a year 8 geography excursion to Fitzroy Falls; a year 9 geography excursion to Wombeyan Caves; a year 10 excursion to Stockton Beach; and Society and Culture excursions to Cabramatta, Nan Tien Temple and the NSW State Library. More information regarding the dates and costs associated with these excursions will be put in coming newsletters or letters sent home.

To help students prepare for homework tasks and plan study timetables for examinations, the HSIE faculty has now placed assessment schedules online to view. Any year 7-12 student, parent or guardian can access this material to find out what work will be marked within HSIE courses this year.

We look forward to a great year with our students. Please contact any of the teachers in HSIE if you have concerns about your child’s progress. We are more than happy to help in any way we can.

Mr Kapitanow
HT HSIE
SENIOR LEADERS REPORT

The Senior Leaders have had a very busy term. In February they conducted a school fundraiser connected to Valentine’s Day. In March they will be organizing a community fundraising initiative for the Melanoma Institute of Australia. Skin cancer is a major concern for everyone in our community. The Senior Leaders are hoping to:

- raise money to help current research into diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer
- raise awareness amongst students of the dangers of the sun and ways to protect oneself from harm

On Thursday Week 10 students will be able to donate money to this worthy cause by participating in a school barbeque. They will also be able to purchase a cardboard ‘sun’ to be placed on a display board that will feature in our school office to raise awareness of the disease. The next newsletter will give details of the money raised by this initiative.

On 19th – 20th March nineteen students participated in the Achieving Leadership Potential workshops run by the YWCA. These workshops were offered to Year 11 students who are considering standing as a senior leader in 2014-2015. The first day contained group and reflection activities focusing on the different kinds of leaders and qualities associated with leadership. On the second day students were engaged in practical group team building activities and a discussion on the use and application of SMART goals. Students had a fantastic time. They felt more confident identifying their own strengths, being able to communicate in group situations and in setting short and long term goals.

In term 2 a camp to Teen Ranch will be conducted to further develop skills and prepare students for senior leadership roles in 2014-15. I want to encourage all the students who participated in these workshops to now remember the criteria for being senior leader’s candidates later this year:

- Maintain excellent application to curriculum & study
- Demonstrate commitment to improving the general school culture and assisting others in the school (e.g. students, staff, parents & community members)
- Display outstanding participation & commitment to school leadership opportunities (Examples include SRC, debating, SCRAM, mentoring, school representation etc).
- Demonstrate excellence in school attendance
- Display exemplary behaviour and manners at all times in all school settings (classroom, playground, excursions). Exemplary behaviour means respect for school rules, no suspensions for example.
- Demonstrate outstanding commitment & pride in wearing school uniform at all times in all school settings

Senior Leaders Co-ordinator
Mr Kapitanow
Senior Visual Arts Excursion
On Wednesday 26th March, the senior Visual Arts classes went on an excursion to the Art Gallery of NSW in Sydney to view the ArtExpress exhibition. The students also not only saw, but participated in the Sol LeWitt exhibition in the Kaldor gallery space. A pioneer of conceptual art, LeWitt forged a new way of thinking about making art. “In conceptual art the idea or concept is the most important aspect of the work”, LeWitt wrote in a landmark essay in 1967. The exhibition showcases 40 years of LeWitt’s practice, including many works shown in Australia for the first time. Among the highlights is a wall drawing with instructions written by the artist, that audience members can partake in. As seen in the images below, some our RTHS art students contributed to the creation of this piece!

Mrs James
Head Teacher
Creative & Performing Arts
This term we have continued to add to the extensive collection of young adult fiction held in the library. For lovers of Manga, I have purchased the first five books in three new series. Two of the new series are ‘Full Moon’ and ‘kimi ni todoke’, both of which are aimed at teenage girls. The third series is ‘Nura: Rise of the Yokai Clan’ which has a supernatural theme. The ‘Assassin’s Creed’ is an historical/action series written by Oliver Bowden, aimed at teenage boys. The entire series so far is available from the library.

The Children’s Book Council of Australia have announced the Book of the Year Shortlist. More information and a copy of the list can be found at http://cbca.org.au/ShortList-2014.htm. I will put more information about the books on the list in the next newsletter.

Next term I will be running a chess competition during lunch time. All students are welcome to enter and will need to put their names on the list in the library before the end of week two next term.

Parents and caregivers, don’t forget that children follow the example of the significant adults in their lives and if you are seen to enjoy reading they are more likely to read themselves. So, allow yourself some time to relax and enjoy a good book, it’s good for you and the young people in your lives.

Mrs Julie Hogan

Sport

Sport Report

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent Sydney South West at the Combined High School competition in their respective sports:

Rugby League: William Mapapalangi

ALF: Baily McParland, Mitchell Valher

Swimming: Bonnie Kuru

Soccer: Conor Irwin.

These are outstanding results and Robert Townson is extremely proud of these achievements. Good luck for the CHS competition!

Emily Mckenzie (PDHPE)
Year 12 Photography students have been busy working around the school using the Digital SLR cameras. These photographs are part of their Little People, Big World Assessment Tasks, where students use tiny models to create their images.

Makare Greig-Williams

Dempsey Anderson

Tayler Mulhall
Athletics Carnival