**OWLs Volunteering at Aged Care Centre**

15 of our Year 9 – 11 boys were trained in aged care and first aid at TAFE in Term 4, 2014 as part of the IMB funded Older Wiser Learners program. Eight boys from Years 10 & 11 volunteered late last year and this term at an aged care centre at Minto.

The feedback from the Aged Care centre and the older gentlemen was very positive. Our students made a difference to the lives of the older males through mentoring, games and companionship. It was an absolute pleasure to watch the interactions between our students and the aged males...the boys were a credit to you – their parents. I would like to thank Mrs Marquardt, Mrs Townsend and Mrs Sandilands for helping with transport.
Welcome. This is our first Newsletter of 2015

We welcome all new students and parents. Please see our website for details about our school. We also have a Facebook page but that is only updated periodically at this stage.

New staff this year include:

Mrs Skaroupka – Careers
Mr Shaw – Industrial Arts (term 1)
Mrs Birungi – Head Teacher Mathematics

There are still changes happening due to various leave issues due to health and maternity issues which I will appraise you of as the year progresses.

Though year 7 have settled in quickly, there are some students who we have been dealt with for misbehaviour. All year 7, and other years, are continually monitored to ensure students safety and learning is a priority.

Several extra curricula projects have begun and even completed. You will hear more about these in the newsletter and on our website.

Our new school plan, though not complete has begun to be implemented. You, the community, wanted greater communication and clarity about what is happening in school. Though we are working on a range of initiatives our school electronic sign is now up and running and will inform you as you travel past of up and coming events. Students and staff of year 7 and 11 have been introduced to our new electronic diary. Staff training on its use will finalise early March and parents will be invited to see the student’s diary shortly after staff begin using it. I will hold information nights for parents early next term after staff have commenced adding information.

We are also addressing the school image as parents indicated this could be improved. Uniform is our first area to address. Students have been given ample opportunity to wear the correct uniform but some still choose to personalise the look. Detentions will begin shortly. For those parents whose students have followed the letter of the policy (ie full black shoes with leather uppers) their students are being rewarded via our student merit system. It will now be possible based on uniform alone to achieve a Bronze medallion in 1 year for uniform alone. Based on what I see however there are only a few students in each class that will meet this requirement. For those whose: socks are black, shoes have white trimming, wear excessive jewellery or make up etc then they will not be rewarded.

Our year 7 interim reports for year 11 and 7 are now being produced to show parents how they are progressing. If you are concerned about any of the assessments please contact the classroom teacher if that has not already been done.

Warren Parkes
Principal
Higher School Certificate Results for 2014 in the Creative and Performing Arts

Congratulations to our year 12 students of 2014 who completed creative and performing arts subjects in the HSC.

In visual arts, 36 per cent of candidates achieved Band 5. Over 50 per cent of students achieved Band 4, higher than the state result, with no student achieving less than Band 3. The majority of students met a minimum state determined growth, with visual arts being the highest subject mark in the Higher School Certificate for 77 per cent of students in the course.

In drama, 27 per cent of students achieved Band 5. 73 per cent of candidates achieved Band 4, higher than the state result, with no student achieving less than this and all meeting a minimum state determined growth. For every student in the course, drama was their highest subject mark. These results are consistent with previous years, with students performing better in the Higher School Certificate for drama compared with all other subjects. Overall, drama results were the best in the school, slightly above the state trend.

Mrs James
Head Teacher CAPA

PDHPE

The PDHPE staff at Robert Townson High School in 2015 are:

Craig Innes – Head Teacher
Rod Child (Mon – Thurs), Antonio Piscisioneri (Fri)
Ned Kelava
Emily McKenzie
Nicole Waden

During Term 1, 2015, PE units focus on fitness testing and athletics in all years.

Health units in Term 1 are:

♦ Year 7 – Why Health and A Balanced Lifestyle
♦ Year 8 – Lifelong Physical Activity
♦ Year 9 – Being Fit Forever
♦ Year 10 – Enjoying Physical Activity

Our Year 11 2 unit PDHPE classes are starting their Prelim HSC and the application and effort of most students has been very pleasing. Students need to develop an appropriate study timetable (and use it) and work on the key concepts taught in class. Year 12 2 unit is working to complete their two year course.

Our Year 11 Sports Coaching and SLR classes have started to establish information and practical skills in coaching. The Year 11 Sports Coaching class has been involved in PSSA Gala day carnivals and feeder school swimming carnivals. From all reports, they have done an outstanding job.

Year 12 Sports Coaching and SLR are working through current units and are actively involved in all aspects of their course.
FROM THE WELLBEING/WELFARE/SUPPORT DESKS...

Ensure the school office has all up to date **medical** and **contact details** for your child/ward. It is so important that we can contact parents/carers in an emergency.

**Health Care Plans**
Thank you to the parents who updated their child’s medical emergency procedures in writing late last year. All information has been added to school files and our medical book which is stored securely in faculties. Take the time to review your child’s medical condition and discuss with your child their emergency treatment. If your child does not have a Health Care Plan then please see your child’s GP to complete an updated plan which can be downloaded from our website.

**School Immunisation Program for all Year 7 students**
Ensure your child/ward receives all vaccines. The next two dates for immunisations are: 19/5/15 and 27/10/15

**National Day of Action Against Bullying and Harmony Day 20th March 2015**
All Years 7 – 10 will attend seminars on Friday 20th March highlighting the importance of “making a stand against bullying” and understanding that “we can all make a difference”. There are many useful tips for parents and caregivers on the Bullying. No Way website. For example:

![Image of bullying prevention guide]

**DARE Seminars continued in 2015**
During Terms 1 & 2, Year 9 students will be involved in a series of small group 5 lesson seminars addressing alcohol and drug knowledge, effects on mental health and wellbeing and strategies to cope with peer pressure around risk taking. DARE is conducted by Youth Solutions. So far four classes have been involved, with the following (very positive) results:

- **100% of Year 9** responded that due to DARE they were more aware of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.
- **97% of Year 9** said DARE gave them strategies to deal with stress in a helpful way.
- **95% of Year 9** said DARE helped them to say “NO” if they were being peer pressured into using drugs or alcohol and to make safe decisions around drugs and alcohol.
- **83% of Year 9** rated the activities as “good”.
- **91% of Year 9** would recommend DARE to their friends.

The remaining 3 elective classes will complete the seminars in Term 2.
Muslim Mentoring
Zunaid (a local parent and well respected community member) conducts Muslim mentoring at our school every Wednesday. If you want your child to be involved then please sign and return the permission note (available at the front office) as soon as possible. The introductory sessions begin on Wed 25\textsuperscript{th} March and Wed 1\textsuperscript{st} April, then the full program commences in Term 2.

Multicultural Event
Mrs Abellitis, Miss Hernandez, Miss Al Haider and myself are keen to hear from parents who would like to get involved in making cultural food items to be sold at the Multicultural Event in October 2015. In 2013 two parents made food that sold out very quickly on the day...so we are looking to sell more cultural food this year. If any parent is able to help please telephone the school and leave a message for Mrs Abellitis.

PBIS – Positive Behaviours In School – fortnightly prosocial skills program
PBIS is back this year for all students in Years 7 – 10!
Every fortnight students learn social skills during rollcall. Research into PBIS lessons indicates this is the best way to teach students social skills. The lessons taught and reinforced by classroom teachers during Term 1 were:

♦ Week 4 – Introduction to PBIS
♦ Week 6 – I have the right to be safe.
♦ Week 8 – Respect
♦ Week 10 – Being a Learner
At the end of the year your child will bring home their PBIS booklet to keep.

Respectful Relationships Program – Years 7 & 8
Amy from YWCA is conducting the Y-Brave program weekly with Year 7 in Term 1 (then weekly with Year 8 in Term 2). The program is as it is named – aimed at teaching and promoting respect. Issues students investigate are human rights, protective behaviours and bullying. Our school will be conducting a project and a group of interested students is being formed which will meet weekly to develop their ideas. Watch this space to see the progress of this project from the social-minded “movers and shakers” of Year 7 & 8!
For any further information about any wellbeing programs or if you would like to speak with me please telephone the school.

Till next time,
Mrs Sally Willmott
Head Teacher Welfare

Wellbeing/Welfare/Support

Your Tutor—Free online homework help for students
Campbelltown City Library is pleased to announce it is once again offering YourTutor—an online homework help service. It provides free on-demand access to a professional tutor for students in Year 3 to year 12.

Students can access YourTutor at home or in the library from Monday to Friday between 4pm and 8pm. The service offers study support from a qualified tutor covering subjects such as maths, science, English and assignment research skills, with the addition of legal studies and geography.

YourTutor is free of charge, students only need their library card number to login to YourTutor from the library’s website.

If you would like more information please contact the Youth Librarian Stephanie on 4645 4451.
HIU Wins the Deaf State School Futsal Cup!

HIU students from Year 7 to 12 participated in the Deaf State School Futsal Cup. They played several matches for girls, boys and mixed teams and each student received a medal for their participation. We were so excited that one of our teams won the Futsal Cup! Congratulations Veronica Browne (Year 9) for receiving the best female player, Bilal Ajaj (year 9) for best male player and Austin Cartwright (year 7) for most determined and improved and Matilda Petelo (year 11) for fair go awards. The students played well after learning the rules of a Futsal game for the first time and they had the opportunity to socialise with students from different schools during breaks. It was a delight to see them smiling and laughing all day!

Townson Café is back!

Townson Café is back up and running at full speed ahead! The café is open on Tuesdays from 9am until 1pm. Parents and carers are welcome to visit. Please sign in at the front office.
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

On Friday 6th March, 16 Year 11 Art students were invited to attend artist workshops at Casula Powerhouse Museum as part of International Women’s Day. The students, Samantha King, Kimberley Betts, Natalie Bromley, Laura Cooper, Nerida Gandaria, Chloe Hughes, Taylah Milligan, Natalie Fink, Stephanie Ward, Zoe Brown, Elise Jones, Rebekah Dematos, Katelyn Jurd, Nadeen Assafiri, Rayan El Sayed and Shania Rowe had the opportunity to work with four successful Australian artists in a series of rotating workshops. The artists Mishka Borowski, Betty Grumble, Deborah Kelly and Louise Zhang spoke about overcoming the challenges of creative life and inspired the girls through art making.

Ms Griffin

Aboriginal Youth Summit

In February 2015, I went to Queensland to represent Aboriginal youth from the Greater Western Sydney area. There were four students from Robert Townson High School who attended. We stayed in the most beautiful rooms and we all had to introduce ourselves (we did a lot of these types of activities over the four days). We then had dinner and watched a movie.

I shared a room with Jade from our school and the next morning we had a huge breakfast that was attended by players from both the Aboriginal and NRL All-Stars teams. James Graham was seated at our table (the Aboriginal Youth Summit is run to coincide with the NRL All-Star game). We had a series of talks and games based activities to do during the day. It was like a big party. After a lunch at the world famous Golden Arches Restaurant (aka McDonalds), we did a walk (more like a run) through the rain in the afternoon. After lunch, we went back to the Hotel. The following days were a mixture of fun activities like boating and group discussions. Lunch was with the footy players and we also met Jessica Mauboy. On the final day we went to the NRL All-Stars game. It was very exciting.

Overall I had a great time and would recommend this activity for any and all ATSI students. I would like to thank everybody in the NRL and their School to Work based program. In particular, a huge thanks to Caitlin Regan from Wests School to Work program for getting me involved. I really appreciated the opportunity.

Jacklyn Connor—Year 11
We have some great new titles added to the fiction collection so far this year as well as some interesting non-fiction titles. We have also added some great new comfortable furniture to the library to help create another cozy reading area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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| 1A   | 20 April  
Staff Development Day  
(no students) | 21 Students return to school | 22 Senior Leader workshops | 23 Respectful Relationships Yr 8 | 24 Anzac Day ceremony |
| 2B   | 27 ANZAC DAY | 28 | 29 | 30 Year 7 half yearly exams | 1 May  
Year 7 half yearly exams |
| 3A   | 4 Year 8 half yearly Exams  
Cross Country | 5 Year 8 half yearly exams | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 4B   | 11 | 12 NAPLAN | 13 NAPLAN | 14 NAPLAN | 15 NAPLAN catch up day |
| 5A   | 18 Year 9 half yearly exams | 19 Year 9 half yearly exams | 20 Year 10 half yearly exams | 21 Year 10 half yearly exams  
Zone Cross Country | 22 |
| 6B   | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 7A   | 1 June  
Year 11/12 Drama excursion | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8B   | 8 Queens Birthday  
Public holiday | 9 Senior Leaders Camp | 10 Senior Leaders Camp | 11 Regional Cross Country | 12 |
| 9A   | 15 Zone Athletics | 16 Zone Athletics | 17 | 18 | 19 Talent Quest |
| 10B  | 22 | 23 Parent Teacher Night | 24 | 25 | 26 |