Anzac Day Ceremony

Term 2 Issue 1
May 2015

Dates to remember

10 June
All Year 10 students
Careers Market

11 June
Regional Cross Country

15 & 16 June
Zone Athletics

19 June
Talent Quest

23 June
Parent Teacher Night
Principal’s Message

Our science block has had repeated water damage during heavy rains. This term the mould smell has been of particular concern. Several of our science staff have reported an array of symptoms that have resulted in varying lengths of recent sick leave. The Department has now agreed to take significant action. The entire roof will be replaced before students return in term 3. Several rooms will have the carpet replaced and all areas displaying any mould are being cleaned now. Should you be concerned about any medical issues for your child please consult your doctor.

As you are aware we have placed great effort to ensure all students are following our uniform policy. I am pleased to say that we now have several students who have 6 weekly awards towards their yearly Bronze Medallion.

Also the number of students receiving daily detentions are reducing. There are still however around 30 students wearing maroon tracksuit pants—school and fleecy material. These are NOT uniform. Students have grey trousers or maroon slacks to wear. School track pants can only be worn on Monday (sport days) or at sporting events.

Congratulations to our zone athletics team and our debating teams on representing themselves and our school. Well done and congratulations to all students, participants, organisers and presenters on their leadership during our ANZAC Ceremony. Also congratulations to our coffee shop team and hospitality class on their outstanding efforts supporting the state P&C event.

Warren Parkes
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message

Half yearly exams are concluding and reports will be to parents by end of term in time for our annual Parent Teacher afternoon/evening. I look forward to these meetings to catch up with parents and support our student’s learning.

This term has been busy for year 12 as the final assessments and HSC deadlines approach. Trial HSC exams are early term 3 to allow the school to give adequate feedback to students as they prepare for their final exam.

Year 10 no longer have a “School Certificate” exam as they now work over years 9 & 10 to achieve the “Recognition Of Student Achievement” (ROSA). This credential is posted via the Board of Studies site and students will register and obtain this credential electronically.

Year 10 work experience is gazetted for term 4 but students, with parent support may apply for earlier work experience opportunities.

Parents are advised that the Department of Education has strict guidelines for attendance. Schools are not permitted to grant leave for overseas holidays or similar absences. Any such absence is deemed unexplained. Please note that students in years 9 -12 who miss notified assessments will be in danger of receiving an N Award warning.

I hope to see many parents at our Parent Teacher Night.

Regards
Robert Morrow
Together with the Careers Adviser, Mrs Skaroupa we have been conducting a Senior Panel Review with Year 11 students over the past three weeks of Term 2. During this time we have interviewed students whose application to class work, assessment tasks or attendance to school needs improvement. Year 11 is a major transition from the junior school to senior studies and students often find it very challenging. Our aim has been to highlight the areas needing improvement for individual students and to put into place a program of support for them. Some students have decided that senior school is not for them and have left school to search for work or take up other training. They have been able to make the most of the Careers Adviser’s expertise at this time.

There have been some class changes in Year 7 for some students as we get to know them better. Year 7 by now have found their place in the school and are quite familiar with school routines. Students are busy working to collect merit awards across subjects which is pleasing to see.

The Volunteers and Trainee Tradies team (VATT) which consists of students across Years 8 to 10 are still hard at work at Robert Townson Primary School installing a new playgroup for the younger students. The wet weather has caused delays for the job but this reflects what happens in the outside world of the "tradies" who have to work with changing weather. The excavation phase is the longest part of the job and the team is aiming to have the footings and concreting finished by the end of this term.

A group of ten Year 9 girls have been fortunate to be involved in the Y Quest program with the YWCA. It is a leadership skills development course and includes an excursion to Parliament House in Sydney on Wednesday 20th May 2015. The program organiser, Christina Fossi has complimented the school on the girls’ positive attitude and personal presentation during the course. We are very pleased to be the inaugural school group to be involved in this program in Campbelltown. Thanks go to Mrs Willmott who has been following the program with the girls and supporting them when needed.

Mrs K. Chapman
Deputy Principal

Excursions:

May 29 Senior Science & Biology-Museum of Human Diseases
1 June Yr 11 & 12 Drama-Neighbourhood Watch
9 & 10 June Senior Leaders and SRC Leadership Camp-Teen Ranch
June 10 Year 10 Careers Market-Centennial Stadium Minto
The faculty wanted to help make the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing memorable for students and staff at RTHS. Many in our community do not have a relative who served in the Australian armed forces during World War One. To assist our community in acquiring a meaningful connection to this important event in the past, Mr O’Farrell and Mr Kapitanow researched and compiled a list of all the Campbelltown and Camden veterans who served our nation during World War One. This list was then used to give every student and staff member of RTHS their very own WW1 veteran to remember during the 2015 Anzac Day Commemorations.

Students were given a sheet to record the name and service number of their veteran. This could be used to research their service to our nation via the Australian War Memorial, AIF project and Camden Remembers websites. Students placed the name of their veteran, along with a personalized message of thanks, on their own poppy flower. Over 800 flowers were then put onto a special poppy wall designed by the Visual Arts faculty. This poppy wall is now on display in our school library.

The faculty also gave students a unique chance to see a very special Anzac display in their own school. The display could have easily rivaled RSL or museum displays currently exhibited around the Sydney area. Constructed by Mr O’Farrell and Mr Kapitanow, the display contained a variety of artefacts from conflicts Australians have participated in over the last century. History teachers brought their classes down to see the exhibition throughout the week. Many students commented on how this experience enabled them to better understand Australia’s participation in past conflicts. Some highlights of the exhibition included:

- Original silk postcards and photographs from WW1 Australian diggers
- Various trench art from WW1 and WW2
- Photographs taken by Mrs Wood’s father of his experiences in the Pacific War against Japan
- A full Australian serviceman’s uniform and helmet from WW2
- Shells, bullets and a German hand grenade from the battlefields on the Western front during WW1
- Australian recruitment and propaganda posters from WW1
- An album containing WW2 cigarette cards and a collection of WW2 ‘tinnies’

The special Anzac Day week at RTHS culminated in a very special ceremony led by students on Friday 24th April. We were very privileged to have three veterans in attendance.

- Mrs Muriel Cook - a World War Two veteran and relative of Mrs Cook in the Home Economics department.
- Mr John Betts - a Vietnam veteran representing Campbelltown RSL sub branch. He also represented his four grandchildren at our school.
- Mr Ray Herbert - an ex-serviceman and local historian representing Camden RSL sub branch.
- Our Director, Mrs Tasker, was also at our special commemoration.

Highlights of our ceremony included:

- A special speech detailing ATSI involvement in past conflicts and peacekeeping missions made by Cindy Marshall and Timothy Wells
- A moving hymn called *Abide with Me* played by Mrs Gowdy’s music class
- Video interviews of various students and staff giving their personal views on what Anzac Day means to them
- A very touching and stirring slideshow honoring past and present Australian war veterans connected to students and staff at RTHS. The slideshow was accompanied by the song *I Vow to Thee My Country*
- A wonderful guitar and singing performance by Bailey Dymitriw and Sanda Capote to the song *When the War is Over* by Cold Chisel. There was a touching audio-visual slideshow containing images of troops returning home from war that accompanied this song
- A fantastic Year 8 student project presented by Rasmine Giles, Heather Hilder-Childs, Eevee Clarke and Danielle El-Esber on Digger the Anzac bulldog.

Emilia Bulloch and Taylah Middleton were superb in hosting the occasion. Luke Blayden (School Captain) and Bailey Dymitriw (School Vice-Captain) also did an excellent job reading the poem *In Flander’s Field* and The Ode.

We are hoping these wonderful events experienced by our community at RTHS will have a lasting impact on student’s understanding of the importance of Anzac Day to our nation. Lest we forget.
The Anzac Display

Left to right: Mr Muriel Cook; Mrs Tasker; Mr Ray Herbert and Mr John Betts in front of our school’s poppy wall.

World War Two uniform and personal effects belonging to a veteran from World War Two

Various artefacts from World War One on display in the library

A variety of WW1 artefacts shown in the library Anzac display

Part of the Anzac display showing an original photo of Digger the Anzac bulldog – the subject of a Year 8 speech during the official ceremony

Silk postcards and photos sent by soldiers

Silk postcards, photographs and trench art from World War One

Collection of WW2 ‘tinnies’ on display
Poppy Wall
Wellbeing

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.

Asthma and allergy ‘season’ is upon us. Take the time to review your child’s asthma or allergy 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 Violence - Harmony Day 20th March 2015**
All Years 7 – 10 were involved in seminars on Friday 20th March highlighting the importance of “making a stand against bullying” and understanding that “we can all make a difference”.

The power of bystanders was discussed with the notion of making a difference by “not being a silent bystander”. Some great video clips were viewed and I would encourage parents to check these out so you, too can reinforce the messages at home – see below.

Bullying affects everyone involved — just as was highlighted in one of the slides below:

If you are concerned about bullying or violence you are welcome to contact me at school or one of our School Counselors. You could also check out the many useful tips for parents and caregivers on the Bullying. No Way website.

**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.

**Multicultural Event…interested parent helpers needed**
Mrs Abelitis, 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. If any parent is able to help please telephone the school and leave a message for Mrs Abelitis.
Medical Mentoring Returns Term 2

Medical students from University of Western Sydney volunteer their time to support community projects – one of these projects is supporting our students. Approximately 4 times this term the medical students will provide a forum where community issues eg. health bullying, respect are discussed in small groups. Students from our school enjoy these groups with 50 – 80 students attending!

Cybersmart Seminars

Cybersmart is coming to Robert Townson High School. Presentations provide valuable information about the risks confronting children online, and offer tools and tips to help make their internet experiences safe and positive.

Parents are encouraged to find out the latest by attending the parent presentation 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm Tuesday 18th August 2015 in Robert Townson High School Hall.

Internet safety presentations cover topics including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, illegal content, inappropriate contact, identity theft, grooming and predatory activity
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is thorough, non-technical and is conducted by an accredited Cybersmart trainer. Presentations are provided to schools free of charge.

Cybersmart will present internet safety awareness presentations to students in Years 9 and 10 earlier in the day, and to staff in the afternoon.

Please contact Fiona Anderson in the School Office to book your place as soon as possible.

For further information go to www.cybersmart.gov.au or email cybersafety@acma.gov.au for information, printed materials and advice about online safety.

PBIS – Positive Behaviours In School – fortnightly prosocial skills program

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 to be taught and reinforced by classroom teachers during Term 2 are:

- Week 2 – Behaviour on assemblies
- Week 4 – Swearing – using polite language
- Week 8 – Mobile devices etiquette
- Week 10 – Behaviour at the canteen

Respectful Relationships Program – Year 8

Amy from YWCA is conducting the Y-Brave program 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. At lunchtime every Thursday this term students from Year 7 & 8 will be involved in an anti-bullying project 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
Following the success of the Anzac Commemorations, the Senior Leaders are now very busy organising the next whole school event. This year’s RTHS Talent Quest will be held on 19\textsuperscript{th} (Friday Week 9, Term 2). A variety of fantastic performers are already in the process of auditioning. Students will be asked to bring a gold coin donation to see the performances. It is sure to be a great time. Proceeds will be going into a school project that will benefit all students while at Robert Townson High. Good luck to the performers in advance!

In other news, twenty three Year 11 students have completed initial training in preparation for being accepted as Senior Leaders in 2015-2016. The workshops were run by the YWCA on the 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 23\textsuperscript{rd} April. Students were involved in group tasks that required team work and decisive decision making. They also had opportunities to reflect on leadership styles and setting goals.

Later this term (9\textsuperscript{th} and 10\textsuperscript{th} June) the same Year 11 students, along with some SRC representatives, will attend a camp at Teen Ranch. This camp will provide a great opportunity for these students to experience some fantastic outdoor team building exercises and leadership workshops. Students will be able to reflect on their personal leadership strengths and weaknesses in preparation for submitting a nomination form as a Senior Leader for 2015–2016. Photos of this event are sure to be in the next newsletter!

\textit{Senior Leaders Co-Ordinator}

\textit{Mr Kapitanow}
Year 11 Visual Arts
Practical assessment task based on line and the human form, inspired by the artwork of artist Del Kathryn Barton.

Amie Warren
Dereck Sengthong
Chloë Hughes
Samantha King
Jeremy Mortas
Nerida Gandaria
THEATRESPORTS SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

Four of our talented Year 12 Drama students represented our School in the Theatresports Schools Challenge at Canterbury Girls High School in May. Emilia Bulloch, Celina Touma, Luke Blayden and Aden Touma competed in a talented field including teams from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and Caringbah High School, finishing in 5th place overall.

Our team performed in four rounds of improvisation challenges, where students have only seconds to start a scene in response to a given stimulus. Our students undertook some difficult games such as Advertisement, Persuasion and Typewriter, creating many witty and engaging performances.

Our 5th place finish was an outstanding achievement and a reflection of the growing performing arts talent of many students at Robert Townson High School. Judges commended our team’s enthusiasm and creativity on stage, where anything can and does happen in an unplanned scene!

We look forward to entering teams in next year’s challenge and building student skills in improvisation.

Mrs E Townsend
Battleships in Mathematics

During the introduction to the Number Plane topic, 7C and Mrs Sammut created their own version of the game of Battleships. Students had to plot their ships, submarines and aircraft carriers on a grid. They then took turns to sink their partners vessels using coordinates. The students enjoyed this so much, they now try to fit in short games whenever they can. Here are some of their comments:

I loved battleships and how we positioned our own battleships on the coordinates.

Tyler Moloney

In maths we were learning about number planes and to make it interesting we played battleships. I enjoyed it and learned more.

Kyanna Mungovan-caruso

I liked playing Battleships with my friend Jordyn 😊

Stephanie Nairne

We played battleships. It helped me with coordinates and it was really fun.

Taylah Crompton

Earlier in the year we were learning about the number planes and linear lines. We played battleships to practice our coordinates.

We played on numerous occasions with our friends. Personally, I loved it we were learning coordinates without even knowing it.

Abbey Hilder-Childs
Premier’s Reading Challenge

This year we would like as many students as possible to enter the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC). The challenge is to read twenty books between 2nd March and the 21st August 2015, and record them on the PRC website. Students can begin to log books on the website at any time, so if you would like to enter now you can use any books you have read since the 2nd of March and log them on the website.

You have to read at least 15 books from the PRC booklist, and you can use up to five free choice books that are not on the website. It is open to all students in Years 7-9 and some additional HIU students. Mrs Hogan is the PRC coordinator and any students with questions about the challenge are most welcome to come to the library to find out more about how to enter.

The PRC website can be accessed through the student or teacher portal. Students logon to the portal and follow the link to the PRC. Parents may search the Premier’s Reading Challenge and view Booklists, Rules, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) without logging on. There are also Tips and Teaching Notes for parents and teachers on the website.

The school library has plenty of PRC books from the booklist for students to borrow, and you may also assist your child by taking them to the local council library to borrow if there is a particular book not available through the school library.

The challenge is for all students, not just the best readers, and there are books at all reading levels on the booklist. Every student who finishes the challenge receives a certificate from the Premier. Students, challenge yourself and see if you can do it, and parents please encourage your child and support them in the challenge.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Anzac Day Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 Year 10 Writing Comp</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 Yr 7 half yearly exams</td>
<td>1 May</td>
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<td>3A</td>
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<td>5 Yr 8 half yearly exams</td>
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<td>4B</td>
<td>11 Cross Country</td>
<td>12 NAPLAN</td>
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<td>15 NAPLAN catch up</td>
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<td>5A</td>
<td>18 Yr 9 half yearly exams</td>
<td>19 Yr 7 vaccinations</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 Zone Cross Country Yr 8 CAPA excursion</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>6B</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>29 Yr 12 Senior Science &amp; Biology</td>
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<td>8B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9 Senior Leaders Camp</td>
<td>10 Senior Leaders Camp Yr 12 Drama excursion (evening) Yr 10 Careers Market</td>
<td>11 Regional Cross Country</td>
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<td>15 Zone Athletics</td>
<td>16 Zone Athletics</td>
<td>17 Yr 12 Business Studies excursion</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19 Talent Quest</td>
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<td>10B</td>
<td>22 Yr 11 &amp; 12 Legal Studies excursion</td>
<td>23 Parent Teacher night</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 Year 11 Biology excursion</td>
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