St Vincent De Paul fundraiser

Pictured above are some of our Senior Leaders who have been attending roll call each morning selling candy canes to students to raise money for St Vincent De Paul.

Students were able to order a candy cane for their friends and they were delivered by the Senior Leaders during roll call. Staff were also requested to donate food items and educational toys and stationery for the charity.

The Senior Leaders raised over $200.00 which was presented to a representative from the charity. This money will go towards groceries and Christmas presents for needy families in the Macarthur area.
This will be our last Newsletter for 2015.

During term 4

I would like to congratulate all of our committed students for their efforts and commitment of the year. They have no only shown great social, physical and academic growth but also continue to help us in mapping out the new school directions. More on that next year.

This year we introduced a personal Literacy Growth Program, funded through the government’s NERA (Gonski) program, for all students in years 7 through 9. By now you should have received at least one report showing their growth. We have created this initiative because far too many of our year 7 students enter high school with literacy levels below state averages. This not only makes it difficult to learn their current work but each year it becomes progressively harder. We hope to see the fruits of their growth as they gain greater class results in the years to come. Towards the end of this year we have begun work on a Numeracy development program which we hope to start rolling out next year.

We have had many staffing changes this year due to many promotions and a few retirements. Even more to follow next year. We have been quite busy in term picking our new staff to replace and to fill the large shoes left behind. At the time of publication we still have one teaching position to fill in mathematics which I am working to resolve ASAP.

I would like to congratulate the outgoing year 12 students. I hope they get everything they worked for. My congratulations also go to the outgoing senior leaders. They did an outstanding job.

I wish everyone a happy and most of all safe Christmas. I hope the new year is even better than 2015.

Warren Parkes
Principal

RETURNING TO SCHOOL DATES 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>28 January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>29 January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>29 January 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>29 January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>28 January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>28 January 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School commences at 8.20am
Another year draws to a close for staff, parents & students. What have been some of the significant lessons that I have learned during 2015?

Never underestimate any student’s ability to improve given the appropriate motivation.
- The powerful alliance of parents and teachers in supporting students whether it be improving student behaviour, attendance or academic achievement is truly incredible.
- The ability of students to make excuses for being late to school simply does not equal their ability to be on time, every time for their casual job. Money can make a difference!
- Always seek out the good in students: they will repay you generously in thought and deed.

A friend in Scouts gave me the following to share with others:

Christmas Gift

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart,
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff, students, parents and caregivers a peaceful and joyous holiday. Thank you all for your kind support this year.

Kim Chapman
Deputy Principal Years 7, 9 & 11

As the year is at a near end it is important we reflect on our achievements as a school and community over 2015. We have had some fantastic and rewarding programs offered across 2015 which have seen students participate in gala days, excursions, sporting carnivals, lunch time activities, overnight camps, teaching primary school students. Students involved in these programs have been recognised with awards on assemblies, Academic presentation night and at zone sporting award nights. Congratulations to all those students involved and also to staff and parents for taking the time to organise these valuable opportunities for our students to gain great life experiences.

At Robert Townson High School we place a great deal of emphasis on the safety and comfort of our students and community members. As of late, we have had a number of students not following the right procedures in bringing their scooters, bikes and skateboards to school. These have caused some significant safety concerns over the past month. As a result we have sought legal advice through the department of education and placed a ban on students bringing scooters, bikes and skateboards into the school. We ask for support in this matter to help ensure the safety of your children and other parents and community members that visit our school.

In the previous newsletter it was mentioned that there may be a change to the procedures of locking external gates in 2016. A decision has been made to lock the back gate of the Oval between 9:30am and 2:30pm. The gate will be opened earlier on a Tuesday to allow students to take this route home.

A reminder that on Wednesday, 16 December, HSC results are released and the HSC Results Inquiry Centre opens. Good luck to all Year 12’s.

Thank you for all your support in 2015 and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope you have an enjoyable break.

Mr L Farthing
Deputy Principal Years 8, 10 & 12
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**
Early next year the School will be requesting a review of your child’s asthma, allergy or medical condition. Please book in an appointment with your GP for their current health care plan to be updated. Discuss with your child their expected treatment, should an emergency arise. If your child does not have a Health Care Plan then please see your child’s GP to complete a plan which can be downloaded from our website.

**New Classroom Management Procedures**
Attached to our website is a summary of our new management procedures in the classroom. Your child will be encouraged to Be safe...Be respectful...and Be a learner. If your child does not follow regular classroom expectations they will be given a Chance to Think. If your child continues to violate expectations they will be placed at STOP Make a Choice and a desk card reminding them of their safe-respectful-learning behaviours will be placed on their desk in front of them. Further poor choices will see your child move to Reflection which will occur at recess or lunchtime. If your child has 3 reflections parents/carers will be notified and further Head Teacher intervention will ensue.

**Building Resilience**
Positive self-talk is key to mental wellbeing...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instead of</th>
<th>Try thinking:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I’m not good at this</td>
<td>What am I missing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I give up</td>
<td>I’ll try…or I’ll talk to a teacher/parent/ counsellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is too hard</td>
<td>This may take some time and effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I made a mistake. I always make mistakes.</td>
<td>Mistakes make me learn better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can’t make this any better</td>
<td>I can always improve, so I’ll keep on trying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I just can’t do maths</td>
<td>I’m going to train my brain in maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone’s talking about me</td>
<td>They have their own problems. I have so much to be thankful for…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan A didn’t work</td>
<td>Good thing there are 25 more letters in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Girls Information Seminars promoting Respectful Relationships**
Representatives from Macarthur Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy service will be talking to girls from Years 8, 9 and 10 about Respectful Relationships. The aim of the seminar is to empower young women to engage in positive friendships and address controlling relationships. Parents of girls have been given a note explaining these seminars which will be held on 4th December 2015.

**White Ribbon Day**
Robert Townson High School students always support the promotion of non-violence, particularly no violence against women. Students completed a PBIS lesson, which was devised by a group of our talented students! And school staff and students wore a white ribbon to promote peace and pledging to not be silent if we hear/see violence.

**Orientation Day and High School Experience Day**
Our Peer Leaders will be leading our Year 6 students during High School Experience Day this Thursday. Year 6 students and their parents will learn about school procedures from 9.30am, then students will stay to enjoy a day of ‘mini’ lessons. It’s always an enjoyable (and hot!) day.

For any further information about any wellbeing programs or if you would like to speak with me please telephone the school.

Enjoy the Christmas season, take care of each other.

Mrs Sally Willmott
Head Teacher Welfare
In sporting news Robert Townson has been excelling on the Oz-Tag and League Tag field.

**Macarthur Zone Oz-tag carnival**

Our year 7 girls team were undefeated and won the competition. Our year 7 boys team placed an excellent 3rd. Thank you to the year 10 PASS students who assisted with the coaching and refereeing on the day.

**Tiger Tag**

Robert Townson fielded 9 strong teams on a blistering hot day at Victoria Park Minto.

**Highlights included:**

- The year 7 team making the quarter finals.
- The year 8 team making the semi finals narrowly losing to the eventual winners Eaglevale.
- The year 9 and 10 teams played each other in a Robert Townson vs Robert Townson semi final.

The year 10 team progressed to the grand final but lost to Sarah Redfern in a nail biter. Congratulations to all teams involved as they conducted themselves in an excellent manner displaying outstanding sportsmanship and team spirit. Special mention to the Sport Coaching class and Year 12 students who assisted with coaching on the day.

**Zone and Regional Blues Awards for 2015**

Robert Townson is very excited to announce that two students have received sporting ‘Blues Awards’ this year. Ismail El Omar will be receiving a Macarthur Zone Blues Award in Rugby League and Baily McParland will be receiving a Sydney South West Blues Award in AFL. The ‘Blue’ is the highest sporting award offered in Macarthur Zone and Sydney South West Sport. The boy’s outstanding efforts and sporting excellence in their chosen sport, particularly in 2015 have earned the acclaim of teachers at school and in the sporting arena. Baily is one of only a few students to receive a Regional Blue this year, he will be attending a Special Dinner/Presentation at Liverpool Catholic Club. Well done boys! Pictured below Ismail El Omar Year 10, Man of the Match at the West League Cup Grand Final and Baily McParland.
Uniform Shop—Days and operating hours

The ladies in the uniform shop will be coming in during the January school holidays on the following days:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18 January</td>
<td>9.00am until 1.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 January</td>
<td>8.30am until 1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29 January</td>
<td>8.30am until 1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1 February</td>
<td>8.30am until 1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2 February</td>
<td>8.30am until 1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3 February</td>
<td>10.00am until 1.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5 February</td>
<td>10.00am until 1.00pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The uniform shop DO NOT have eftpos facilities. Layby’s are available.

If you have a son or daughter entering Year 11 you will need to purchase a senior uniform, including a tie.

Drama Club News

It has been my pleasure to have been running the ‘Robert Townson’s Drama Club’! Drama club occurs every Thursday afternoon from 2:45pm – 3:30pm. These students and I have had a lot of fun and laughs playing a wide range of drama games, including Space Jump, Death in a Minute, Bang just to name a few. The students will be performing a self-devised piece for the new Year 6 students titled ‘Welcome to High School’ and I am very excited to see all there stage skills used in this piece.

I am extremely proud of all of the students that have participated in ‘Drama Club’; they have been a great asset in keeping Drama alive in our school!

Mr Christian Gillett – Drama Teacher
2015 Chess Competition

The 2015 Chess competition has taken place for this year. Initially there were eighteen entrants all keen to take out the championship. The competition was played over six weeks at lunch time in the school library. Interest was high and many students spent their lunch time watching the games or practising for their own match.

The final four students in the competition were Joshua Virgona, Jackson Langston, Robert Pakulski and Joshua Megaly.

In two well-played semi finals Joshua Virgona defeated Jackson Langston, and Robert Pakulski was the winner against Joshua Megaly. The final was a skilful match between two worthy opponents with Robert emerging as the final victor.

Robert’s name will be engraved on the Chess Championship shield for taking out the 2015 championship, and he receives a games voucher.
Making a great impression – Year 10 Job Interview Day
This year’s Job Interview Day was a great success and students made a great impression on the community members who generously volunteered to interview Year 10 students. This year students were allowed to attend in business attire and many conducted themselves in a professional manner, beyond their years. Students did their best to overcome their nerves and tackle the interview situation, many for the first time. A special congratulations to those students who made a lasting impression on the community members and really stood out above the rest.

Bottom Row from left: Kobie Traviss-Cosgrove, Molly Malone, Senaida Kovancevic, Georgie Gilbert, Andrea Samuels.
Not in Photograph: Luke Sanders, Samuel Stratis, Mondine Awadallah, Madison Hutton

SUBJECT BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS
The main purpose of the library is to support teaching and learning in the school and to provide leisure reading and activities for students. This year, as every year, the library has had many student centred learning activities every day. It also hosts a number of teacher-centred learning events after school, and events which showcase student achievements, such as the HSC major works display.

With holidays fast approaching students who will have more time than usual to enjoy some leisure reading can come into the library so select from our collection. We are always adding items, and there are some great new books from which to choose.

From the Counsellor

Our Counsellor, Kate Plumb has provided the following websites which may be of interest to all parents. The websites have invaluable information regarding technology and bullying and how to help your children deal with situations.

https://theconversation.com/wired
http://www.huffingtonpost.com
Congratulations to the Year 9 Visual Arts class who won the Secondary Students category in Fisher’s Ghost Art Award with their film ‘Guerica Explained’.

Over two hundred entries were selected to be a part of the exhibition at Campbelltown Arts Centre in the 2015 prestigious art award.

Students and their families, the art faculty, Mr Parks and Ms Chapman were invited to attend the opening night, where students met internationally renowned artists, before receiving the award from the director of the gallery and Macarthur political personnel.

Students of the Year 9 Visual Arts class with their teacher, Miss Calman, and award sponsor from Western Suburbs Leagues Club at the award ceremony and opening night of Fisher’s Ghost Art Award.

Photograph – Chris Frape

The film is on display on a constant loop in the gallery until the 12th of December, along with twelve other Robert Townson Visual Arts students. The film is students’ analysis of Pablo Picasso’s work ‘Guerica’ and involves the recording of their process of re-creating the mural, which is positioned in the school.

On behalf of Robert Townson High School staff and students, congratulations to the students on this fantastic achievement.

The film is accessible on Youtube as ‘Guerica Explained’ or via the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=79hW7RM-CB4
STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS ART AWARD

Left and bottom right; The Year 9 Visual Arts class and Miss Calman in front of their mural of Guernica.

Below (L-R) A still from the class production.

The mural on display in the Tiered Learning Centre in a class curated exhibition for students families and RTHS staff.

The snack bar made by students, for their guests in the school exhibition.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>25 January</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AUSTRALIA DAY Public Holiday</td>
<td>STAFF RETURN No students</td>
<td>Years 7, 11 &amp; 12 return to school</td>
<td>Years 8, 9 &amp; 10 return to school</td>
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<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>1 February</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>5A</td>
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<td>1 March</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U Turn the Wheel ALL Year 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHOOL PHOTOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>7A</td>
<td>14 SCHOOL PHOTOS CATCH UP DAY</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 7 vaccinations HPV/dTpa</td>
<td>Student Leadership Workshops—Yr 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>9A</td>
<td>28 EASTER MONDAY</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1 April</td>
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