PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

National School Improvement Program

Again, we are continuing our series on the new National School Improvement domains. These descriptions relate to how a high performing school functions. We have identified a number of areas for improvement over the next four years.

An expert teaching team

- The teaching staff of the school are experts in the fields in which they teach and have very high levels of pedagogical knowledge and skill, including expert knowledge of evidence-based teaching strategies.
- Teachers and school leaders take personal and collective responsibility for improving student learning and wellbeing, working together and learning from each other’s practices. The sharing and showcasing of best practice are common. In team meetings there is an emphasis on the joint analysis of student work and on teaching strategies for improving student learning. Teachers collaboratively plan, deliver and review the effectiveness of lessons.
- School leaders place a very high priority on the ongoing professional learning of all staff and on the development of a school-wide, self-reflective culture focused on improving classroom teaching.
- School leaders participate in professional learning activities, learning alongside teachers, and the school supports teachers to continue formal study and celebrates professional success.

Systematic curriculum delivery

- The school’s curriculum delivery plan identifies curriculum, teaching and learning priorities and requirements. The curriculum delivery plan reflects a shared vision (by the school’s governing body, Principal, school leadership team, and teachers) for the school, and provides a context for delivering the curriculum as detailed in the Australian or other approved curriculum and, where relevant, system curriculum documents.
- The school curriculum plan and curriculum delivery (including the time allocated to particular learning) balance requirements to address all learning areas, to give priority to English, mathematics and science, and to embed the fundamental skills of literacy, numeracy and higher order thinking in all school subjects.
- The school leadership team ensures that the enacted curriculum remains a focus for discussion among, and collaboration between, teachers and that the curriculum plan is the reference against which flexible delivery is designed, assessment tasks are developed and student learning is reported. Curriculum delivery is designed to meet the needs of the range of students within each year level as well as those with disabilities and other particular needs.

Gary Brummell, Principal
COMMUNITY NEWS

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

BOYS’ HAIRSTYLES

If your son is needing a haircut, please ensure that they do not talk you into a comb-over style (pictured).

As described in the Primary and Senior Handbooks: hair must be worn neatly and must not cover the collar or fall below the eyebrows. Hair should be cut in a conservative style and of even length. No part of the hair may be shorter than a No. 2 comb/clipper.

Students may face suspension from school for breaches of this policy.

GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO SCHOOL ABSENCES

The Minister for Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015. These changes are effective from the beginning of the 2015 school year. In short, the new standard states:

- Holidays - Holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption will no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations.
- If travel during a school term is NECESSARY, a request for absence should be addressed to the Principal clearly explaining the reason for the travel, the dates of absence, and, if travelling overseas, a copy of the itinerary should be attached. If the Principal does not believe the absence is in the best interests of the student or does not accept the reason, the student will be marked as absent on the register.
- If the absence is in excess of 50 days the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education. (NB: A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school concurrently – including Distance Education).

TERM 1 FEES

We are now in Week 7 of term and unless you are paying your school fees by a school approved payment plan for 2015, fees are OVERDUE. If you do not have a 2015 agreed arrangement in place and if you have not paid the entire term’s tuition fees and sundries, please contact Mrs Wilcox by telephone or email accounts@rpccs.nsw.edu.au immediately to discuss possible alternate payment arrangements.

UNIFORM SHOP – open every Friday

Open every Friday from 8am – 12pm & 12.30 – 4.00pm

The Uniform Shop gratefully also accepts donations of second hand uniforms for both Primary and Secondary. Donations can be left at the office or brought in to the Uniform Shop on Fridays. Second hand uniforms are of great assistance to many families in our community.

EMERGENCY FORMS - URGENT

“Family Database Check” (green Emergency Forms) have been posted out to families. These forms are kept confidential and are used in the event of an emergency. Please amend any information (such as change of phone numbers) and then parent/s or guardian/s should sign the back of the form and return to the school office as a matter of urgency. If the information is correct we still require these forms to be signed and returned.

Thank you - Office Administration
WINTER UNIFORM CHANGEOVER PERIOD

Please note that winter uniform changeover commences from Term 2. Winter uniforms are available for purchase at the Uniform Shop. Although we do our best to maintain stock levels in all sizes, please be aware that if you leave your winter uniform purchases to the last minute you may be in danger of us running out of stock in the size you need. Don’t forget that layby is also available if you would like to be able to have your items set aside and pay them off slowly. Items can also be put on hold.

FREE ENGLISH CLASS

We invite you to join our fun and friendly English language classes where you can learn and share.
When: Every Tuesday during school terms
Time: Between 10 and 11.30am
Where: Heartbeat Church, 61 Regent St, Regents Park

Run by Heartbeat Church
Who: For 0 – 5 Yrs Children
When: Every Friday (during school terms)
Time: From 10.30am until 12.15pm
Where: Regents Park Christian School
(61 Regents Street, Regents Park)
Play time, Morning tea, Story, Craft, Music
Fee: $ 1 per session

INTERGEN WEEK CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Entries are now open for the Auburn Library writing competition. The theme for this year is “Crossing the Ages”. Students are invited to compose an imaginative piece of writing from the perspective of a member of another generation. Further details, including the entry form, are posted on the English competitions page on Moodle. Categories are:
- Ages 6-10 ($100 prize)
- Ages 11-15 ($150 prize)
- Ages 16-100 – and even older ($250 prize)
Closing date: 11 March 2015, 5pm.

 PRIMARY NEWS

Open Day 28 March, 10am-2pm:
International Food Fair

On Saturday, 28 March we will be holding our school’s Open Day. This is a fantastic day in the life of our school community and provides us with an opportunity to celebrate what God has done in our midst as well as promote this to the wider community. Many of our current families were introduced to our school community at Open Day.

Once again, Outback Steakhouse will be donating steak sandwiches to help the Primary department fundraise for play equipment. Additionally, as in past years, many parents will be providing food showcasing the many cultures represented in our school community (e.g. sushi, empanadas, samosas, dim sum, etc). These are sold to purchase resources for Kulusakwalo Primary School, Solomon Islands where our secondary students will be serving during Camp Ministry week in term 2.

If you are able to help, either by providing food, or by serving on the day, please contact the primary office.

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL? PLEASE PROVIDE A NOTE!

Thank you to all the parents who are remembering to send in a signed note of explanation whenever their children are away from school. This is a legal requirement and it makes it so much easier for us when we do not have to chase these notes.
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) VALUE: FOLLOW TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

The next fortnight, our focus will be on showing respect by “Following teacher instructions.” We honour those in authority by listening to them and then doing what they ask us to do. As parents, we can model obedience to our children by showing them how we obey God’s Word. As well, by training our children to do what we ask, we are discipling them to then obey God.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please read the Handbook to ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform. Uniform shoes should be black Clark style. Sports shoes should be black joggers. Hair accessories should be bottle green, yellow or black. T-shirts and singlets should be white (not coloured).

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Each Friday (9:00-9:30) we will be holding our Primary Assembly in the school hall. This is a time when our Primary classes come together to celebrate God’s goodness. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend, particularly when your child’s class is rostered to share in assembly.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1J</td>
<td>13 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>S1K</td>
<td>20 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>S1M</td>
<td>27 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Assembly</td>
<td>2 April</td>
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PRIMARY DANCE TUITION

A former student of Regents Park Christian School (CCHS) has offered Dance tuition for primary students during school hours. If you would be interested in your child taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact the Primary office.

CRUNCH ‘N’ SIP

Please remember to provide your child with a serving of fresh fruit or vegetables for their Crunch n Sip break. Students should also bring a drink bottle filled with water. The Cancer Council have provided us with more ideas on how to get our students eating more fruit and vegetables.

![Nutrition Snippet](image-url)

The simplest way...

...to eat more fruit & veg

Did you know that eating the right amount of fruit and veg is essential in the fight against cancer?

Try to make them part of every meal, to make sure you get your 2 serves of fruit and 5 serves of veg every day.

At brekkie, add some mushrooms or spinach to your eggs. Eat a piece of fruit at morning tea, and then add a salad to your lunch. Serve vegies with dinner, and have fruit and yoghurt for dessert.

To make lunch boxes as healthy as possible:

- Pack some vegie sticks, like carrot or cucumber
- Cut up fruit into small pieces
- Freeze fruit like grapes and add to the lunch box
- Include left over baked vegies.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

Eat It To Beat It

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well & School Program.
STUDENT WELLBEING

FREE* Training for Parents of Teens (12-15yrs) aims to equip parents with the skills to recognize and respond to mental health problems in teenagers, as well as first aid injuries. This is an exciting research project being conducted by the University of Melbourne. Parents receive training at no cost to them, in one of the following two courses:

The 14-hour Youth Mental Health First Aid course, which teaches the skills to recognize the early signs of mental illness, identify potential mental health-related crises, and assist teenagers to get the help they need as early as possible. The course is being held at the Bankstown Sports Club on 19-20 March.

or

a 15-hour Australian Red Cross Provide First Aid course, which teaches the skills to sustain life, reduce pain and minimise the consequences of injury and illness until professional help arrives.

The research study is titled Training for Parents of Teenagers (TPOT study). To find out more (click here) and register today. Alternatively, if you have any questions about the research program, please contact Julie Fischer by email or by phone at T: 90356770 or M: 0401 772 648.

DISABILITY PROVISIONS FOR THE HSC 2015

The Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) has specifically developed the disability examination provisions program to assist students in completing the HSC examinations. The aim is to offer practical support to students with provisions such as extra time to rest and/or write, writers or readers, special coloured examination papers. If students have a special examination need – whether it be a physical condition, visual impairment, (eg colour blindness), hearing loss or learning difficulties, please contact Mrs Dorizas in the school office to discuss and obtain an application form. Applications for 2015 must be lodged by Friday 2 April 2015. Students must have a disability to apply for a special provision.

THE 'INKLINGS' - ALL WELCOME!

Students from Years 7-12 are most welcome to join the group on Monday afternoons from 3.00pm-4.00pm in F12. Mr Perera, Ms Evangelista and Mrs Duong would love to see you there!

YEAR 11 & 12 ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Year 11 and 12 Art and Photography students recently enjoyed an excursion to the Art Gallery of NSW to see the annual Art Express exhibition. As part of the excursion they listened to the Curator of Art Express talk about the themes students had chosen for their Body of Work for the HSC.

We also listened to students who had been selected for exhibition, talk about the process of developing their artworks.

Students then visited the gallery and found inspiration in the artwork of fellow students.

Mrs Goodall and Mrs Olmos
The Dorothea Mackellar poetry competition aims to inspire students across Australia to express their thoughts creatively through poetry. It is the oldest and largest poetry competition for school aged children in Australia.

Entries are now open and this year’s optional theme is ‘the open door.’

There are some amazing prizes including $500 for the winning entry in each age category. Further details can be found on Moodle in the English competitions page or by visiting www.dorothea.com.au

Looking forward to reading your poems!

Entries need to be uploaded on Moodle and close on the 30th of June.

**It starts with us**

It starts with us  
Burning rubber, drifted smooth like butter  
Moving sideways, past all the driveways  
Drifting around the corner, just like a performer  
No looking back, the guards turned black  
Watching the smoke build up behind the car  
The turn was long, the road was wide  
The pull was powerful, almost too powerful, out of nowhere  
A tyre blows out, we begin to doubt  
A loss of control, we see a pole  
Were wrapped around, the car is broken down. It ends with us.

by Marco Farag (Year 11)

**‘LEARNING REQUIRES TAKING RISKS’**

Inquiry-based learning, where students are actively problem solving and creating viable solutions, requires an environment that supports risk-taking. RPCS builds a culture that promotes risk-taking in the classroom. This is shown in the following ways:

- all students are invited to ask questions
- "mistakes" are valued as they provide a ‘what else can I do that might work’ into the inquiry
- open-ended questions are asked, grappled with, explored, rearranged and appreciated for the challenge they provide.
- there’s more than one possible answer as all questions show the thinking and learning process of the student
- all ideas are okay to share.

Learning requires the student to face the possibility that ‘there might be a better way’ and to be open to look at concepts differently from previous perceptions. Learning requires the risk of failure. Failure is the opportunity to try another way and learn.

At RPCS, students are encouraged to take risks in their learning. The most successful students turn their ‘failures’ into successes.

Where would we be if Thomas Edison – who invented the light globe, stopped after his first attempt didn’t work?
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 16 June 2015

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- Up to $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au