Let the Adventure Begin

This week sees the commencement of the new Primary building project. For the next six months or more the school will be not only a building site with limited classrooms and playground spaces but a community where every day we will come to school and see God’s provisions and blessing in action. Buildings are a wonderful reminder of change and growth.

During this time we also believe the land swap with Dooley’s Club will occur as well as the construction of the crossing on Kingsland Road. Across the road in Regent Street the Council has demolished the house in the middle of Guilfoyle Park. Recently some of our Primary students and Secondary students got the opportunity to recommend some amendments to the park to make it a more usual and aesthetic active and recreational space for this local community.

We appear to be entering a season of growth in the school and the local community. Dare I say it, there appears to be a spring in our step. Like all good adventures there has been a lot of planning undertaken to get to this point. With our theme for the year being Celebrating our Diversity we appear to have so many tangible points that help us remember this truth. This year is the lead up to our 40th anniversary next year. 2016 has many things to get excited about:

- New buildings completed
- New facilities
- School inspection
- 40th anniversary celebration
- Completing the school’s Strategic Master Plan for the next decade

The school is committed to a path of development, growth, excellence, service and opportunities. As we reflect over the past decade it is possible to recognise that our school is not the same school that it once was. In Romans 12:1-2 we read about being transformed by the renewing of our minds. It is true that our school has been in a significant season of transformation. It is important we stop and look back at the footprints on the beach not only to see how far we have come but also the direction in which we are now heading. The exciting thing is that over the next decade we will continue on that journey. For the last few years we have been learning to climb hills. It is like climbing the seven hills, a la Rome (or Sydney if you prefer a local landmark). The first one or two are pretty tiring and often overwhelming but once you get used to it you become confident enough to tackle the next hill. It is exciting to see the confidence and enthusiasm growing in the community.

We ask for your prayers but we also ask for your support and patience in this physically challenging time over the next 12 months as we transform the buildings and landscape into a wonderful facility. In the short run it will be tight and at times uncomfortable but by looking ahead we can see the end game and maintain our confidence and joy.

Gary Brummell, Principal
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.

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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).

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KINDERGARTEN 2016

Kindergarten enrolments for 2016 are filling fast. If you have a younger child who you hope to start Kindergarten at RPCS in 2016 you need to put in an application form immediately and notify our Enrolment Officer, Diane Dorizas. It would be sad if your child missed out.

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SCHOOL SPORT, MUSIC & EXTRA CURRICULAR PHOTOS

Photos will be available for viewing & purchasing on Friday 31 July 2015 via The School Photographer website. The cost is $16.00 per photo.

How to purchase:

1. Go online to www.theschoolphotographer.com.au
2. Select “Online Payments & Online Ordering”
3. Select “Event Photography”
4. Select “Regents Park Christian”
5. Enter Password – 15547
6. Click Submit

Once you have selected the photos you wish to order you will be able to add them to your cart & purchase with your credit card via PAYPAL.
AVCAT SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES - 2016

The Australian Veterans’ Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a national independent charity helping the children and grandchildren of ex-service men and women to a better future through higher education. Through the help of donors AVCAT administers scholarships to the children of those who have served our country in peace and war in the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force. Scholarship selection is on a need and merit basis. AVCAT also announce the Commemorative Bursary in recognition of 30 years of service to the veteran community. This special bursary is valued at $15,000 and aims to financially assist an Australian veteran’s child as they pursue their university studies. All applications are open on 18 August, Vietnam Veterans’ Day, and strictly close on 31 October 2015.

For more information about AVCAT, please visit the website and if you have any queries or concerns please call 02 9213 7999 or avcat@dva.gov.au.

1. Are you a child or a grandchild of an Australian veteran?
   - **YES** Go to Question 2. **NO** You are NOT eligible!

2. Are you an Australian permanent resident?
   - **YES** Go to Question 3. **NO** You are NOT eligible!

3. Are you enrolled or planning to enrol in tertiary studies for a minimum of one year?
   - **YES** Go to Question 4. **NO** You are NOT eligible!

4. Will you be studying full-time next year?
   - **YES** Go to Question 5. **NO** You are NOT eligible!

5. Are you/will you be eligible for Youth Allowance?
   - **YES** Go to Question 6. **NO** See Note 1 below.

6. Are you under 25 yrs? **NO** See Note 2 below.
   - **YES** - Please contact AVCAT for more information.

UNIFORM SHOP

Open  Fridays (term time) 8am–12pm & 12.30–4.00pm

Closed: Friday 21 August

The Uniform Shop gratefully accepts donations of 2nd hand uniforms for Primary and Secondary as they are of great assistance to families in our community. Donations can be left at the office or brought in to the Uniform Shop on Fridays. Layby is also available if you would like to have your items set aside and pay them off slowly. Items can also be put on hold. **Online ordering now available!** Uniform Shop information and order forms can be found on the website under the RPCS ‘Today’ tab. Orders will be packed on Fridays and sent home with the students.

**Name labels:** Personalised, iron-on name labels are now available for purchase from the uniform shop for $0.50 each. The labels are to be ironed on at home and will come with instructions. Each Secondary blazer sold will have a free label included.

SCHOOL ‘SKOOLBAG’ APP

We are pleased to announce that Skoolbag is now available for Windows Phones running version 8.1 of Windows, and Windows devices running Windows 8.1 or 10 (eg Surface tablet, Laptop, PC etc). This makes the app even more accessible then before with the ability to receive messages directly to a PC, Laptop, or Surface Tablet running Windows 8.1 or 10. To install Skoolbag on your Windows device, look up "Skoolbag" in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed you can find your school and pin it to your Windows Home Screen.

Please note: You must be running at least Windows 8.1 on your device for the app to function.

If you have any questions please email support@skoolbag.com.au
HEARTBEAT COMMUNITY CHOIR

Everyone is welcome
21 July – 15 September, 9 weeks
Every Tuesday from 9.00 am - 9.50 am
@ Heartbeat Church (61 Regents St)
Enjoy Singing, Friendship and Morning Tea
Donation $5 per session
The program is run by Heartbeat Church – Regents Park
Contact: 9738 9799 or familychaplain@heartbeatchurch.org.au

HEARTBEAT COMMUNITY CARE

welcomes your donations of:
- quality, 2nd hand men’s, women and children’s clothing and shoes; and
- homewares (not electricals)
Our Emergency Relief program welcomes donations of non-perishable food items such as canned soup, Weet-Bix and basic hygiene items such as toothpaste.
All donations can be dropped off at Heartbeat Community Care (Shop 1/5 Amy Street, Regents Park) or at the Heartbeat Church office (61 Regents Street, Regents Park).

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

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

Who: For children 0 – 5 Yrs
When: Every Friday (during school terms)
Time: From 10.30am until 12.15pm
Where: Regents Park Christian School

Play time, Morning tea, Story, Craft, Music
Fee: $1 per session
ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL AND SOCCER & NETBALL METRO CUP

On Monday, 10 August, representatives from our school will be participating in the Zone Athletics Carnival at Campbelltown Athletics Centre. Those students attending will need to be at school by 7:15am as the bus will be departing at 7:30am.

Students attending the Soccer & Netball Metro Cup Finals in Penrith on Monday, 17 August, will need to be at school by 7:00am as the bus will be departing at 7:15 am.

SCHOOL CROSSING ON KINGSLAND ROAD

One Monday in the next few weeks, when dropping off your children, you will see a raised pedestrian crossing on Kingsland Road. When this happens, our Kiss N Drop will extend up Kingsland Road, so that students will turn left when the exit the gate. The front of the queue will be near the Secondary pedestrian gate on Kingsland Road. A map will be sent home shortly.

It is vital that our families use this pedestrian crossing when crossing Kingsland Road when it is constructed.

WOOLIES ‘EARN & LEARN’

This year we are again participating in Woolies ‘Earn & Learn’ Program. If you shop at Woolies, please remember to collect your Earn & Learn Stamps and return them to the school so that we can redeem them for great resources. Blank sticker sheets are available from the primary office.

RPCS DEBATING TEAM – INTO THE FINALS!

Last Wednesday, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, our Stage 3 debating team participated in their first video-conference debate with an independent school in Queensland. The topic was “Should Homework be abolished?” Interestingly, our students were given the negative position and argued quite persuasively! We are very proud of all the debaters and look forward to the grand final which will be held on Friday, 14 August at Greenacre Baptist Christian School.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Each year, our school community works with Samaritan’s Purse to support their Operation Christmas Child Project. Last term, our Secondary students brought in boxes and this term, those families who do not have a child in Secondary can now participate. If you would like your family to participate, brochures and boxes are now available from the Primary office.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If a student is absent from school for any reason, they must bring a note (signed by the parent/guardian) when they return to school. Please make sure that the note clearly includes the student’s name, year, and class teacher’s name and states the reason for the absence. For your convenience, absence note pro-formas are available from the Primary office.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) VALUE: Be Polite

Over the next two weeks, we will encourage our students to, “Be polite!” It is important that we show respect to our peers and the adults in our lives by being polite. When we are polite to those around us it lets them know that we value them as people. It is an opportunity to show empathy – by “walking in their shoes.”
2016 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

Kindergarten 2016 is rapidly filling! If you are expecting one of your children to start Kindergarten next year and you have not been contacted by Mrs Dorizas, our Enrolments Officer, please contact her urgently. Make sure your child does not miss out on a place!

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

We want to ensure the wellbeing of all of our students, so we ask that, if your child requires medication during the day, you do not just instruct them to tell the office what is needed.
Please follow the procedures shown in our School Handbook, which states: “If a student requires medication at school, parents must inform the school in writing. This includes instructions, dosage and indicators of concern. Medication must be kept in the Primary office, where the student should report to be supervised in taking it appropriately.” Thank you for your help as we work together to keep your child well and safe.

YEAR 5/6 FUN DAY

On Wednesday, 22 July all of the Stage 3 students had a fun day where we learnt how to get along better. The day started off with a few fun team-building games including: a human scavenger hunt; newspaper tower building and human machine making.
During these games we got to know people we wouldn’t normally speak to and learnt how to work together better. At lunch we enjoyed having a sausage sizzle together. We also played many sports e.g. Netball, Soccer, Touch Footy and Basketball. The boys and girls then had separate meetings where they discussed how to be a good sport and how to build better community in our classroom.
At the end of the day we had praise and worship. We want to give a special thanks to the prefects in Year 11 for helping us, Mr Jamieson and Mrs Chung for looking after us and to Mrs Dawson for organizing the day. A big thank you also to Trent and Mrs Corbett for speaking to us. We are hoping to take this fun day back into our classroom and keep building great relationships in Stage 3.
By Emma Luchko, Isabella Luchko and Viliami Siasau

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY - TERM 3

Parents and friends are welcome to attend any time, but particularly so when your child’s class is sharing at Assembly.
Fathers, we particularly encourage you to keep the morning of 4 September free, when we will be having our Father’s Day Breakfast and Assembly. Wait until you see what we have organised for this year!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2K</td>
<td>7 August</td>
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<td>5-6EJ</td>
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<td>3-4A</td>
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<td>Father’s Day</td>
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<td>3-4H</td>
<td>11 September</td>
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<td>3-4J</td>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

CANCER COUNCIL NUTRITION SNIPPETS

We join with the Cancer Council to promote healthy eating choices, thereby reducing our risk of cancer.

FREE 1 YEAR ANTI-VIRUS THE SCHOOL

The school has been given a number of 1 year, free ESET anti-virus subscriptions for MAC and Windows for any students who have no antivirus on their devices or teachers who have no Antivirus on their home computers. Please see the Secondary School Library for a Licence card.

WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

The University of Wollongong will be holding an Open Day at their Sydney CBD campus on 29 August 2015. Guests will hear all about specialised degrees in accounting, banking and financial services, meet the lecturers and current students, tour the campus and more.

Date: Saturday 29 August 2015
Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm
Place: UOW CBD Campus
Gateway Building, Level 8
1 Macquarie Plc, Circular Quay (opp train station)
RSVP: uow.edu.au/sydney-open-day

'INKLINGS' WRITERS CLUB - 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!
AURECON BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION

The 2015 Aurecon Bridge Building Competition is nearing completion as Sarah Du, Joss Nguyen and Connor Bolger complete their design of a balsa wood construction. The bridge this year has an arch as the base with a truss above the arch. To add to this bridge design a string tie is to be built underneath the arch which will also allow for tensile forces across the structure.

The competition is at the Art Gallery of New South Wales next Tuesday 11th August.

LEGO + PROGRAMMING = ROBOTS!

Do you like Lego? Are you interested in programming robots? Our school Robotics group meets on Mondays after school in F11. Everyone is welcome, grab a permission sticker from Mr Prasad if you are interested!

A FREE Lecture to Help Students Maximise Exam Marks

Final Session for 2015

100% Of past students indicated that the skills and strategies covered on the day would definitely improve their examination marks.

97% Of attending students left the lecture feeling more confident about their forthcoming examinations.

94% Of students indicated that they learned important skills and strategies that they were not previously aware of!

Valued at over $200 the "Mastering the Exams" lecture is free of charge*. However, students participating in this program make a *minimum $10 donation to "The Fred Hollows Foundation" charity representatives that will be in attendance on the day. To date, TSFX has donated over $289,800 to charity!

Mastering the Exams - Final Session for 2015

Date: Sunday 30 August (10am to 3pm)
Venue: The University of Sydney (Campusdown)