



DIARY DATES

Thursday	7	August	OPAL Evaluation
Monday	11	August	Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday	12	August	ICAS - Maths
Wednesday	13	August	Fundraising Committee Meeting
Wednesday	13	August	Grounds Committee Meeting
Wednesday	13	August	Governing Council Meeting
Friday	22	August	Fundraising Raffle Tickets due back
Tuesday	26, 27	August	School Photos

Term 3, Week 3, August 6th, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Term 3 Student Assessment & testing

Over the next four weeks students will be participating in Term 3 testing and assessments. Every student from Reception to Year 7 will be assessed in Reading using the Running Records Reading Assessment Tool and years 1 – 7 will be using the ACER Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) which are Australian normed tests for measuring and tracking student achievement. PAT tests provide teachers with an online assessment and reporting tool in Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, Spelling and Maths. Receptions will be using a range of Vocabulary, Spelling and Phonics tests matching the Jolly Phonics program that we use in all classrooms and will also complete a maths test on paper. As most of the tests are online as there is capacity for instant scoring and electronic reporting of results thus providing teachers and students with prompt feedback about achievement and their progress.

This testing will provide:

- comprehensive norm, diagnostic and descriptive reports for every student.
- teachers with information for setting learning goals and planning effective programs in their classrooms and across the year levels.
- students with information to inform their learning and goal setting.
- data to measure improvement for all students during each year of schooling and over a number of years as we also store the information electronically to be retrieved at a later date.
- teachers with a benchmark and moderation process to ensure that when we are assigning A – E grades in reports that we are consistent with year level expectations in all other schools in the state and indeed across the nation e.g. an A assigned to a student at Reidy Park will be the same as an A assigned to a student in schools in Adelaide, Melbourne or Sydney.



Most on line tests will only take one lesson to complete and we will be providing the students with an introduction and practice questions before each test begins.

Reception for 2015

From the commencement of 2014 all children now start Reception at the beginning of the school year in an initiative called Same Start which brings South Australia in line with the rest of Australia. Students turning 5 before May 1st start school at the beginning of that year while those after that date start the following year. This has implications for both schools and our feeder preschools.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

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For us at Reidy Park one intake a year will mean that:

- we will have up to 75 students transitioning and starting school at the same time as compared with groups of 25 as we had in the past .
- at the beginning of the year Reception students range in age from 4 years 8 months to 5 years 9 months.

To incorporate this change we are:

- meeting with our colleagues in preschools to discuss changes to our transition processes to make it a positive and relevant experience for students.
- reflecting on teaching and learning approaches to incorporate greater play based and personalised approaches to ensure that children's developmental needs are being met. We have recently developed the Huddle, changed the way that we support children with their early learning in reading and phonics and improved our playful learning program.
- talking to preschool and early learning centre teachers about handover of information related to students.

The change in DECD policy for us has meant that now is an ideal time to reflect on how we currently support children and their families in the early years of schooling.

We are currently planning transition and staffing for 2015. If you have children starting in 2015 or know families who do, it is necessary for them to enrol. We urgently require all enrolment forms. We already have a number of out of zone enrolment reception applications and need to firm up our numbers of in-zone and sibling enrolments before we can make offers of places to these families.



S.S.O. Week

This week is SSO Week and I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge all of the amazing support that the teaching staff and the students receive from our SSO team.

Thank You

Tracy, Jayne and Gay, our Front Office SSOs, keep our school and finances running smoothly and provide a fantastic and friendly service to our families and visitors alike. Deb, Di, Mel and Andrea support us to provide the very best programs for our students needing a little extra help with their learning and perform a myriad of other tasks in our classrooms along with Josie who also has the additional role of supporting the wellbeing of students as our CPSW.

ICT in our school relies on Stephen's amazing skills in computing, software analysis and his ability to translate some of our big ideas into simple tasks that our students can understand and manage.

The Library team Louise, Michelle and Tara work hard to ensure that our Resource Centre is a welcoming learning environment for all. Thank you SSOs for your outstanding work at our school.

Chris Sheldon
PRINCIPAL

Lesley Okholm
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Sue Hutchesson
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Health and Wellbeing Evaluation for Children in the Community

Our school has been invited to take part in the OPAL (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle) Evaluation to be held on Thursday 7th August. To help determine the success of OPAL, students in Years 4, 5 and 6 and their parents/guardians are being asked to take part in an evaluation of the program. The evaluation is managed by SA Health in partnership with Flinders University.



Students in years 4, 5 and 6 received a pack with an Information Brochure including the Consent Form for parents to complete for your child/children to participate in doing a survey and/or having confidential and private growth check measurements performed. There was also a Parent Survey and Reply paid envelope to mail the survey back in. Personal details are collected for the matching of data/geocoding and will be removed. All data will be collated and the reporting will be done at a community level.

Please complete and return your child's Consent Form to the school, whether it be a Yes or a No to participating in the health evaluation. Each child who returns a completed consent form, whether it be a Yes or a No will receive a gift of a yo-yo and a stress ball.

By allowing your child to participate in this evaluation you will be contributing to learning more about the health and wellbeing of children in the community. If you have any questions about your school's involvement, please contact the OPAL Evaluation 1800 Study Support Line on **1800 783 083**, or via email opal.admin@colmarbrunton.com.



Eat Smart B Active

Rooms 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22 & 23 have received the second edition of the Eat Smart Be Active Newsletter. It offers helpful hints when planning kids parties and ways of getting them involved in preparations. *Keep up the good work!*

*Jen Herbert
Coordinator*

Cyber Safety Awareness Presentations

Free presentations for Parents and Professionals are on offer from 11th - 15th August through the Mt Gambier City Council. 'You cannot protect your children if you don't know what you are protecting them from'. From the destructive impacts of cyber bullying, to fallout of 'sexts' gone viral and the hidden lurks of online predators, receive first hand advice on how to keep your children safe. No question too taboo and no answer too trivial. Bookings are essential so please contact District Council of Grant for a session near you at info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au or 08 87210444.

*Tracey McAdam
Police Liaison Officer*



School Dental Service

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider. All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend. Dental care is FREE for most children. Children who do not qualify for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule can also attend – a small fee will apply for each course of general dental care provided. All dental care provided is FREE for preschool children. To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au.



Book Week 2014 - 'Connect to Reading'

Students are invited to bring in a photo of themselves connecting to reading in a favourite spot. It might be snuggling with a parent at night reading a book, you reading in bed, on the trampoline, in a hammock, next to your pet!! Be creative! You can email it, bring it in on a USB for us to print, or print it off yourself at home ready for us to use in a display. We will create a slide show of your photos for all the school community to enjoy, as well as make an 'I Read, I Connect' display for the library. If you choose to email, please send to Mrs. Hutchesson at sue.hutchesson125@schools.sa.edu.au. *These will not be broadcast on the internet!*



Reading at Reidy - REMINDER

Parents of Junior Primary children are invited to a reading workshop in our school library on Thursday 14th August at 8:45am. This is an excellent opportunity to find out how to hear your child read at home, what the levels mean and what good readers do listen to. Morning tea is provided and this session will be run by Sue Hutchesson. Please phone / email the school if you are planning on attending. A flyer has also gone home with your child.



Reidy Park Café

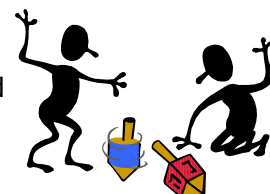
This service continues to be provided with a wide range of meals available. Please remember to place your child's completed order form with correct money in a sealed envelope in the box provided in the Front Office by 9:00am Wednesday mornings.

*Kate McDonough
ILC Coordinator*

Play Support Roster

Tomorrow's activity is Games while next Thursday will be Teddy Bar Cars. If you are interested in these activities held in the Art Room with the Peer Support Leaders and Miss Mouat, speak to your class teacher for a Classroom Pass.

*Sue Mouat
Play Support Coordinator*



WANTED

If anyone has a cot and mattress in fairly good condition and would like to donate it to a family in need, please contact the Front Office staff as soon as possible.

***** Please note that all Newsletters are available in full colour on our website. *****

Year 6/7 Debating Competition

On Wednesday 30th July our Year 6 debating teams took part in the Division 2 debating against other South East schools. Topics of debate were: 'Tablets are better than laptops' and 'Technology makes us smarter'. This was the first time that the Year 6s had debated and they performed to a high standard thanks to their hard work and preparation in the weeks leading up to the debates. The Year 6s who took part were Ben P, Luke B, Amelia D, Mairead C, Jasmine C, Zari S, Manon F, Ellie C and Ashlee L.

Our Year 7s Maisie H, Caitlin M, Makenzie R, Daisy T, Kiara S and Kiara B took part in Division 1 on Thursday. Both Year 7 teams performed exceptionally well with both teams winning their debates. Their topic was 'Children should have more play' with Maisie being awarded the most outstanding debater in division 1! *Congratulations!*

Daniel Castle
6/7 Teacher



Caitlin, Maisie, Makenzie

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



NetSetGo

Hobitz Netball Club will be holding **NetSetGO!** during term 3 for five to ten year olds. Registration fee including equipment packs is \$65 per player. Sessions will be held Sundays from the 3rd August till 14th September from 10:00am to 11.30am at Mount Gambier Netball Association Courts, Olympic Park. To register please email or text your name, age, DOB and phone number to hobitznetballclub@bigpond.com or **0407391385**.

Mt Gambier Swap Meet Dates

To be held 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 15th November, 6th December & 20th December from 10:00am - 10:30am on the Verandah of the Public Library. Please bring along any excess produce, seedlings/cuttings and swap for other local home-grown produce. Swap Meets are for sharing rather than trading. There's no weighing or calculating and no money changes hands. Any excess produce is donated to the local Sunset Kitchen. For further information please contact: **Jodie Glynn on 08 8721 1320**.



Centrals Tennis Club

Grading Night will commence Tuesday 2nd September, 4:00pm for juniors and 5:00pm for seniors on Bishops Road, Mt Gambier. All new players are welcome to attend. Junior must be 8 years of age to commence play. For more information please contact **Sonya Poel on 0438 566 454**. **COME ON KIDS – MUM AND DAD CAN PLAY TOO!!**



Reidy Park Primary School now has a Facebook page. Here you will find posts about what's happening in our school, up and coming events, newsletter links and so much more.

<https://www.facebook.com/reidyparkprimaryschool>