



<u>DIARY DATES</u>			
Monday	17	February	Swimming Lessons Commence
Wednesday	19	February	Acquaintance Night
Wednesday	19	February	Annual General Meeting
Monday	24	February	Swimming Lessons Continue
Monday	3	March	Interviews Commence
Friday	7	March	PUPIL FREE DAY
Monday	10	March	Adelaide Cup Holiday
Monday	17	March	Swimming Lessons Round 2
Monday	24	March	Swimming Lessons Continue

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Term 3, Week 3, February 12th, 2014

The warm reception from the staff, students and parents has assisted me to settle quickly into Reidy Park Primary School. I would like to thank everyone for their support and condolences during the time of my mother's passing at the beginning of the school year. However, after a short period of bereavement leave I am now back at school and 'into the swing of things'.

As I walk around the school during learning time I am extremely impressed with the safe, orderly and productive classrooms at Reidy Park Primary School. All classrooms have been a hive of activity since the first Tuesday and there is obvious evidence of a culture of high expectations for the students both academically and in their interactions with their peers and their teachers. We are fortunate to have a highly professional staff who are intently focused on providing the very best learning programs for each and every student but who haven't forgotten that educating is also about having high expectations for behaviour and team work.

Equally pleasing are the relationships and connections of our students in the yard during playtime. I have noticed that they are very intent on including others and solving their differences in a restorative way that augers well for a safe and happy play environment. I am aware that new students have been welcomed into their classrooms and are making the transition into our school community very quickly and smoothly.

It was great that many parents took the opportunity to come along to assembly on Friday and I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many of you afterwards. My congratulations to the students who coordinated and presented on the day; once again it demonstrated to me the remarkable organisational skills of our students.

As many are aware I have lived in Mount Gambier for the past two and a half years having moved from Bordertown to take up the position of Assistant Regional Director for the Limestone Coast. In this position I had the great privilege of working with the school principals and preschool directors across the region. Prior to moving to Mount Gambier I held the position of Principal of Bordertown Primary School for five and a half years, a job and a town that I really enjoyed. During my career I have held many leadership positions with DECD as a Principal, Human Resource Consultant, Curriculum Manager and Leadership Consultant both in metropolitan and country areas. School based positions have seen me leading and managing large and complex schools covering both the Primary and Secondary sectors of education. In 1993 and 2000 I worked as an English language exchange teacher in Japan which provided me with the opportunity to observe first hand a very formal and structured education system and the associated leadership functions of school principals in secondary schools. These experiences have lead me to the realisation that I get the most personal and professional satisfaction by working in country schools and communities; thus I made the conscious decision to apply for the position at Reidy Park Primary in order to extend my stay in the Limestone Coast

 <p>Government of South Australia Department for Education and Child Development</p>	<p>Principal: Deputy Principal: Assistant Principal: Governing Council Chairperson: Phone: 8725 3381 Website: http://www.reidyprkps.sa.edu.au</p>	<p>Chris Sheldon Lesley Okholm Sue Hutchesson Andrew Hunter Fax: 8725 0576 Email: dl.0290_info@schools.sa.edu.au</p>	 <p>learning together, caring together.</p>
	<p>Principal: Deputy Principal: Assistant Principal: Governing Council Chairperson: Phone: 8725 3381 Website: http://www.reidyprkps.sa.edu.au</p>		

for another five years. I had also been inspired to apply for the principal position here by the wonderful status of the school, staff and students; a reputation for excellence in education held not only in the Limestone Coast but throughout the state.

Just before Christmas I purchased a house and moved from rented accommodation so that I am now closer to the school and feel more 'at home' in Mount Gambier. I have one adult daughter, Kirsty, who also works for DECD at the Open Access College in Adelaide and two delightful grandchildren, Charlee (7 years old) and Max (5 years old). My grandchildren both attend their local DECD school and are lucky enough to be attending a primary school that is almost as good as Reidy!

My congratulations to our 2014 School Captains, School Leaders and Sports Captains. As a Principal I am very serious about collaborative decision making, responding to feedback, focusing on improvement and keeping the momentum for excellent practice at the forefront of all that we do. Listening to and encouraging student voice is an important part of my agenda and thus I take seriously the role of school leaders, SRC and Little Leaders as representatives of the student body as partners in decision making.

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|---------------------|--|-----------|----------|
| Captains | - Ruby H & Braeden B | | |
| Student Leaders | - Gemma H, Maisie H, Gabby A, Claire D, Kaleb B, Caitlin M | | |
| Sports Team Leaders | - Claudia E & Jack L | Eaglehawk | (yellow) |
| | - Ben J & Imogen W | Lava | (red) |
| | - Fraser B & Kiara B | Lake | (blue) |
| | - Charlotte F & Mitchell H | Willow | (green) |

I am looking forward to meeting you all very soon. I am on yard duty most mornings and I can be found around the yard in the afternoons so please do not hesitate to introduce yourself to me.

Chris Sheldon
PRINCIPAL

Lesley Okholm
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Sue Hutchesson
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Governing Council Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the School Governing Council will be held on Wednesday 19th February, beginning at 8:00pm, immediately following Parent Acquaintance Night presentations. Chris Sheldon, the new principal, will make a short presentation followed by brief reports and elections for the 2014 Governing Council.

Retiring Council Members who may nominate for a further 2 year term are:

- Lorenza McMahon
- Sonya Dyson
- Shirley Johnston
- Susan Andrae
- Stephanie Beck

Councillors who were elected in 2013 and have a further year to serve are:

- Andrew Hunter
- Cathy Lunnay
- John Miles
- Troy Bell
- David Burt
- Jason Baron
- Duane Gertners
- Jim Cornolo
- Kelli Winterfield
- Cody Carter
- Therese Williams



In addition Fiona Jeffs completed her elected tenure as a school councillor at the end of 2013 but will not be nominating as her last child has graduated from our school and is now attending high school. We would like to thank Fiona sincerely for her service to our school.

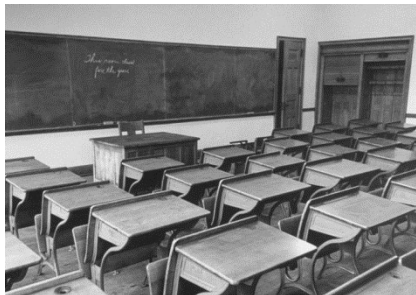
If you are interested in joining our Governing Council, you may either attend the AGM or nominate in writing by returning the reply slip included in the newsletter, or by email to dl.0290_info@schools.sa.edu.au

New Recess Time

From the beginning of this year we have changed the time that we have Recess in order to fit in all of our Literacy Blocks and Non Instructional Time Specialist (N.I.T.) Subjects. Recess now commences at 10:55 am and finishes at 11:15 am.

Parent Acquaintance Night

Just a reminder that on next Wednesday 19th February the Parent Acquaintance Night and Governing Council AGM will be held. Information has previously been sent home regarding the timetable for open classrooms and the times that individual teachers will be presenting to parents. Specialist Teachers will be sharing their learning programs in the PAC from 5:30 – 6:30 and will be very pleased to talk with you about their curriculum plans for 2014. We hope that you will take this opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and have a look around the school.



Pupil Free Day

A reminder that our first Student Free Day for 2014 will be on Friday 7th March which coincides with the Adelaide Cup Holiday long weekend. Students will not attend school on this day and all staff will be attending professional learning. We will be working with Bill Hansbery on Restorative Approaches to Student Behaviour Management as part of our 2014 whole school focus on ‘Every Face has a Place’.

Please note that the incorrect date was printed in our last newsletter but the correct date appears on the flyer sent home early last week.

School Fees

For those parents who have organised to pay their child’s school fees by instalment, may we remind you that the first instalment is due this Friday 14th February.

Future Instalment dates are as follows -
Friday 14 March
Friday 2 May
Friday 6 June



Swimming Lessons

Lessons commence for the children in Rooms 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 13, 16 and 17 on Monday 17th February and the cost of these is required to be paid prior to these lessons commencing. Please call in to the Front Office as soon as possible to make this payment if you have not already done so.

*Gay Brooker
Finance Officer*

Reidy Park Café



Menu slips have again gone to all classes for you to place your orders for February 21. We offer a tasty, healthy choice of meal deals that may look the same as prior order slips, however the Gourmet Salad variety has been changing each week. Rush your order in now!

*Kate McDonough
ILC Coordinator*

Positive Trackers

Our first assembly for the year saw four wonderful children recognised for their efforts in our school community with a Positive Tracker Award. Each fortnight we will select at random winners who have been nominated by staff. This time we congratulate Miao G and Kirra Mck for collecting loads of rubbish, Tate H for being a considerate sharer of play equipment and Logan S for locating someone’s up a lost jumper. *Well done!*



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



Governing Council Nomination Form

NAME CHILD’S NAME RM NO...

I hereby submit my nomination to be a part of the Reidy Park Primary Governing Council Committee.

SIGNED

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Make A Wish

The Mount Gambier Branch is hosting a 'Walk For A Wish & Family Fun Day' on Sunday 16 February around the Blue Lake. Registrations can be made from 10:30am at the Ki-ask. Adults \$5:00 and children are gold coin donation. A Mini Market will follow on the area formally known as Archery Park. For more information call **Julia - 0438468073**, **Leonie - 0457416451** or **Maxine - 0418838930**



World's Greatest Shave

Our very own Aanya W continues her fundraising efforts with a barbecue at 'Masters', Market Place on Penola Road this Sunday 16 February from 10:30 - 3:00pm. She will also host a Family Fun Day at Gambier City Bowl on Friday 21 February offering \$10 games, \$5:00 meal deals and raffles with a percentage of all sales going to her fundraising efforts. The day commences 10:00am to 8:30pm.

For more information log onto www.facebook.com/aanyasworldsgreatestshave

Redbacks Hockey Club

'Come and Try Hockey'

Registration Dates and Training: Monday 17th February and Monday 24th February from 6:00 - 7:00pm on the turf at Blue Lake Sports Park for children over 7 years of age. Hockey sticks will be provided for all new starters. Please bring own water bottle, wear suitable training clothing and mouth guard. For more information contact Club President Mike on **0422909074** or email michaelarmour5@bigpond.com



School Dental Service

A new children's dental benefits schedule for 2 – 17 year olds started in January 2014. It is called the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider and welcomes babies, children and young people under 18 years. Dental care is FREE for most children and the School Dental Service will bulk-bill Medicare. Children who do not qualify for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule can still attend – a small fee may apply for each course of general dental care provided. There are no waiting times at the School Dental Service. To keep your children's teeth and gums healthy we encourage them to attend the School Dental Service.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, and for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

Army Cadets

The 48th Army Cadet Unit (Mt Gambier) is seeking new members to join. An Information night for potential cadets and their parents will be held Friday 14th February at 7.30pm at the Army Reserve Depot, Shepherdson Road, Mount Gambier.

In the cadets students will have the opportunity to learn bush skills, field craft, navigation, leadership and teamwork in a supportive and safe environment. Cadets is open to all young people who are turning 13 this year to 18 years of age and will participate in parade every Friday night during the school terms from 7:00 to 10:00pm.

The next opportunity to join the Army Cadets will on the 4th of July 2014. For further enquires please call **Rod Wewer** on **0497 898 268**.



Riddoch Art Gallery

The most exciting exhibition event to occur in the Limestone Coast, the 'Da Vinci Machines' Exhibition will be presented at the Riddoch Art Gallery from Sunday 20th April to Sunday 22nd June, 2014.

The 'Da Vinci Machines' Exhibition is suitable for all school levels from primary through to University, and is relevant to each state's Curriculum and Assessment Framework.

For more information contact the Riddoch Art Gallery today.

www.riddochartgallery.org.au