



**DIARY DATES**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>Finance Committee meeting</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Sports Day</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>End of Term 1 school dismisses at 2.30</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Term 2 commences</b>

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Term 1, Week 9, March 26th

**Early Arrival at School**

We have been experiencing an increase in students arriving early at school. I am aware that some of our students are early to school because they genuinely like coming to school to socialise with their friends and to be here as soon as the classroom doors open to come inside and get a head start on their learning for the day. However, I would like to remind families that there is no yard supervision until 8:25 am. Students who are seen by staff in the yard are asked to come inside the office until playground supervision begins. Safety of these students who arrive early is of significant concern. Chronic early attenders may be booked into OSHC if these numbers continue and this would need to be at cost to the parents.

**External School Review**

Last week we engaged in our DECD External School Review. Thank you to the staff, parents and students who participated in the review's inquiries. I am delighted to report that the review process went extremely well, confirming our improvements in literacy and numeracy and commending our team structure and "commitment to action" to continue to strive for high standards in teaching and learning at Reidy Park.


The review team remarked on our students' outstanding ability to engage in conversations about their learning and to describe what they are doing in the classroom, how their work is being assessed and what they need to learn and do to achieve their personal best. In addition they made comment about the levels of skills, knowledge and professionalism of our staff and the excellent quality of teaching and learning in the school. I have been told verbally that the next review will be in four years; a highly successful outcome otherwise there would have been a follow up review within 12 months. We will receive an interim draft report within a couple of weeks which we will share with our community. The final report will be posted on our school's website and I will inform you via the newsletter when this has occurred. It has been a great opportunity for our staff and students to showcase the exceptional work that they do on a daily basis.

**Sports Day**

Have you put Sports Day in your diary? Next Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April is the day for this important school event. The 14 day forecast for Mount Gambier indicates a pleasant 26 degrees, mostly sunny with some cloud cover and no rain predicted which, if correct on the day, will be absolutely perfect for outdoor activity. The program, timetable for the day and the map of where each of the events will be held is included as an insert in this newsletter. If for some reason you do not receive one or you need additional copies for other family members it will be available from our front office as well. **Please bring this with you to Sports Day.**

Please note that Junior Primary students **will not be dismissed** at lunchtime as we are changing the format this year to include whole school team games, sprints and relays for all students from Reception to Year 7 after the lunch break that will be scored for team points. These team events will be in addition to the usual tabloid format held in the morning. This will give our younger students the opportunity to join in with the spirit of friendly competition and collaboration along with the middle and upper primary students in their house team.

There is a range of catering options available on the day. Please refer to the last newsletter for order forms for food.

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

## Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews are being held this week and up until Wednesday next week. It is great that so many families have already taken the opportunity to meet with teachers and exchange information about the student's progress at school, their achievements and challenges as a learner. Unfortunately online bookings have now closed but teachers still have some times available that can be accessed by contacting them directly.

## Reidy Park School Website

You may have visited our school website lately and wondered why it has not been changed and updated at all this year. The current site is rather dated and some of the information available has changed somewhat, thus we are working on a major upgrade and reconstruction of our website. This has involved our senior staff and ICT Technician, Steven Grosvenor, spending many hours engaged in the process of redesigning the appearance of our site, the way that users can navigate around the website and the school information. Our new and very much improved website will soon be up and running and we will inform you via the newsletter when this happens.

## Year 6 & 7 Canberra Camp

The recent year 6 and 7 school camps were a great success. We have all been back home and school for over a week now but the students are still talking about the amazing learning activities that they engaged in whilst we were in Canberra. Year 6 and 7 teachers are now extending the learning as part our inquiry based curriculum in history, geography, civics and citizenship.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff and parents who supported and supervised the students on camp, especially those who travelled to Canberra on the public holiday. Thank you to staff: Dan, Sami, Jen, Lesley, Deb, Matt and Sam. Thank you to our fabulous supportive parents: Sam R, Nick S, Kate and Craig Mc, Grant H, Duane G and Adrian H. Special thanks to Alison Whibley who coordinated and organised both of these exceedingly worthwhile and educational camps.

## Dates for your Diary

Our Term 2 Pupil Free day will be held on Friday of Week 2, May 8<sup>th</sup>. We have been given the opportunity to attend training and development for all staff to learn more about the Digital Technology strand of the Australian Curriculum. This will fit with our current school direction for introducing *Bring Your Own Technology* in the senior year levels, for the use of laptops in the middle primary years and enhancing learning using the soon to be purchased I pads in the Junior Primary classes.

Early dismissal on Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>, for the last day of this term will be at 2:30 pm. This will coincide with the dismissal times of other schools in the Mount Gambier district.

*Chris Sheldon*  
Principal

*Lesley Okholm*  
Deputy Principal

*Sue Hutchesson*  
Assistant Principal

## Children with extra learning needs at Reidy

At interview time, teachers and parents work closely together to set up learning goals for children.

It is sometimes a time when we get a little jolt when we hear that they could be doing better.

Often this merely means that greater concentration and higher expectations from the home and teacher, coupled with home support (especially in reading), can see improvement.

Other times, there may be a case for the teacher to modify or tweak learning tasks to suit.

In some cases, we look at extra support we can provide in the school. Currently our SSOs, Deb, Di, Mel and Andrea, provide a total of 22 hours support, by running small group intervention programs, currently in Jolly Phonics and reading. These run for 10 weeks, and then we test students, some staying on and others returning to their classroom programs. 70 students are benefiting from this help.

There are occasions when we need more specialised information about a child. Our district has some services available to us for referral, after we have tried our complete repertoire in school. These services include Speech Pathology, Educational Psychology, Behaviour support, Social Work and Disability support. A considerable pre-referral process needs to occur between school and the service, prior to taking on a case.

## Lost Property

The large pile of lost property has been sorted and those articles that were named have been returned to classes, however there is still a huge amount of unnamed articles. If you have any items that may still be missing, please visit and have a look through the basket in the Front Office. Any items left at the end of term will be donated to charity.

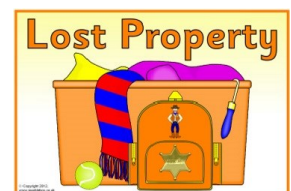
*Tracy Kain*  
Admin Officer

## Sports Day Lunches

Cut off time for Pizza and BBQ order for sports day is Monday 30th March. Please return your order form and money to the Front Office.

## Positive Trackers

Congratulations to Ayla W for being her mum's hero and caring for her mum when she had an accident, also to Olly B for being helpful to Mrs Kuller in the library. Great job guys.



### Year 5 Excursion to Port MacDonnell

On Thursday 12th, March both year 5 classes headed down to Port MacDonnell as part of our geography unit. We were looking at how humans influence the characteristics and management of places. As we walked along the foreshore and up the breakwater, students were able to identify many human characteristics. They were amazed at how a small thing being built can change a place so much. A highlight was standing on the rocks and seeing all the fish swim below as well as being given dead seahorses from the kind local fisherman.

As part of our learning, we went to the Maritime museum. This was an informative and interesting exhibition which we would recommend everyone to visit. We learnt about local history and saw how Port MacDonnell has changed over time. A Reidy Park family also donated a 'mile' post to the museum which excited the volunteers.

We finished the day with lunch on the foreshore and playing on the playground, and having a cricket and soccer match while recycled kites flew above us. We had a really fun day and learnt a lot at the same time!



### Sports Day Roster

Is anyone else able to offer half an hour on the bbq or in our café?

We still need helpers from 1pm onwards on both. Please let us know if you can by returning the slip below to the office. Please find a list below of the Sports Day roster. Thank you to all those parents who have volunteered their time.

	Name	Cafe	BBQ
10am	Justyna Grosse Sarah Bannon Laura Heesemans Sonya Dyson Caroline Hill	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	
10.30	Justyna Grosse Sarah Bannon	Yes yes	
11	Tania Kuchel Alby Heesemans Sonya Dyson Kelli Winterfield Duane Gertners	Yes No No No no	No Yes Yes Yes yes
11.30	Jo Foster Daniel Miller Kelli Winterfield Duane Gertners Caroline Hill	Yes No No No no	No Yes Yes Yes yes
12	Graham Edwards Daniel Miller Kathy Allen	No No Yes	Yes Yes no
12.30	Graham Edwards Jenny Carson	No yes	Yes no
1			
1.30			
2			

### Sports Day Help

Name .....

Phone .....

I am able to help in the ..... timeslot

## What's Happening at Reidy Park Primary School



### Year 7 - Canberra camp

Camp - Canberra camp was very successful for the students. They were able to participate in some fantastic activities and see our government work first hand. Students have brought back a wealth of knowledge and experiences, some even enjoyed the 15 hour bus trip. We are now using this information in our classroom to complete assessment tasks and finish off our unit of work. Some of the exciting places we went were; Parliament house, Questacon, AIS and the High Court. The students behaved excellently and were regularly complemented. A big thank you to all of the parents who came with us, we could not have done it without you.

*Year 6 - 7 Teachers*

### RSL Museum Excursion

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of March rooms 5, 6 and 7 travelled to the RSL to get information about WW1. Our history unit is about war and the RSL have a great museum about the world wars so we gathered some information.

We learnt that when a soldier dies at war the family related to the soldier got a death penny to show that the soldier related to you won't make it back. They started to stop making pennies because there wasn't enough bronze left to make it because a lot of soldiers did pass. We learnt about slouch hats and much more.

Everyone enjoyed the excursion and learnt a lot. You and your family might like to go and have a look especially since it is the centenary of ANZACs landing at Gallipoli.

*By Ruby W, Room 6*



### Relay Runners Needed

We still need 2 parent runners to run in our parent / teacher / student relay on Sports Day. This event takes place at 2.45pm. Please fill out the reply slip below and return to the Front Office

*Heath Mc Shane*

**Physical Education teacher**



### Parent / Teacher / Student Relay

I would like to take part in the Parent relay team on Sports Day.

Name: ..... Child ..... Class .....