



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

Term 4, Week 9, 15th December, 2016

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### DIARY DATES

Thursday	15th December	Year 7 Graduation	
Friday	16th December	Assembly	2.10pm
Friday	16th December	End of Term 4	2.30pm

### STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE GYM AT 2.30PM

Monday	30th January	Beginning of Term 1, 2017
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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to all families who were able to attend the community carols evening last night. It is a fantastic event and a great opportunity for our school community to come together. Well done to all students who participated and thank you to our volunteers and staff who helped out. Tonight we have another special school activity, our Year 7 Graduation, which the senior students are keenly looking forward to.

#### 2016 End of Year Reports

Your child's end of year report has been sent home today and details their achievement against the Australian Curriculum. If you have any queries about the information provided in the report please contact your child's class teacher.

#### 2017 Class Transition Visit

Tomorrow all students will have the opportunity to visit the class that they will be placed in for next year. Much planning and consideration goes toward the development of classes, including facilitating friendship choices where possible. This transition visit is both an exciting and anxious time for our students and we will provide support for them where needed. Students may come home expressing reservations or concerns about their placement; please use this as a chance to talk to your child about how 'change' can feel awkward initially, the importance of being resilient and recognising that a new class will bring opportunities for developing new friendships. These are all positive life experiences for our students that will benefit them as they develop into young adults. A note will be sent home with your child on Friday that indicates their classroom number and teacher. At this stage some teaching positions at the school have not been finalised, once this is known families will be informed during the holiday break via mail.

#### Farewell

A number of people are being farewelled from Reidy Park at the end of term. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank Lesley Okholm and Gay Brooker for their commitment and dedication to our school during their time working here. Both Lesley and Gay have been longstanding staff members and we wish them all the best for the future. Some other staff are also leaving at the end of the year; Ms Collins, Ms Forbes, Mr Duncan and Ms Rambani. Daniel Castle will be continuing his role at Kalangadoo Primary School for another year and Mrs O'Neill and Ms Newell (Front Office) have won positions at other schools. Our school's Governing Council chairperson, Andrew Hunter, is also finishing his role at the end of the year. Andrew has been a valued member of Governing Council for 12 years, including 10 years as Chairperson. Thank you Andrew. A number of families are also ending their association with the school; thank you for your support of the school and we trust that you are leaving with fond memories of your time here.



*Last week's casual day raised \$454.75 as well as much needed animal products to the SEAWL and Wet Nose Animal Rescue.*

## Thanks

I would like to pass on my thanks and best wishes to the school community. I have really enjoyed my first two terms as principal of Reidy Park and I am looking forward to working with our staff to ensure we strive to provide the best opportunities for our students. I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work and tireless efforts, it is greatly valued and appreciated. Well done to our students also, I continue to be impressed by their friendliness and enthusiasm and trust they will be ready for a new year of learning in 2017; remember to keep up the reading practice during the holidays! On behalf of all staff, we hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

**Stephen Jolley**  
**Principal**

## Year 7 Students Farewell

We say a fond farewell to all of our graduating Year 7 students, some of whom have spent their whole eight years of schooling at Reidy Park. Congratulations to you all. The staff agree that you have been a wonderful group of young people who have made both us and your parents very proud. We hope that you will enjoy the challenges of high school and continue to strive to be the best that you can be.

## Friday assembly and end of term dismissal

Our final assembly for the year will be held tomorrow and commence at approximately 2.10pm. Students will be dismissed from the Gym at 2:30 pm. Following our assembly, staff will form a guard of honour to farewell our Year 7 students through the administration area as they exit through the main door.

## A parting message from Lesley Okholm and Gay Brooker

As I prepare to move on from Reidy Park I do so with memories to treasure, from the 13 Book Weeks, Sports Days, Carols and musicals through to sharing morning chats at the crossings with parents, working closely with fabulous teachers and getting to know around 1500 students who have 'rolled' through the Reidy Park pipeline in that time.

What a privilege this has been!

In leaving I want to remind every family of this privilege, of having your children in OUR school which continues to be the school of choice in Mt Gambier. And for good reason.

Reidy staff continue to be passionate and hardworking, providing our students with quality education in a safe and caring environment. I am daily reminded by this as their job becomes more complex as the world becomes more complex. It is only by maintaining close and respectful relationships with our families that this is possible. How lucky we all are that this is 'a given' at Reidy Park.

I will be taking up a position which at this stage of my career I am calling 'my dream job', working across schools from Kingston, Millicent, Naracoorte, to Mt Gambier and other Blue Lake primary schools, developing teacher capacity in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) but more

particularly around how we develop student dispositions, especially resilience, to equip them for an unknown future. I will no doubt miss being with children, but know that this work will help shape students across our end of South Australia.

I thank you all for your friendship and support and know that I have friends for life amongst you all, but more importantly, many, many beaming faced children who I can still talk to as we meet out in our community. I treasure this!

*Lesley Okholm, Deputy Principal*

It is hard to believe that I have worked for the Education Department for 40 years and 26 of those years have been spent here at Reidy Park Primary School. I feel like I am part of the furniture, but we all know eventually we need to replace the old with the new.

So now the time has come for me to say goodbye.

You don't work in a place for this length of time without the support, hard work and friendship of many people.

The most important aspect of my job is the students who I value and treasure the most. Why else would anyone work in a school? Although you do start to realise that maybe you have been in a job too long when some of the current students now have parents who were also students during my time!

I would sincerely like to thank my current team of SSOs; Tracy, Jaime, Andrea, Mel, Di, Deb, Michelle, Vickie, Amy and Steven. Without the dedication and support of these SSOs I would not be able to do my job. Thank you.

An enormous big thank you also to the following people (past and present): Leadership and teaching staff, SSOs, Students, Parents, Cleaning Staff, Contract Workers, Members of the Community, School and Admin. Finance Officers and other SSOs from different schools

You have all helped to make me the person I am today. I will miss you all but the Gold Coast awaits me. It is a shame about the awful weather but I will survive and think of you all often, especially in winter.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Gay Brooker, School Business Manager*

## Cash Office Opening Hours 2017

The cash office will be open for uniform sales prior to the commencement of Term 1 2017

The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday 24th January	9am - 4pm
Wednesday 25th January	9am - 12pm
Friday 27th January	9am - 4pm

## Canberra Camp

Just a reminder that the balance of the Year 6/7 Canberra camp needs to be paid in full by February 24th, 2017.

## Playground Update

Planning for the school's playground upgrade continues to progress with quotes and suggested plans recently being received by the school. As a part of this upgrade,

an audit of the current play equipment identified that some pieces did not meet WHS requirements and therefore had to be removed. Early in the new year our plans will be finalised with a view to the new equipment being installed during 2017.

### Polling of School Fees (from last year)

Recently you would have received a notice polling you about the 2016 School Fees which have been set at \$300 for the school year. Votes were 103 in favour to 18 against. Governing Council have approved and finalised this process. This means that where families fail to pay the school fees next year, action can be taken to legally recover the full amount.

### Parent Volunteers

Earlier this week a morning tea was held as a thank you gesture to all parents who have assisted with school activities and events this term. This volunteer help is not only greatly valued but also relied upon. There are many examples of activities that are supported by volunteers at our school; participation in excursions, listening to reading, sports coaching and fund raising are just some. I encourage you to volunteer your support if time allows; children get immense joy and benefit through your involvement.

### SRC News

The Reidy Park Primary School student leaders and SRC organised a fundraiser on Friday 9th December for the South East Animal Welfare League. Students dressed up as an animal or in casual clothes and in return donated



products or a gold coin. The SEAWL is a not-for profit organisation run by many dedicated volunteers. The SEAWL provides temporary shelter for lost, abandoned or ill treated animals across the South East. Reidy Park participated very well in this fundraiser and we managed to raise \$494.75 plus 5 bags full of pet needs. Products donated included tins of dog and cat food, animal blankets, toys and a dog bed. The school also donated \$100 to Wet Nose Animal Rescue as they have recently help to capture some stray kittens that were living at the school grounds and now are taking care of them. We hope this will make the animals and volunteers happy and help to provide relief for animals in need.

### Bushfire Season Information

As a part of DECD's Bushfire Management planning, on days where the weather is forecast to be 'catastrophic', schools that are located in high risk areas are required to close. Please be aware that this **does not** apply to Reidy Park; our school will remain open regardless of this specific weather forecast.

### Values in Action Awards

Room	Presented to	For
1	Jett H Zak W Lara T Skye M	Settling in very well into his new school and making new friends quickly. Being inclusive during recess and lunch. Working hard to improve her reading. Always striving for her best.
2	Coco M Ashlee P Teangi S	For designing and creating an outstanding magazine.
3	Annabel J William J Anderson P Logan S	Working hard and accepting challenges with grace. Persisting in his work. Looking after his classmates by including them in his games. Designing a terrific ute for the assembly item.
4	Jim D Riley W	For being a great thinker and extending himself. Trying hard to complete his work.
5	Levi L Beyonce B	Trying his best in our class treasure hunt. Having the courage to try new things at school.
6	Kaleb S Xan S	Making positive choices with his learning. Having the courage to try new tasks.
7	Cameron M Olivia F	All the extra effort he puts into his learning after the school day has ended. For a magnificent academic contribution to RPPS throughout her time here - you will be missed.
8	Cooper S	Great attitude to learning and excellent spelling.
11	Sophie A Zahli F Archie M Tom B	For helping Ms Forbes with the Reception children .
12	Mikaela B	Confidence and courage in Maths, particularly Algebra.
15	Amber R Blake S	Caring for the new Reception students. Caring for the class and respect for all teachers.
17	Ananya S Amy L	Showing persistence in her work. For a great effort in her work.
18	Livinia U Ruby D	For being a great listener and learner. For growth with her work habits.
20	Marley-J H Tiah F	For settling in and working hard. Working hard and having beautiful manners.
23	Ryan H Sage G	For his effort and commitment to his learning this year For her caring and helpful nature.
25	Alex H Sailor Mc	For being a great role model. For always trying her best.



# Yr 7 Class of 2016

