Welcome to an exciting and busy Term 3. The cold and wet weather is certainly upon us at the moment! Unfortunately our Yrs 3 – 6 Athletics Carnival for the term had to be postponed from last Friday to Thursday July 30.

We have lots of exciting events and opportunities planned for you to be involved in your child/children’s learning at Robert Townson Public School this term. Three Way Conferences, Open Morning, Back to School Day for parents, Book Week and Book Fair, On Stage Performances just to mention a few! Please note our Education Week at Robert Townson is in Week 4. More details and dates are coming soon so please keep a look out and/or refer to our website or Skoolbag App.

On Stage – Dates Changed

Please be advised that RTPS On Stage performance will not be held on 1 and 3 September but will now be held on Tuesday 15 and Thursday 17 September 2015. Sorry for any inconvenience caused. Please keep the new dates in your diary.

Three-Way Conferences

All parents are encouraged to attend the Three-Way Conferences either this week Thursday 23 July or next week Tuesday 28 July. Please return the slip with your preferred timeslot if you haven’t already done so. Teachers will try hard to give you your first or second preference so please return your slips promptly. Your children are looking forward to sharing their progress and learning with you! If you are unable to make either of the scheduled dates, then please see your child’s teacher about the possibility of an alternate date and time.

Expertise, Skills and Interests

Many thanks to the parents who have returned the ‘Expertise, Skills and Interests’ note we sent home last term. We are keen to develop a register of parents who are willing to help out. You may have some experience or skills and are interested in volunteering some of your time. Remember it’s not too late to register and it will not be an ongoing commitment. If you need a new note, please ask your child to ask their teacher or pop into the front office and we will be only too happy to give you another form.

Staff Development Day

You may be wondering what the teachers at our school did on the School Development Day last Monday 13 July. This Staff Development Day was dedicated to learning more about Inquiry Learning and the presenter was Ross Dawson from ConceptEd. (Pictured)

Ross shared his extensive knowledge and skills with us which he has done with numerous schools locally and internationally. Our teachers undertook their own inquiries about services in the local area with the teachers from Ingleburn Public School. They designed Inquiry Projects by formulating an essential question and contributing questions and then found out some of the answers through investigations and various sources. Some of our
teachers interviewed people on the railway station, post office, day care centre, travel agent, local shops, public library and doctors. This process will be used with our students. You may like to ask your child about their wonderings and Inquiry units they may be learning about this term.

**School Photographs**

Please note the class and individual photos are currently being processed and put together in a folder which Academy Photography are producing for us. Please be patient as there was a slight delay in ensuring all children’s names were spelt accurately and the information about our school was written. Academy Photography have promised we will have the photographs in the next month.

**Peer Mediators Training**

On Monday this week 31 of our Year 5 and Year 6 students trained in Peer Mediation under the guidance of Mrs Erin Griffiths from Robert Townson High School and some RTHS students.

We would like to introduce our Semester 2 Peer Mediators:

Stefani Tan, Georgia Potter, Mathew Warren, Amelia Vieira, Laily Alameddine, Jacob Murphy, Joshua Halls, Mrunmayee Bhujbal, Baran Aydin, Coby Millington- Carroll, Maddison Craddock, Ella Smith, Maia Whaanga, Gunni Kapur, Emanuel Zak, Jessica Gleave, Chantelle Diaz, Tina Tanasuwatgul, Kristy Keating, Jack Bennetts, Paige Rodman, Cameron Prince, Mathew Buttifant-Peters, Capri Noonan, Elyssa Testa, Emma Farrawell, Sharina Harris, Aashna Kumar, Maddison Milligan, Daniel Datcu, Jake Kelly and Jake Van Look.

Our Peer Mediators are on the playgrounds on a daily basis.

Peer Mediation is helpful in resolving conflict that occurs between students on the playground. This is an active process and the mediators use a series of reflection questions to help resolve any problems.

**Woolworths Earn and Learn**

Do you shop at Woolworths? If you do then please start to collect the EARN and LEARN stickers. You collect one sticker for every $10 spent in store. There will be a collection box up at the office where the stickers can be popped in or you can stick them onto the collection sheet attached. When the collection sheet is full you may pop the sheet into the box. I believe our school benefitted greatly and selected new art resources, sporting equipment, books etc. in past ‘Earn and Learn’ promotions.

**Compulsory School Attendance**

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

**Arriving at school and class on time:**

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day.
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine.
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class.
- Reduces classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

**What if my child has to be away from school?**

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- Being sick, or having an infectious disease.
- Having an unavoidable medical appointment.
- Being required to attend a recognised religious holiday.
- Exceptional or urgent family circumstances (e.g. attending a funeral).

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within seven days you provide your child’s school with a written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within two days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

**Travel**

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this
with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

**My child won’t go to school. What should I do?**
You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

**Mathletics**
Are your children using Mathletics on a regular basis?

Mathletics improves students skills in calculating and using mathematics. The program also builds speed and accuracy.

Congratulations to the following students, they are our top Mathletics students at RTPS:-

Andrew Salian  
Anoushka Salian  
Yousra Khalid

**Kindergarten Enrolments**
We are currently organising the Kindergarten Orientation Program for next year's Kindergarten students. If you have a child who is five or will be turning five before the end of July 2016, please collect an application for enrolment form from the office. We would appreciate it if you could pass this message on to friends and neighbours who have children approaching school age.

Michelle Sarjana – Relieving Principal

**Digital Technologies Competition**
Well done to all the students who participated in the computer competition. It is very pleasing to see such great results. Congratulations to those children listed below who achieved a Distinction, Credit or Merit.


**Credits** - Jonathan Lai 5/6F, Dilnaz Saini 5/6F, Tina Tanasuwatgul 5/6F, Andrew Salian 3/4H, Sharni Rangaiya 3/4H and Mia Redding 3D.

**Merit** - Grace Hollanders 2/3V and Chloe Lewin 3/4H.

Sue Hasler – Competitions Coordinator

**Robert Townson Hosts the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition**
Over the years Robert Townson Public School has earned an excellent reputation when it comes to public speaking. This year we have continued to be extremely successful in the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition. Students from across the area that had been selected to represent their schools came and presented their prepared speeches in Week 10 Term 2, which were of the highest standard. They then faced the challenge of making an impromptu speech. Both segments of the competition were equally weighted and judged by an adjudicator from the department’s Performing Arts Unit. Robert Townson students performed extremely well with Bailey Smith receiving a Highly Commended award.

Jessica Gleave, Chantelle Diaz and Sharni Rangaiya are also to be congratulated on presenting excellent prepared and impromptu speeches.

Sue Hasler – Multicultural Public Speaking Coordinator

**Life Education - Healthy Harold**
Robert Townson Public School is very excited to welcome Life Education Australia. This not-for-profit organisation provides preventative drug and health education in 3000 schools each year. Its mascot, Healthy Harold, teaches students how to make the best choices for a safe and healthy life.

Classes will visit Healthy Harold in the Life Education van within the school grounds and the knowledge and skills gained by the students will be further enhanced by additional activities in the classrooms. Some classes have already attended their Life Education session and the remaining classes will visit the van over the next two weeks.

Robert Townson was lucky enough to have Healthy Harold visit an assembly last week, where the students were able to meet him and learn about this fantastic program.

All students are encouraged to attend this very valuable program, as it empowers young people to make healthy lifestyle choices, now and in the future.

Sarah Cosis – 6S Class Teacher
**From the Library**

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is well underway. Reading records need to be completed by 21 August. If you need help with entering your books please come and see me in the Library.

This Term we will be having our Book Fair during Book Week (24 to 28 August). The theme this year is **Books Light up Our World**. A variety of very reasonably priced books will be available for sale. The Library receives a percentage of any sales in free books. All classes will have time to visit the fair; parents are more than welcome to come with their children. Classes will come at their normal Library time. We will also be open after school on Thursday 27 August until 7pm for those who can’t make it during the school day. There will be other events happening around this time, so watch out for further announcements!

Susan Greaves - Teacher Librarian

**VISA Pass Morning Tea**

On the last day of Term 2, the PBIS team held a ‘VISA Pass Morning Tea’ for all of our VISA Pass achievers during Semester 1. We had a visit from the Townson Tiger, grooved and sung along to ‘Just Dance’ on the Nintendo Wii and enjoyed a snack afterwards. Well done to all the students who have achieved their VISA Pass so far! We look forward to our next VISA Pass event which will be held late in Semester 2.

Jennifer Masters - PBIS Coordinator

**Stage 3 Canberra Excursion**

In Term 2, Stage 3 students enjoyed an overnight excursion to Canberra. We have uploaded some photos on to our school website. Please take the time to visit [http://www.roberttown-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.roberttown-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/) and click on the Photo Gallery to take a look.

**Links to The Australian Curriculum**

We have recently updated the ‘Links for Learning’ page on our school website. We now have links to each Key Learning Area of the Australian Curriculum – taking you to the Board of Studies website for more information. We have also provided links to Stage Statements which provide a summary of what knowledge and skills students will be gaining throughout their schooling years. Visit [http://www.roberttown-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.roberttown-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/) for more information.

Jennifer Masters - Website Coordinator

**First Sitting of the Robert Townson School Parliament**


The “Government” (Year 6 students) and the “Opposition” (Year 5 students) gathered in the hall to raise and discuss relevant issues. The ministers delivered prepared reports about matters arising in their portfolios. Following this, the Year 5 and 6 students were able to raise new questions about the school. Examples of these issues include the maintenance of the netball court, the food available to students on Gala Days and the amount of playground area utilised at play times.

The ministers responsible for each portfolio recorded the questions and will deliver reports at the next sitting of parliament, once further research has been conducted. Focus groups were established and brainstorming sessions allowed the students’ ideas to be voiced and documented.

The school community, including students and parents, may see changes around the school based on the parliament’s innovative ideas and decisions.

Congratulations to Mrs Grant and all the parliamentarians involved in a successful inaugural sitting of the school’s parliament.

Sarah Cosis – 6S Class Teacher

**From the P&C**

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and biscuits for the cake stall on Friday 17 July. P&C raised $208.00
from this event. A special thank you to Mrs Prince for her lovely cookies.

**Pie Drive**
We are currently holding a pie drive and an order form was sent home earlier this week. All order forms with money needs to be returned to your child’s class teacher by **Thursday 6 August**. Delivery will be **Friday 21 August**.

**Wrapping for Father’s Day**
Wrapping of presents for the Father’s Day Stall will be held on Tuesday 28 July from 9:00 am in RTPS hall. Additional days if required will be each Wednesday afterwards. Meet Leanne Carter in the office at 9:15 am.

**P&C Meeting**
This month’s meeting has been postponed till Wednesday 29 July commencing at 7:00 pm in the staffroom. All are welcome to attend.

**Yrs 3-6 Athletics Carnival**
P&C will be holding a barbecue on Thursday 30 July anyone who wishes to help on the day is welcome.

Christine Wright – P&C President

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**Advertisements**

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