Principal’s Message

Thank you to all those parents/carers who were able to attend the Stage Information sessions. I trust you found them useful. For those parents/carers who were unable to attend please feel free to contact the school and/or your child’s teacher for any information.

Last Wednesday the first P&C meeting of the year was held. It is great to have such a supportive, hardworking group of parents. Remember everyone is welcome to attend P&C meetings either on a regular basis or from time to time.

The Zone Swimming Carnival is on Tuesday 1 March with the finals being held on the evening of Friday 4 March. Mr Dewar will be accompanying the students. Our best wishes to all the students involved. Swimming Scheme starts Monday 29 February and runs for 10 days until Friday 11 March.

Linda Green – Principal

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations and good luck to our Zone Swimming Carnival squad who will compete at The Macquarie Fields pool on Tuesday 1 March. All participants are asked to travel by private car and meet Mr Dewar inside the pool at 8:30 am (conclude 2:30 pm). Cost for competitors and spectators is $3. Please pay at the pool.

The night finals will be held on Friday 4 March. Swimmers who qualify for the Sydney South West Carnival will need to be available in Week 8 (15 March).

Girls
- Caitlin Demeary
- Anoushka Salian
- Alyssa Cartwright
- Ivy Powell
- Zoe Bruce
- Mia Redding
- Allys Keating
- Leyla Tupsikov
- Laily Alameddine
- Maddison Craddock
- Tiam-Li Mackenzie
- Paige Haubenwallner
- Natalie Vyrros
- Sharri Rangaiya
- Gemma Olling
- Zoey Saba

Boys
- Andrew Salian
- Nathan Halls
- Ryan Williams
- Blake Taprell
- Simon Mansfield
- Jared Cooper
- Joel Bowden

Gala Day Summer Sports Terms 1 & 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>TEACHERS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>League Tag</td>
<td>Mrs Lehner, Mrs Cosis, Mrs Rapa</td>
<td>Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Mr Dewar</td>
<td>Clarke Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Mr Antony</td>
<td>Minto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ultimate Frisbee</td>
<td>Mrs Fryer</td>
<td>Monarch Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-Ball</td>
<td>Ms Sommerville</td>
<td>Milton Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Mrs Cooper</td>
<td>Milton Park</td>
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</tbody>
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Congratulations to those students who were successfully selected for their respective Gala Day teams. Included are

!!!SAFETY FIRST!!!
Please let children in and out of the car KERBSIDE

DISCLAIMER: RTPS wishes all readers to be aware that the inclusion of an advertisement in this newsletter in NO WAY signifies the school’s endorsement of any particular product or service.
the related teachers and locations of our sporting venues. This term, Gala Days will be in Week 6 (4 March) and Week 8 (18 March). Please ensure that you and your child read, sign and abide by the new PSSA Code of Conduct and return with the blue permission note. Bus fare will be $5 each Gala Day. If your child is unable to participate in their selected sport this term, please notify the teacher ASAP so another student may fill the spot. It can become quite difficult when teams are disadvantaged by players who do not attend. Any unsuccessful students will participate in our school sports program and will have an opportunity to trial for winter sports at the end of term.

Good luck to all involved.

Geoff Dewar – Sports Coordinator

Why story time may be better when dad’s reading the book?

Elisabeth Duursma is senior lecturer in early childhood literacy at the Early Start Research Institute at University of Wollongong.

When men read stories to their children, they encourage them to use their imagination more, several studies reveal.

Fathers reading to their young children can have a surprising impact on their child's development. When looked at more closely at what was happening during book reading interactions, we found that fathers used more abstract and complex language.

When sharing a book with their child, they would often link events in the book to a child’s own experience. For example, when a ladder was discussed in the book, many fathers mentioned the last time they had used a ladder to climb up on the roof or use it for their work. Mothers did not do this. Mothers focused more on the details in the book and often asked children to label or count objects or identify colours.

It seems that fathers make different and unique contributions to children's development when reading to them. Fathers are often praised for engaging their children in rough and tumble play and this type of play is indeed beneficial to children.

However, with many children these days, in particular boys, struggling with reading, it is important to have more fathers reading to their children. Often parents do not realise how much children learn from their parents' behaviour.


‘Playground Pals’ in our playground to help make it even safer

To continue to make our playground safe an enthusiastic group of Stage 3 students were trained on Monday in Peer Mediation by four Year 12 students from Robert Townson High School. Peer mediation offers a process by which students are actively involved in resolving their own disputes. It involves two trained Stage 3 students assisting other students through a structured process to reach a resolution of the dispute or problem. The program has been shown to help students gain greater responsibility in solving their own problems, reduce bullying and playground incidents before they escalate. The student mediators develop social and leadership skills and this can help to increase their self-esteem. The program has been shown to lead to a safer and more harmonious school environment. The students who are in the playground during recess and lunch would be dealing with problems under the supervision of the playground teacher – these could include gossip or rumour spreading, name calling, friendship problems, teasing, loss of property and exclusion. More serious problems would be dealt with by the teacher. This new group of students will commence duty in the playground on Monday 29 February 2016.

Sue Hasler – Relieving Deputy Principal

Small School Assemblies 2016

Green Assembly – Wednesday 2 pm in the school hall

Gold Assembly – Thursday 2 pm in the school hall
KY, 1J, 1K, 2C, 2J, 2R, 3/4S, 4/5D, 5/6B, 5/6C and 5/6F.

Locking of Gates 2016

Upon review of our current WHS policy and in consultation with our P&C we have decided to change procedures for access to our school. This is to ensure the safety of students and staff.

We are trialling locking of gates. All external gates will be locked at 9:15 am and be re-opened at 2:30 pm. On Tuesday afternoons the gate will be opened at 2:00 pm to allow Robert Townson High School students to depart and pick up siblings.

During these times access to the school will only be via the main gate near the front office.

Thank you for your support.

Paula Clements – WHS Co-ordinator
Jen Masters – PBL Co-ordinator