PALs - play at lunchtimes

On Tuesday 20th October 21 self-nominated students participated in the PALs (play at lunchtimes) training day with Andy from DECD. PALs is based on a successful UK program and has been running in DECD schools for over 3 years. 200 schools in South Australia have taken part in the PALs leadership program. The students were taught how to be safe PALs in running small group games at lunchtimes. They started with a boundary, then a listening game, next was the participation game and a cool down game. They learnt how to make children feel part of a team. Our students were fantastic leaders on the day and they were able to put into practise what they had learnt with Mrs Brown’s Reception class in the afternoon.

Our team of enthusiastic PALs leaders will be organising activities and games for our R-2 students at recess and lunchtimes.

Our team of PALs leaders are:
Kaysee, Jacob, Nathan W, Sarah, Chloe, Marlene, Ella, Keyannah, Maya, Sam, Cady, Tarkyn, Kieran, Lachlann, Nathan D, Tara, Hailee, Hayley, Abbey, Zac and Krista.

Karina Romanovskis
Show your appreciation on World Teachers’ Day

On Friday 30th October, we celebrate World Teachers’ Day. You are invited to get involved and say ‘thank you’ to a wonderful teacher at your school/pre-school.

Visit the DECD website, download the ‘say thanks’ activity, colour and decorate the attached ‘owl’, write a message on the back about how your teacher has made a difference in your life and present it to them on World Teachers’ Day.

Class Placement for 2016

We have started our planning for 2016 and it is important we know the number of students attending. If your child is changing schools and will not be attending Reynella Primary School in 2016 please let the front office know by Monday 26th October.

Parent Input Forms for Class Placement are due by 3.30 pm on Monday 26th October.

These forms are available from the Front Office. Due to the administrative and organisational requirements for class placement, we are unable to accept late forms.

Parking at School

We have had some complaints about car parking around the school recently. For example, a blue car is regularly parking over a local resident’s driveway and our big waste bin was unable to be emptied this week, as a car had parked in front of it in the Staff Car Park.

Remember;

- children should never be dropped off in the staff car park, for the safety of our students
- parents should not drive into or park in the staff car park
- cars should never park across driveways
- cars not displaying a Disabled Car Parking Permit cannot park in the Disabled Car Park
- it is illegal to park on a yellow line.

Please obey the SA Road Rules and respect our neighbours, staff and parent community.

New School Uniform Tops

Thank you for your feedback on the proposed new uniform tops. All comments have been very positive. The tops were taken to Governing Council last night and approved.

Governing Council also approved subsidising one short sleeve polo top for each full year 2016 student. The parent cost for the subsidised top will be $10. Once this payment has been made the top will be ordered and available for collection at the start of Term 1. The subsidised top and any other new tops required can be ordered from Week 4 of this term. We will have samples in all sizes for students to try on.

Karina Romanovskis

Walkathon

Our walkathon is being held this Friday 23rd October. Hopefully the students have been able to find some sponsors to support their efforts. All money raised this year will be used to pay for additional hours for Julie Mullins, our Pastoral Care Worker, who helps students, staff and parents at Reynella Primary School. All students are expected to participate in the walkathon and therefore need to wear comfortable closed in shoes for walking.

The walkathon will start with a health hustle on the hard play area at 9:15am. Students will begin their walk at approximately 9:30 and conclude at 10:30. As with all special school events, parents and caregivers are welcome to attend. A very special thank you to those parents who have offered to assist us by supervising the walking routes in and outside the school. A meeting with Mrs Romanovskis will be held for all helpers in the staff room at 8.45am.

Following the walkathon, students are asked to bring back their money and sponsorship forms as soon as possible and place them in the Drop ‘n’ Go in the office. All money and forms are due back by Thursday 5th November. The sooner all forms are returned – the sooner prizes can be organized! Please ensure that your child’s name is included on the form.

As usual there are a number of prizes to encourage students to raise as much money as possible (please see sponsor form for a full list of prizes). For those who bring back $5 or more, there will be a small prize to say thank you. These prizes will be distributed to students on a weekly basis. Order forms for those who raise more than $40 will be handed out once all sponsorship money has been returned. Major prize winners will be announced on or prior to our school concert in Week 7. The Lucky Draw will take place in Week 8.

Karen Thorburn
Fundraising Committee
Attendance – why is it important?

DECD has set a target for attendance of 95% by 2016. Some families will assume this is normal attendance while others may be surprised by the target. Let’s look at some figures:

- The teaching year is 40 weeks.
- This is 200 school days (including 9 public holidays and student free days).
- 2.5 days off per term for students will meet the target.

Looking at it another way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAYS PER TERM NOT AT SCHOOL</th>
<th>DAYS PER YEAR NOT AT SCHOOL</th>
<th>WEEKS MISSED PER YEAR</th>
<th>% OF CURRICULUM MISSED</th>
<th>TERMS MISSED OVER 5 YEARS</th>
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The 2015 target for attendance is 94%. As is evident, in term 1 we were able to meet the 94% target set by DECD. Term 2 target was met by years 2, 5 and 7 only. Term 3 shows no classes actually reaching the 94% target. There are explanations in part for the trend in term 3, which is due to many families taking holidays of up to 4 weeks. Term 2 saw some increase in illness but also a significant increase in unexplained absences. Letters and notes have been sent home in relation to the unexplained absences as we are required to seek a response from parents.

Reynella Primary School is committed to working with families to improve attendance. Regular attendance is directly related to the amount of successful learning that a child does during their schooling and research on test results show that they are effected by a lack of attendance at school.

We want to raise awareness of attendance and encourage parents to strongly support students to attend.

What can families do to help?

- Be positive about school and support the culture. If you are negative, your child will be negative. Select something positive to look forward to when talking about school for the following day.
- Support the school culture around punctuality and uniform. Children need to realise that there are some things they just need to do. Students who don’t wear uniform or are constantly late will start the day with negatives – questions etc. Students who meet the expectations of the school tend to be more focussed on their learning.
- If your child is not well enough to go to school, they are not well enough to play X-Box, play sport or go out socially. Illness is certainly an appropriate reason for not attending school and we don’t expect children to come to school ill.
- Ensure you are communicating any legitimate absences with the school through the diary to the teacher and to the school via the SMS system or by leaving a message on our answering service.
- Ask about school – what are they doing, what is going well and what is one good thing about the day they just had?
- If there are issues related to non-attendance, contact the school sooner than later. It is better to get an issue sorted out quickly; students need to learn to face up to and to work through issues rather than avoid them. This is one of the strategies in learning resilience in life.
- If you have difficulty getting your child to school, have reward systems in place – set a target with a clear goal – e.g. to go to the friend’s birthday party you need x% attendance. If you want to get your new bike you need to show responsibility e.g. x% attendance. Students need to understand privileges are earned not simply given.

If you have any concerns about your child’s attendance, firstly speak with your child’s class teacher. If difficulties persist, speak with one of the leadership team.

Steve Freeman
Principal
**SCHOOL WATCH**

A huge thank you to the following 12 families who spent part of their holidays ensuring that any damage to our school facilities was kept to a minimum:


While we acknowledge that many people regularly walk through our grounds out of school hours to use or check on our facilities, we do appreciate the fact that our school watch families commit to coming on a particular day to ensure that every day of the holidays is covered.

Thank you,

*Karina Romanovskis*

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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</tr>
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**VOLUNTEERS WELCOME**

Deb and Amanda are always looking for new volunteers for the canteen. Come and meet other parents and learn about our canteen. Any offers of time will be appreciated (eg a few hours, weekly, fortnightly, once a term). Please come and see us in the canteen and chat about it.

*Free coffee and laughter provided.*

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Please check our community noticeboard on the library wall for more information about the following.

**Junior Cricket @ Reynella Oval**

Milo in2 CRICKET (Rec - Yr 1)

Saturday’s 9 am - 10 am : 31st Oct - 28th Nov
10 week program costs $85 (covers Term 4 & 1 2016)

Register @ www.playcricket.com.au or just turn up on 31st

**Kanga Cricket (Yrs 2 - 3’s)**

Saturday’s 8:15 am - 10 am, 24th Oct - 5th Dec
Register you interest at the school Front Office

**RCC Girls Only (Yrs 2 - 5)**

Saturday’s 9 am - 10:15 am : 31st October for 6 weeks
$30 payable at the oval (inc trophy, equipment)

For more information contact:
Trish Pinder pinders@internode.on.net Ph:0411 116 300
Therese Artis Ph: 0416 373 898

**Free Parenting SA Seminar**

*The Wonderful World of Toddlers*

Are you the parent or carer of a 1 - 3 year old?
Want to understand their feelings and behaviour?
Come and hear how you can connect with your toddler and help them thrive....

Wednesday 4th November
7:15 pm - 9:00 pm
City Rooms, Adelaide Convention Centre

Register online @ http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au

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**NEW**

Apple and Blackcurrant Popper Juice .... $2.50

Cheese Burgers .... $4.50

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**SATURDAY NIGHT MARKET**

4 Sports Park Drive, Wilfred Taylor Reserve, States Road, Morphett Vale

4pm-9pm
SAT 7th NOV

* Market Stalls * Outdoor Cinema * FREE ENTRY * Bouncy Castle * Night Shopping * Music