



Roma Mitchell
Secondary College



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Shaping a better

future locally

and globally

Diary Dates

December 2014

- 2 ATSI Parent meeting, 5.30pm
- 3 Governing Council, 6pm
- 4 Special Education Concert, 1pm
- 12 Last Day of Term early dismissal, 2.15pm

January 2015

- 27 School resumes on Tuesday

Principal's report

A very successful Year 12 Formal was recently held at the Oakden Central for our Special Education Campus students, and I would like to thank the families and carers for coming along to support their students at this important celebration. The students had a wonderful time and were thrilled to receive an award and a certificate for their participation.

A Special Education SACE and Pathways Parent Evening was held on Wednesday 12 November. The families and carers who attended were able to learn more about how Year 10-12 students with a disability can complete the modified SACE and the post compulsory pathways available to them. This evening will be repeated again next year for interested families and carers.

It was fantastic to see so many families attending the Year 10 student's Personal Learning Plan presentation and I look forward to seeing the families of Year 8 and 9 students at their Round Table presentations during the last week of term.

Educators visit from Shanghai, China

Twenty-four educators from Shanghai, China visited our school on Thursday 13 November to learn about the vocational education and training programs our school offers across the three campuses. They were amazed to find that we could offer such a broad academic and vocational curriculum that included many senior students selecting to study vocational programs both onsite and offsite.



Principal Sandy Richardson and the educators from Shanghai, China

Yutika Timothy-Nam wins SAASTA Student of the Year Award

The state South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy (SAASTA) Awards Evening was held at Adelaide University on Thursday 6 November. All the SAASTA students across the state attended and our staff and students were delighted when Yutika Timothy-Nam's name was called out when she won the most prestigious award of the evening, the SAASTA Student of the Year Award.



Yutika Timothy-Nam accepts her award

Year 11 and 12 End of Year Exams

Over the last few weeks we have seen the Year 12 students working incredibly hard to complete their assignments and to sit their final exams. We wish them every success with their final results and their selection into their chosen pathway. Thank you to the staff and families for your support.

The semester 2 Year 11 exams have just finished. We wish the Year 11's good luck with completing their work and achieving successful exam results. Once they have completed all of their work, the students will be able to commence their Year 12 subjects from Monday 1 December 2014.

Sandy Richardson
Principal

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education

In Week 3 a group of our students in Years 9 and 10 attended the final AIME session and End of Year Celebration at University of South Australia, Mawson Lakes. Students participated in workshops and heard from some guest speakers, Jeremy Johncock and Tania Shearer about their career pathways and lives. They also shared lunch with students from other schools who have also taken part in the AIME program in 2014.

In Week 4 some of our Year 9 students attended a 'Career Walk' excursion at Kurna Plains School. The students were able to find out about and participate in 'hands on' activities relating to a range of careers including Construction, Automotive, Health, Horticulture, Hair & Beauty and Hospitality. This excursion provided students with an insight into different career pathways and students thoroughly enjoyed the day.

On Thursday the 30th of October, our Year 12 students were invited to attend the annual Deadly Awards at the Mawson Lakes Function Centre. Special congratulations to Yutika who won a special award for her sporting achievements in 2014.

We would like to congratulate each of our Year 12 students, Rhiannon, Kylie, Yutika, Jasmyne, Dylan and Aggie for what they have achieved during their time as students at RMSC and to wish them all the best for their futures.

Sarah Afshin Pour
Aboriginal Education Coordinator

Special Education

Our recent Modified SACE/Transition Meeting on Wednesday 12th November was well attended by parents/caregivers and mainstream teachers keen to further develop their understanding of these key areas of our work. I would like to thank Lynley Johnston and Alison Pazios for their leadership of this event and advise parents/caregivers that from 2015 this meeting will coincide with the whole school SACE Information Evening held in term 3.

On the 13th of November we held our Special Education Campus formal at the Oakden Central. The event was very well supported and I would like to express my thanks to all of the staff who readily gave their time to organise this key date in our calendar. The students truly entered into the spirit of the evening and contributed significantly to the sense of occasion. Whilst there is always a degree of sadness at these events as we begin the series of farewells which mark the end of the high school years, there is also a sense of celebration. For many of the students it was an occasion to thank those around them for support and also share their anticipation of the next chapter as they prepare for their chosen post-school options. This year, for the first time, the event also included speeches from two of our leavers. Michelle Lemin and Bruno

Palmara impressively delivered their speeches with both warmth and humour and set a benchmark for future students as we seek to establish this as a traditional part of this evening of celebration.

We are continuing to plan our classes and structure for next year and information about 2015 classes will be sent home in diaries on the 1st of December. Literacy and Numeracy levels along with individual learning styles have provided the basis on which placement decisions have been made.

As this is our last newsletter of the year, I would like to encourage all parents/caregivers to attend our forthcoming concert at 1.30pm on the 4th December. It includes contributions from special education classes across all three campuses and it will include a diverse array of performances and presentations. Another date for the diary is our Leavers Assembly on the 11th December at 2.00pm. All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend as we celebrate the achievements of our class of 2015 and wish them the best for the next stage of the journey.

Andrew Gilsenan-Reed
Head of Campus: Special Education

Girls' Campus

Girls' Campus Transition Day

On the 18th November, the Girls' Campus year seven transition day was held. We are proud to mention that this year was the most successful year for this event, based on the fact that all the year sevens seemed to enjoy themselves, and they were able to build relationships with mentors, teachers and future classmates. At recess and lunchtime, the year sevens participated in a number of activities which helped them familiarise themselves with their future school.

We suspect that the success of this year's transition day was due to the help from year ten mentors that volunteered their time on the day to help orientate students and parents as well as socialise and welcome the year sevens to our school. Thank you to Jay Al-Khaffajy, Suad Nehme, Helen Sau, Ria Aiyar, Francesca Castandiello, Meskerem Asemare, Steph Pemberton, Laura Booth, Rachel Princi, Alex Williams, Iona Gaertner and Arissa Robles Rangel.

Co-Education Middle Years Campus

Students at present are busy preparing for Roundtable Presentations in the last week of school. Parents in the next week will receive their invitations to this event. Year 8's will have theirs on Tuesday 9th December and our Yr 9 students will have theirs on Thursday 11th December. On these days students will be able to provide evidence of their significant learning and progress that has taken place in 2015.

On Thursday 20th we welcomed our new Year 8 students for 2015 as we hosted a transition day for year 7's. Students participated in a range of different activities that highlighted the diversity of our program as well as participating in lunchtime activities.

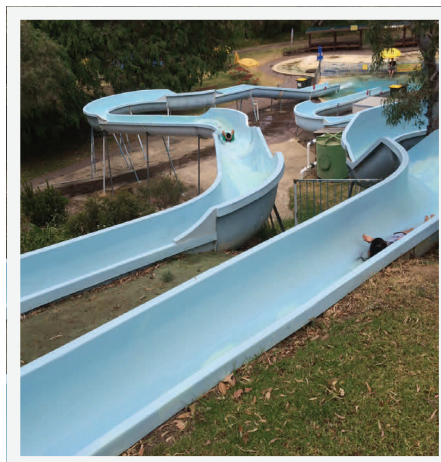
Darryl Ashby

Head of Co-Education Middle Years Campus

Co-Education Senior Years Campus

Year 12 Final Assembly and excursion to Greenhills Adventure Park

A whole school assembly was held to officially farewell and wish year 12 students well in their exams and in the completion of all other assigned tasks. Year 12 Prefects and SRC students were also acknowledged for their work throughout the year. After the assembly the year 12 students chose to visit the Greenhills Adventure Park at Victor Harbor, so that they could engage in a range of physical activities to mark the occasion. This was an informal event that was organised to involve all students in a more relaxed activity.



Students enjoy the waterslides at Greenhills Adventure Park

Senior Years Campus Assembly

A campus assembly was held to provide information to year 10 and 11 students and to celebrate their achievements. Year 11 SRC students Mahala Fergusen and Niki Tomaras hosted this assembly. The program for the assembly included:



Principal Sandy Richardson talks to year 10 and 11 students

- School Choir students performing the National Anthem
- Principal's report provided by Sandy Richardson,
- Senior School report presented by Pepe Bouzalas,
- Music item "Riptide" performed by year 10 students Chloe Dziego and Logan Mulheron
- Presentation of Maths certificates by Maths and Science Senior Leader Louise Mather
- Outdoor Education Camp report provided by year 11 students Ali Atkins and Rama Mutunda

Year 10 PLP round table discussions

Year 10 students completed their Personal Learning Plan (PLP) round table discussion task. The PLP subject supports our student's plan for their future, including the subjects they will study in years 11 and 12. Students discussed their work and reflections on learning's with confidence to teachers and parents. I would like to thank the students, staff and parents who participated in this valuable curriculum activity.

Snapshot grades

Our weekly pastoral care lessons provide students with the opportunity to consolidate their learning. Recently year 10 and 11 students received their mid term/snapshot grades and students are now working with their care group teacher and subject teachers to discuss and plan improvement strategies to improve their end of term grades.

Pepe Bouzalas

Head of Co-Education Senior Years Campus

Australian Mathematics Competition 2014

138 students from years 8 to 12 sat for the AMT competition this year. We congratulate all of the students who took part, it is a challenging competition but watching students rise to that challenge was an inspiration for the staff involved.

There are three different papers presented for years 7 and 8, years 9 and 10 and years 11 and 12. All papers involve students answering 25 problems without the support of a calculator. This competition provides a great opportunity for our students to compete with other student from across Australia and New Zealand.

This year, the *Prudence Award* was received by Suraj Shukla in year 10 for the greatest number of consecutive correct answers. Two other distinction awards were received by Matthew Duggan in Year 8 and Nathan Farmer in year 10.

The following students received Credit awards:

Year 8

James Colangelo

Hannah Smith

Veronika Izotova

Tayla Kelly

Evalyn Zhang

Year 9

Scott South

Dhwani Patel

Brooke Johnston

Tayla Morris

Lucretia Sobey

Jesse Forrester

Skye Roberts

Harvishi Patel

Hitarthi Pandya

Patrick Smith

Year 10

Chloe Dziego

Dakota Nixon

Christian Lysandrou

Coco Lim

Leejaye Maree Solano

Max Zannettino

Arissa Robles

Amanda Almogela

Brayden Cocks

Madeline Kelly

Nathan Bressan

Osayi Uwumarogie

Mary Markobotsaris

Jethro Webber

Jay Wong

Iona Gaertner

Pooja Rajasekaran

Year 11

Antonio Dao

Mahala Ferguson

Luke Gu

Criscell Del Rosario

Year 12

Qinxin Yu

Francis-John Pinaroc

Byungjin Kim

Ayishm Shahzad

Louise Mather

Senior Leader: Maths, Science & Numeracy

In Memory of Connie

Connie was there

Connie was always there. She'd been a constant part of the Gepps Cross Girls family for 30 years.

Her children had grown up doing their homework in the school while she worked away the time cleaning. Once her boys had grown and left to have their own families Connie was still there.

Coming in early to have a chat and keep up to date with everything that was going on, Connie was a part of everyone's lives. She needed us to keep her young and she let us off-load with whatever was central to our lives. We were Connie's extended family and she enjoyed every minute of chatting, it made her day. She hated nights, weekends and especially school holidays when she felt isolated from the hustle and bustle that came with being a part of the school. She'd even shunned the community bus trips that her friends went on saying that she needed to be at work by 2pm and she confided that she didn't want to sit around and be old like them.

Connie was everyone's grandma. I remember one student in particular who adopted Connie, telling everyone that she was her Grandma, and Connie (always up for a bit of mischief and always ready to be there) was happy to go along with it. It gave them both something they needed, belonging. And as always, Connie was there.

Connie was there too when the doors to Gepps Cross Girls shut for the very last time. The impact of Gepps closing was very personal for Connie, after so many years she was no longer needed. It had been made clear that the cleaning contract was to go to Spotless, and so Connie was out of a job. As you've probably realized by now Connie wasn't worried about the loss of income, it was the loss of her extended family, her Gepps family, that was leaving her behind that upset her. I talked at length about this to Connie and it was one of the few times that I had seen her cry. I reassured her that there would still be a place for her at RMSC and encouraged her to speak to Lauren about a volunteering role.

And so Connie came. The Tuesday afternoon knitting group was Connie's new project, a way to be a part of the hustle and bustle of school life again, and she shared her knowledge and skills and reached out to new young women ready to listen to their stories.

While most older people are shying away from technology, Connie embraced it. She learnt how to surf the net and became a whiz at keeping abreast of the news in her home town back in Malta. She even made her sister cross as Connie knew more of the current affairs in her hometown than her sister who lived there. But that was Connie, she was determined, stubborn, loving, friendly, a doer, and above all always there.

I've heard it said that she passed away doing what she loved, and it's true. It was a Tuesday, and true to form Connie was on her way to us, her extended family to stitch a bit, sit and listen a bit, chat a bit, and be a part of the school life that was such a central part of her life.

Connie, the memory of you will always be here.



Specialist Cycling Programme

Nathan Farmer on our regular fitness testing

On Thursday 6th November the Senior Cycling Class conducted our Semi-Term testing in the Co – Education Weight room. The Class' goal was to perform our best on a 2000 metre track on the indoor Computrainer. I was the third person in the class to ride, and completed it in 2 minutes 51, missing the record, which was 2:50.2. After everyone else completed their testing I asked to have another attempt, pushing harder than I thought I could, I proceeded to beat the old Year 10 record with a time of 2:49.4



Changes to the Secondary School Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue past 31 December 2014. This means that from 1 January 2015, students will need to apply online for a TFN and have their identity verified at a participating Australia Post office.

Please visit: ato.gov.au and search 'QC27248' for more information.

Totally Schoolwear

Totally Schoolwear will be closed from Monday 22nd December 2014 and will reopen on the Monday 5th January 2015.

Shop 24, Clovercrest Plaza, 429 Montague Road, Modbury North, SA, 5092

Phone: 8396 6465

Opening times: Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday's 9am to 12noon.

Second Hand Uniforms

Devon Clothing Totally Schoolwear has introduced two options for families to sell and buy second hand uniform items. The options are:

Option 1

Register uniform items with Totally Schoolwear Clovercrest by filling in a second hand uniform registration form available from Totally Schoolwear Clovercrest or Roma Mitchell Secondary College. Once the form is completed return it to Totally Schoolwear or alternatively the school can return it to the shop on your behalf.

If families are interested in buying a second hand uniform item they can contact Totally Schoolwear Clovercrest. The shop will check their data base and give out the relevant information on how to purchase the uniform item.

This option is now available for families to use.

Option 2

Register online with the Sustainable School Shop. Once registered, families are able to enter the uniform item they wish to sell or buy online.

The Sustainable School Shop is providing complimentary Annual Subscriptions until 30th September 2015 and we would encourage parents to take full advantage of this opportunity. You need to nominate Roma Mitchell Secondary College when you register on the Sustainable School Shop website to receive your complimentary Annual Subscription (lasts 365 days). After the free 365 days, membership of \$19.95 for a year subscription or \$1 an item (price subject to change). Please see insert on how to register online.

Please contact the school if you have any queries about the second hand uniform service.

Contact Information

The school office is open between 8.30am and 4.00pm each school day. Our friendly staff will help you with any questions or queries.

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