Dear Families and Friends of Reynella East College,

I hope you all had a great Easter holiday break and were able to enjoy time with family or friends.

This edition of the newsletter is packed full of shots of our students and children of all ages in a range of events and activities, particularly the Sportsday Carnivàle held a few weeks ago. In spite of the hot muggy weather, the students participated actively in the athletics and fun events and the feedback has been really positive. A particular highlight was the level of team spirit during the team march and the whole school relay that included 5-18 year olds. It really was quite a spectacular experience.

Thanks to all the staff, students and families who helped with cooking, stalls and organisation of the event. We raised just over $4,000 which will go towards further developing the outdoor learning environment. Our latest project, the new sandpit now compliments the Cubby building area at the front of the College. Congratulations to Gabby Philis for his hard work and dedication to this project which will be officially opened early next term.

2015 Annual Report and 2016-2018 Site Improvement Plan

The 2015 Annual Report highlights significant progress made in a number of areas: improved SACE completion; a shift to higher grade distribution; and our Pre-school exceeded all seven National Quality Standards. We have developed a range of P-12 policies and agreements that provide clear direction including: the REC Literacy and Numeracy agreements; REC Attendance Policy; and REC Responsible Behaviour Policy. One of our ongoing priorities is to improve attendance and I’m happy to report that we are getting closer to the Education Department target of 95%. Achieving this target means we all need to play our part in reinforcing consistent messages about the value of a good education and the importance of coming to school on time every day unless there are extenuating circumstances. We want to eliminate both unexplained and ‘sanctioned’ absence.

Student Free Day

On the 15 March all teaching staff participated in the first part of a 40 hour intensive program, “Assessment for Educators” being delivered by the Institute of Educational Assessors. This is a high quality program developed by the three South Australian Universities and the SACE Board. Involvement in the program will ensure that our learning and assessment tasks are sufficiently challenging and engaging so that our students achieve even better results. We are aiming for increased representation in A and B grades in all year levels across the College. The program will continue on the next Student Free day on Monday 6 June and during P-12 staff meetings throughout the year.

Parent communication

Please see important information about SEQTA Parent Portal on page 2.

Caroline Green - Principal
April

Mon 4 - 7 April  Yrs P-7 3-Way Interviews
Wed 6 April  Yr 8 Immunisations
Wed 6 April  Yr 11 Street Smart
Frid 8 April  Yr 12 Formal
Mon 11 - 15 April  Yrs R - 2 Swimming
Tues 12 April  Yrs 8-12 Parent/Teacher Interviews
Frid 15 April  Yrs P-7 Assembly 9.00am
Frid 15 April  End Term 1 - 2pm dismissal

May

Tuesday 10 - 12 May  Naplan
Friday 13 May  Yr 8/9 Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 17 May  Open Day
Wednesday 18 May  Beyond Yr 12 Night

June

Friday 3 June  Student Free Day
Monday 6 June  Student Free Day
Monday 13 June  Public Holiday

PUBLIC HOLIDAY & STUDENT FREE DATES:

Friday 3rd June: Student Free Day
Monday 6th June: Student Free Day
Monday 13th June: Public Holiday

Important Information

SEQTA Update

We are now in the final stages of updating SEQTA:

SEQTA parent portal allows parents to be involved in their child's education, enabling them to understand what is happening at school, in all aspects around their child's attendance and education. REC is now using this software exclusively as the communication medium between the College and parent and students.

Previously, families were supplied login details provided by the REC ICT team to access this portal.

From the commencement of Term 2, a new registration process will be required to update log on details and allow access to the reset password function.

Families who have supplied their emails and have current access will automatically be sent an email with full instruction on how to navigate through this registration process in readiness for term 2.

If you have not yet supplied your family email address please contact the College on 8329 2300 to arrange access.

NO PARKING

Parents are reminded that no parking is allowed in the staff carparks, before and after school.

REC Preschool /Playgroup

Taking enrolments for 2017 and there are still some vacancies for playgroup this year.

Enquiries: 0401 121 668
Preschool Mini Sports Day

Monday the 21st of March the Preschool children were treated to a fun filled day of sporting activities put on by Miss Lush and her year 7 students.

The children were taken through a series of activities like egg and spoon race, goal kicking, water play, an obstacle course and finished with a 50 metre sprint.

The year seven students thought of everything, including awarding the Preschoolers with certificates and a chocolate frog at the closing ceremony. The parents and staff were most impressed, with the way the year seven’s conducted themselves on the day.

A big thankyou to a job well done! From all the Preschool children, staff and families.

Ange Feddern - Preschool Teacher

Kicking goals at a local wetland

Setting a sustainability goal and sharing this with your (pre)school community is a great way to start the year. Everyone knows what the focus is and where you hope to go.

Reynella East College Preschool set a sustainability goal at the beginning of last year for staff to feel confident to visit their local wetlands and view them as a rich learning environment.

This links strongly with the Learning element in the AuSSI-SA Education for Sustainability Rubrics, where the preschool community has planned and developed action-based EfS learning in real world and authentic contexts.

Like any new initiative there was some initial trepidation. The preschool had early conversations with families about excursions to the local wetlands. Staff had many discussions about what might be some risks, how they can be managed and how to be prepared. Before going on the first excursion there was lots of talking with the children about what is going to happen, how deep the water is and safety in a natural environment. All of these conversations were ongoing throughout the year.

The children visited the wetlands between terms 2-4, three times a term. The children loved learning with their senses and they noticed changes in the environment over time (e.g. the ducklings growing and the water level changing with the seasons). This is authentic learning around science and maths. Children further developed their communication skills and problem solving ability.

Reynella East College Preschool achieved more than their initial goal. This year the preschool hopes to set a goal around encouraging families to spend more time in nature.
Fringe Festival Drama at REC

Our secondary school theatre space recently became an Adelaide Fringe Festival venue. Our Year 11 and 12 Drama students presented ‘Rhinoceros’ by Ionesco and ‘Oedipus the King’ by Sophocles. Both plays were presented back to back in a 90 minute format with high energy and stylised staging. Eden Trebilco directed the two plays for the Fringe Festival and they were well received by our daytime and evening audiences. The plays were part of the Youth Education Program with the Fringe Festival and were presented to students from other school sites as well as our own school community. Money raised from our box office sales will go towards upgrading our Secondary school theatre space. We look forward to performing in the Fringe Festival again next year.

Julie d’Lima - Arts Coordinator

STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

This month the Year 9 STEM class have been thinking about projectile motion in a design challenge which requires them to work in teams, applying their Science, Maths and Technology skills and knowledge to Engineer design solutions to a range of problems.

We began by considering the idea of a catapult challenge and we all made a small catapult with pop sticks and elastic bands to test the theory.

Despite all being given the same instructions, the class quickly realised there were a number of ways to alter and improve their design in order to make it shoot further and/or higher than others.

This opened up to a class discussion where students considered and negotiated the guidelines of their own class challenge. It was decided that in teams they would create ‘something’ that can launch a specified object the furthest distance using materials within a limited budget.

After discussing and deciding upon the fine details of the design brief and specification, the class was split into 4 teams who have researched, designed and developed a range of solutions, including catapults, slingshots and spring loaded shooters. Teams have just completed the first round of testing on their designs, where it became clear that design modifications were still needed to ensure they win the challenge.

With teams carefully recording the best angles for launch and positions of loading to determine their best shots, the final competition it shaping up to be a very close call.

Lauren Green – STEM Teacher
Another great year!

2016 saw some excellent athletic performances from all year groups. Fifteen girl's records were broken and four boy's records were broken which is a record in itself. The field events were totally full all day and the staff had to work hard to make sure that all students had the required amounts of throws and jumps. It was great to see the number of students participating in the sprint events and Mr Dutton who was the official starter had to have three or four heats per race.

One of the highlights of the day was the whole school relay where a student from each year level raced against the rest of their peers before handing the baton over to the year level above. 96 pupils were involved in the race and they ran approximately 70 metres each, but there was only 20 metres between the first and last runner by the end of the race. What a finish.

Thank you to everyone involved for making the day such a success.

Scott Corbett - PE Coordinator
SPORTS DAY

Record Breakers -
Congratulations to these students:

Boys -
Open Shot - Lachlan N 11.22m
Year 9 / 800m - Haseeb T 2.30.55 secs
Year 10 Javelin - Jacob L 29.39m
Year 10 Shot - Aaron L 10.11m

Girls -
Open Girls Shot - Megan H 8.90m
Year 8 Triple Jump - Liana W 8.03m
Year 8 / 100m - Leanne W 14.74 secs
Year 8 / 200m - Indy T 31.34 secs
Year 8 Shot - Jemma P 7.5m
Year 9 Javelin - Montana M 19.72m
Year 9 Long Jump - Chloe B 4.3m
Year 9 Shot - Lindsey H 6.78m
Year 9 / 800m - Montana M 2:54.72 secs
Year 10 Javelin - Jade H 23.85m
Year 10 / 200m - Hannah G 32.23 secs
Year 10 / 400m - Trinity E 1:08.72 secs
Year 10 / 800m - Trinity E 2:56.64 secs
Year 10 Triple Jump - Amy K 8.40m
Year 10 Shot - Yvette D 8.14m
SPORTS DAY
International Student Success

In January 2015, we welcomed a new International student from Malaysia into Year 12. Kai Ngui, known to her friends as Zen, settled in really well. Zen was a very academic, quiet student who studied hard. She lived with a local family who have students enrolled here at Reynella East College. It was very common to see Zen in our International Room during her study time surrounded by her books. She was a very happy and sociable student and we were very excited to receive an email from her recently confirming that she has been accepted to study the Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Uni SA.

Zen achieved an ATAR of 89.85 and 98.45 after bonus points were added. Zen would like to thank her Year 12 Teachers and Coordinators and International Department for supporting her through her programme. We would like to wish Zen every success for her studies at Uni SA.

At the same time as Zen being enrolled, we had two Japanese Students from Mishima High School enrol for our ISEC (Intensive Secondary English Course) for the whole of Term One, as part of our International Program. Kentaro Iwata and Yoshiki Teranishi were both very keen to speak in English as often as they could. In fact, quite often making jokes with our staff here in the very early days. They both excelled in our ISEC Program.

Both students went on to study at different High Schools as part of the Mishima Network Program managed by Reynella East College. They studied locally at Seaview High School and Aberfoyle Park High School and after finishing school here in Australia, they went home to Japan to successfully complete an English examination allowing them to travel to the United Kingdom to study at Cambridge University for eight weeks. This exam is held in high esteem by the Mishima students and we were very excited to hear that two of our ISEC students had the highest marks giving them a fully paid trip to the United Kingdom to study.

International Team
Harmony Day at REC

Harmony Day, 21 March, celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common.

The central message for Harmony Day is that ‘everyone belongs’, reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.

On Harmony Day, the Glencoe Unit had a day full of fun and learning. As a unit, we began the day by sharing a story about being kind to each other, while Mrs Bradley and Miss Davis hid some words about Harmony Day around the school. We had lots of fun running around outside trying to find the words and writing them down. Again, as a unit we had a discussion about what the words meant. Later in the day we all helped to make special Harmony towers which show how we are different but we all belong. See our towers displayed in the Front Office and in the Library.

Operation Flinders

5 students from the College recently took part in “Operation Flinders”. They spent 7 nights in the northern Flinders Ranges, sleeping in small shelters and taking on some mighty challenges such as abseiling, bushwalking and conquering Mount Rose (highest peak in Yankaninna Station).

Great achievement for the girls -

Jena W, Annabelle G, Lateesha C, Teagan J and Emily T

Sarah Mullighan - Teacher

Davis Delights

This year Davis’ Delights (Year 1/2) have embedded ‘The Daily 5’ in their morning literacy blocks. Students spend the morning working through a variety of literacy based tasks that involve reading and writing while Miss Davis works with a small focus group. Daily 5 choices that students have at the moment include “Read to Self”, ‘Work on Writing’ and the newly introduced “Read to Someone”. Students are particularly enjoying “Read to Someone” time because they have an opportunity to give and receive feedback to one another in order to support their reading development.
**Boys K/O Cricket**

Well done to our boys 6/7 KO cricket team for a dominant round 1 victory! It was set up with a very tight bowling attack. Cooper, Dylan and Damon all bowled extremely well, taking a couple of wickets each. Asim was brought into the attack late in the innings with immediate results, claiming a wicket with his very first ball. Deacan finished things off nicely with his new found love of leg spin. Our boys were set 82 runs for victory, which never looked in doubt once Cameron got a run on. His running between wickets was exceptional and retired on a well-deserved 31 not out. We now wait eagerly for our round 3 opponent.

*Aaron Roche - Primary PE Teacher*

**Surf Life Saving SA**

Elain Jones Year 7 and Caleb Jones Year 5 competed in the 2016 Surf Life Saving SA Junior State Championships held at the Somerton Surf Lifesaving Club on March 12th and 13th. Caleb came home with a gold medal in swim team, silver medal in ironman and bronze in boards, while Elain came home with a bronze in board rescue and just missed out on a medal coming 4th in board relay. Congratulations guys!

**Softball**

Congratulations to Gypsy for making the Southern Valley District girls’ softball team.

**Metro Swimming Championships**

Congratulations to Elain, Caleb and Zoe for making the Southern Valley District swimming team.
Yr 8/9 Cricket Statewide Finals

8/9 boys cricket has a fantastic run into the State Final, beating Aberfoyle, Hallett Cove and Tatachilla. In the final they met Cabra College who managed to keep our score down and then proceeded to bat efficiently. So the 8/9 team finished runners up in the State B division which is a huge achievement. Well done to all those involved.

Jo Draper - PE Teacher

Combined Zone Athletics Day

The Combined Zone Athletics Day was held at Santos Stadium last week. REC took 63 athletes to compete. Before the relays we were sitting in 3rd position, but our strength in depth showed by winning 5 out of the 8 relays, to give a very exciting finish and a 2nd place at the end of the day. A fantastic team effort and also thanks to our helpers on the day.

Zone Touch/Tag Rugby

The Zone Tag Rugby Carnival was held at Reynella East, 45 students enjoyed coaching from the NRL and an inspiarational talk from The NRL and Jillaroos player, Ruan Sims.

The Zone Touch Carnival was also held at REC, 30 teams from 7 schools competed in the event in Years 8-12. With the 8/9 girls and boys teams finishing 3rd.

State Tennis Championships

Congratulations to Jacob Lawrence in year 10 who finished 2nd in The State Tennis Championships.
Homestays NEEDED

Are you interested in becoming a Host Family for International Students?

We are always looking for new Homestay families who ideally live close to Reynella East College and are interested in sharing their Australian lifestyle with an International student. Visits can vary from 10 days to a full year. A generous allowance is paid.

Contact: Carole Edgeworth - Ph: 0403 605 979

For Sale -

The REC Grounds Committee are currently rationalising grounds assets and equipment and have agreed to place the following item for sale as surplus to needs:

Tennant 6100 Sub Compact Rider Sweeper

Tennant 6100 sub-compact rider sweeper is a maneuverable battery-powered ride-on sweeper that captures dust and debris in a single pass.

Dual side brushes expand the sweeper’s reach to clean more floor/ground space, cleaning a variety of surfaces from smooth concrete to finished floors, including carpet.

Includes Hand Vac attachment.

Purchased new, the machine has had 133 hours of operating use and has been maintained through a Bronze Customer Service Program from date of purchase.

Please contact Gaby Philis (Grounds) at the college for further information on 0401 121 660.