Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

Welcome to the start of the 2017 school year. A special welcome to our new students and their families; especially the year 8 students who have joined us for the beginning of their secondary schooling journey. We also have three new teachers who have joined the Renmark High School team: Fraser Sampson, Kate Strachan, and Michael Branford.

We have had a great start to the year and I have appreciated the warm welcome by staff, students and the parents I have met so far. I have moved here from Jamestown with my wife Danielle and two children (Ethan and Charlotte). Ethan and Charlotte are enjoying their first week at Renmark Primary School.

My role as Principal at Renmark High School is to ensure that we continue on our journey of improving the quality of our learning environments and, most importantly, the quality of student outcomes. Over 2000 years ago the Greek Philosopher Aristotle said that “Quality is not an act, it is a habit.” My expectation is that every student at RHS is working on building their habit of quality, every lesson, every day. I expect that every student contributes their best effort and does not interfere with the rights of other students to do the same.

There are already fantastic things happening in your school, the staff are enthusiastic and professional, and students are keen to share their ideas on what they enjoy about school and how they would like to see it improved. I am looking forward to working with students, staff, families and our community to continue to make Renmark High School even better.

Some Reminders:
- Don’t forget the Meet the Teacher night this Monday where you will have an opportunity to meet your child’s teachers.
- Students are not permitted to leave the school to go down the street at lunchtime. This is in the interests of the safety and wellbeing of our students.
- DAYMAP is an important method of communication with families and we encourage all parents and guardians to make use of this service. Instructions on accessing the DAYMAP program have been sent home with this newsletter, are available on our Facebook page and can be collected from student services.

Mat Evans, Principal

Assessment Deadline Policy
We have a new Assessment Deadlines Policy which clearly outlines the expectations of students, parents and staff in relation to handing up work on the due date. This form can be collected from Student Services and in the near future from our website. A copy of the policy and form have also been sent home with the newsletter. Please take the time to become familiar with this policy and support your child in adhering to due dates that are fair and equitable for all parties concerned.

Upcoming events
Term 1
Week 2

- Mon 06/02 Meet the Teacher evening
- Tues 07/02 SACE Board Merit Ceremony, Government House
- Wed 08/02 Riverland Research Project Expo
- Fri 10/02 Swimming Carnival

Meet the Teachers Night
RHS invites all parents and students along to Meet the Teacher night to be held in the library on Monday, February 6.

This is an opportunity for parents to meet the staff, old and new, at Renmark High, ask them questions and become more familiar with the people who will be caring for your child over the next 12 months.

Sessions will be held at 6:00pm in the library for parents and students in years 8 to 10. Parents of students in years 11 and 12 will attend a session at 6.30 in the staff room. Principal Mat Evans will introduce himself and parents will have the opportunity to meet care group and subject teachers at each year level.

Please take advantage of this occasion to become more familiar with staff and the environment your child will be working within during their time at Renmark High.
Meet Renmark High’s newest staff members

Fraser Sampson, Maths and Physical Education

Bi-Annual Riverland Research Project Expo

Students and parents of students who will be required to complete a Research Project in 2017 or 2018 are strongly encouraged to attend the Bi-Annual Riverland Research Expo to be held at Glossop High School Middle School Campus on Wednesday February 8th, starting at 7.00pm. Students from Riverland schools who have completed their Research Project to a high standard will have their work on display. There will be industry specialists, guest presenters, and representatives of the SACE Board present to give future students lots of tips and ideas around how to get started and successfully complete their Research Project.

This is an opportunity to ask questions and see an overview of how students from the Riverland schools who have successfully completed their Research Project have presented their folios, outcomes, and evaluations. This year there were two students at Renmark High who received A+ for their research project whose work will be on display.

Kay Heuzenroeder
Teacher, Research Project

Congratulations Gemma

Gemma was named in the “Team of the Year” as a centre field player in the recent Softball SA Inc. 61st Senior State Championships held on the weekend of the 27th January at West Beach, Adelaide. Gemma (B Grade), Vikkie (C Grade Masters) and Kayla (D Grade) all represented the Riverland in this Championship. C Grade Masters came second in their division, having played Gawler in the grand final.

Vikkie Taylor

Kate Strachan
Agriculture

SACE Results 2016

Congratulations to our top performers in 2016. Connor Bakaj (ATAR of 99.35) is our Dux for 2016. Laura Marafioti also performed well (ATAR 92.55) as did 7 other students with ATARs in the 80s. Very pleasing was the 4 Merits (20 out of 20) awarded to Ebony Forsyth (Digital Media and Visual Art Design), Connor Bakaj (Research Project) and Laura Marafioti (Digital Media). Congratulations also to the teachers involved in this success (Kay Heuzenroeder, Jodi Long and Heidi Stanojevic). These students will attend a Merit Ceremony at Government House next week.

Also of note was the higher number of students in the A and B grade bands compared with historical averages – for the A grade 12.82% in 2016 compared to the average of 9.56% and for B grades 44.87% compared with 37.92%.

Overall we are happy with the results gained by students as a direct reflection of the hard work they put in throughout the year.

Connor - Dux 2016

The accolades continue for Connor. Congratulations Connor, for all your achievements in 2016, culminating in being DUX for Renmark High School receiving an ATAR of 99.35. Congratulations also on your award as Renmark’s Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year.

Connor will be studying Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at Adelaide University this year.

We wish you well.

Michael Branford
Science, Maths, Physics

Reminder

Care Group and the official school day begins at 8:40am and ends at 3:30pm. Students are expected to be present and in their classes during these times. Care Group is the first lesson of the day and begins at 8.40, students should aim to arrive at 8:35. This lesson, is often considered by students, as unimportant, however it is actually an extremely important time of the day when students are given lots of miscellaneous information. If they do not attend, it is most likely they will miss a great deal of general information which can be pertinent to them and their successful achievement at school and future.

Parents are reminded that by law the school is required to keep a record, of notes informing us of any irregular attendance. Please be sure to inform the school if your child is going to be absent, late, leave early or be out of the school at any time during school hours.

From Pammy –PCW

A huge welcome to all the new year 8 students and their families. How wonderful to have you all here at our awesome school. This week is exciting as we have the year 8 camp which I will write about in next week’s newsletter. I trust that you all had a wonderful holiday and are ready for a new school year with many challenges, excitement and new learning for everyone. As you read this I hope that the week has been good to you all. Keep smiling and be kind to each other.

Pammy, PCW