Dear Parents, Caregivers and students,

The Term is definitely underway and gaining positive momentum. Our staffing allocation has been finalised after Day 8 and we have the highest enrolment in the past 15 years of 1472 students. This is a tremendous endorsement of the work that the school and the staff have been doing in the past 3 years. To ensure that we can utilise the staff allocation effectively, we needed to create some extra classes in Year 8 due to oversized rooms. All students were issued with new timetables last Friday afternoon and will start week 4 with their settled Semester 1 timetables. We appreciate the patience of the students and teachers while this process is settled.

Attendance

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, students must aim for 100% attendance as this is absolutely critical for students to succeed. The year has started off very well with our weekly average up over 90% each week. Absences create gaps in learning and knowledge accumulation and leads to student disengagement. Students should only be away from school if they are incapable of getting through their day or are at risk of infecting others with their ailment. There should be no days off for Birthdays.

School Resource Hire Scheme (RHS) Fees

The school is currently in the process of posting out invoices to families for the 2014 Resource Hire Scheme payments. The school has simplified this process in the past 2 years to remove additional and confusing subject levy payments. These fees will be expended this year for student classroom resources. It is essential that families meet their financial commitments to their child’s education to ensure we can maximise the outcomes for all students.

Payment Options: Families have a number of options available to them in making these payments and all of these arrangements must be finalised by the end of September.

1. Families can pay the full amount at Student Services.
2. Families can Direct Debit their payments into the school account using their student’s surname and year level in the Reference section.
3. Families who receive Centrelink payments can arrange to have deductions taken from their account to pay off the Resource Hire Scheme. You need to complete a Deduction Form with Customer Reference Number (CRN) to arrange fortnightly deductions to finish your payments by the end of September. If you require any assistance to finalise this, please see the staff in the Student Services office.

Student Council

Our student council have had a busy start to the year with their fundraising selling roses for Valentine’s Day last week. They have a number of other activities organised for the near future and are leading the student community very positively.

Interschool Sports at Redbank Plains SHS

This year, Redbank Plains has joined with 4 other schools more closely located and formed a new sports district. The partner schools are Woodcrest State College, Springfield Central SHS, Forest Lake SHS and Glenala SHS. This new district and the new sports competitions will provide our students with a better quality, closer to home sports competition. Where most appropriate, some of the competitions will be played at centralised venues so students from all schools will be bussed to this venue each week to engage in their competitions.

We believe that these competitions and arrangements will provide better weekly competition with significantly less travel. All students will be using buses to get to and from sport each week so there will be certainty and safety for their travel. These fees will be made clear to students prior to them signing up for their sports.

Quality of Student Presentation

I would like to again congratulate the absolute majority of the students who are representing themselves, their families and the school in such a positive way with wearing their uniform completely and correctly. I need to reinforce that uniform is compulsory in this school it has been endorsed by the school Parents and Citizen’s Association and will be enforced. Our focus on 100% includes the uniform and students are required to be 100% compliant with the expectations.

I would also like to reinforce that students need to be aware of how they represent themselves to and from school while wearing our uniform. It is important that all students comply with road rules and basic road safety principles while travelling to and from school. We have many students who walk to the local shops in the afternoon and cross busy main roads. All Students must use the lights at the intersection for crossing the road for their own safety.

Regards
Llew Paulger
Principal
DATE CLAIMERS

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<td>18</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

From time to time family circumstances change, for example, custody issues, addresses, new phone numbers and emergency contacts.

It is critical that the school has the correct information on students. The school will not release a student to someone who is not listed as a contact on our system. Please ensure your emergency contact details are correct.

Attached is a Change of Details Form, please complete and return to Student Office with accurate information if your circumstances have changed.

TAKING A STAND AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

Our school is taking a stand against bullying and violence in 2014

We have registered to be part of the 2014 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, being held nationwide on Friday, 21 March.

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (National Day of Action) is Australia’s key anti-bullying event for schools. It’s a day where school communities across Australia ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence.

Redbank Plains State High School is dedicated to creating supportive school environments, free from bullying, harassment and violence. By working together we are sending a clear message to young people that bullying and violence, in or outside of school, is not okay at any time.

A SHORT ARTICLE ON THE TALKING CIRCLE

The official Opening for the Talking Circle will be at:

3:00pm on Thursday, 27 February 2014 at the Talking Circle.

All staff and students are invited, food and drinks provided.

Mr Ben Keine and his Year 12 Modern History Class using the Talking Circle

SLEEPING ROUGH

Congratulations to the 38 students and 10 staff who ‘slept rough’ last year to raise money for Cr David Morrison’s humanitarian charity. The group raised over $400 which will be spent on providing water purification devices to a less fortunate community abroad.

Cr Morrison attended our most recent school assembly to present the students and staff with certificates of appreciation and to share with the assembly how the money was spent. This certainly made the rough night of sleeping in a cardboard box all worthwhile!

YEAR 8 SCHOLARSHIPS STUDENTS-A-PLENTY

We recently celebrated our Year 8 scholarship students on Assembly. This fine group of students went through the application and interview process last year and impressed our panel of staff. We look forward to seeing them continue to flourish here at Redbank Plains State High School.

2015 scholarships will open for application in Term 3. Please check our school website next Term for information and application forms. In the meantime, make sure everything you do here at school epitomises REAL to increase your chances of being awarded a scholarship in 2015.

OUR ‘BE AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY, ALL DAY’ STUDENTS CELEBRATED

The past few years have seen our students faced with the same message, to be at school every day, all day. Our Community Liaison Officer Lucy Salanoa has worked with our students, families and local business to ensure this message is consistent. Our teachers repeat the message to students on a daily basis!
THE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Arts Department at Redbank Plains SHS is up and running and 2014 promises to be an exciting and productive year. The staff and students in the Arts Department have been busy – most of the groups have begun with the exception of Drama Extension and Art Extension. If you missed any of these auditions or rehearsals or would like more information, please contact the teacher responsible for that group or Head of Department Mrs Clarkson as soon as possible.

Dance Troupe - Monday afternoons 3:15 – 5:00 pm. Contact – Miss Craig/Miss Miles
Stage Band - Monday afternoons 3:15 – 4:15 pm Contact Mr Humphry
Concert Band - Friday mornings 7:30 – 8:45 am Contact - Mr Humphry
Marching Band - Wednesday mornings 7:30 – 8:45am Contact - Mr Humphry
Instrumental Music lessons have begun. Wednesdays and Fridays – please see PAC noticeboard for times. Contact – Mr Humphry
Expressions of interest have been called for Stage Crew – Mrs Clarkson or Mr Webb

Other Activities Which Have Occurred In The Past Two Weeks

A blank mask has been ordered for the Unmasked competition in the Ipswich Festival. Contact - Mrs Jackson.

Band Camp has been booked (Luther Heights at Coolum, 18-20 July). All Concert/Stage /Marching Band students are expected to attend.

Therefore we were delighted to be able to celebrate the efforts of nine students who last year did not miss one day of school. These students were presented with a certificate and gift voucher on our first full school assembly this year. We hope that each student who was sitting before them on the assembly took it as a challenge to be standing on the stage next year for achieving 100% attendance in 2014.

Well done to these students on putting their Learning First and being at school every day, all day!

Senior Drama students attended the play Cosi at La Boite Theatre on Tuesday, 18 February.

In case you are wondering how you can assist your student to enjoy their year in the Arts Department, a few ideas are listed below.

- Please ensure all permission forms and any other forms such as instrument loan agreement forms are returned to the teacher in charge.
- Help your student to arrive promptly at rehearsals, especially morning rehearsals. This may mean opening their curtains or setting an alarm. Rehearsal times are precious and latecomers disturb the rehearsal process for all involved.
- Ensure your student has all the necessary uniform or costume items and launders these with care.
- Plan the family diary to enable students to attend school-related functions. Absences make it very difficult for bands and dance groups to present their best work.

I am looking forward to meeting as many families as possible during the year. If you have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Nicolee Clarkson
Head of Department – The Arts

SENIOR SCHOOLING NEWS

Welcome back to 2014! We have had many changes over the holidays, including new facilities. The senior students are now enjoying a proper student kitchen and a bigger senior studies room. All of the Choices Not Chances staff are working together in our new Senior Schooling Centre in the Amenities block (beside the Uniform Shop).

New Staff

Welcome Mr Chris Lologa to our team in 2014 he will be providing additional support to our senior students, staff and the running of various programs in and around our community.

GenR8 2013

We are very excited to give you an update on the participants of last year’s program. Over 50% of the 31 students, who completed their Cert II in Logistics as part of the GenR8 program, began working on the Monday after they graduated from school. We are very proud of these students who have taken this opportunity which the program provided.

GenR8 2014

This year we have 35 Year 12 students in GenR8 for 2014. We have 6 industry partners who are excited about being on-board with this award winning program. The students have started their TAFE training this week, focusing on workplace health and safety. Students will begin their 20 week placement in Term 2.

Community Training

20 adult participants selected under the Skilling Families Program in partnership with Bremer TAFE commence training here at school on Thursday nights.
25 members of the local community enrolled with the Strategix Training Group for free Certificate II Courses at an Information night recently held here at school.

Members of the local community wishing to participate in training should contact the Senior Schooling Team here at school or Mike Winton on 0422 318 392.

Other news

Congratulations to the 7 students who will commence school based traineeships at Eastern Food Alliance, Rocklea this month. Students will be enrolled into a Certificate II or III in Warehousing and will gain valuable skills through their on-and-off the job learning. Thanks to the great work of Mrs Cassimatis, Ms Cusack, SEP staff and Mr Winton who organised these SATs.

Thanks to Eastern Food Alliance for hosting an additional 25 students for work experience.

WesTec Trade Training Centre has commenced operations at Springfield. Three Year 11 students have started an automotive course, which will last for the remainder of Term 1. The students have settled in well and we look forward to news of their progress.

Year 11-12 TAFE courses have commenced. All enrolments should be finalised with the training organisations by now.

Upcoming Events

- White Card Course 27/3/14 – Limited places available. Cost $44.00
- Volvo Industry Visit 01/4/14 – Limited places available. Cost: Free
- Try-a-Trade Day Bricklaying 01/05/14 - 10 places will be available. Cost: Free
- 4ZZZ/Briz31 Industry visit TBA – 10 places will be available. Cost: Train Fare

NOTE: If a student is unable to attend TAFE, School-Based Traineeship, work experience or other programs such as GenR8, parents/caregivers are asked to contact the organisation AND the school as early as possible.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Senior Schooling Team

SCHOOL BASED YOUTH HEALTH NURSES

Welcome back after the holidays. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful break.

Redbank Plains State High School has 2 School Based Youth Health Nurses, Justine Coulson and Deb McCormack. We are within the school on different days. Deb is in every Thursday and every 2nd Tuesday. Justine is in every Wednesday and every 2nd Monday. Our focus is providing support to the youth on matters concerning their health and well-being such as: healthy eating, feelings of stress, relationships, personal and family problems growth and developments, sexual health and smoking, alcohol and other drugs. We also help in connecting people to other support services. This is because at times other services can provide more appropriate or further support. Our service also extends to supporting staff with information on health and well-being.

Our service is confidential and information is not shared unless permission is given. As a health service provider we respect this, however, there are some things which we must refer or act upon. Please discuss what can be expected about confidentiality with your School Nurse at the time of your visit.

In most cases, it is best for young people to talk to their parents about health and wellbeing issues. This is something that we can support the young person in doing.

If you would like to see a School Nurse we are a voluntary drop in service, if we are busy at the time we will make an appointment for you. Our office can be found outside of B Block facing the oval.

Below are links to online support services should you need them.

We look forward to providing support over the next year.

http://www.beyondblue.org.au
http://www.headspace.org.au
26 East Street, Ipswich Qld 4305
(Parking via Wharf Street)
Tel 07 3280 7900 Fax 07 3280 7999
headspace.ipswich@aftercare.com.au
http://www.lifeline.org.au Telephone: 131114

School Based Youth Nurses
Justine Coulson
Deb McCormack.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The School Dental Service will be offering treatment to Students at Redbank Plains State High School in Years 8, 9 and 10 at the Goodna School Dental Clinic. Intent to Attend forms have been issued for completion and return.

We welcome children who have received a Child Dental Benefit Schedule letter. (CDBS)
Under CDBS each eligible child aged 2-17 years are able to access $1,000 of dental treatment over 2 years.

All dental treatment will be bulk billed for your convenience.

If eligible, please bring your Medicare card and CDBS letter to the initial appointment.