1 April 2014

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents and guardians

Term 1 is done in the blink of an eye. The first ten weeks of 2014 have been action packed with some tremendous highlights.

Harmony Day

An annual highlight in our school calendar is Harmony Day and this year’s was no different. The students were treated to the most polished and professional performance from all students who participated on the day. The groups had been preparing before school, at lunch times and after school with a variety of parents, ex-students and family all assisting the groups to ensure a top quality performance.

They achieved an exceptional standard with groups representing and celebrating the many cultural backgrounds that our students come from. I would also like to thank staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that the show is a credit to everyone. The show was 70 minutes of joy and celebration of our vast cultural composition and the harmonious way that we interact and succeed.

Student Attendance

Student attendance is always a priority for the school. If a student is not at school, they are missing out on the instruction from each lesson that day. Missing 1 day in a week results in the student missing 33% of the work from four classes that day. Students with high absences simply cannot keep up with those who attend every day. The student attendance for the term has been consistently at or over 90%. This is an improvement on previous years and needs to be maintained all year. There is a concern that there is a significant drop in attendance on Fridays. This is not acceptable and students demonstrating this pattern will be followed up by the Community Liaison Officer with a phone call or a home visit, the Year coordinator or the Year level Deputy Principal. Please support your student’s education and ensure they are “at school all day every day”.

I hope all the students and their families have a great Easter Vacation. Be safe and I look forward to Term 2.

Regards

Llew Paulger
PRINCIPAL

DATE CLAIMERS

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<th>April</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Immunisation Year 8 HPV Year 10 Boostrix (all students) and HPV (males only)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open 8am-12.45am</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>School Holidays Start</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Easter Monday Holiday</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Students and Staff return to school</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Anzac Day Holiday</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.

CHOICES NOT CHANCES

The Harmony Day Festival at Robelle Domain was held on Saturday, 15 March. Mr Mike Winton and Mr Chris Lologa represented the school and the Choices Not Chances team and set up a marquee at this local community event. The event was colourful and vibrant and there were many cultures represented through dance, musical performances and all the international foods on offer.

The festival was a great opportunity to meet the public and share good stories about the successes of Redbank Plains State High School.

There was a lot of interest from parents who were still undecided about their choice of high school in the area and there was also a chance for them to ask questions and learn more about our school. The local politicians, who were present for the event made a huge effort to stop by, offer their support and recognise the fantastic work our school has been doing.

GENR8

A former Redbank Plains State High School Student Cori Gribble has been recognised in a Department of Transport and Main Road article, after landing an apprenticeship with one of the world’s largest automotive companies, Penske Automotive Group.

"Penske Automotive Group operates in the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand and employs over 17,000 people worldwide and turning over $3.9 billion in 2013."

The article also gives credit to the GENR8 program that is coordinated in Redbank Plains State High School by Mr Winton. Students in Year 12 take part in a program where they work one day a week and study for a qualification in Logistics as part of it. When students do well employers may employ them in a full time position when they finish school. It is through this program that Cori Gribble has found success and a start for his career. We congratulate Cori Gribble for his great effort in being an outstanding worker and attracting recognition for his hard work.

GenR8 2103 – Success Stories

This week we were fortunate to have a number of our past graduates visit us and share their successes as a result of being part of the 2013 GenR8 program. Ardmore Faatoe began her work experience in the warehouse for Allied Pickfords and after showing initiative and dedication to her job, was offered employment. She has progressed within the company and was given a job in the front reception. Ardmore is the first point of contact when you walk into the company and continues to impress. She has now also moved into marketing. This is a long way from a girl who was very shy in school and who faced some challenges in her senior year.

Ardmore shared some words of wisdom with the 2014 GenR8 students to encourage them to do well and do their best in the opportunities on offer for them. The students from the 2014 program were given an insight into working life with Ardmore talking about the expectations of employers and how to balance working with school life. She is a shining example of someone that against the odds through determination and support from the GenR8 program has succeeded and continues to do well in everything she does.

Ardmore is so thankful for the opportunity GenR8 opened for her that she felt it necessary to visit the students of the 2014 GenR8 and offer some inspiration. Along with other former GenR8 graduates Abe, Manu and Herman, they all shared with the current group about how the GenR8 program had positively impacted them. It is great that we can draw upon the real life experiences of past students to help our current students understand what is expected of them in the workforce.

We appreciate the generosity of our former GenR8 students for giving up their time to come in and give back to the program.

The Senior Study Room

The Senior Study Room has been a hive of activity this term. From 8am each morning of the school week we open up the study room to students keen to get in and get ready for the school day. An interesting observation with the room is that all senior students Years 10 – 12 all mix and share the room together. This is really positive for the study room as it helps develop good relations between the year levels.
**White Card Course**

The White Card Course scheduled for March 27 has been postponed. The course will still go ahead in the 2nd Term on Thursday, 15 May.

**Senior Schooling Team**

**WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE**

On Thursday, 13 March we held our annual World’s Greatest Shave event, to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. In total there were 6 people that courageously participated in the shaving of their heads to raise money for people with Leukaemia. Students also had the opportunity to have their hair coloured for the day.

Chelsea (year 12), Pania (year 9), Jaymie (year 9), Alex (year 12) and Karly (year 9) and Mr Best all bravely took part on the day and they are now rocking amazing new haircuts.

Each of these students had personal reasons as to why they shaved their head, whether it was for family, friends or to create awareness about leukaemia. They also did an amazing job at fundraising.

Through the massive efforts of these brave shavers along with the hair colouring event and other donations, $2042.50 was raised to support the Leukaemia Foundation.

The atmosphere on the day was electric with a lot of big smiles and a few tears. Once again Redbank Plains State High School students have demonstrated their willingness to support the wider community in their efforts to support this great cause.

Thanks to staff and students who volunteered on the day and a special thank-you to parents that came along to help shave or to spectate. Well done to all of this year’s participants in the World’s Greatest Shave.

**Sam Harvey**  
*Student Council Coordinator*

**YEAR 8 - HISTORY COMES TO LIFE**

Students in Year 8 history classes were given the opportunity to see, feel and taste what it was like in Medieval times during a visit from ‘Living History’ last week.

The students were captivated by the presenters who gave gruesome recounts during their interactive full-day session. A few lucky students were invited to take part in the presentations, dressing in the period clothes, and learning first-hand what it was like for them to live in that time.

Throughout the day students were invited to explore the stage, handle the artefacts and ask individual questions of the presenters regarding both the artefacts and an aspect of the presentation.

A medieval feast was prepared by our ‘Platters on Willow’ team, and Year 8 students were able to sample foods that were typical of the era.

It was a fantastic learning experience for students. ‘Living History’ will return in Semester 2 for the second group of Year 8 students.

**Nat Uhlmann**  
*Community Relations*

**HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS**

The Indigenous students participated in Harmony Celebrations by performing the Welcome Dance, the Emu Dance and Isaac our Cultural Captain reading the lyrics to My Island Home by Warumpi Band and made famous Christine Anu.

Thank you to the many other wonderful cultures and performers and staff who helped in sharing in Harmony Day. Thank you to Ms Wellings, Ms Clarkson, Ms Craig and the performing arts staff and backstage crew for putting it all together.

**Sam Conway**  
*Community Education Counsellor*