Welcome to the 2015 school year. It’s been a wonderful start to the year.

We have 41 new Reception students who have settled in beautifully! I must commend the Reception teachers for all they do to ensure the brand new students feel happy and excited about school. It’s so important that a child’s first experience of school is positive and happy.

We also have 9 new students in years 1-7 and we warmly welcome them and their families to Renmark Primary School.

A strong positive relationship between the school and families is very important. We encourage parents and caregivers to visit your child’s classrooms and get to know their teacher/s. Communication is important so discussing matters with your child’s teacher, emails, text messages are all great ways to communicate.

Would you like your newsletter emailed? Please give your email address to Sarah or Rachel in the front office.

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**FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

*FAMILY FUN NIGHT*

Tues 10th Feb, 5.30 – 7.00p.m

More information on the flyer sent home earlier this week.

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**VOLUNTEERS FOR RENMARK HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN**

We now order lunches every Friday from the Renmark High School and judging by children’s comments on Friday, the lunches were beautiful! We will have more children ordering lunch once the word spreads! Very fresh, healthy and inexpensive lunches!

Corbin Dingle is the High School Canteen Manager and needs more Friday volunteers. If you can volunteer, even one Friday morning this term, please call Corbin on 0457 721 501 or 8586 6661. He would be very, very appreciative if our parents could assist him.

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**OUR 2015 PRIORITIES**

Our teaching and learning priorities are improving Literacy and Numeracy learning outcomes for all students. Coordinators in both areas will work with staff to ensure rigorous whole school curriculum knowledge and methodology. It’s very important for all teachers to “be on the same page” to make learning easier for students. Support your children in reading at home and also using Maths skills and knowledge i.e. cooking (measuring), telling the time, distance travelled on car trips, temperature, putting important dates on a calendar… Maths is used in very day life in many situations!

We will also be working on everyone having a Growth Mindset; accepting a challenge and having the self-belief that problems can be solved! More about this in our newsletters.

Visible Learning is another focus – seeing learning through the eyes of the students and ensuring they have opportunities to teach others. How to improve should not be a mystery! Students need to know exactly what they have to do to improve, “trying harder” or “keep going” don’t actually tell students how to improve.

**Attendance:** Unless students are at school, they cannot engage in the learning opportunities and social experiences of those attending school. We are aiming for a 95% attendance rate, slightly higher than the DECD target.

If children miss more than 10 days a year, their overall attendance is less than 95%.

We understand that sickness and extenuating circumstances impact on attendance.

Please call the school on the day of your child’s absence. Attendance is very closely monitored and follow up with the support of other agencies is sought when necessary.

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**NO SMOKING ALONG THE SCHOOL BOUNDARY FOOTPATHS**

No smoking on the school boundary footpaths please.

Smokers must at least cross the road and smoke well away from school grounds. Staff will give reminders if necessary.
Student Leadership Group

This year we have a Student Leadership group, comprising Student Leaders and House Captains. At this week’s assembly, the Student Leaders and House Captains were presented with their badges by Acting Education Director, Mr Con Karvouniaris.

The Student Leaders and House Captains will be responsible for lunch time activities, such as PALs and Peer Mediations, as well as, Sports Day, assemblies, lunch orders and leading SRC/ Little Leaders.

Responding to Abuse and Neglect in an Education and Care Training (RAN-EC)

All volunteers who provide ongoing assistance to education and care sites and settings, must be provided with the Responding to Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care (RAN-EC) Induction Session for Volunteers. Volunteers must also hold a current Criminal History screening check.

Ongoing volunteer assistance can be regular or irregular. This might mean:

- once a week
- once a fortnight
- every day for a term
- once a term
- whenever it can fit around other commitments.

Renmark Primary School will be holding a RAN-EC training on Friday 13th February from 9-11 in the library. There is no cost.

Please email Renee.Stilo114@schools.sa.edu.au or contact the school if you would like to attend.

Learning Assistance Program (LAP)

Student centred and volunteer/mentor based, LAP provides one-to-one learning support, enrichment and care for students with diverse academic and personal needs through the powerful and positive contributions of mentors/volunteers.

The Learning Assistance Programme assists schools to:

- Develop positive relationships between students/mentors in a safe, one-to-one environment
- Increase the self-esteem and confidence of students of all ages and year levels
- Support the successful learning of students
- Promote, encourage and value parent and community commitment and participation
- Foster parent and teacher relationships and
- Create a genuine sense of community within the school

LAP is held every Friday from 11.30-12.30.

If you are interested in becoming a LAP volunteer or would like further information, please contact Renee Smith on 85865737 or email Renee.Stilo114@schools.sa.edu.au

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club will be held every Thursday from 8.15-8.45a.m in the kitchen. Any coin donation helps!

Paper Planes Screening (Year 3 to 7)

As a part of providing Arts opportunities for our students, we are lucky enough to be able to take students from years 3 – 7 to the Chaffey Theatre to watch the movie “Paper Planes” on Friday the 6th of March 2015 at 12:30 pm. A free screening!
Change your words, change your mindset.

Two concepts that staff and students at Renmark Primary School are currently exploring with our students are having a Growth Mindset and Living Above the Line.

**Growth Mindset**

Mindset is a simple idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck through decades of research on achievement and success—a simple idea that makes all the difference.

Mindsets are beliefs—beliefs about yourself and your most basic qualities. Think about your intelligence, your talents, your personality. Are these qualities simply fixed traits, carved in stone and that’s that? Or are they things you can cultivate throughout your life?

People with a fixed mindset believe that their traits are just givens. They have a certain amount of intelligence and talent and nothing can change that. If they have a lot, they’re all set, but if they don’t... So people in this mindset worry about their traits and how adequate they are. They have something to prove to themselves and others.

People with a growth mindset, on the other hand, see their qualities as things that can be developed through dedication and effort. Sure, they’re happy if they’re intelligent or talented, but that’s just the starting point. They understand that no one has ever accomplished great things—not Mozart, Darwin, or Michael Jordan—without years of passionate practice and learning.


**Living Above The Line**

Living Above the Line is about student ownership. Taking responsibility for the choices we make and the accompanying consequences. Classes are exploring the concept of Living Above The Line, where adults and students think and reflect on their responses and actions, or what we are calling “Respond-a-ility”.

Living Below the Line responses include:

- **Blame** – blaming others for our actions
- **Justify** – making excuses for our behaviour
- **Deny** – denying and not telling the truth and
- **Quit** – giving up on things that are important to us.

Our goal for all staff and students at Renmark Primary School is to stay Above the Line, by responding in ways that will move us forward in a positive direction, such as:

- ‘Acknowledging’ our choice/s and having the ‘Power’ and ‘Freedom’ to make positive choices.

When you are Living Above the Line, you encourage others to make great choices and hold each other accountable as well. As your child is learning at school, it is possible for everyone at some point to ‘visit’ Below the Line, students can understand how their choices effect not only themselves but those around them. They learn become better problem solvers, communicators, and independent thinkers with an intrinsic motivation to make great decisions in life.

For more information on these concepts, please follow the links below:

- http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/03/whats-your-learning-disposition-how-to-foster-students-mindsets/
- https://youtu.be/iuKbdll8_6Q
Wool Donations

If you have any spare wool to donate please bring it into the school. Mrs H is organising volunteers to knit squares to make into blankets. These will be donated at the end of the year to charity.

Material and Services Charge

Thank you to the parents who paid their M & S charge so promptly this year. If you haven't paid your child's school fees yet, we would appreciate payment as soon as possible. If there are any difficulties, please come to the school and arrange a payment schedule. If you have a Centrelink Health Care or Pension card you may be eligible for School Card. School Card needs to be applied for every year. Please bring your card to the Front Office and staff will be able to assist you with your application.

Medical Condition Updates

If your child has a medical condition recorded you will receive new medication consent forms and healthcare plans at the end of 2014. Healthcare plans must be renewed every year by a doctor and it is often most convenient for parents to arrange this in the holidays. If your child had their check up in the holidays please provide the school with their new Health Care Plan ASAP. Thank you for your prompt assistance with this as up to date details are vital for the wellbeing of your child/ren.

Bus Applications

All Bus students should have received their bus passes for 2015 and a copy of the school bus guidelines. If you have not returned the reply slip that was attached to the guidelines please complete and return it to school ASAP. If you are a new family and believe your child/ren may be eligible for bus travel, please collect an application form from the front office.

Days of Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating

Catastrophic fire danger rating days are days when the weather conditions mean a fire is more likely to start and is more difficult to control. When a catastrophic fire danger rating is forecast for the following day by the Bureau of Meteorology, all ‘low/medium risk’ schools and preschools (such as ours) in the declared Fire Ban District of the ‘Riverland’ will remain OPEN.

School buses and taxis services that travel through affected Fire Ban District(s) will not operate.

Parents and carers will need to make alternative transport arrangements for their children on these days.

Please make sure your emergency contact details are updated before the fire danger season starts.

Please check Renmark Primary School's Facebook page for further information on catastrophic days.

Car Park

The Renmark Primary School bus bay car park is totally out of bounds for drop-off’s and pick-up’s. This is not a safe area for children to be passing through.

Book Club

All Book Club orders are to be at the front office by Wednesday the 25th of Feb (week 5).
On Australia Day I……………
Went to Adelaide, had McDonalds and saw a movie at the cinemas. – Arabella
Went to the Caravan Park. – Meka
Picked up my cat. – Mason
Played my Batman game. – Xzavier
Went fishing with mum, dad and Micheala. – Riely
Went with my dad and uncles in the boat. – Ashton
Got new guinea pigs. – Levi
Went out in the boat. – Declan
Rode my bike. – Emily
Went to the river with my family. – Rilah
Did some painting at my Nan’s. – Shelbi
Ate some chicken and rice. – Geoffrey
Went in the boat. – Nataya
Played with my lego. – Harley
Went to the sea and I got sick. – Estelle
Went to breakfast down at the river front. – Charlie
Helped my dad and played with Rebel. – Magenta
Went to the shops. – Ben
Went shopping with my family. – Keetah
Went to the water park and watched the fireworks – Jett
Played with my dog - Ioka

We have had a very busy start to 2015 in Room 1, learning routines and finding out about each other. We have discovered as a class, that reading is a very important part of our learning, and we practise reading each day to become better readers. Each day in Room 1, we have some reading time and we have started by practising reading with a buddy. This is called ‘Buddy Reading’. To be successful at ‘Buddy Reading’ we need to read ‘EEKK’, which stands for ‘Elbow to Elbow, Knee to Knee’. We have a poem to help us remember what to do each time we buddy read.

EEKK
Elbow to elbow, knee to knee.
I read to you and you read to me!
Elbow to elbow, knee to knee,
Book in the middle so we both can see!
**What’s On**

## Dates to Remember

**TERM 1**

### Week 1
- **Week 2**
  - Feb 3: Assembly 12:25pm, in the Hall

### Week 3
- Feb 9: Governing Council Meeting, 6pm in the Meeting room

### Week 4
- **FAMILY FUN NIGHT, 5:30pm**
- Feb 10: Parent Teacher Discussions

### Week 5
- Feb 20: SAPSASA Swimming Carnival, Loxton

### Week 6
- Mar 2-6: Swimming Rooms 1, 2, 15-19

### Week 7
- Mar 9: Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
- Mar 10-13: Swimming Rooms 3, 5, 6, 10
- Mar 10: Safe Internet Day
- Mar 13: National Ride to School Day

### Week 8
- Mar 16-20: Swimming Rooms 9, 11, 12
- Mar 16-20: SAPSASA State Softball
- Mar 16: Governing Council AGM, 6pm in the Resource Centre
- Mar 18: Camp Quality Performances 9.15am, 10am
- Mar 19: Harmony Day Celebrations Assembly 12:25pm in the Hall
- Mar 20: National Day of Action Against Bullying Year 7 Leadership Day

### Week 9
- Mar 30: SAPSASA District Football/Netball-Berri
- Apr 3: Good Friday Public Holiday

### Week 11
- Apr 6: Easter Monday Public Holiday
- Apr 8: SAPSASA District Cross Country-Berri
- April 10: End of Term Dismissal, 2:30pm

### TERM DATES 2015
- Term 1: January 27 – April 10
- Term 2: April 27 – July 3
- Term 3: July 20 – September 25
- Term 4: October 12 – December 11

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**National Karate Academies Renmark** - at R-7 Hall on Wednesdays (enter from 19th St. Renmark). Phone Jeff on 0417 938 076.

**Martial Arts Australia Freestyle Karate** - held at Paringa on Mondays & Renmark High School Gym on Wednesdays. Ph. Iris on 0404019977. Info: See notice board.

**Renmark School Dental Clinic** – Phone 8586 6403. Emergency nos. when clinic closed: Berri 8582 1969 or Waikerie 8541 2434. See Dental Clinic notice board for important information regarding clinic services, dates open and emergency details.

**Guitar Mania** – Free Guitar lessons for 5-10 year olds and their parents in Term 3 & 4, Wednesdays, 3.30-4.00pm. Bookings are Essential. See notice board for details or phone Wendy on 85866063.

**Kids’ Club** is where children can have fun while learning new skills. Light meal provided. Gold coin donation per child. Kid’s Club held at R-7 Hall on Fridays 4-6pm for chn. aged 7-13yrs. Info on school notice boards. M. Dowzard,

**Renmark Junior Golf Coaching Clinics** - For children 5-17 years. Friday’s at the Renmark Golf Club, 4.30pm-5:30pm. All equipment supplied.

**Renmark Music & Movement** – For babies, toddlers, preschoolers & their carers. Mondays 9:30-10:30am at the Renmark Uniting Church Hall. $2 a family per session. Contact Laura Strout for more information on 0429 953 495

**Berri District Youth Club (Gymnastics, Acrobatics & German Wheel)** - 2015 Registration Day Saturday 21st February 10am-2pm. All current members must re-register to maintain their placement. BBQ lunch fundraiser, Club Shop open for uniforms, training gear and accessory purchases. If you are unable to attend please call the head coach Jane McFarlane ph: 0400 179 899 to secure your spot.

**MILO in2CRICKET Program**
MILO in2CRICKET is the national grass root program for cricket in Australia, with the aim of introducing kids aged 5-8 to the great Australian game. Your nearest Centre/s will be run at, Renmark Primary School, starting Thursday 5th February at 4:30pm. By registering and paying for the Program not only will you enjoy some great cricket fun this term but every registered child receives an in2CRICKET Participant Pack. To find out more details about your nearest Centre and to register for this season, log on to www.in2cricket.com.au and type in your post code.
Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

Serving Regional Australia

Visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

Large Vehicle Parking Bay, Renmark Avenue

RENMARK

Monday, 23 February 2015

10 am to 4 pm

For more information, go to humanservices.gov.au and search for Mobile Service Centre or call 132 316.

Renmark Primary School Parent Group

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 17th February 2015 at 9.15am

in Maria Dowzard’s Room
Everybody Welcome
Coffee / Tea / Morning tea provided

In 2014, Parent Group was able to provide the following for the students:

- Fundraising Lunch each term
- Mother’s Day & Father’s Day activities
- Fresh fruit platters
- Easter egg & Christmas gifts
- Sports Day Cake stall
- Picture Products
- Bus trip for all Parent Group members

Parent Group Renmark Primary School. Check Facebook page for further information.
Visible Learning at Renmark Primary School

At Renmark Primary School we strive to provide our students with a challenging learning environment and opportunities for every child to experience success.

To ensure continuous improvement in this area, we are developing strategies that deliver powerful and rigorous learning that are VISIBLE through the eyes of the student and the teacher. We want children to understand their learning goals and what is needed to achieve them. We don’t want an environment where students are required to ‘guess’ what is in the teacher’s head; an environment where students come to school to watch teachers work. Our students are at the centre of all learning that takes place at Renmark Primary. They know where they are going in their learning, they know why it is important / relevant and they know how they are going and how to get there.

All teachers are embarking on explicit whole school practices that place these important questions at the forefront of learning - where focus is on the actual learning, rather than the task or activity. Strategies that will be used across the school will include:

- the use of learning intentions, commonly referred to in the classroom using the acronym WALT (We Are Learning To...),
- the use of success criteria, commonly referred to as WILL (What It Looks Like...),
- the use of questioning during the lesson (using a 2:1 ratio of more complex to simple questions to incorporate intellectual stretch),
- ensuring students know the purpose of the learning – TIB (This Is Because...); and
- the use of reflection time and feedback about learning – this includes feedback to the students about their learning and also feedback to the teacher about the teaching and learning.

Research Australia and world-wide has demonstrated that these strategies improve learning outcomes for all students. Teachers at Renmark Primary will embark on an exciting journey to learn, use and refine their practice to make certain our students receive the very best of current and effective educational pedagogies.

In supporting children’s learning, parents and caregivers play an important and supportive role. This information is provided to inform you about what is occurring in your child/ren’s classroom. You then have the opportunity to talk with them about their learning goals, their learning tasks, their questions and their reflections; therefore further strengthening their understanding.

The first part of this plan is to establish and explicitly teach characteristics/attributes necessary to be a successful learner. Before this can occur, we need to find out what current beliefs exist re: ‘What it looks like to be a successful learner?’ ‘What is it that students do to be successful learners?’

We are inviting parents and caregivers to play a part in the collection of this information and ask if you could jot down your thoughts and ideas on the attached tear-off slip. Please return it to the front office by the end of Week 3, Friday 13th February. At school we are also asking students and teachers what they think, before we examine the results and identify common, whole-school characteristics. We will then focus on these explicitly in our classrooms.

This will pave the way to make learning more visible at Renmark Primary School. Future newsletters will contain information on this exciting project.

Thank you in advance for your interest and support with your child/ren’s learning.

Brenda Pfitzner, Deputy Principal
In your opinion, what are the attributes of successful learners?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

In appreciation of your time and thought.