News from the Principal

2016 PLANNING

We have started to plan for 2016; staffing, student placement and site priorities.
Staff take a great deal of time and care in placing students into the next year’s classes. We consider their achievement, needs, and friends and perhaps split students if it’s not in their best interests to be in the same class.
Parents are asked to let me know in writing if there is anything we need to be aware of when placing your child in 2016 classes. Parents cannot request to have or not have a particular teacher.
Please have written requests for special considerations in to me by Friday 6th November as per the last newsletter.
Once we begin student placement, it can be difficult to accommodate late requests.

EMERGENCY FOOD

We provide food daily for a number of students who tell us that they have no food or not enough food at school.
We will never see a child go hungry so we do provide a basic sandwich and fruit.
If your child receives emergency food at school, a note is sent home to advise you that this has happened.
Sometimes the child is just hungrier than normal after they have eaten their packed lunch, so it’s important to check that your child is happy with the amount of food being provided. They may need extra!
We keep a very close eye on this. Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

RESURFACING SOON

For those who are wondering about the fenced off area between the lower primary and primary school, we can tell you that very soon it will be resurfaced. We have had to wait for soil test results, but they have come through and work will commence soon. Thank you for your patience.

SPECIAL VISITORS NEXT WEEK

The 2016 Reception students from a number of local preschool sites will have the first of three familiarisation visits on Tuesday 10th November and Wednesday 11th November.
The pre-school students and their parents will meet under the lower primary shelter at 9.00a.m. The children will then be taken to their Reception classrooms with parents staying for a short time to see their children settle in.
Parent meetings will be held on both mornings, in the Resource Centre, 9.20 – 10.50a.m. A short information session will be conducted; new parents will have time to ask questions and anyone who hasn’t yet completed their child’s enrolment form can do so, with help at hand if required.
A lovely morning tea will be provided on both mornings.
Special thanks must go to our Parent Group for providing the morning tea; it’s a lovely gesture to welcome all new parents.
Parents are asked to bring their child’s birth certificate and proof of residence if they are completing their enrolment forms.
We’d like all enrolments completed as soon as possible.
We are looking forward to meeting the 2016 Reception students and their parents. See you all soon!

CHILDREN’S WEEK AWARD WINNERS!!!!!

The Renmark Primary School’s ‘Early Years Team’ were awarded the Children’s Week Award!

Mrs Raggett and Ms Smith were fortunate enough to attend award presentations at Government House where they accepted the award on behalf of all staff who work in the early year’s team.
What a wonderful recognition of the early year’s team for their work on the Play for Learning Program.
Very well deserved!
Six ways to help your child develop friendship skills

Building positive relationships is one of the social and emotional learning skills that are important for children to develop. Through friendships, children learn how to develop relationship skills by relating to others and teaching each other how to be good friends. Learning positive friendship skills helps children socially; they feel happier and more confident, thereby promoting mental health and wellbeing. Most children want to have friends. Children who have friends are more likely to be self-confident than those without friends and achieve better outcomes throughout school.

Take the role of a coach!

Parents and carers are children’s first and most important teachers in developing positive friendship skills. Taking the role of a coach can help your child learn the skills they need for themselves. Coaching is critical for helping children use new skills in real-life situations. Coaching involves prompting, reminding and encouraging (but not nagging!) children to use the skills they have learned.

Here are six tips to help your child develop positive friendship skills:

1. Make time to play too

Parents and carers can improve their children’s social skills by playing with them regularly. Letting children choose and lead the play allows you to be playful with them and encourages them to practise skills of cooperation and negotiation. Avoid criticising and make play fun!

2. Allow your child to try all sorts of different activities

Children who have a wide range of interests are more likely to have something in common with others and so find it easier to make friends and get along.

3. Invite children for play dates

Having friends over to visit helps children to establish friendships and practise their social skills. It also provides an opportunity for you to provide on-the-spot coaching for children as they develop their friendship skills. Providing positive guidance and helping to structure activities (without taking over!) can be very important when establishing new friendships.

4. Talk with children about what is happening for them with their friends

Find a relaxed time, like the drive home from school or after dinner, to talk about what is happening in your children’s friendship group. By doing this, you let them know that you are interested in their wellbeing. This can be an opportunity to share your experiences and to help them solve any problems they might have.

5. Encourage positive, relevant strategies

Parents and carers can talk about and encourage, friendly and cooperative strategies to help their child develop friendships.

For example, encouraging children to negotiate or compromise when trying to solve conflicts with peers is a strategy that is more positively received by their friends than aggression or verbal threats.

6. Take a problem-solving approach

Parents and carers don’t need to have the answers to all of their children’s problems. You can support your children to think through a problem for themselves by talking with them and asking some useful questions.

For further information, please see: https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/social-and-emotional-learning

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Attendance

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<th>Days per Year</th>
<th>Weeks Missed per Year</th>
<th>% of School Missed</th>
<th>Terms Missed Over 5 Years</th>
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Renmark Primary School is committed to working with families to improve attendance. We want to raise awareness of the importance of regular attendance and encourage families to strongly support their children to attend.
What can families do to help?

• Be positive about school and support our culture and values. If you have a negative attitude, your child may also develop a negative attitude.
• Support the school culture around punctuality and wearing a school uniform. Punctuality is necessary in many aspects of life especially in future work life. Adhering to a dress code or having to wear a uniform is also part of the culture of most work places. It creates a sense of belonging.
• Students who meet the expectations of the school tend to be more focused on learning.
• If your student is not well enough to attend school, they are really not well enough to work, play sport or socialise.
• Ensure you are communicating any legitimate absences with the school through a phone call, diary note, face to face.
• Ask your child about school – what they are learning/doing, what is going well.

Student Information & Media Permission Updates

Parents and Caregivers will receive Student Personal Data Sheets and Media Permission forms for each of their children this week.

Please check all of the details on the Student Personal Data Sheets carefully and alter if necessary. If the information is correct please write ‘no change’ on the form and return.

Providing your email address on this form will allow us to communicate Emergency/Catastrophic Fire Warning information to parents, should the need arise.

Newsletters can also be sent via email instead of receiving a paper copy. If you would prefer this option please return the cut off slip on the letter.

If your child is starting year 8 next year the details on the Student Personal Data Sheet are what have been passed on to the High School they are attending. If you need to make any changes please alter the printout and return to the High School your child will attend. The High Schools will also supply their own media forms.

DECD require that Media permission forms be completed every year for the use of images and work samples for both Renmark Primary School and the department for your child/ren in 2016.

Thank you for your prompt assistance with this - up to date details are vital.

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.

ROAD SAFETY!!!!

Just a few reminders about road safety; especially around the school! Observing these simple steps may prevent your child being injured by a motorist or injuring someone else.

• 25 km/hr past the school before and after school and at all times when students are present. Staff on duty may report drivers going faster than 25km/hr to the police.
• Children and parents must use the school crossings; they are not to cross the road elsewhere.
• Students must not get into a car that has stopped on the road. Parents are not to drive into the staff car park area in front of the Lower Primary office area. Staff/service providers come in and out of this area during the day; this is not a safe area for students to be dropped off and collected.
• PLEASE ensure you DO NOT park in the Junior Primary bus bay.
Physical Education Week 2015
Week 5 - 9 - 13 November 2015

PE week celebrates the importance of Health & Physical Education – it is an essential area of the curriculum that provides real opportunities for children to learn how to lead active and healthy lives – now and in the future.

Our school is celebrating Physical Education Week by conducting activities at recess and lunch led by our school student leaders.

Thursday the 12th November is a hot shots tennis day.
You can wear your hot shots t-shirts to school that day. We will be holding tennis tournaments on the day and during the week.

Adelaide Credit Union Christmas Pageant
SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2015
We have some Community Site Tickets available from the Front Office. If families are heading to Adelaide to watch the pageant, the Community Sites offer activities in a secure, shaded area close to toilets. Seating is not provided so still take your picnic rugs or chairs. Only a limited number of tickets are available
**Please note every family member attending requires a pass.

We would like to say a big “Thank You” to Riverland Sunfresh for their offer to donate fresh fruit to our school for the children’s ‘Crunch and Sip’ snack-time!
If any families have access to fruit and could spare a box or two, now and then; your donation will be greatly appreciated

Parenting SA – Videos on ‘Living with teens and pre-teens’
“Parenting SA has recently developed four short videos to give parents and carers tips and strategies for living with teens and pre-teens. Topics include: helping teenagers stay safe online; teenagers and feelings; managing conflict with teenagers; and living with teenagers. To watch the videos, go to the Parenting SA website www.parenting.sa.gov.au/videos.htm”

Pupil Free Day
WEEK 5 – FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER
OSHC is available, please phone 85864481 for bookings.

Assembly
Week 6 – Tuesday 17th November 2:40pm

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

School lunch orders
Are on Fridays – orders need to be in by 9am on Thursdays. Front office have menus and order bags.

***PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE TERM – FRIDAY THE 11TH DECEMBER!***
Community Notices

Renmark Out of School Hours Care
Open out of school hours 6:30am-8:30am & 3:15pm-6:30pm, Pupil free days and School Holidays 6:30am-6:30pm. Please Call: 85 864 481 for bookings.

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


Renmark School Dental Clinic – Open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and alternate Thursdays. 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.

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 Group is for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their carers! It involves children’s songs, nursery rhymes, instruments, a story and more. It is held every Monday & Friday morning during school term. 9:30-10:30am, Renmark Uniting Church Hall, $2 a session per family. BYO water bottle and fruit snack for afterwards. No bookings needed - Contact: Laura Strout 0429953495

Songbirds with Hayley Ramsay - Songbirds is a singing school in Renmark offering lessons to primary and high school students who love to belt out a tune! For more information, call Hayley on 0417899373 or search for Songbirds on Facebook

Renmark Hockey Club
Hook In2 Hockey for children aged 5-10 is free! RHC’s accredited coaches will run Hook In2 Hockey sessions on: Thursdays 3:40-5pm at the Renmark High School.

Term Dates 2015

Term 4 October 12th – December 11th

Term 1 2016 1st February – 15th April

Dates to Remember

Term 4

Week 4 & 5
November 10/11 Pre-School Transition Visits 9-10:50am
November 13 PUPIL FREE DAY

Week 6
November 17/18 Pre-School Transition Visits 9-10:50am
November 17 Assembly at 2:40pm
November 19 Just 2 Deadly Awards – Barmera PS

Week 7
November 24/25 Pre-School Transition Visits 9-10:50am
November 27 SAPSASA Softball

Week 8
November 30 YR 7 Graduation
November 30 Governing Council meeting 6pm
December 3 LET’S CELEBRATE

Week 9
December 9 RAP Red Carpet Event – C/Theatre
December 10 End of Year Class Parties
December 11 End of Year Assembly at 2:00pm

Please Note: Dates are subject to change

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RENMARK PRIMARY SCHOOL – OFFICIAL

Don’t forget to check out our School website @ http://www.renmarkr7.sa.edu.au/