The new School year has **commenced very successfully** in spite of the rain on the first two days and the new Block G facility still receiving its finishing touches. All classes are well into their introductory lessons and starting to move through their learning programs. There is a palpably settled and productive tone in every classroom. We commend all RJ staff for their high degree of efficiency and diligence with their preparations.

A **warm RJ welcome** is conveyed to all families and especially to our new students and families. Enrolment numbers have moved beyond 900, necessitating additional teachers and we are pleased to welcome them: Primary – Mrs Michelle Beckman, Mrs Rebekah Davis; Secondary – Miss Lisa Close, Mr Gary Clay, Mr David Hyde, Miss Emma Johnston, Mr Nathan Jones, Mr Lathan Lee, Mr Neil Van Heerden, Miss Rachel Little, Mr Christopher Smith. We rejoice with staff who have celebrated first-born babies: Mrs Rebecca Zakhia gave birth to Josiah on 30 December; Mr Van Heerden’s wife Tiffany gave birth to Elijah on 3 January; and Mrs Julia Watson (ex RJ teacher) gave birth to Joel on 22 January.

**House Meetings** kicked-off the year enthusiastically last Friday. Whilst David’s Rams successfully defended the Overall Champion House mantle in 2014 – the first House to achieve that amazing feat – the other three Houses are chomping at the bit to dethrone them in 2015! The Swimming Champions last year also were the David’s Rams so the challenge is even greater … best wishes to every House!

A range of **Parent Information Evenings** (for Kindergarten to Year 11) are being held this week. Staff look forward to such opportunities to establish good communication between home and School. Please also refer to the established ‘Lines of Communication’ (reprinted over the page and published on our website) to be aware of the channels of communication for dealing with School matters.

The **new Block G extension** is now fully functional and everyone has been excited by the significant improvements. As previously outlined, building works continue throughout this year in order to construct the new Block F extension and the covered Courtyard between Blocks F, G and H. This has necessitated some external temporary changes to ensure safe operation. Please remember our special ‘RJ Development Appeal’ to raise much-needed funds to complete the planned external works next year.

Every RJ parent is warmly invited to the year’s first **Parents’ and Friends’ Assoc. Meeting** in a fortnight. These meetings are a great way for parents to connect with the School community and to hear the latest School news.

**Year 6** (3 day trip to Canberra) and **Year 11** (2 day Study Camp at Stanwell Tops) are away during next week. We trust that the students and staff will have a productive time together.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.”

*(Galations 6: 9-10)*

**Best wishes**

Paul Cockrem

**Principal**

The 2014 HSC results were certainly encouraging, especially from the perspective of many students who worked studiously and performed at or above their ability shown in earlier Years. There were quite a number of students who scored ATARs above 80 and the top result of 99.95 by Hassan Shaikh was exceptional. This is the highest ATAR possible, achieved by only 47 students across NSW and the other regions. Hassan was named in the Distinguished Achievers List, made possible by Band 6 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Advanced and Mathematics Extensions 1 and 2. In fact, in the Top Achievers List he came 7th Place in Physics and 8th Place in Chemistry. These are outstanding results. Hannah Blanco also achieved in the Distinguished Achievers List with Band 6 in Spanish Beginners and an ATAR of 88.90. We congratulate staff as well for their support and diligence.
Parents are requested to follow these guidelines:

1. **Make contact with the member of staff who is directly connected with the matter/enquiry.** For the majority of such matters/enquiries, this will be a Class/Subject Teacher or Home Group (Years 7-12) Teacher.

2. **Make an appointment to speak with another staff member** (according to the outline below) if it was felt that the issue was not fully resolved with the staff member directly involved.

### Student activity or welfare (e.g. behaviour) issue may be referred to the following:

- **Kindergarten to Year 2** - Primary Co-ordinator - Mrs Karen McLeod
- **Years 3 to 6** - Primary Co-ordinator - Mr Michael Reed
- **Years 7 to 8** - Welfare Co-ordinator - Mr Stewart Rowe
- **Years 7 to 8** - Assistant Co-ordinator - Mrs Kerrie Lyons
- **Years 9 to 10** - Welfare Co-ordinator - Mrs Jennie Bucco
- **Years 9 to 10** - Assistant Co-ordinator - Mr Luke Taylor
- **Years 11 to 12** - Welfare Co-ordinator - Mr Stuart McCormack
- **Years 11 to 12** - Assistant Co-ordinator - Mrs Anna Robertson

### Student learning/academic progress may be referred to the following:

- **Kindergarten to Year 2** - Primary Co-ordinator - Mrs Karen McLeod
- **Years 3 to 6** - Primary Co-ordinator - Mr Michael Reed
- **Year 7 to Year 12** -
  - **HSIE:** Curriculum Co-ordinator - Mr Nathan Jones
  - **Science:** Curriculum Co-ordinator - Mr Peter Robson
  - **TAS/Creative Arts:** Curriculum Co-ordinator - Mr Rob Cohen
  - **Maths/PD/H/PE:** Curriculum Co-ordinator - Mr Gareth Thompson
  - **English/LOTE:** Curriculum Co-ordinator - Mrs Jenny Clay
  - **Performing Arts:** Curriculum Co-ordinator - Mrs Narelle Robertson
  - **Biblical Studies:** Curriculum Co-ordinator - Mr Michael O’Hare

(Issues related to the Higher School Certificate may be referred to the Assistant Principal/Head of Secondary, Mrs Jenny Clay).

3. **Make an appointment to speak with either the Head of Primary or the Head of Secondary or Director of Secondary Welfare**, only after the above steps have been undertaken.

4. **Make an appointment to speak with the Deputy Principal or Principal** only after the above steps have been undertaken. The Principal is ultimately responsible for ensuring issues are resolved as best as possible.

Helpful communication hints are listed below for all parents:

- Positive communication and a preparedness to understand are the key ingredients
- Listen to your child, but review the information as objectively as possible (i.e. separate fact from opinion) and check to see that their story aligns with details described by the staff member
- If the matter involves a grievance do not express such concern in front of your child, especially in a negative way, or criticise staff with your child within ‘earshot’
- When contacting the School about any matter, or making an appointment, provide a brief explanation to the Office personnel so that the staff member can prepare for your interaction.
- Don’t take matters into your own hands by contacting another student and/or their parents as it could inflame the situation and not achieve the desired outcome.
START OF NEW YEAR

Another year has started very smoothly at RJ. This has again been achieved through hard work from the staff and wonderful cooperation from parents and students. Students have returned to School this year correctly dressed, settled and ready to work. It has been amazing to witness just how quickly everyone has adapted to School routines again. Thank you to all the students and staff members who have made new staff and students feel so welcome.

LOCKERS

The allocation of lockers has again gone smoothly in 2015. Each Secondary student now has a locker as well as a combination lock. The following rules are important for the smooth operation of the School and we ask all parents and students to read through the guidelines and to assist us:

- The students must use the locker provided to them by the School. They are not to swap lockers with anyone else. If there is a good reason why a student has an issue with the locker which he/she has been allocated, they are to approach their Welfare Coordinator and give him/her a written explanation of the problem. The Coordinator will then consider the matter and may give the student permission to change lockers. Only then may the student use a different locker.
- The student must use the lock provided by the School. Locks from home have, in the past, needed to be sawn off when keys were lost or combinations were forgotten. Students trying to use their own lock run the risk of it being removed by the School. Students who have problems with the School lock which was issued to them must see their Coordinator and explain the problem.
- Students must keep their bags etc inside the lock. No bags should be left lying around anywhere in the School or taken to class.
- Students need to keep their lockers locked at all times. Lockers left unlocked will be secured by staff members.
- Students may not share lockers with others.
- Students may not open or attempt to open any other student’s locker.
- Students should not congregate near lockers. They should use their locker and then move away to allow other students to access their own lockers.
- Students may only visit lockers before School from 8:00am-8:30am, then during Recess, during Lunch and after School from 3:20. Students should always take enough equipment for the following two Periods.
- Students may bring mobile telephones to School (at their own risk), but they must be switched off and kept in their locked locker throughout the School day, recess and lunch included.

TURNAROUNDS:

Parents please take note of the operation of the two Turnarounds used at RJAS. If each person follows a few simple procedures, then everyone can get away as quickly as possible:

- Parents who are only picking up Primary children need to go to the Primary Turnaround, situated outside the Church.
- Parents who are picking up Secondary children, or a combination of Primary and Secondary children, need to go to the Main Turnaround, which is situated near the School Hall.
- The gates of the School are opened at 3:20pm. Arriving before that will mean queuing in Hyatts Road. It’s best to arrive after 3.25pm.
- At both Turnarounds, there will be a teacher on duty wearing a brightly coloured vest. Please follow the instructions of this teacher.
- Students will remain with the teacher until your car has progressed in the queue to where the teacher is standing. It is counter-productive for parents to pick their children up before that point. Please help us in following that direction.
- Teachers have been instructed to move cars forward in order to prevent congestion at the gate. Please help us by moving along to empty spots ahead.
- Encourage your children to go straight to the Turnarounds after School to prevent unnecessary delays.
- Students who walk in a southerly direction towards the Plumpton Marketplace are encouraged to walk around the back of D Block and past the Primary Turnaround area. This way, they will avoid having to cross three vehicle entrance/exit points, making the exit from School easier for pedestrians and vehicles alike.

DIARIES:

Each Secondary student has received a Diary. Parents are asked to please put a sample signature on the first blue page of the Diary. A parent is required to sign the Diary each weekend, so that the School is aware of issues being communicated by staff members about their child. There is a space each week for parents to make any short comment/query as well.

Parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the information in the blue section of the Diary. Important matters are covered in this section and everyone benefits when the parents are fully aware of what is expected of the students.

SPORTING AND CULTURAL MEDALLIONS:

Each year, the system of the very popular and successful Sporting and Cultural Medallions is reviewed and improved. The latest updates will be available in this column in the next issue of the RJ Review. Families are encouraged to print a copy and keep tally of their child’s points throughout the year. As new activities are added during the year, parents will be advised of the points available for that activity. The list will then be updated and a copy placed on the RJ Website.

We look forward to a wonderful Cultural and Sporting year for all our students.

Michael O’Hare
Deputy Principal
It struck me at the Year 7 Orientation Day in November last year that our 2015 Year 7 students would graduate in 2020. We often talk about “20-20 vision” in relation to eyesight – what one can see in the distance without the need for glasses. It seemed an opportune time then for Secondary staff to look closely (as we had begun doing with the Schools Leading Learning project) at what we wanted both the student and teacher to be like to realise this vision. It also seemed a good time, given a number of staff changes, to re-invigorate our approach to teaching and learning, to look ahead with confidence to the future, sure in the knowledge that we are seeking God's hand in what we do.

Following much discussion and feedback from staff, these points will shape our thinking and guide our approach to teaching and learning in the Secondary section at RJ. We want the following for students:

- Students see value in education, therefore they
- Accept ownership and take responsibility for learning
- Are aspirational
- Confident to attempt ‘beyond their best’
- Resilient in the face of challenges
- Able to identify and build on strengths
- Desire academic rigor in learning experiences
- Know what it means to be a responsible citizen in God’s diverse world

and teachers:

- Focused on student learning outcomes, with 21st century teaching practices
- Pedagogy which is underpinned by a Christian worldview
- Skilled in the use of data to analyse and identify student learning needs
- Collaborative – an integrated approach to learning, staff working together to solve problems
- Innovative
- Growing – professionally, personally and spiritually
- Responsive to feedback
- Purposeful – with a clear self-improvement and professional development plan
- Maintaining high expectations of self and others
- Supported & connected, able to see “the big picture”

Hassan was named on the All Rounders List (scoring more than 90% in 10 Units), Distinguished Achievers List (Band 6 results in Advanced English, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and a notional Band 6 in Mathematics) and Top Achievers List for Physics (7th) and Chemistry (8th in State). He achieved the highest possible ATAR of 99.95 – one of 47 students from an examination cohort of 76000 who scored this result. Hassan has accepted an offer to study Medicine at UNSW (one of many offers he received), and I know he will take to that course the same outstanding work ethic he took into the HSC.

Hannah Blanco achieved a Band 6 result in Spanish Beginners and was also named in the Distinguished Achievers List. Hannah plans to study Interior Design.

Jordan Finch is planning to study a Bachelor of Mathematics and Computing at UTS – he achieved outstanding results as a consequence of his commitment to his work. Jordan also acknowledged, like many others, the support he received from staff. He wrote to me saying, “Thank you for the support that you and the rest of the staff at Richard Johnson have given me during my time at RJAS. If possible, could you please relay my thanks to my teachers and the learning support staff for the guidance and assistance that they have provided to me during my HSC?”

As more information becomes available, I will pass this on through future editions of the RJ Review. We are now well into the HSC course for 2015, and I know that our current Year 12 are equally keen to demonstrate their capabilities in the next round of HSC examinations.

Over the page is the list of Highest Achievers in each course studied at RJ in 2014.

Jenny Clay
Assistant Principal/Head of Secondary
The following lists the Highest Achiever in each course studied at RJ in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>HIGHEST ACHIEVER</th>
<th>HIGHEST MARK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient History</td>
<td>Matthew Lack</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Hassan Shaikh</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>Jordan Finch</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Hassan Shaikh</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAFS</td>
<td>Rachelle Moss</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Technology</td>
<td>Jill Olive &amp; Khalel Teodoro</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>Callian Campbell</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (Standard)</td>
<td>Bridget Musarurwa &amp; Deborah Workagegnehu</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (Advanced)</td>
<td>Hassan Shaikh</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Extension 1</td>
<td>Cherelle Purcell &amp; Alfred Yap</td>
<td>39 (max 50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Briony Maitland</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Extension</td>
<td>Alfred Yap</td>
<td>35 (max 50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Technology</td>
<td>Joel Greenwood &amp; Brent Ryall</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>Hannah Blanco &amp; Monica Wildhaber</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern History</td>
<td>Briony Maitland</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics General 2</td>
<td>Jordan Finch &amp; Naomi Keith</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Deborah Workagegnehu</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Extension 1</td>
<td>Hassan Shaikh</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Extension 2</td>
<td>Hassan Shaikh</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music 1</td>
<td>Jill Olive &amp; Jeremy Smith</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDHPE</td>
<td>Naomi Keith &amp; Briony Maitland</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Hassan Shaikh</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDD</td>
<td>Jordan Finch</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>Hannah Blanco</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Beginners (OHS)</td>
<td>Hannah Blanco</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality Examination</td>
<td>Kimberley Marsh</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism and Events (TAFE)</td>
<td>Brooklyn Hibben</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to another jam-packed year of Secondary Sport for RJAS. I (Mr Samuel Napper) would firstly like to thank Mr Stewart Rowe for all the effort he put into coordinating Sport last year. He certainly has made some big shoes to fill for the coming year. I look forward to serving RJ through Sport this year.

Sport at RJ is well and truly underway with our Sport selections and Representative trials taking place this afternoon. All teams and sports will be confirmed later this week. These lists will be placed on the Sport noticeboards.

The School Sports we have on offer for students to participate in this term are:
- Year 7 Learn To Swim Program
- Ice Skating
- Don Bosco
- Kick Boxing
- Rock Climbing
- Tennis

The Representative Sports that RJ will compete in this term are:
- U/14’s AFL
- U/15’s and Open Mixed Volleyball
- U/15’s and Open Girls Basketball
- Open Cricket

SWIMMING CARNIVAL!
Our annual School Swimming Carnival will be held next week, Monday 9 February at Emerton Leisure Centre. A note was given to all students last Friday. It is really important that we get the note back as buses need to be booked. Please have the note returned to Home Group teachers by tomorrow (Wednesday 4 February). It will be a fantastic day and all parents are welcome to attend.

CSSA AND CIS
Firstly CSSA have developed an app. This app is fantastic. It allows, teachers, parents and students to be better connected to gala days, trials, carnivals and much more. Best of all, it is FREE. I strongly recommend you download this app. Please remember though that only the school can register students for trials.

There are many opportunities for students to succeed at higher levels. Below are the following dates of trials in February for CSSA or CIS teams. Students need to be playing at least at district level in their sport for them to be considered to trial. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIS Boys Baseball Trials</td>
<td>11 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS Girls Cricket Trials</td>
<td>13 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSSA Boys Soccer Trials</td>
<td>16 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS Girls Softball Trials</td>
<td>19 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSSA Girls Soccer Trials</td>
<td>23 February</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNIFORM
It is very important that all students wear appropriate Sport Uniform every Tuesday. Please ensure your child has the correct shoes, socks, shorts, shirt and hat every Tuesday.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...
“When considering the stature of an athlete or for that matter any person, I set great store in certain qualities which I believe to be essential in addition to skill. They are that the person conducts his or her life with dignity, with integrity, courage, and perhaps most of all, with modesty. These virtues are totally compatible with pride, ambition, and competitiveness.”

-Sir Donald Bradman

Mr Samuel Napper
Secondary Sport Co-ordinator

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS
Have you changed your mobile number?
Do you no longer have a landline?
Have you changed jobs or email address?

If this applies to you, it is important to contact the School to advise us. It is a requirement that the School is able to contact you!

Families should also nominate 2 names and mobiles (Grandparents, friends, neighbours) to be listed as Emergency Contacts for their child/ren. Email updates or changes to: admin@rjas.nsw.edu.au or log in to the Parent Portal to update your details.
Secondary
LEARNING SUPPORT

We would like to say welcome to all RJ students and their families and to let you know what is happening for us in 2015. We have had a few changes to our team and we look forward to bringing our various specialisations together. A Learning Support Teacher is responsible for each Stage and they will be your ‘go to’ teachers. These are Kerrie Lyons (7-12 Learning Support Coordinator/Years 7-8), Annette Sicard (Years 9-10) and Anna Robertson (Years 11-12). These teachers are very ably assisted by other teachers and teacher aides. They are:

- Chloe Hill: Study Help and Support Years 9-10
- Kerrie Peterson: Support in Years 7-8
- Anna Poucher: Teacher Aide – Years 7-10
- Deb Rowe: Teacher Aide – Years 11-12

Our roles mostly include:

- In class support
- Support with assessments (mostly to get started)
- Reading assessments – YARC (York Assessment of Reading Comprehension) - previously NEALE
- IEPs (Independent Education Plans)
- ITPs (Independent Transition Plans)
- Disability Provisions
- Learning Centre (B9)

You can be a part of our team too by assisting as a reader and/or writer for our students who require that help during exams. Please consider this vital support. We have been very blessed in the past and we again say thank you to our past readers and writers and would love you to assist again.

If you would like further information about this or any other Learning Support matter, please feel free to contact me at the School or email klyons@rjas.nsw.edu.au.

Kerrie Lyons
Learning Support Co-ordinator, 7-12

Sewing Bee for the SECONDARY MUSICAL

‘THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE’
Saturday 28 February 9am in C2
BYO Machine or Overlocker or use the School machines.
All Material will be pre-cut and instructions supplied. The day will involve basic sewing.
Morning Tea provided but BYO lunch.
RSVP to Mrs Clay by 25 February.
All Welcome!

ENROLMENTS FOR 2016

We already have many Applications for students to commence at RJ in 2016!
A reminder to our current families to submit an Application now for siblings commencing in 2016.
Please remind any friends who may be considering enrolment at RJ to get in early.
There are still several vacancies in some Years for 2015, if interested please enquire at the Office.
Application forms can be obtained from Reception.
After a restful holiday break, staff and students have settled extremely well into the new School year. We welcome Kindergarten and new students and their families who have commenced at RJ. It is always great to see the students return to School. Schools are very empty and quiet places without the joyful sounds of children learning and playing. Thank you again to students and parents for assisting to ensure a smooth start to the new School year. Be sure to take a look at the photos of our new classrooms and K-2 play equipment in this edition of the RJ Review.

BABY NEWS
We congratulate Mrs Julia Watson (ex-Primary staff member) and her husband Dean on the birth of their first baby, a son Joel Timothy Dean Watson.

CLASS NAMES – R, J AND S CLASSES IN PRIMARY
Parents are reminded that R, J and S classes in Primary are not ability-based classes. The allocation of the R, J or S code to a class is based solely on alphabetical order of the surnames of the teachers teaching the Grade, for example, for Kindergarten: KR – Mrs Beckman, KJ – Mrs Hutchins, KS – Miss Prunty. All Primary classes are mixed-ability classes.

CODE OF CONDUCT
In Primary, we encourage the students to conduct themselves in a manner that is both respectful and responsible. The "Primary Code of Conduct" is a carefully chosen selection of statements that clearly outlines the important standards by which we live within our School. Please be familiar with the statements and discuss them with your child regularly.

PRIMARY CODE OF CONDUCT
We follow directions.
We do our best in all activities.
We care for others and treat them politely.
We are in the right place at the right time.
We respect our property and other people’s property.

COMMUNICATION
Effective communication between teachers and parents is extremely important. Here are some ways to help maintain contact with a teacher:
1. Notes and phone calls.
2. On most days teachers are available after School for brief conversations. Please note that on some days teachers have meetings after School.
3. Except in the case of an urgent matter, please do not talk to teachers before School because they are busy preparing lessons for the day.

Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child’s teacher about any issue that may be of concern. If you feel that, after having spoken with your child’s teacher, your concern has not been addressed, please contact the relevant Primary Coordinator (Mrs McLeod – K-2, Mr Reed 3-6) for further assistance. Please do not leave issues or concerns unresolved. It is important that we all work together to ensure the best learning environment for the children.

END OF YEAR WORLD VISION GIFTS
At the end of 2014 many classes opted to select gifts for World Vision rather than purchase a gift for their teacher. Students nominated the following gifts to assist God’s children around the world: 2 chicken and egg packs, 2 mosquito nets for families, a pack of toys, childhood immunisation, school books, early learning pack for indigenous children, fruit trees, a goat, a vegetable starter pack, 4 sets of school pencils and clean drinking water. Thank you to all families who donated money to this very worthy cause.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS
We welcome 2 new staff members to Primary this year, Mrs Michelle Beckman (KR) and Mrs Jenny Burgess (Teacher Aide). They are excited to be joining the staff and working with the children at RJ.

PRIMARY INFORMATION EVENINGS
On Monday evening we conducted our Years 3-6 Information Evening. Tonight Years K-2 parents are invited to attend the K-2 Information Evening. These evenings provide an opportunity for parents to hear essential information about the School, Grade teaching programs and routines for 2015. Last week parents should have received a Parent Information Note from me outlining general Primary information. Teachers will provide the specific information about your child’s Year in an additional note, available at the Information Evenings. If unable to attend, Grade Information notes will be sent home with your child.

PARENTING RESOURCES
Parents frequently discuss with teachers issues they may be experiencing as their child grows and develops. Parenting is no easy feat but having access to some successful
More Matters of PRIMARY IMPORTANCE

Parenting strategies can certainly make the process much more rewarding for both parents and children. In the Primary Information Evenings, I shared with parents a very helpful online resource, endorsed by the Australian Primary Principals Association. 'Talk Less Listen More' helps parents learn valuable parenting skills in the privacy of their own home. Parents can select from one of three online packages: 'Parenting Essentials' – 15 lessons for $78 for 4 months, 'Parenting Extras Standard' – 15 lessons plus the Talk Less Listen More book for $98 for 4 months or 'Parenting Extras Premium' – 15 lessons plus the Talk Less Listen More book and 2 additional resource books for $118 for 4 months. Parents can view the introductory lesson at http://parentshop.net

MATHEMATICS 3-6
Students in Years 3–6 students have been placed into Stage and ability-based Mathematics Groups (Stage 2=Years 3-4, Stage 3=Years 5-6). Each student’s performance in a wide range of assessments has been used to form the groups. A review of groups will be made at the end of Semester 1 after Student Reports have been issued. All students in Years 1-6 have been registered by the School to participate in the online Mathematics program, 'Mathletics'. Students are encouraged to use 'Mathletics' at home to revise their learning in Mathematics. Students are awarded points for completed tasks which accumulate to earn individual and class awards.

PRIMARY LEADERS 2015
Congratulations to the following students who were selected as the Primary Captains, Vice-Captains and House Leaders in 2015:

• Primary Captains: Soane Pula and Erica Hughes
• Primary Vice-Captains: Matthew Martin and Liana Naidu
House Leaders:
• David's Rams – Hannah Woodcock (Captain), Juaquin Roque, Christene Tannous, Botros Michael
• Noah's Sharks – : Jalé Champion (Captain), Jacob Bailey, Melody Scoble, Kundana Uppalapati
• Isaiah's Eagles – Jaeden Aldana (Captain), Evangeline Seto, Jake Moore, Luke Mears
• Daniel's Lions - Stephanie Foster (Captain), Elizabeth Fletcher, Lily Fleming, Shreya Chand

REMINDERS
Please remember the following:
• School commences in the mornings at 8:45am with K-2 and 3-6 Morning Assemblies. We encourage students to arrive between 8:30 and 8:40am in order to greet their friends. Parents are requested to leave by 8:45am and to not wait in or near Assembly areas. This can be distracting for the children.

• School finishes at 3:20pm. In the afternoons children should be collected from the Hardcourt (Canteen sails in wet weather). Parents are asked to not wait outside classrooms. Teachers will bring their class out to meet parents. Parents are encouraged to use the Turning circles or park at Plumpton Marketplace and access the School through the front gates. There is limited parking on Dryden Avenue.

• Hats (either the broad rim or legionnaire hat) are an essential item of the School Uniform and children who do not have a hat will not be able to play outside at break times. It is not necessary for students to wear their hat before or after School and therefore hats may be left at School overnight (making it one less thing to remember in the mornings!). Hats must be worn in all types of weather in Terms 1 and 4.

SCHOOL BANKING
Starting this year, RJ will be participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to help the children develop important savings skills. School Banking also includes a fantastic Rewards Program to encourage good individual saving habits. If you would like to get ready for School Banking you can visit any Commonwealth Bank branch, remember to take in identification for you and your child (such as drivers license and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book on the spot and be able to start banking. If you are a Commonwealth Bank customer with NetBank you have the option to open the account online. A representative from the Commonwealth Bank will be visiting Primary Assembly on 27 February. She will then be available from 8am-9am on Tuesday 3 March and from 3:00-3:45pm on Wednesday 4 March and Thursday 5 March for parents to open accounts at School. Identification is required. Students first banking day at School will be Thursday 12 March.
Social and Emotional Learning
This year Primary classes will be undertaking lessons which specifically target the social and emotional well-being of young people using the ‘You Can Do It’ program. This program has been developed by an expert in educational psychology and is well-regarded in education settings. The program develops social and emotional capabilities including: confidence (academic and social), persistence, organisation, getting along and emotional resilience through the following habits of the mind: accepting myself, taking risks, being independent, I can do it, giving effort, working tough, setting goals, planning my time, being tolerant of others, thinking first, playing by the rules and social responsibility. The program also targets barriers to learning and well-being, including: feeling worried, feeling very down, procrastination, not paying attention/disturbing others and feeling very angry/misbehaving. The program will start mid-term 1 and will be applied from a Christian perspective, helping students understand that God made them uniquely special and for his purpose.

Along with the parenting skills online learning sessions (above), our students will be receiving excellent learning to develop their social and emotional skills.

Sponsor Children
Each Primary grade has been linked with a sponsor child from the New Creation Children’s Home in Kathmandu, Nepal. Each student in Primary is asked to bring in $1 per month to contribute to supporting their sponsor child. The children also enjoy writing and receiving letters to one another throughout the year. We thank you for your support of this important ministry.

Student Belongings
It is essential that all student belongings are clearly labeled so they can be quickly returned to students. Parents are reminded that students should not bring expensive or valuable items or toys to School. These items can be extremely appealing to other students who may be tempted to take them for themselves. Whilst we endeavor to teach our students important values about respecting other people’s property, we cannot guarantee the safety of valuable items. Please help your children to know what items can go to School to play with and which items are special home toys. Students should also not have large amounts of money at School and should be reminded not to give money to other students.

Swimming Carnival – Years 3-12
The Years 3-12 School Swimming Carnival will be held next Monday 9 February. We look forward to seeing you there to cheer on your child and their House.

Year 6 Canberra Educational Trip
Our Year 6 students will be heading to Canberra next Wednesday 11–Friday 13 February to learn more about our Nation’s Capital, our political system and to visit places of national significance. Please pray for safe travels and a wonderful learning experience for our students and teachers.

Narelle Taylor
Head of Primary
A Selection of Photos From
THE NEW PRIMARY AREA
From the P&F ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT REPORT
Welcome back to school! On behalf of the School community I would like to welcome our new families to our School. I hope you enjoy your time here at RJ and feel supported and cared for as you journey through School life with your children.

On the second last Saturday of the holidays the P&F held the annual Kindergarten picnic. It was held at Nurringingy and allowed new Kindergarten families to meet other parents and children. It was a great morning where everyone interacted well and shared their thoughts, feelings and questions about the year ahead. Thank you to Denia and Mark for assisting in organising this picnic.

The Uniform Shop has certainly been busy. We thank Vikki for her hard work in making sure all items were distributed to children so they could begin school. I would like to thank all the parents who helped at the back to School sale especially Kim and Amilda Kasper and Peter and Vikki Ward who worked exceptionally hard on the first day back. We now have an Eftpos machine which is exciting and helpful and I ask for patience as we all get used to that new process. We welcome Collette onto the Uniform shop team.

Book Club is a P&F run venture. I thank Sarah McAdams who has taken this on so that the children can access great literature at low cost. We will also be running School banking this year so stay tuned for details about that. Look out for both of these brochures in your child’s bag.

The next P&F Meeting is the AGM. It will be held on Tuesday 17 February at 7pm in the Secondary Library. We are looking for new Executive members to join a supportive and enthusiastic team, so come along and get involved. Even if you don’t want a job, but want to come and hear about what is happening in our School Mr Cockrem will be in attendance and providing information on the year ahead. It would be great to meet many new parents. P&F is a great way to be involved in our School and meet other parents from K-12.

If you would like to contact the P&F please email us via the link on the School website.

Looking forward to see many of you on Tuesday 17 February.

Tanya White
President

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
The new year has brought a number of changes to the Uniform Shop.

1. EFTPOS facilities are now available incorporating “tap n go” technology. EFTPOS will only be available during shop hours as School staff do not have access to the terminal.

2. Change in the sport sock. We now have a navy stripe replacing the chambray stripe. 2015 is a transition year as we still have some stock of the old (chambray) sock. New (navy) stock will be introduced as old (chambray) stock is sold out.

3. Mrs Abbot-Bailey replaces Mrs Mackay on Tuesday mornings – welcome Mrs Abbot-Bailey.

Reminders:
- Opening hours remain the same for 2015 – Tuesday mornings 8.10 – 9.00am & Wednesday afternoons 2.30 – 3.30pm.
- Second hand uniforms are not sold from the Uniform Shop – they are available at St Mark’s Op Shop
- A notice board is available should you wish to advertise any uniforms for sale.
- A current price list will be displayed outside the Uniform Shop and a link is also available on the home page of the School’s website.
- Queries can be directed to the Uniform Shop Co-ordinator (Vikki Ward) on 0412 135 021.

I look forward to seeing you during the coming year.

Vikki Ward
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator
Meet the Staff
NATHAN JONES (HSIE CO-ORDINATOR)

What is your favourite food?
Chocolate Cheesecake.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
Sport, watching and playing, and doing DIY home improvements.

When and why did you come to work at this School?
I started in January 2015 and look forward to my role as HSIE Co-ordinator in Secondary.

What do you think you will enjoy about your role in the School?
Working with staff and students.

Describe a wonderful experience you’ve had which you’ll never forget.
Surfing a huge wave - I thought I was going to die!

Why did you become a Christian?
I understood grace for the first time, it was not about me and my works.

What is your favourite Bible verse?
Romans 8:28.
"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

What is something you want to achieve?
An effective and caring staff team.

If you could meet any person in the world at the moment who would it be?
The head of the U.N, I have lots of questions to ask them.

Meet the Staff
MICHELLE BECKMAN (KINDERGARTEN)

What is your favourite food?
Thai food and chocolate.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
I love seeing my 3 baby nieces. I also love catching up with friends for coffee, going out for brekky and going to the movies.

When and why did you come to work at this School?
I started at the beginning of this year. I’m excited to be working in a Christian community and to be nurtured at the beginning of my career.

What do you think you will enjoy about your role in the School?
I am very excited (and sure I will enjoy) meeting and teaching my KR students.

Describe a wonderful experience you’ve had which you’ll never forget.
Of course getting married was a wonderful experience!

Why did you become a Christian?
I became a Christian because I have realised (but forgot) that my life is not my own. Jesus died then defeated death for you and me!

What is your favourite Bible verse?
Philippians 3:8.
"I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."

What is something you want to achieve?
This year I want to excel in my teaching.

If you could meet any person in the world at the moment who would it be?
I would love to meet Ron Swanson (a character from the TV show Parks and Recreation), or Kate Middleton!
Oakhurst Anglican Church

Would like to invite you to join us at one of our Services, or at one of our regular groups during the week.

SERVICE TIMES:
8.15am   Traditional Service
10.00am  Family Service
1.00pm   Dinka (Sudanese) Service
6.00pm   Service: Church @ 6

OTHER REGULAR GROUPS:
Play’n’Grow (Mums & Bubs playgroup)   Monday 9.30-11.30am
C4K (Kindy to Year 5 kids)             Mondays 6-7.30pm
Junior Youth Group (Years 6-8)         Fridays 7-9pm
ESL (English Lessons)                  Thursdays 9-11am

Oakhurst Anglican Church Op Shop is open Monday to Friday 9am - 2pm, drop in for a browse and a chat, the staff are always happy to meet new people! Ph: 9675 6200

For Further Information: Minister Neil Ellis 0433 252 268
Located at 95 Hyatts Road, Oakhurst (at the back of the car park)
**February**

2  Primary Parent evenings in the Hall – Years 3-4 at 6:15pm, Years 5-6 at 7:30pm
3  Primary Parent evenings – Kindergarten in the Hall at 6:15pm, Years 1-2 in the Hall at 7:30pm
4  Year 11 Parent / Student evening at 7pm in the Hall
5  Years 7 & 8 Parent evening at 7pm in the Hall
6  1-12 (not Kindergarten) School Assembly at 9:40am
9  Years 3 – 12 Swimming Carnival, Emerton Pool
11-13 Years 6 Educational Trip - Canberra
12-13 Year 11 Study Camp – The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops
12  Year 7 Immunisations
13  7-10 & 12 Assembly at 9:40am
13  K-5 Assembly 11:15am hosted by 1R
17  P&F Association AGM at 7:00pm
18-20 Year 7 Camp – Anglican Youthsworks Shoalhaven ‘Waterslea’ site
18-20 Year 8 Educational Trip -
20  9-12 Chapel at 9:40am
20  K-6 Assembly at 11:15am hosted by 3R
25  Years 9&10 Parent/Student evening at 7pm in the Hall
26  CSSA Primary Zone Swimming carnival
27  7-12 Assembly at 9:40am
27  K-6 Assembly at 11:15am hosted by 1J

**March**

2  CSSA Sec Zone Swimming carnival 18-20  Year 5 Camp – Anglican Youthsworks Port Hacking ‘Rathane’ site
2  K-6 NRMA Road Safety 18-25  Year 12 Mid-Year exams
6  Primary Bandaged Bear Day 20  7-12 House Meetings at 9:40am
6  7-12 Chapel at 9:40am 20  K-6 House Meetings at 2:00pm
6  K-6 Assembly at 11:15am hosted by 3J 20  Primary Parent/Teacher Interviews
9  CSSA Primary State Swimming carnival 24  Secondary Parent/Teacher Interviews
10  CSSA Secondary State Swimming carnival 25  Years 3-12 Cross Country
11  K-2 Swim Fun Day 26  K-2 Cross Country from 2:00pm
13  Grandparents’ / Grandfriends’ Day 26  7-12 Chapel at 9:40am
commencing at 9:30am 27  K-6 Assembly hosted by 1S
13  7-12 Assembly at 1:30pm 27  St Marks Anglican Church and RJAS Family Service
16  SASC Primary Leadership Day 28  – 1/4  Secondary Musical
17  P&F Association Meeting at 7:00pm in the Secondary Library

**April**

2  Primary Easter Outreach Assembly at 11:15am
22-24  Year 9 ‘Break Out’ Challenge – Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre, Colo River
22-24  Year 10 Urban Challenge – City Adventure Camp, Sydney CBD

**Prayer POINTS**

- Pray for the new students in Primary and Secondary who have commenced at RJ this year, that they may quickly become adjusted to new routines and develop friendships among their peers.
- Give thanks for the new staff that God has brought to our School, that they may use their teaching talents to His glory and our students' benefit.
- Praise that students and staff have returned safely and well rested.
**Junior Indoor Cricket**

**STARTING Thursday 19th MARCH 2015**
- Thursdays and Fridays U/8’s, U/10’s, U/12’s, U/14s and U/16s
- Times from 4:20, 5:10, 6:00 and 6:50pm
- 6 a side
- U/8- U/16- Boys and Girls
- $7 per game per child. A free team shirt when registering!
- Individuals and teams welcome!
- Register any Thursday or Friday 3-6:30pm from January.

Where to Find Us:
20 Forthorn Place
St Marys NSW 2760

[info@stmarysindoorsports.com.au](mailto:info@stmarysindoorsports.com.au)

**WHEN YOU PLAY INDOOR CRICKET AT OUR CENTRE $5 FROM YOUR REGO IS DONATED BACK TO YOUR OUTDOOR CLUB!**

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**Junior Winter Indoor Soccer**

**THE BEST COMPETITION IN THE WEST!**

**PH: 9623-5523**
**0406 237 779**

**STARTING MONDAY 20th April 2015**
- Times from 4:30, 4:55, 5:20 and 5:55pm
- 5 A SIDE
- U/6- U/16- Boys and Girls
- $7 per game per child
- Individuals and teams welcome!

ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS: January 2015

Where to Find Us:
20 Forthorn Place
St Marys NSW 2760

[info@stmarysindoorsports.com.au](mailto:info@stmarysindoorsports.com.au)