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Issue 10

## NEWSLETTER

23 October 2014

### Principals Report

Well two weeks into Term 4 and things are moving at a fast pace. Firstly I would like to mention our production Zombie Prom. We had an amazing opening night last Thursday showcasing the outstanding young talent we have at Reece High School. I personally have been involved in a number of productions and understand the immense commitment it takes to stage one. Our staff and students have not only given enormous amounts of their own personal time but have put their heart and soul into this production and are to be congratulated.

We are currently forward planning for 2015, Staff have been reviewing this year and developing our school operational plan for next year. As well students have selected their option subjects and this process has almost been completed. Teachers will be working on class groupings for next year in the coming weeks. If you have any information which would have an impact on your child's class placement for 2015 please contact the following staff; Grade 8 – Anne Thomas, Grade 9 – Arianne Popowski and Grade 10 – Dane Hardy.

Due to our numbers we have had to make a decision to reduce the number of Grade 8 and 10 classes from 5 to 4 in 2015. This decision in combination with a number of other outside factors will have an impact on the Structure of the Grade 10 program. Parents of current grade 9 students will be invited to an information evening in the near future to discuss these changes.

In this week's newsletter we have published the draft Homework Policy. This has been developed in consultation with the School Association. If you have any feedback on the policy please contact myself or either of the Assistant Principals (Martin Crawford or Juan Marshall).

Anne Stewart  
Principal

# Reece High School Homework Policy



## Rationale

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A diverse range of views exist in the Reece High community concerning homework. The policy will clarify the school's position.

## Aims

- Research has shown that the completion of homework can improve student learning outcomes, provided it is relevant and connected to the student's learning at school.
- We acknowledge and appreciate that student involvement in sport, social events, part-time work and time spent with family are also important learning opportunities.
- We believe that homework is important because it:
  - ◇ Provides an opportunity for the revision of material covered in class
  - ◇ Helps develop sound learning and study habits
  - ◇ Helps develop organisation and time management skills
  - ◇ Helps develop a capacity for independent learning in students
  - ◇ Enables revisions for assessments

## Guidelines

1. Students will be given the opportunity to complete homework on a regular basis
2. Homework provides an opportunity for there to be positive communication between school and home and for parents to monitor their child's learning.
3. The amount and nature of the homework will depend on individual student's learning needs.
4. Students' commitments outside school will be taken into account when homework is set
5. Homework may have a variety of purposes, e.g. extension, completing work, revision, remediation, consolidation; facilitate communication between students and parents. It will not be 'busy' work and may not necessarily be the same for each child.
6. Homework may come in a variety of forms e.g. reading, watching the news, interviewing family and friends, collecting information, written work, preparing equipment materials to bring to school.
7. Feedback will be given to students where appropriate. The form this takes will depend on the nature of the homework.
8. Homework should not require unreasonable levels of parental assistance, nor should it require resources that are not readily available to the student, e.g. ICT access, specialised equipment.

## Teacher responsibilities

- Teachers understand that homework can cause extra pressure for some students and for some students it is a low priority.
- Homework will be followed up and where appropriate feedback will be provided
- Teachers should give students a reasonable timeframe to complete homework which is clear and understood.

## Student responsibilities

- Students accept the importance homework plays in the development of sound study skills which will benefit them later in future study.
- To complete homework within the set time frame or negotiate alternative deadlines if sporting,

## **Parent responsibilities**

- Taking an active interest in the work being done by asking questions relating to the homework being undertaken
- Parents to realise that some practical subjects will not always set homework
- At times homework may be an extended task over a longer period of time and parents can assist by checking the progress of that task to avoid 'deadline stress'
- Some Grade 10 subjects may require extra commitment
- Parents can help students find balance between school, sport, work and family commitments.

## **Types of homework**

Types of homework your child may receive include:

### **Practice exercises**

Practice exercises give your child opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review and reinforce recently learned skills. They include:

- completing maths exercises
- reading
- essay writing and other creative tasks.

### **Preparatory homework**

Preparatory homework gives your child the opportunity to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons. For example:

- reading background material for history
- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.

### **Extension assignments**

Extension assignments encourage your child to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. For example:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an artwork
- completing science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

# TIMSS Testing 2015

A number of year 8 students have been selected to take part in the *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)*, which will be conducted at school on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October. TIMSS is an important educational research project investigating student achievement in mathematics and science. More than 60 countries, including Australia, are participating in this study. TIMSS is an important activity to keep us, as parents and citizens, informed about how our students in Australia are performing in comparison to their peers in other countries and to compare programs of study and teaching practices. We will be able to obtain current national and international information which will help improve the teaching and learning of mathematics and science in our country.

Selected students will do an assessment in mathematics and science and complete a questionnaire about their experiences at home and school. There is no need for students to study specifically for the assessment as it will not affect individual students' grades or progress in school.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### **U16 North West Soccer Championships**

Last Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October the Reece U16 Soccer team played Marist College from Burnie in the NW Championships. It was a great match with Marist coming out of the blocks hard and peppering our goals for the first 10 minutes. Reece scored against the run of play and quickly amassed a 4 goal lead due to our strong attacking strikers. At half time it was a 5 -1 lead to Reece and the team was feeling confident. The second half was a tight affair and eventually Reece ran out 6-3 winners from a well fought out match.

Probably the best game to watch all year. We would like to thank the 150+ spectators that came to watch who were not disappointed with the successful result. Many thanks to the team of boys who played well all year and were a pleasure to coach.





**At the end of Term 3 grade 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to visit the annual Art Rage Exhibition, held in the Burnie Civic Centre. The exhibition had a range of artworks by grade 11 and 12 students from across the State.**



# THANK YOU!

Reece High School would like  
to thank all our sponsors who kindly donated  
towards the Zombie Prom Production

## Sponsors

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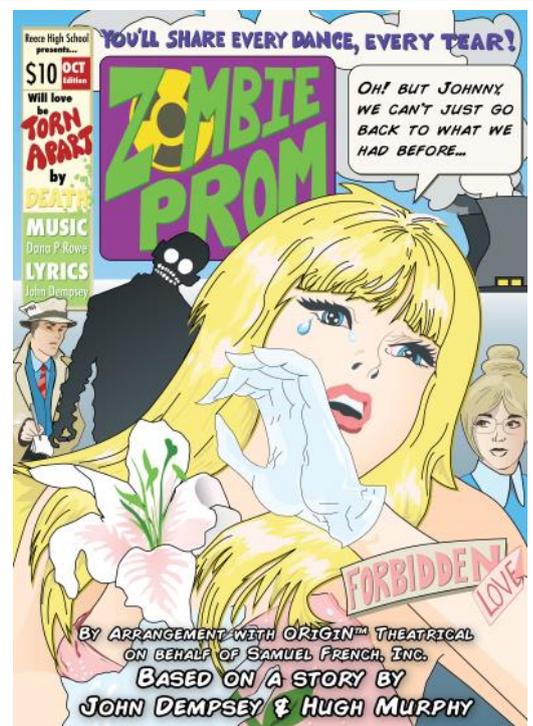
Sea FM

Debbie Taylor

Travel Managers

Ulverstone Repertory Society

Joy Wools-Cobb





## RHS Outstanding Debts

Reminder letters have been sent home this week, regarding overdue invoices (in excess of \$20). Please make payment in full by 4 November 2014, to prevent further action being taken.

## NETBOOK SALE

The netbooks currently in use by Grade 9 and 10 students are being offered for sale to current Grade 7, 8 and 9 students. These devices are 4 years old but will be re-imaged with Windows 7 starter edition or a version of Linux if preferred and refurbished for sale.

The netbooks will be sold for \$50 (1 per student at this stage) and priority will be given to Grade 9 students followed by Grade 8 then Grade 7.

If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity please complete the form below and return with your payment to the front office. Once this has happened the devices will be serviced and then returned to the student.

I ..... (student name)  
 ..... (class) wish to purchase a Netbook for \$50

I have enclosed payment of \$50 with this form

Signed .....  
 (parent/guardian)

## CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER 2014

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 24 <sup>th</sup> October  | Student Free Day   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> October  | RHS - Grade 10 Parent/Student Information Evening 7.00pm |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> November  | Recreation Day   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> November | Don College enrolments begin (at RHS)                    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> November | RHS Celebration of Excellence 5pm - 7pm                  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> November | Devonport Show Day                                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> December  | Grade 6 Orientation Day                                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> December  | Don College Day - Grade 10 students attend Don College   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> December | School Picnic  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December | Grade 7 - 9 Final Assembly                               |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December | Grade 10 Final Assembly and Celebration Dinner           |

### CONTACT DETAILS

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