At Reynella PS school we have been focusing on building our capacity to teach reading and spelling. The first day of school was a pupil free day and we had the opportunity to hear from Christine Killey, Learning Made Easier, about the teaching and learning of spelling. Teachers learnt different strategies to assess spelling, and how to manage their classroom to ensure regular assessment of spelling occurs. We focused on how to use spelling assessment to match students to appropriate spelling strategies and rules, so word lists become meaningful, thus ensuring greater gains with spelling. We reflected on our current practice and how we can build on our approach with particular emphasis on hearing the sounds in words. We also explored the crucial link between the teaching of spelling and the teaching of reading.

Last term teachers across our school started to utilise the The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) to better support our students in building their capacity in reading. This is a comprehensive system for one-on-one assessment that reliably identifies students' instructional and independent reading abilities and provides valuable diagnostic information for teachers to design appropriate learning opportunities.

The school has also purchased ‘Reading Eggs’. ABC Reading Eggs was created by a highly experienced team of Australian primary school teachers, writers and developers to help children become fluent and proficient readers. The multi-award winning learning resource supports your child’s learning to read journey with carefully designed online reading games and activities that are easy to follow, self-paced, and highly engaging for young learners. Each child in the school should have log on details set up by the class teacher so they can access the program at home.

In response to this focus we have identified the need for some students to receive extra support to ensure they become more proficient readers. To that end we have organized for students across the school to be involved in the Toe by Toe reading program. Toe By Toe supports any child who has difficulty in decoding (reading unfamiliar words confidently and accurately) or reading fluently (reading without pausing or hesitating when confronted by an unfamiliar word).

“You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.” Dr Suess

Michele Russell
Deputy Principal
SCHOOL WATCH
We would like to say a huge thank you to the following 10 families who spent part of their holidays ensuring that any damage to our school facilities was kept to a minimum:


While we acknowledge that many people regularly walk through our grounds out of school hours to use or check on our facilities, we do appreciate the fact that our school watch families commit to coming on a particular day to ensure that every day of the holidays is covered.

Karen Thorburn

FRENCH FUN DAY IS COMING

Last week all families received a special blue note about our upcoming French Fun Day to be held on Tuesday 16th August. On this day all students will participate in some special French activities provided by staff including cooking, a range of crafts, painting and games. Some of our older students will complete a Tour de Reynella on their bikes to link in with and practise the skills acquired during our Way2Go Bike Ed program last term.

On French Fun Day, we have an early recess from 10.30 - 11.00. The first activity starts at 11.10 finishing at 11.55. The students then have 5 minutes to travel to their next activity which starts at 12.00 and finishes at 12.45. Students then return to class for a special lunch until 1.10. Some classes meet up with their buddies at this time. Order forms for the special lunch were sent home on Monday this week and are also available on our Skoolbag mobile phone app. Please return your special lunch orders to the canteen by Wednesday 10th August or order and pay using our Qkr mobile phone app.

As with all major school events, parents and grandparents are welcome to visit at this time. If you are able to help with an activity, please complete the tear off slip at the bottom of the blue sheet and return it to me in the office by Friday 5th August or ring me at school. Photos of the last French Fun Day are on display in the office area on the pinboard opposite the message bags.

Karen Thorburn

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

This term, the Fundraising Committee is coordinating 2 special events. Our regular Fathers’ Day Stall for students to purchase gifts for their fathers and grandfathers will be held in the hall on Friday 3rd September. This will be followed on Saturday 4th September by our annual Family Portraits Day. Once again, families have the chance to have a beautiful family portrait taken by Professional Photographers of South Australia for only $15. Notes are being sent home today to all families. They will also be available on Skoolbag and payments can be made via Qkr.

Following a lot of interest shown by parents, we have decided to go ahead with a Twilight Fair in Term 4. This will be held on Friday 25th November from 3.00 - 8.00pm, so please save the date! Thank you to the following parents who have volunteered to be part of the planning group and offered to co-ordinate stalls: Marie Allen, Sasha Atkinson, Amy Cross, Anna Hardie, Rachel Hollitt, Karina Matson, Belinda Mathews, Tania Nenasheff, Sam Oakes, Denise Patterson, Jasmin Pfeiler, Sheryn Rehrmann, Emma Sharkey, Jodie Stockman, Jodi Waters, Dannii Wilkie, Lauren Williams and Jasmine Wilson.

We have had 2 planning meetings so far and have decided to set up the following stalls and activities with school groups: Lucky Dips, Cakes, Knock ‘em Down, Plants, Guessing Jars, Coffee, Second Hand Books, Sweets, Hot Potatoes, Yiros, Cold Drinks, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Hot Doughnuts, Pizzas, Slushies and the popular Pluck a Duck and Grapevine Trail will return. We already have some offers from groups to provide entertainment and once we have all school stalls confirmed, we will be inviting members of the community to run their own stalls, provide entertainment and to share information.

It’s not too late to be part of the planning group. Please contact me if you would like to join us. If you don’t like attending meetings, but have some great ideas to share, feel free to send me an email karen.thorburn484@schools.sa.edu.au. We will be looking for help with donations and volunteers to work on stalls on the night. Last time we set up a Facebook page which worked very well too. We’ll be organizing that much earlier this time around. If you have ideas, comments or questions, please feel free to contact me or one of the parents on the group.

Karen Thorburn
FUN CLUB
We are seeking a volunteer to help out in our Fun Club Program.
Fun Club runs on Wednesday and Friday afternoon 2.15 - 3pm. And works on a range of activities designed to help with co-ordination with Reception students.
Please let Tanya know if you would like to help on either or both of these days.

MORE PALs LEADERS TRAINED
PALs stand for Play at Lunchtimes. This program has been running for over 3 years in South Australia and has been set up in over 200 school sites with over 4000 students having had the opportunity to access the onsite training. It provides schools and students with support for student-led and student-run activities during break times.

The program was devised in the UK where a need for student-led lunchtime activity was identified back in 2005. Andrew Delaney was one of a group of educators who conducted research into what was happening, what students wanted to happen and existing programs which might help. He contributed to the creation of the program which has become known as PALs. When Andrew relocated to SA in 2009, he worked with DECD and other education groups to adapt the program for our schools.

Last year, under the guidance of Karina Romanovskis, a large group of Year 5, 6 and 7 students were trained by Andy to introduce PALs to Reynella. On Monday another group of 15 Year 5 and 6 students attended a full day of training with Carol O’Toole in how to run a structured play program for younger children. The PALs leaders gain leadership skills and build self-esteem, while younger students have fun in a safe friendly school environment. After lunch they put their new found skills into practice with Ms Modistach’s Reception class.

The PALs leaders must remember a number of key points when planning their activities: to keep things safe, simple and inclusive. They need to give clear instructions in how to play the games and they need to be enthusiastic to ensure that everyone has fun. Congratulations to the following new PALs leaders: Abigail, Amber, Bailey, Carlie, Ella, Jamie, Jorja M, Jorja T, Kade, Kartya, Kitarni, Madi, Riley, Taya and Zac.

Karen Thorburn

Have you downloaded Skoolbag & Qkr?
We now have 2 Smart Phone Apps which will help make our parents lives that little bit easier.

What is Skoolbag?
Skoolbag provides schools with an easy way to tell parents everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications.

No more lost paper in student school bags! Notices, Grapevine and alerts are communicated directly to the parent smartphone through the Skoolbag school Mobile App. Skoolbag is school Mobile App that communicates directly with iPhone, iPad, Android, and Windows Phones devices.

Qkr
Qkr will accept payment using any credit/debit card accepted by the school and you can add up to 5 different cards to your Qkr account.

Qkr is provided by MasterCard so you know your payments are secure. No information will be stored on your phone. Registration details and card information are saved securely on the Mastercard network.

You will also benefit from MasterCard’s Zero Liability policy which protects the cardholder from fraud and unauthorized charges.
FOSTER CARE
Foster Carers are needed to provide overnight emergency, long-term, short-term and respite care. You can be either single, couples, working full time, part-time or studying. Free training and ongoing professional support (including 24 assistance) is provided.

For more information, or to book into one of our information sessions call Linda on 8131 3456.
You can also contact Anglicare on www.anglicaresa.com.au/foster-care.

CARDJIN COLLEGE
Cardjin College is welcoming applications for 2018 and interviews will begin later this year.
Joseph Cardjin Scholarships for Year 8 2018.
Applications open 25 July 2016, closing date is 30 September 2016. Application forms are available from the College.

Principal Tours in term 3 are on:
- Thursday 11 August, 9.30am.
- Wednesday 31 August 9.30am
- Thursday 22 September 5.30pm

WIRREANDA SECONDARY SCHOOL
Performing Arts
Dreams and Nightmares
16 August - 7 pm
Adult $10 - Child/Conc $7
Phone 8329 7200 for tickets.