Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the start of a new school year. I hope all families have had a great break and holiday over the Christmas/New Year period. I know that I did and so did all of our teachers. We have had a very smooth start to the year, with students settling in well to their new classes over the last couple of days.

Our school staff recommenced last week and engaged in a variety of professional learning days to start our year. During these days we covered team building activities, we all attended a reading institute with many other schools from Canberra where Australian and International speakers taught us more about teaching reading, spelling and comprehension. On Friday all staff were involved in learning more about two maths programs Count Me In Too (P-2) and Middle Years Mental Comprehension (3-6).

Our teachers have been busy getting to know the students this week and starting the year in a positive and productive manner. I am keen to hear how your child/ren have been settling back into school. I will be on the playground most Monday afternoons and Friday mornings so please stop me for a quick chat.

We welcome quite a few new students and their families from other ACT schools, from other parts of Australia and from around the world. We hope you will enjoy being part of the Red Hill School community. This movement of students into and out of the school to all parts of the world is a feature of our school that really adds to the internationalism and being an IB World School.

As well as our all new Kindergarten students we would like to particularly welcome our other new students that have joined us for 2013. We would like to welcome you to our school and hope you enjoy your time with us.

We also welcome several new staff to our school including:

- Karen Needham (Preschool) who has moved with her family for Western Australia and has teaching in schools in England
- Fiona Bowles (Kindergarten) has moved to us from teaching in Islamic schools in both Melbourne and Canberra
- Karen Nixon (Kindergarten) who has moved to us from teaching in schools in the Northern Territory
• Kate Robertson (Kindergarten) who was working at Radford College in Canberra
• Michelle Wilson (Year 1) has come to us from Distance Education in Queanbeyan
• Kelly Ingram (Year 2) has moved from the South Coast where she was teaching in a variety of schools
• Sarah Meadows (Year 2) who was teaching at Giralang Primary last year
• Schola Nyambura (Year 3) who was teaching at an International School in Thailand last year and before this in Brunei
• Kristen Guseli (Year 3) was teaching at a number of schools in Canberra
• Tania Brown (Year 4) has moved from the NSW coast where she was teaching in a number of schools
• Steven McCulloch (Year 4) joins us from Ireland, having worked in schools in London
• Tahnee Carters (Year 5) who is originally from Newcastle but has spent the last few years teaching in New Zealand
• Sarah Withers (Year 6) who has joined us from Aranda Primary School; and
• Francis Szeremet (French) who has joined us from Yarralumla School.

As you can see there are many new teachers to get to know and we look forward to introducing everyone to you on the information evening in week 3.

The leadership team for this year includes myself, Anna Wilson - Deputy Principal (curriculum), Nathan James – Deputy Principal (student achievement), Kristy Aitchison – Executive Teacher – (Junior school), Emma Campbell – Executive Teacher (Primary), Deb Lawrence Executive Teacher Professional Practice (Junior School) Anne Gummow – Executive teacher professional practice (Primary).

Our School goals for this year remain as they are part of our five year plan. Our actions for 2014 are as follows:

A positive, inclusive school culture
1. develop student’s social and emotional skills
2. increase the engagement of parents and the community in the life of the school

A capable, sustainable school
1. build staff capacity through professional learning and collegial sharing of pedagogy and professional practice
2. whole school commitment and approach to being a sustainable school
3. prepare the preschool to successfully comply to National Quality Standards

A relevant, challenging, engaging curriculum
1. develop whole school approaches to teaching and planning, curriculum and assessment, based on research and best practice that meets IBO requirements
2. improve the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy
3. use formative assessment to cater for the individual needs of students.

Attached to this newsletter is a Handy Hints and reminders sheet and our annual calendar, which we hope will be useful. Our usual fortnightly newsletter will be sent out electronically each fortnight in odd weeks of term, weeks 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. Please email info@redhillps.act.edu.au if we do not have your email address so you can receive newsletters. Alternatively if you do not have an email address please notify the front office.

Please give me or any other member of our senior leadership team a call on 62057144 if you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss.

Kind Regards
Kate McMahon
Principal
Meet our Executive Team

Kate McMahon  Principal
Key responsibilities:
- Pedagogical leader (oversight of curriculum and pedagogy)
- Community (Board, P&C, partnerships)
- Management of school (resources, staffing, building works, finances)
- Enrolments

Anna Wilson  Deputy Principal
Key responsibilities:
- Curriculum and PYP Coordinator
- Orientation, transitions and enrolments
- Coaching and mentoring teachers, professional learning

Nathan James  Deputy Principal
Key responsibilities:
- Student support
- Student Achievement
- Logistics

Kristy Aitchison  School Leader C
Key responsibilities:
- Junior School (P-2)
- Preschools and National Quality Standards
- Student wellbeing in P-2

Emma Campbell  School Leader C
Key responsibilities:
- Primary (3-6)
- Literacy and numeracy coach
- Reporting
- Student wellbeing 3-6

Deb Lawrence  Executive Teacher Professional Practice
(Junior team)
Key responsibilities:
- Coaching and mentoring
- Targeted intervention
- Teacher Professional Standards
Anne Gummow  Executive Teacher Professional Practice (Primary team)

Key responsibilities:
- Coaching and mentoring
- Targeted intervention
- Teacher Professional Standards

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**Our Next Assembly**

*Will be held on Friday 14 February at 12.10am – Week 2 Term 1*

*Hosted by: Year 6*

All welcome, please be seated by 12.05 for a prompt 12.10 start

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**2014 School Board elections**

If you’re keen to contribute to the governance of Red Hill School, you should nominate for a position on the school board.

There are two parent and citizen member positions becoming vacant on 31 March 2014.

You can pick up a nomination form from the front office during school hours, or request one be emailed to you.

Nominations must be submitted to the front office between 11am, Thursday 6 February 2014 and 11am, Thursday 20 February 2014.

You can submit your nomination by:

- hand delivery to the Red Hill Primary School front office
- email to info@redhillps.act.edu.au
- fax to (02) 6205 7145
- mail to ARO, c/- Red Hill Primary School front office

For more information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, John Robinson on 0439 531 234.
General Red Hill School Board Elections

Nominee Form

Please use this form to nominate for a position on Red Hill school board.

Details:

School Name: Red Hill School

Assistant Returning Officer: John Robinson

Phone: 0439 531 234

Nominee Details:

Position: Staff members (A member of the staff of the school)

Number of vacancies: one

Position: Parents and citizens members (A member of the school community)

Number of vacancies: two
Nomination:

I, ________________________________________________ am nominating for the position of
________________________________________________ on the school board. If elected I will
undertake the duties of the position.

Signature:  ________________________________________________

Date:  ________________________________________________

The Education and Training Directorate (the Directorate) is collecting the information on this form to enable
it to conduct elections for school boards. This is authorised by section 41 of the Education Act 2004. This
information will be disclosed to the school community to enable eligible voters to elect a nominee of their
choice.

Lodgement Information:

Nominations are to be submitted to the Red Hill school’s front office between 11 am, 6 February 2014 and 11 am,
20 February 2014. Nominations must be submitted during school business hours: 9:10am to 3:15pm, Monday to
Friday.

You can submit your nomination by:
    hand delivery to the Red Hill Primary School front office
    email to info@redhillps.act.edu.au
    fax to (02) 6205 7145
    mail to ARO, c/- Red Hill Primary School front office

The names of all nominees will be announced on 18 February 2014.

If an election is required, the voting period will be from 11 am 24 February 2014 to
11 am 3 March 2014.
Defence News

A very warm welcome to all the new families at Red Hill School and welcome back to all our families returning to the school this year.

As the Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) at Red Hill School, my role is to provide support to the children and families of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members – uniformed members of our Navy, Army and Air Force.

The Department of Defence through the Defence Community Organisation (DCO) provides financial grants for the funding of DSTA positions. The level of funding is dependent upon the number of ADF students within a school. As there are relatively limited funded hours for the number of Defence students across the whole school, it is important for Defence families to keep in contact with me regarding deployments, postings or parental absences so that I can prioritise and plan specific support for students.

Defence families are encouraged and welcome to contact me at any stage throughout the year to discuss the support available for their children, particularly if students are experiencing difficulties or have concerns.

If Defence families would like further information or wish to discuss the support available for their children, please contact me via email: lyn.davidson@ed.act.edu.au

Kind regards,
Lyn Davidson
DSTA

2013 photo orders – Special groups

There was an error at the end of last year with MSP not providing Red Hill School with enough special group order forms. If you would like to order a Choir, Petit Wassa Wassa, Junior Wassa Wassa, Wassa Wassa, Year 5 band or Year 6 band photo, please send your child to get a copy from me or send me an email and I will forward you one.

Sorry about the delay,
Shannon Gurney

Year Four is looking for guest speakers!

Dear valued Red Hill community,

Year Four will be embarking on our first unit of inquiry *Who we are*. As part of this unit, we are requesting any parents or carers who would be willing to come in and give a short presentation. We are looking for people with expertise as a nutritionist or dietician, counsellor, psychologist or physiotherapist to discuss the importance of healthy choices. If you are able to help us out, please contact one of the Year Four teachers ASAP.

Thanks, Team Four!
Handy Hints and Reminders for Parents and Carers

Office Hours
Our Front Office is staffed from 8.30 – 3.45 each day. Outside these hours and if for any other reason the office is not staffed an answering machine service will be operating and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Open Communication
Communication between home and school is very important. Children sometimes go home with stories that may seem unusual. Often they have very different perceptions about statements and actions they observe. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any concerns.

Anything different happening at home
We encourage you to advise the class teacher of any changes in your child’s home routine e.g. birth of a new sibling or a temporary or permanent change in family situation.

School Hours
School commences at 9.10am and concludes at 3.15pm with breaks for recess from 10.50 – 11.25 and lunch 12.55 – 1.45pm. If your child is late they need to enter the school via the Front office and sign-in. If you need to pick them up early please speak to the office staff and sign your child out.

Before School
Children go to the asphalt area of the playground before school and not into classrooms as teachers need this time to prepare for the day’s lessons and have meetings organised. Playground supervision commences at 8.40. To ensure the safety and welfare of all students, it is important that children do not arrive at school before 8.40am.
Pick-up arrangements

If your child is to be collected from school during the day or taken home early, you must sign them out at the front office prior to collecting them from class. This is for the security and safety of your child and teachers will not release any student if they are not handed a “sign out slip”.

If your child is going to be picked up by someone you have not listed as a contact could you please advise the school either in writing or by phone. Your child will not be released if we are unable to verify with parents or carers.

Absences

If your child is absent from school due to sickness or other family obligations, it is a legal requirement that you send a note explaining the absence to the class teacher upon their return. A phone call to the front office on the day is also appreciated.

Infection and Illnesses

Should your child contract an infection/communicable illness, could you please notify the office staff. There are certain periods of exclusion that apply to some infections. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office should you need further information.

Some highly contagious childhood illnesses have a mandatory exclusion period – details of these can be located on the Directorates website. For example, for more common illness and infections such as vomiting and diarrhoea have an exclusion period of 24 hours after symptoms cease. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you be unsure whether your child should be excluded from school for any reason.

Children’s medications

It is a Directorate policy requirement that written directions from a doctor and written permission from parents/carers must be provided before school staff may administer medication. This applies to any type of medication.

Notes

Thursday is our “Notes Day” when the majority of notes will come home. Please put all money for excursions or special events in an envelope with the child’s name, class and a brief description of what the money is for on the outside of the envelope. All notes and money must be given to the child’s teacher who is responsible for keeping these records.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is published fortnightly and includes information about what is currently happening at the school, student work from different year levels and a list of dates for events. The newsletter is distributed electronically so please advise staff at the front office of your e-mail address if you wish to receive this.

Food

Your child will need food for recess, lunchtime and some year levels have a fruit break. Food should be placed in an easily opened lunch box which will be kept in your child’s bag. It is useful to have a frozen drink in the lunch box as this provides cooling for the lunch especially in summer. Your child will also need a drink bottle as they become very thirsty during the day. We encourage children to drink water.

We are a nut and fish free school

Due to severe food allergies to peanuts and nut based products and fish we ask that you do not pack food containing these items or ingredients in your child’s lunch box. These items can trigger a life-threatening anaphylaxis attack in which airways swell to the point where a person is unable to breathe. An attack can occur with exposure to even the trace elements of these foods that can be transferred through the skin and breath. As a consequence we promote a nut and fish free environment.
**School Equipment List**

Teachers have put together the list of equipment that best suits the needs of students. Prepaid packs will be delivered to your child’s class in the first week of term. Pre-ordered packs need to be paid for and collected from CHALK. Once collected they can be handed to your child’s teacher. Teachers will hold all supplies in class and will distribute resources when needed.

**School Uniform**

The wearing of school uniform is encouraged at Red Hill School. The wearing of school uniform, or colour coded uniform (green and yellow in the case of Red hill) in ACT Government school’s is not compulsory. However, the wearing of school uniform readily identifies our students in the community, especially when they are representing their school and eliminates clothing competitiveness between students. All children are encouraged to wear an appropriate sun smart hat when playing outside. Children not wearing hats are required to stay/play in a designated shaded area of the school. A number of options are available to assist parents/carers who may be experiencing financial difficulties to obtain items of uniform for their children. Please do not hesitate to contact the principal for more information.

**Hats**

Our sunsmart policy requires children to wear a sun smart hat for all months except June and July, otherwise they must play in the shade.

**Labelling and Lost property**

Please make sure that all items of clothing (especially hats and jumpers) and other belongings (drink bottle, lunch box, school bag) are clearly labelled with your child’s name and class.

Lost property is located under the stairs in the junior corridor. If you find your child is missing clothing items please check in the classroom and in lost property.

**Dogs in the playground**

From time to time we have ‘visiting’ dogs in the playground. Many children (and staff) are scared of dogs and present as a risk to their safety. Please assist us by ensuring that your family pet remains at home. This applies also to dogs on leads. Please do not bring them to the school/grounds. Attempts are made to re-unite stray dogs with their families but often prove unsuccessful.

**Parking and pick up and drop off**

The car park has designated spaces for long term parking (in the middle), short term (parking facing the building), it has not been designed as a drop off or pick up zone. The car park operates on a one-way system moving clockwise. Parents who do not follow these procedures create a risk to all other users of the car park.

Along Astrolabe Street (which is now one-way) there are short term parking spaces (on the right), a bus bay and a kiss and go zone. Only buses are allowed in the bus bay, dropping off and picking up occurs in the kiss and go zone where you may not leave your car and at times may be asked to move on if your child is not there to be picked up when you are. You will be asked to do a lap and return to collect your child. Both the bus zone and kiss and go zone have staff in attendance during the afternoon. We are often visited by both Action parking inspectors and ACT Government traffic attendants who issue on the spot fines to members of the community not complying with the road/parking rules.
P&C Dates for your Diary:

- The first P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th February from 7.30pm (in the Staff room) – all are welcome & encouraged
- The P&C Welcome BBQ will be held on Fri 21st February – all welcome
- The P&C AGM will be Tues 4th March from 7.30pm – all welcome

CCR
If you would like to become a Class Contact Representative in 2014, please flag your interest early, by letting Jackie (CCR Coordinator) know ℅: jackie@clanpr.com or via the RHS P&C e-mail address: rhps.pandc@gmail.com For more information, please refer the attached flier later in this newsletter.

Thanks from your P&C

Uniform Dresses – please donate your outgrown dresses
We do not currently have stock of uniform dresses, but there is a huge demand for sizes 4-8. We will have a new supply later this year (by July) but in the meantime, if you have any dresses that you no longer need, please donate the dresses to the uniform shop (you can leave them at the front office or bring them in to the shop on Friday 2.30-3.30pm).
You may also donate any other good quality outgrown uniforms, which we sell or provide to families in need.

Red Hill School Uniform Shop
Order online at www.flexischools.com.au
Place orders by Wednesday 2.00pm and pay by credit card for delivery to classes by Friday Morning
Open every Friday afternoon from 2.30pm to 3.30pm
Payment by cash, cheque or credit card

School Banking day – Friday
Leave banking at Front Office by 9.10am on Friday Morning
Collect after 3.15pm on Friday Afternoon
Collect your Dollarmites starter pack from the front office to begin school banking
every $ you bank raises money for the school
New Dollarmite account and rewards packs are available from the Front Office
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<th>Week</th>
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<td>Feb 10-14</td>
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<td>School Board Meeting 6.15pm</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7.30pm Staff Room</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Welcome BBQ 6pm</td>
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<td>Staff Training – MTPYPH Radford</td>
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<td>ANZAC Assembly - Year 5 to host RHIPP</td>
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**Monday**
- **Week 1**: SPARK
- **Week 2**: SPARK
- **Week 3**: NAPLAN School Board Meeting 6.15pm
- **Week 4**: SPARK
- **Week 5**: SPARK
- **Week 6**: SPARK
- **Week 7**: SPARK
- **Week 8**: School Board Meeting 6.15pm
- **Week 9**: SPARK
- **Week 10**: SPARK

**Tuesday**
- **Week 1**: SPARK
- **Week 2**: Art Show
- **Week 3**: SPARK
- **Week 4**: SPARK
- **Week 5**: SPARK
- **Week 6**: SPARK
- **Week 7**: SPARK
- **Week 8**: SPARK
- **Week 9**: SPARK
- **Week 10**: SPARK

**Wednesday**
- **Week 1**: Staff Training – MTPYPH at Grammar Newsletter
- **Week 2**: Staff Training – MTPYPH at Grammar Newsletter
- **Week 3**: Newsletter
- **Week 4**: Newsletter
- **Week 5**: Newsletter
- **Week 6**: Newsletter
- **Week 7**: Newsletter
- **Week 8**: Newsletter
- **Week 9**: Newsletter
- **Week 10**: Newsletter

**Thursday**
- **Week 1**: Staff Training – MTPYPH at Grammar Newsletter
- **Week 2**: Staff Training – MTPYPH at Grammar Newsletter
- **Week 3**: Newsletter
- **Week 4**: Newsletter
- **Week 5**: Newsletter
- **Week 6**: Newsletter
- **Week 7**: Newsletter
- **Week 8**: Newsletter
- **Week 9**: Newsletter
- **Week 10**: Newsletter

**Friday**
- **Week 1**: Assembly - Year 1 to host Cross Country Carnival (Tentative Date) RHIPP
- **Week 2**: Assembly - Year 1 to host Cross Country Carnival (Tentative Date) RHIPP
- **Week 3**: RHIPP
- **Week 4**: RHIPP
- **Week 5**: RHIPP
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- **Week 7**: RHIPP
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- **Week 10**: RHIPP
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<td>School Board Meeting 6.15pm</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7.30pm Staff Room</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival (Tentative Date) Newsletter</td>
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<td>K-4 Disco (TBC)</td>
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<td>Year 6 Graduation</td>
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Red Hill School Newsletter 2014 – Term 4

Mon 13 Oct – Wed 17 Dec