

Transition

There are less than 8 weeks of school left for the year. It is now the time everyone starts thinking about next year and what experiences school will hold for them.

Of course the change is especially big for the new Foundation students transitioning from a Kinder environment and for the Year 6 students entering Secondary school. However all students go through a transition of some type.

These include a change of room, a change of teacher, different schedules and expectations and a different peer group. As students move up the school there is also increased independence and, sometimes, decreased family involvement in the day to day school experience.

The transition program at RPS is aimed at decreasing the likelihood that students will feel overwhelmed, anxious, frustrated or insecure about their move to a new class.

Many Year 6 students have already begun a transition program at their chosen secondary school and this week all Year 6 students will begin a three-week 'Moving Up' program offered by Glen Eira Youth Services. This program is facilitated by one of the council's youth workers to develop coping skills and resilience and covers topics such as high school expectations, friendships and where to get help and support.

On November 5 the transition program for 2016 Foundation students will begin. The kinder students will come and spend a morning in the classroom each Thursday for 4 weeks.

On Nov 30 and Dec 8, all students will spend time with the level cohort of students they will be with in 2016. Teachers will begin talking about what 2016 will look like in terms of expectations, 'new' activities (such as interschool sport for the 5/6 students) etc .

Finally, on Dec 8 there is a whole school 'stepping up'. At this session students will find out their 2016 home group class and teacher and, where possible, will spend time with their new teacher in their new learning space.

Whilst there are likely to be 'nerves' – especially for those major transitions such as Kinder to Foundation and Year 6 to Secondary, a new school year can, and should, be an exciting time for everyone. If you feel your child is going through an unusually anxious time, please let us know. Similarly, if you as a parent are feeling anxious about the changes, please come in for a chat.

-Linda Rippingille

Assistant Principal