

20 April 2017

Dear School Community

Prior to the commencement of the next school term, there are some items that I would like to update you on.

Unfortunately, the wheels are turning more slowly than we'd hoped for the Karnup Campus redevelopment. Although we remain keen as ever to start development of the site, the timelines are driven by government processes and therefore we cannot speculate on specific timelines for the project. The Karnup site is still key to accommodating the long-term growth of RMS, and the Board continues to take all measures within our authority to move the project forward.

In light of this unpredictable timeline, and in recognition of the strong financial position the school is in, RMS has invested considerably in our existing facilities over the last few months, including the Rockingham Campus, Murdoch Campus and Salvation Army premises.

As noted previously, the Rockingham Campus will remain open indefinitely, and continuing to enhance this campus will always be a priority for RMS. Some of the upgrades that have occurred and that are ongoing include the following:

- Upper Primary classroom expansion to accommodate two classes. This includes a new kitchen and outdoor classroom space. We also welcome a second Upper Primary teacher for the new class being established.
- A reticulated shade house was installed in the primary outdoor area to assist the propagation of seedlings and cuttings for the gardening club.
- The parking area had lines marked for a basketball, netball and volleyball court and two movable basketball rings were purchased to expand the play space for our primary aged children.
- A water play space was created next to the Children's House playground, incorporating a pumping station and billabong to expand the outdoor play experiences for the younger children.
- The Secret Garden had reticulation installed to assist the growth of the newly planted Tipuana trees, thus enhancing the shade in this outdoor space.

We have expanded the Murdoch Campus to three times the floor area, which will allow us to eventually accommodate well over 100 Adolescent Program students. This expansion also enables us to provide more specialisation in the Adolescent program, and includes the following improvements:

- A foyer area encompassing an interview room.
- A purpose designed lab space for science and arts.



- A purpose designed studio space for performing arts, including music.
- A separate middle and senior school space.

There have also been changes at the Salvation Army site for the Adolescent Program students, which includes a dedicated, private space (separate from other community groups), development of the design and technology space for woodwork, metalwork and engineering projects, establishment of hospitality facilities and large horticultural facilities. We've also created a dedicated, secure space where the Infant Toddler Program has recently moved into.

We're hopeful that our students strongly benefit from these improvements. I'm always keen to hear ideas on how we can further improve our facilities, and if you do have any ideas or questions on the items I've covered, please let myself or Vanessa know.

I have also attached the FAQs on the Karnup site, which we will continue to keep current on the RMS website for those that are interested.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonja Neame". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonja Neame
Chair of Board

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Our Ref: BOARD:CORR_170420

FAQs on the Karnup Campus

When will we move into the Karnup Campus?

Given the unpredictability around the timing of financing and building, which relates to finance applications and building permits, RMS cannot commit to a specific timeline on the opening of the Karnup Campus. The strategic plan for the school involves the Karnup Campus being progressively built over a 10-year plan. This is a long-term goal to which the School remains committed.

Will the Rockingham Campus be closing down when the Karnup Campus Opens?

There are no plans to close the Rockingham Campus, which will remain open indefinitely. RMS can provide a more flexible and diverse education experience for our students by having both campuses for use. Many families value the location of the Rockingham Campus, and RMS will ensure that this Campus continues to build on the Montessori philosophies over the next 5 years.

Are my school fees increasing to fund the new campus?

Fee increases are in line with the education indexation. As a specific low interest government loan is being arranged to upgrade the new school site, school fees will not be funding the new campus and will be used as usual for educational purposes, such as the operation and future growth of the school.

What will be happening over the next five years with the current campus?

The Board and management will maintain its commitment to ensure that the Rockingham Campus continues to build on its Montessori philosophies. Some of the improvements to the Rockingham Campus over the next five years include:

- Introducing a second upper primary classroom;
- The addition of an outdoor exercise area;
- Provide ongoing maintenance and improvement of the facilities; and
- The adolescent program will be opening two new classrooms at the Murdoch Campus, which will give the students much more space and flexibility until the Karnup Campus can be opened.

What about the buses? Where will the students be catching the bus?

The School will be encouraging students from lower primary onwards to travel to school via its bus service. Which bus your child will be travelling on, the bus route; and designated bus stops will be determined at a later date and may vary slightly each year depending upon student numbers, where students reside, road modification and local council requirements. Families can be reassured that the School has all students' safety as a priority.

Who can I speak to if I have more questions on the Karnup Campus?

Please feel free to speak with our Principal on school operational matters.

Any questions that you have regarding the Karnup project, can be directed to the Building Subcommittee via email: building@rms.edu.wa.au.