

Whyalla Secondary

Newsletter

College



Tricia Richman

Principal's Welcome

Dear parents and caregivers,

It is hard to believe that we are about to finish our final week for the term.

Staff and students are all really looking forward to Easter and the school holidays.

This term has been very challenging for staff, students, parents and the community. Opening a new school was always going to be difficult, as there was so much change for everyone involved. Having COVID on top of this has definitely pushed us all to our limits. I am very proud of the resilience shown by staff and students, to work through the many obstacles thrown their way. My quote for the end of term has been:

“You must tell yourself, no matter how hard it is, or how hard it gets. I am going to make it”

As you all know this week has been different, with year 9 and 10's home learning on Monday and year 7 and 8's home learning on Tuesday and Wednesday. This has been so that we can manage staff absences as best we can. We hope the holidays will provide the circuit breaker we all need to rest and recharge ready for next term.

Year 11 and 12 students had another VET block week this week, which sees up to 100 senior students involved in this program. It is fantastic to report that we currently have 30 students in school based apprenticeships/traineeships. The work being done by the VET pathways teams is amazing for our senior students.

This term we say farewell to teaching staff Mark Trimboli and Chelsey Arthur, who have ended their contracts with us at the end of the term, and SSO Anette McKay. I wish Mark, Chelsey and Anette well in their future positions and thank them for their work for the College this term.

I am very pleased to announce that Harleen Manocha will be joining our staff team next term as a year 9 Maths and Science teacher.

Please note that the school will be open from Tuesday to Friday in both weeks of the school holidays between 8.30am and 4.30pm.

Wishing our school community a very relaxing and restful break and we all look forward to seeing you on Monday 2 May. My quote for the start of next term is;

“What you think you create, what you feel you attract. What you imagine, you become”

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Our newly governing council committee met this week. We would like to extend a warm welcome the following members;

Tracey Watson - Chairperson
David Kittel - Deputy Chairperson
Melissa Hannaford - Secretary
Steph Newey - Treasurer
Philippa Cockcroft - Finance committee
Grant Hamilton
Cameron McKnight
Janette Leever
Robyn Pedler
Ali Zimmermann
Nicola Casey
Donna Packham
Tanya Collins
Cherie Hubner
Kristine Ellis
Kylie Clayton - Community Rep
Tricia Richman - Principal
Jake Miell - Staff Representative & Finance
Dr Alexandra Holeva - Staff Representative & Finance
Molly McGovern - Staff Representative

It is great to have such a large and diverse group of members on our governing council. I am very grateful for their input and support in the running and management of the college. One item on this week's agenda was the pupil free days for this year. The following days have been approved for;

1. *Thursday 14 April*
2. *Monday 27 June*
3. *Monday 22 August*
4. *Friday 18 November*
5. *Friday 9 September – Whole school closure day*

Updates

STUDENT ID CARDS

Student ID cards are available for collection from Student Services, families can collect during their cards during the school holidays. ID cards must be purchased at a cost of \$5.50.

UNIFORM ORDERS

Families that are awaiting their uniform orders, Devon clothing is currently rolling out the remainder of uniform. If you have received an email or text from Devon, your uniform should be waiting for the student at Whyalla Secondary College. Alternatively, students and parents are contacted via Daymap, you may collect your uniforms from Student Services.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Department for Education in conjunction with SA Health will continue to closely monitor the transmission of COVID-19 in schools, preschools and the broader community.

SCHOOL CARD

The School Card scheme provides low-income families attending a government school with financial assistance for school fees. School Card is available to: - Families with children aged four years and over who attend a school full-time - Independent full-time students studying year 10, 11 or 12. Please head to our social media to find out more about School Card, and application forms.

Updates

PARENT PORTAL - DAYMAP

Learning Progress indicators for students have been published online in Daymap. This is part of our WSC Learner Review Key Process. Students and parents are able to review ongoing assessment tasks and attitudes towards learning in Daymap through Parent Portal or the students' Daymap account. If you cannot access the Parent Portal in Daymap, contact the ICT department on 8668 9600 or emailing dl.1035.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Parents/caregivers who are unable to access Daymap parent portal are able to request a printed version by contacting the school. Learner Review has "Engagement" and "Achievement" indicators. Below is a key to help interpret the codes: Engagement
Disrupting - Distracting others & Disrupting the learning

Avoiding - Looking for ways to avoid work. Off task behaviour.

Withdrawing - Being distracted. Physically separating from group.

Participating - Doing work. Paying attention. Responding to questions

Investing - Asking questions. Valuing the learning. Using feedback

Driving - Setting goals. Seeking feedback. Self-assessment

Achievement 0 - No / Minimal evidence of learning

1 - Working towards expected level of achievement

2 - Expected level of achievement

3 - Exceeding expected level of achievement

BLENDED YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

This Youth Mental Health First Aid Course is designed for adults who work with young people. This includes education workers, youth workers, social workers and sports coaches. It also includes parents.

The course will teach you how to provide initial help to an adolescent who is developing a mental health problem, experiencing a worsening of an existing mental health problem, or is experiencing a mental health crisis.

Adolescence is the peak age of onset for mental health problems. By completing this course, you will gain the confidence and knowledge to provide the best support possible.

Course Delivery: This course is provided in the blended training format, which consists of two parts.

Part 1 – self-paced eLearning (approximately 3.5-4 hours)

Part 2 – face-to-face workshop at the Education Development Centre – (8 hours) 4 Milner Street, Hindmarsh SA 5007

Please note, part 1 must be completed before undertaking part 2.

Course Dates: Friday the 29th of April 8:30am - 4:30pm

Enquiries: admin@edsa.sa.edu.au



YEAR 7 AND 8 HACKATHON

The Year 7-8 student did a fantastic job taking part in the Imagine Cup Junior Hackathon over the 31 March and 1 April. A Hackathon is a term used by the technology industry for a one-day innovation event. People come together and try to solve a problem in one day. Congratulations to the winners and a huge thank you to all the hackathon participants over the 2 days. The event allowed students to be taken on a journey building the school value of Innovation and a chance to display the ATRIUM philosophy. We can't wait for the future; we are in good hands with all the fantastic ideas.



STONE PINE TREE



The College has received a donation of a Stone Pine Tree by community member Cameron McKnight. This tree not only embodies the original Lone Pine atop Bloody Ridge, (Kanli Sirt to the Turks), on the Gallipoli Peninsular and the Lone Stone Pine that has stood in the Gallipoli War Cemetery for the last 100 years, it welcomes back to country the souls and spirits of all those who have spilled their blood and served their country both at home and far away. Many Indigenous men and women served in World War I and many of their stories have not been heard. We are honoured to have this piece of history as part of our grounds.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL SECONDARY TRAINING ACADEMY: CULTURAL TOUR

On Tuesday 29 March the Whyalla SAASTA Academy enjoyed their first excursion for the year. SAASTA students and staff travelled Barngarla country to learn about the stories of each location and the significance each place holds with Aboriginal people. College ASETO and local Barngarla man, Jeff Croft went along to share his knowledge of the area. The group travelled to Hummock Hill, Point Lowly, Stony Point and Wild Dog Hill. Students used the excursion to learn about the area and gain knowledge to inform their art piece.

