



Whyalla
Secondary
College

Inspiring Possibilities

Whyalla Secondary

Newsletter

College

Week 5, Term 3



Tricia Richman



Principal's Welcome



Dear parents and caregivers,

We have had an extremely busy start to the term, with a range of exciting learning opportunities taking place for students years 7-12. This includes the STEMfooty challenge in year 7, Horticulture in year 9 and the CHAT café being operational each Thursday.

Some of the college highlights to date this term are:

- Youth Opportunities Graduation Ceremony
- STEMfooty challenge
- Clontarf camps
- Thunderbirds visit to Shooting Stars
- Year 11/12 Dance Drama workshop
- Year 11/12 Basketball in Port Augusta
- Year 7/8 Netball in Port Pirie

Our pupil free day was a huge success. The focus was to explore and develop a deepened awareness of the impact of early childhood trauma and the implications for supporting students within a restorative context. We would like to thank Sean Lappin Managing Director of connected self, who delivered the content to staff.

We have now implemented our truancy process, which is proving to be very successful. A copy is included at the end of the newsletter.

The Chief Executive from the Department for Education Mr Martin Westwell spent the day at the college. Please see our good news stories page to read more.

Don't forget we have our first sports day coming up on Thursday the 15th and Friday the 16th of September.

Please remember that the bulk of our information to families takes place on Daymap parent portal. Please contact ICT at the school if you need assistance.

Last week we said farewell to Alison Wills and Halima Alizadah, we wish them well in their future endeavours. We have had a range of student teachers at the college this term, who have done an exceptional job. We hope to be able to secure some as college staff members for 2023.

Thank you to Sam Custance, Keenan Ferguson, Blake Recheit, Harry Dunn, Lauchlan Gilbert, Lauren McManus, Melissa (Xiaotong) Deng, Hayley Hobby, Elsie Grace and Emma Ainsworth for your commitment to the students and staff at Whyalla Secondary College. Lauren Shivvaan will start her placement at the college next week.

Lastly thank you to our valuable SSO staff. You all do an amazing job and contribute greatly to the outcomes we are achieving at the college. Happy SSO week and the staff hope you enjoyed your morning tea today.

“Not everyday is good, but there is something good in everyday”

Updates

Important Dates

Whole School Closure Day – Friday 9 September
Year 7 Transition Week – Monday 29 August – Friday 16 September
Early Finish 2:30pm, last day of term 3 – Friday 30 September
School Holidays – Monday 3 October – Friday 14 October
Sports Day – Thursday 15 and Friday 16 September
Year 12 Formal – Friday 18 November
Pupil Free Day – Friday 18 November
Year 11 Exams – Tuesday 29 November – Thursday 1 December
Year 12 Exams – Monday 7 – Wednesday 16 November
Presentation Night – Tuesday 6 December
Thursday 3 November – Clontarf End of Year Awards
RU OK Day – Thursday 8 September
Early Finish 2:30pm, last day of term 4 – Friday 16 December
Literacy and Numeracy Week – Monday 29 August – Friday 2 September
Year 8-12 Subject Selection – Monday 22 August – Friday 2 September
Governing Council – Wednesday 14 September
Parent SACE Information Nights – 10 to 11 Wednesday 2 November, 11 to 12 Wednesday 9 November
Last Day for Year 11 students – Friday 25 November
Last Day for Year 12 students / Farewell Breakfast – Friday 28 October

Good Nights at D'faces

Good Nights a social art group for ages 12-25, and a supportive space for Queer and Trans youth. Each Saturday from 6pm - 10pm we meet at D'faces to cook together, talk, and have a go at a creative activity. We've also recently bought some new DJ decks for the group to practice on, so if you're into music this is a great way to start putting together a set. Good Nights is free, all you have to do to join is sign up as a member of D'faces, which is \$30 per year. For more information please phone D'faces on 86451265 or email art@dfaces.net



Headlice

Please refer to the school Facebook page for more information regarding headlice and how to prevent it.

Youth Writing Project

This November, Writers SA and D'faces are teaming up for a literary showcase celebrating the voices of queer regional young people from across South Australia, and we'd love to see some submissions from Whyalla's high school students. This is a paid opportunity, with nine commissions up for grabs and small fees for letters submitted to the "Dear You" zine.

Follow this link for more information and to register, and don't hesitate to get in touch with D'faces if you have any questions:

<https://writerssa.org.au/here-now-feast/>

Vaping

Vaping's a hot topic right now. In fact, a lot's being said about vaping and its effects - but there's lots of conflicting and confusing information out there. Please use the link below to read the latest evidence-based facts

<https://goosports.com.au/articles/vaping/>



Updates

Spencer Gulf

Dear parents/caregivers,

We have had a great start to term 3 in Spencer Gulf, it has been awesome to see all the students come back after the school holidays with such a positive headset. One of the events everyone is looking forward to is our build up towards the WSC sports day!

We have 4 teams represented Wetlands (Green), Fitzgerald (Orange), Lowly (Blue) and Bonython (Purple). I am looking forward to seeing all students participating and giving it their best on the day.

In the build up to this, our full-time class will be involved in the Activate Inclusive Sports Day – which is being held at our school on the 31 August. This will be a great opportunity for our students to have fun and interact with others in the Whyalla district.

One Plans

Teachers in Spencer Gulf have been busy updating student Personalised Learning Plans.

Personalised Learning Plans – known as 'One Plans' – support school and preschool students to reach their learning potential. Teachers will be inviting parents/caregivers to a meeting, to discuss One Plans and update them.

You will be contacted by the end of term to arrange a suitable time.

Good News Story

Madison Davidson, one of our year 10 students has made it into the South Australian State Teams for gymnastics. She trains 9 hours a week at the Eyre Gymnastics Club. It is a huge achievement as she is 1 of 3 athletes in Whyalla to be the first ever to be selected to represent South Australia to compete in the Bigham Cup in Darwin. She participated in 2 trials in July and the top 6 athletes were selected to be in the team. It is a wonderful achievement as she has worked extremely hard to get where she is in her gymnastics.



2023 Subject Selections

At this time of year, students are asked to make selections for their preferred subjects in 2023. These selections are based on the options described in the Curriculum Guide and a student's desired pathway post school. Students have been given a letter and a grid this week to take home and discuss. This information has also been emailed home. Students will enter their subject selections in care group/MIND/ over the coming weeks. To complete the process students and parents/caregivers will need to sign the web preferences form when sent home to confirm subjects selected. Students are to return the completed form to their care group teacher by 5 September (Monday week 7 term3).

Please refer to our website to find the 2023 Curriculum Guide <https://wsc.sa.edu.au>



L to R: Paul Pitkin Acting ED, Lisa Dwiar, Martin Westwall, Tricia Richman.

VISIT FROM MARTIN WESTWELL

The CE at the Department for Education, Martin Westwell spent the day talking with staff and students at the college. Hearing about the challenges, successes and opportunities of bringing together a new school community in 2022. Mr Westwell heard from one of our student teachers about how rewarding it is to teach at the college, making such a positive impact on our students. Our CHAT students had the opportunity to prepare lunch for Mr Westwell and Director of Employee Relations, Lisa Dwiar. This visit was an amazing opportunity for staff, students, Lisa and the CE.

STEM FOOTY

Students participated in STEM activities run by the Adelaide Football Club, they participated in activities which involved aerodynamics and trajectory of a football, heart rate and movement, reaction time and kicking distance.

Students were joined by AFLW player Niamh Kelly, STEMfooty Program Manager Katie Gloede and 6 other Adelaide Football Club employees. Niamh and Katie then spoke to the SAASTA students and answered questions.

Students were able to get photos with the AFLW premiership cup! Thank you to CEO of Sarah Constructions Adrian Espin and Terry Kildea, Project Manager for WSC.



CLEVE FIELD DAYS

Students from the college travelled to Cleve to participate in the Cleve Field Days, where they showcased their musical talents on stage to a live audience. Our students proudly represented the college with a successful performance.

Congratulations to all students involved!

COOKING

Spencer Gulf students practiced their life skills by making pizzas. The students used a printed list of the available toppings to take orders from staff and fellow students. Students did a fantastic job of preparing and cooking the pizzas.

Students also baked and decorated cakes together. They worked together on following the recipe and measuring out the ingredients before mixing it all together. Once baked and decorated students served the staff and students in Spencer Gulf.

They all did a fantastic job practicing their life skills!



TERRARIUMS

In Spencer Gulf students have been learning about eco systems, focusing on the rainforest. They have done lots of learning and even got to create a mini-ecosystem of their own which they will observe and see how the oxygen and eco-systems work, these are called terrariums.

Students added charcoal, pebbles and soil to a jar and then planted small plants inside. Once all the planting was done, students added small animals you would find in a rainforest.

These terrariums were on display at the Whyalla Show.

SA POLICE VISIT

SAPOL came to visit the Spencer Gulf students. They ran a program called 'Policing in the Community'. It was a great opportunity for students to find out more about the Police and all the services they provide. Our students showed great respect during the presentation and asked some fantastic questions.

The students particularly enjoyed finding out about all of the equipment the Police Officer carried on their uniform.





WEAR IT PURPLE

Wear it Purple Day supports LGBTIQ+ young people, showing them, they have a right to be proud of who they are and who they are becoming.

WSC celebrated the day by participating in a colour blast, rainbow lollipops and LGBTIQ+ flags.

For more information please follow the link: <https://www.wearitpurple.org/>

YEAR 11/12 BASKETBALL - PORT AUGUSTA

The year 11 and 12 basketball teams competed in Port Augusta this term. The girls team won all of their games and made it to the semi-final. The boys team played strong, only having 1 sub for the day and showed exceptional skill and sportsmanship!

Congratulations to both teams for playing so well and for representing the school exceptionally.



MRS SCOTT'S CLASS

Recently in Mrs Scott's maths class, the students of Spencer Gulf have been learning about the perimeter of different shapes.

Through learning about perimeter, the students are practicing their skills in counting, problem solving, asking questions and teamwork.

YEAR 11 AHEAD CLASS

This term, the year 11 AHEAD class began making resources and activities in preparation for the Creche they'll be running. They've been researching appropriate toys for infants and are very excited to get started with the Creche!



LAPTOP PAYMENTS, M&S FEES



An important reminder that 2022 laptop payments for year 10 and 11 students should now be nearing completion and M&S (Materials and Services) charges are now overdue.

If you have not arranged payment or you are unsure of the balance due, please contact the school on 8668 9600. A payment plan can be set up if required.

“THIS IS A TREE STORY” BY SLINGBY’S FLYING SQUAD

Recently music, drama and dance students experienced the performance “This is a Tree Story” by Slingsby’s Flying Squad. This performance focused on the use of shadows, miniaturisation, and soundscapes. Year 11 and 12 dance and drama students then developed these skills through two workshops, helping to prepare them for a diverse arts career!



GOOD NEWS STORIES

16 August 2022

TRUANCY PROCESS

Dear parent/caregiver,

Over the next few weeks, Whyalla Secondary College will be rolling out a new truancy process across the school to improve attendance rates in classes and therefore academic excellence.

If students are truant from class for more than 20 minutes in a lesson, parents will be notified via SMS that their child is missing from class and their whereabouts is unknown.

If you receive this text message, we ask that you try to communicate with your child and have them present themselves to their respective year level community service. On student return, a staff member will issue an on-site consequence. Continual truancy will result in an external suspension.

We look forward to working together to ensure your child is making the most of their learning opportunities to achieve greater educational outcomes.

If you have any questions, please contact Whyalla Secondary College on 8668 9600.

Yours sincerely,



Tricia Richman
Principal