NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2    April 15 2016

It is difficult to believe we are already approaching the end of Term 1!

As the Principal of Port Augusta Secondary School I am constantly impressed by the strong support people show for each other both in our school and across our partnership of schools in Port Augusta and Quorn. The quality of team work that occurs in order to 'get things done' is impressive. In a school environment these qualities help schools move from being an organisation to more of a 'Learning Community', which ultimately produces better outcomes for our students and our wider community. There are many examples of these qualities in this newsletter.

Empowering Local Learners Initiative

All the schools and preschools in Port Augusta and Quorn have been working together to improve the numeracy and problem solving skills of our students from the early years to secondary. This exciting project involves all the schools and preschools in Port Augusta and Quorn working together and in collaboration with Professor Martin Westwell and his team at Flinders University, to develop highly effective numeracy teaching approaches based on current research and designed to support improved learning outcomes for our students (you would have seen our TV commercial promoting the work). Achievement data in numeracy is clearly showing significant improvements for students. In May this year for the second time a team of staff from Port Augusta, together with our partners at Flinders University, will be presenting this work at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) Conference in Melbourne. This level of recognition reflects the national significance of the project and the collaborative work occurring across our Partnership of schools.

The graph below shows that students who have been directly involved in this project for the last two years demonstrated over 2.5 years growth in their numeracy development last year alone! This is an impressive result and as the project develops we intend to ensure that all students in our partnership benefit.
Sports Day and the Western Area Secondary Schools Athletics Carnival (WASSAC)

On the 11th of March, staff and students worked together to produce a fun and action packed school sports day at the new Central Oval Complex. Samantha Kondraciuk and her team and all staff are to be congratulated for their efforts in organising the day and students are to be acknowledged for their positive participation and some outstanding individual efforts. Sports Day this year also included year seven students from our primary schools. The participation of staff, students and parents from all the schools added to the great atmosphere of the day. The success of Sports Day was mirrored in WASSAC on March 21st, where our school hosted a highly successful event which involved many secondary students across our region. Well done to everyone involved.

Annual General Meeting

The schools AGM was held on the 17th of March. Existing and prospective parents/councillors and community members met to discuss the exciting developments at the school, future directions, and the importance of parent and community involvement. The school would like to acknowledge the commitment of our Governing Council members and to point out that there are still some remaining vacancies for parents on our Governing Council. The first meeting of the new Council is scheduled for May 5th at 5.00pm, at the school. For further information about Governing Council please contact me at the school.

Polly Farmer Compact Signing

The Port Augusta Partnerships for Success program is closely linked to our school and offers additional academic support for many of our aspirational young Aboriginal students. On March 31st students, families and members of the Polly Farmer Steering Committee held a Compact Signing event at the Golf Club to acknowledge the students involvement in, and commitment to the program for 2016. The school wishes all participating students a highly successful year. Well done to Kelly Kimber (Program Co-ordinator) and her team!

Paul Billows
PRINCIPAL
Port Augusta Secondary School

To receive your future Newsletters, you will need to download our recently purchased free app.

If you do not have a smart phone, please contact Student Services, if you haven’t done so already, advising of your email address or to organise another way to receive your newsletter.

How to get the school stream app on your mobile device

1. From your mobile device go to the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Play Store (Android), search for school stream and download the app to your phone.
2. Make sure you agree to push notifications.
3. Once school Stream has finished installing, open the app, type your school name into the search then select you school. For more detailed instructions go to schoolstream.com.au/download.
4. Are your children attending a different school? Tap the school selector, select add a school, type the school name into the search then add. Jump between your children’s schools by touching the school name/logo into the top blue bar, or switch schools from the slide-in menu.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees are now overdue.

If you think you may be eligible for school card please call into Student Services and fill out an application form.

Payments by direct debit can also be arranged.

Promoting Success for all Students
PASS SPORTS DAY 2016

On Friday 11 March 2016 Port Augusta Secondary School held its annual Sports Day at Central and Braddock Ovals. This was our first sports day at the new Central Oval complex. The venue created an inspiring atmosphere for the athletes, staff and onlookers with everyone enjoying the day. Despite the humid conditions, participating athletes showed a high level of commitment in supporting their house teams. The competition was close all day with only 46 points separating first and last place in the house shield. The Year 7 students from the local primary schools participated once again this year, bringing a great deal of enthusiasm to the day. Never seen before, Mambray and Wilpena tied for 2nd place on 776 points with Spencer coming out winners for the first time since 2013 on 820 points.

Sports Day Results:

**Athletics Shield**
- 1st Place - 782 points Spencer
- 2nd Place - 742 points Mambray
- 3rd Place - 735 points Wilpena

**House Shield**
- 1st Place - 820 points Spencer
- 2nd Place - 776 points Mambray & Wilpena (tied)

**Overall Champions for the Day**
- Overall Male Champion (Draw)
  - Juan Braden-McAlister, Wilpena
  - Zane Sard, Spencer
- Overall Female Champion
  - Emma Hancock, Mambray

**Age Group Champions**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Male Champion</th>
<th>Female Champion</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U13</td>
<td>Rogan McMahon</td>
<td>Emma Hancock</td>
<td>Deegan McAuliffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>U14</td>
<td>Zane Sard</td>
<td>Kristin Elliot</td>
<td>Liana Dwyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>U15</td>
<td>Juan Braden-McAlister</td>
<td>Kristin Elliot</td>
<td>Liana Dwyer</td>
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<td>U16</td>
<td>Zane Sard</td>
<td>Emma Hancock</td>
<td>Myria Cano-Hall</td>
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<td>Open</td>
<td>Zane Sard</td>
<td>Madeline Johnston</td>
<td>Slade Petry</td>
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<td>Open Male</td>
<td>Dareyan Solomon</td>
<td>Katherine Turner, Aysha Zada</td>
<td>Aysha Zada</td>
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Overall Male Champion - Juan Braden-McAlister (Wilpena) & Zane Sard, (Spencer)
Overall Female Champion - Emma Hancock (Mambray)
On Monday 21 March, PASS hosted the 2016 Western Areas Secondary Schools Twilight Athletics Carnival. This was the first time we had hosted the carnival since 2009.

The teams competing in the carnival were Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Navigator College, Far North (Roxby Downs), Far West (Ceduna/Streaky Bay) and Whyalla.

The sun was shining and it was a great day for athletics at the new Central Oval complex. Our Port Augusta team had 70 competitors, and it was great to see so many students around the complex in the PASS Panthers uniform. There was also the chance for some students to have their 15 minutes of fame, with Southern Cross News coming out to do a story on the day.

Port Augusta competed in Division A this year, which meant there was tough competition, but there were still some outstanding performances on the day. At the presentation, South Augusta Football Club clubrooms at the end of the day, medals were awarded to the highest point recipient in each age group, and from Port Augusta we had a few medal winners:

Amelia McKenzie – Under 15 Female Runner Up
Zane Sard – Under 16 Male Champion
Slade Petry – Open Male Runner Up

Port Augusta also were the Division A, Under 15 Pennant winners, which meant we scored more points in the under 15 age group than any other team. This was a great achievement, as Far West dominated the rest of the pennants, and it meant that they didn’t win them all!

Tallying up the final results, Port Augusta was the Division A Handicap winner, with Far West winning both the overall shields for the day.

Thank you to our sponsors:
Year 12 Drama students at Port Augusta Secondary School are busy working on their Term 2 Major Drama Production – AWAY, an acclaimed Australian play written by Michael Gow and set in Australia in the summer of 1967/68.

Mel Dyer, a professional freelance Stage Manager from Sydney, and daughter of PASS Assistant Principal, Angela Dyer, took time away from her short visit home to join the Year 12 Drama class and to share her experiences and wisdom with them.

Mel is a 2007 graduate of NIDA’s production course. She has been Stage Manager for Belvoir’s production of Every Breath. As Assistant Stage Manager, she has worked on Belvoir’s productions of As You Like It, Neighbourhood Watch, The Seagull, The Diary of a Madman, Measure for Measure, The Promise, the 2009 Australian tour of Page 8 and the 2008 tour of Keating!

Mel also appeared on stage for Belvoir in As You Like It, Neighbourhood Watch, The Seagull and Keating! Her other credits include Stage Manager for Lawn, Edgar, Remember Me, Legless (Splintergroup/Festspielhaus, Austria); Roadkill (Splintergroup/Performing Lines); Underground (Dance North/Performing Lines), and Night Café (Dance North), and Assistant Stage Manager for Assembly (Chunky Move). Mel has also worked as a Swing Assistant Stage Manager for The Nutcracker – The Story of Clara and Sleeping Beauty (Australian Ballet).

Mel talked about her school years, and the resilience and commitment that young creative people need to draw on in dealing with failure and success in auditions, and in making choices about where to study and what to study. Her anecdotes about working with famous actors and in backstage and performance situations engaged the students in a way that a YouTube clip or a book could never achieve. The students were keen to ask questions about all aspects of the Drama experience, and Mel was open, honest and inspiring, and at the end of the session, we all wished that she was going to be around for the next few months to be part of the Year 12 Drama journey. Drama teacher and Arts Coordinator, Dr Robyn Hewitson commented:

“A special guest like Mel provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about how the elements of Drama, the things they read about in class, are linked with the realities of stage production and performance. We are so grateful for this opportunity”

Open Girls T20 Cricket – Round 2

After winning their first round match of T20 Cricket, the PASS girls played Thomas More College from Salisbury Downs. Gladstone High hosted the game once again, and the threatened thunderstorms held off, although the humidity made for a difficult pitch.

PASS bowled first with Tyrell Yarran and Katie Stewart delivering some tough balls. Shelbie-Rae Allen-Hammer starred, taking three wickets from her four overs. At the end of the innings, TMC had set a decent target of 94 runs.

Wickets fell quickly at the start of the second innings, with the first two batters out for no runs. Halfway through the order, Shelbie came to bat and pumped up the score with three sixes and two fours, with Jasmyn Munns supporting her strongly. PASS chased the target well, but missed several opportunities for runs and ended up with 73 at the end of the 20 overs. Unfortunately this means the team did not make the finals round in Adelaide. The girls once again demonstrated sportsmanship and fair play, even celebrating a terrific catch by the other team.
Hospitality students help at Test Kitchen

By Chloe McPherson

Hospitality students from the YES Centre helped with a four-course, tapas-style Test Kitchen luncheon hosted by the Curdnatta Art Group at the Platform Gallery on February 19.

Test Kitchen was set up by former Port Augusta residents Ms Julie-Ann Hill, who is a chef in Adelaide, and Mr Matt Haren, who has a background in health and medical research.

It was set up in partnership with Meals on Wheels, through a State Government grant from the Office for the Ageing, and aims to encourage the elderly to dine out, talk to others and socialise.

This allows the elderly to leave their houses and be in a safe and comfortable environment and enjoy nutritious meals. The Test Kitchen’s motto is “breaking loneliness, nourishing lives”.

“It aims to solve an under-nutrition issue in the over 70s age bracket,” Mr Haren said.

He explained that studies reveal elderly people eat more when they are dining with others, rather than alone.

Certificate III in Hospitality students, Emilie Chesson and Jasmine Casey, set up dining tables, prepared and plated food, served drinks, waitressed and helped clean up.

The food for the event, “The Art of Dining” was pre-cooked and transported to the venue.

Mocktails were served first, with guests having the choice of either a pineapple, mint and ginger drink or a strawberry and rose drink.

The savoury lunch was a choice of roast beef and polenta, smoked trout and cucumber or lamb with baba ganoush. To finish the meal a dessert of meringue with sticky fig was served.

Thirty-six guests attended the lunch, all with their own dietary needs.

Through helping at the Test Kitchen, Emilie and Jasmine learnt the importance of catering for a variety of dietary needs and making variations and alterations to accommodate the guests. For example, meals to suit vegetarians, diabetics, those at risk of choking and those with allergies.

Mr Haren said the involvement of YES Centre students was about bringing resources together, allowing students to practice skills, keeping costs low and fostering inter-generational relationships by allowing students to interact with different age groups in real-life situations.

Mrs Belinda Myles, who delivers the Certificate III in Hospitality, said the opportunity for the students to assist arose after Ms Hill and Mr Haren contacted Ms Karen Wallace, Assistant Principal, YES Centre.

Test Kitchen is looking to continue the partnership with Hospitality students and will be holding six fortnightly luncheons at the ETSA Bowling Club, starting on April 7.

Why we support NAPLAN

The real value and importance of NAPLAN is its use as another diagnostic tool to help teachers improve your child’s learning.

The information the school receives details the strengths and weaknesses of a range of skills in the areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy of your child.

For example in Grammar:

- Identifies the set of words to complete a sentence correctly
- Recognises the correct use of punctuation such as commas to separate a name in direct speech
- Recognises the correct form of a verb

This information allows teachers to ensure your child’s strengths are sustained and extended. It also helps staff to develop programs to help specific areas for growth your child may have. The skills assessed in NAPLAN are those being taught as part of the school’s curriculum. Some of the past NAPLAN questions may have also been used in lessons so that your child should be comfortable doing the NAPLAN. If you have any questions or concerns about your child sitting the Year 9 NAPLAN tests, it is important that you contact Angela Dyer at the school to discuss the options available for your child.

Promoting Success for all Students
SSSSA Athletics Carnival 2016 — Adelaide

On Thursday 7 April 2016, 23 successful and enthusiastic Port Augusta Secondary School students, along with 2 Woomera and 6 Roxby Downs students united as the Port Augusta team at the Secondary School Sports South Australia (SSSSA) Athletics Carnival.

Despite having low numbers the students who attended showed outstanding determination, encouragement, sportsmanship and teamwork, with many students competing in events out of their comfort zone. Overall our girls team drew 2nd and the boys came in 7th of the 9 F grade, division 1 teams. This left Port Augusta with a combined placing of 5th.

While every student must be commended for their effort, within the group there were a few students who performed exceptionally well winning their events. Congratulations to:

Caleb McKenna – U15 boys High Jump and Long Jump
Amelia McKenzie – U15 girls 400m, 800m and 1500m
U14 girls 4x100m Relay
Emma Hancock - U16 girls Triple Jump and High Jump
Shaunna Hobbs – U14 girls Triple Jump and Long Jump
Vaniah Nelson – U15 girls High Jump
Lauren Hartmann – U15 girls Shot Put
Tamika Reid – U16 girls Discus and U15 girls Javelin
Tylah Jackson – U16 girls Javelin

Second and Third place getters include: Will Bolitho, Connor Woolford, Zane Sard, Under 16 boys 4x100m relay, Jordon Haldane, Ethan Reid, Blake Cooper, Vaniah Nelson, Kristin Elliot, Open girls 4 x 100m relay, Katherine Turner, Shavarna Franklin, Lauren Hartmann.

Special mention must also be made to Shaunna Hobbs who jumped 8.77m in Triple Jump beating the previous PASS record of 8.27m set by Ebony Janiak in 2013. Despite coming second, Zane Sard also exceeded the previous PASS 800m record of 2.22.85 seconds set in 2002 completing the race in 2.21.94 seconds, 1.02 seconds behind the winner.

It was a fantastic day and all participants should be very proud of their achievements, positive attitude and the way in which they conducted themselves on the day. Well done.

SSACE Art Excursion to Adelaide

On March 31, Miss Isterling’s Year 11 and 12 Art students travelled to Adelaide to view the AGSA’s Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art and past Stage 2 student artworks at the SACE Art Show. Students climbed onto the bus at 6 am to travel to Adelaide to visit these amazing artworks and gain inspiration for their own Art projects.

Drug and Alcohol Expo

Thursday 21st April 2016
Central Oval Complex 3pm—7pm
Free Entry & Sausage Sizzle

Promoting Success for all Students
Animal Studies students first to access zoocams

By Jessica Kotz

Animals Studies students in the YES Centre were privileged to be the first students to access webcams at Adelaide Zoo to observe animal behaviour as part of a Children’s University program.

Representatives from the University of Adelaide visited the YES Centre on March 17 to deliver a short lecture entitled ‘Animals Extreme!’

Animal Studies students viewed live footage of animals in their enclosures and observed their behaviours. The animals viewed by zoocams are bilbies, wallabies, stick nest rats, hopping mice and ghost bats.

Ms Wee-Ching Kong, Compass Project Officer from the university’s Office for Future Students, asked students to write down what they observed and record this information in ethograms.

Students learned that an ethogram is a recorded observation of animal behaviour over a set period of time.

For example, recording if an animal is sleeping, eating, running, drinking, grooming, hiding, jumping, digging or any other behaviours.

Many students were expecting the animals to be active, but were surprised to discover the majority were inactive at the time of observation.

In the future, Animal Studies students from the YES Centre will help deliver the program to primary school students.

Ms Karen Wallace, Assistant Principal YES Centre, said she hoped that having secondary students delivering programs such as zoocam to primary students would help to improve the transition process from primary to secondary school.

Health and Physical Education - SHineSA

Over the next few weeks, students in year 8, 9 and 10 will be beginning the SHineSA relationships and sexual health education course as part of the health component of HPE. Topics covered vary across the year levels, but include puberty, relationships, gender, stereotypes, communicating, power, respecting differences, sexualisation in the media, consent, contraception, STIs, condom use, safer sex and pregnancy options.

Here are some comments from last year’s students on what they thought of the course and how it was useful:

“The most important thing I learnt about this topic was that it is important to treat everyone fairly as everyone is human and equal, no matter their religion, sex attraction, gender, etc.”

“It helps you understand the things that are happening to you now or in the future.”

“If something goes wrong I know where I can go for help if I do not know what to do”

“So I can make the right choice”

“Now I have a better understanding on how to stay safe.”

“This course has very important information that can help you in difficult times, and moments that seem awkward when it comes to sexual health and relationships.”

Based on the survey at the end of the topic, an average of 62% of our students said that they would go to their parents/carers to find out more about relationships and sexual health, so we would encourage you to talk to your children about these topics.

If you have any questions about the course, contact Sam Kondraciuk (HPE Coordinator) or your child’s HPE teacher.
Old scholars donate $600 to YES Centre

By Chloe McPherson

A reunion of former Port Augusta High School students raised $600 which was donated to the YES Centre and will now be used to purchase an electronic drum kit and headphones to support music students.

The cheque was presented at a school assembly early in term one.

Mrs Vicki Fullerton is part of the reunion organising group, which also includes Mrs Rosemary Hale, Ms Dianne O’Hanlon, Mrs Beverley Martin and Mrs Dianne Fullerton.

She said the money was donated to the YES Centre because the old scholars group believed the YES program was an excellent concept to support students. “We didn’t have anything like this back in the 1960s”, Mrs Fullerton said.

Port Augusta Secondary School was formerly known as Port Augusta High School and this group of former students held its first reunion in 2010, the 50th anniversary of their first year in high school, which is now referred to as year 8.

In 2010, 160 past students and partners, plus seven past teachers attended. In 2015, 142 past students and partners and nine teachers attended.

Mrs Vicki Fullerton, one of the reunion organisers, said she believed buying a drum kit was a “fabulous idea”.

The donation money was raised by a small reunion attendance fee. Previously in 2010, the money raised was donated to the Cancer Council SA.

The reunion incorporated a tour of PASS, including the YES Centre, a light lunch and then a dinner in the evening at South Augusta Football Club.

Organising the reunion included sending emails, many phone calls and advertising in The Advertiser, Sunday Mail and The Transcontinental.

Despite the hard work that goes into organising the event, Mrs Fullerton says, “It’s great fun organising reunions - I love them”.

“It’s great to interact with different people”.

YES Centre Assistant Principal, Ms Karen Wallace, said the drum kit will be used to support students who are interested in learning to play or developing their skills in music.

PASS Deputy Principal Simon Owens said the reunion was a good opportunity to show case the new PASS. “What I really liked about this event was it enabled us to showcase the new PASS to over 140 past students, many of whom are still locals, and many who have returned to their lives elsewhere with very positive memories of PASS and Port Augusta in general,” Mr Owens said.

Mrs Fullerton hopes that another reunion will be held in 2017.
Pastoral Care Worker

Providing pastoral support to Port Augusta Secondary School staff, students and families.

Port Augusta Secondary School is supported by Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) Ms Margaret Fiegert. Her role is to:

- Work closely and in partnership with leadership and other wellbeing staff in the school to provide pastoral care and practical support to students, families and staff as requested.
- Provide our school with a unique dimension of social, emotional and spiritual support in line with the DECD wellbeing framework.
- Promote student wellbeing, engaging young people in activities that are preventative and which support early intervention and referral of mental health issues.
- Link families to community resources and services by providing information about support and services available through community groups, including church groups.
- The Pastoral Care Worker does not promote or discriminate on the grounds of any particular ideology, but works to enable a supportive, inclusive and caring environment within the school for all students.

Ms Fiegert is based in YES but works across the school and wider community. Contact and appointments can be made through the YES Centre on 8647 3320.

Background

For many years Pastoral Care Workers (previously referred to as School Chaplains) have worked in a number of South Australian Government Schools. The PCW at this school is employed by Schools Ministry Group (SMG).

The Pastoral Care Service is funded by the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP), administered by DECD SA, with additional contribution from the local community.

Other facts about the SMG NSCP Service in SA Government Schools:

- The recruitment process for a Pastoral Care Worker is acknowledged by DECD, and meets the standards required for a religious based role such as a Pastoral Care Worker / Chaplain.
- The Pastoral Care Worker job description does not include provision of Religious Education, and proselytising is explicitly prohibited.
- Pastoral Care Workers appointed are required to have a minimum qualification of Cert IV in Youth Work (or equivalent), and to undertake relevant, ongoing Professional Development.
- All Pastoral Care Workers have a DCSI child related employment screening check and are DECD trained mandated notifiers.
- Access to the Pastoral Care Worker by students is voluntary and parents must give written approval for the Pastoral Care Worker to provide ongoing personal support.

For general enquiries please contact Ms Fiegert or Karen Wallace (Assistant Principal) on 8647 3300 or 8647 3320.

RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE SCREENING

Next term during Week 3, South Australian Health and Medical Research Unit (SAHMRI) will be at Port Augusta Secondary School from Tuesday 17th May till Fri 20th May doing Rheumatic Heart Screenings on Aboriginal Students. If you have not returned your child’s consent form please do so as soon as possible.

Soup will be available in Term 2