



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development



PORT AUGUSTA
SECONDARY SCHOOL
Promoting Success for all Students

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 1 March 2017

DIARY DATES

6 March: Yr 8 Heathgate Resources
Indigenous Student Seminar

8 March: SSSSA Swimming

9 March: early closure 2:00pm -
Sports Day preparation

10 March: Sports Day

13 March: Adelaide Cup holiday

16 March: Close the Gap Day
Gov Council AGM 5pm

17 March: ATSI family coffee
morning (9-11am)

20 March: WASSAC - Roxby Downs

21 March: Harmony Day
ATST Family Voice (5:30-7:30pm)

30 March: Gov Council 5:00pm

3-7 April: Yr 10 IPP work experience

4 April: Yr 10 O.Ed. day climb

5 April: SSSSA Athletics Adelaide

10-13 April: Yr 11 IPP work exp.

13 April: last day of term 1 - early
dismissal 1:30pm

TERM DATES 2017

Term 1: 30 Jan - 13 Apr

Term 2: 1 May - 7 Jul

Term 3: 24 Jul - 29 Sep

Term 4: 16 Oct - 15 Dec

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Principal's report

AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD!

Port Augusta Secondary School welcomes new and continuing students and their families to the 2017 school year. The school also welcomes new teaching staff including: Nick Wedding (HPE), Kerry Edwards (Special Education), Robbie Miller (YES Program) and Kristian Burghof (ICT). The school also welcomes new support staff including Mikayla Hudson (Aboriginal Education), Natalie Walter, Aisha Nunn (classroom support), and Sharna Nadebaum (YES centre). Welcome to all our new staff and we trust their time at the school will be enjoyable and rewarding.

I have been very impressed by the positive start to the year and I congratulate staff and students for their efforts. The school held a BBQ and whole school assembly at the beginning of the term to celebrate the start of the year in recognition of everyone's efforts. We also acknowledged some of the outstanding results from our year 12 students last year which resulted in a SACE completion rate of 97%. This also resulted in many students receiving their preferences at university and TAFE.

THE YEAR AHEAD AND BEYOND

This year is a very significant one for our school as it will see the consolidation of our plans over the last few years and a range of new initiatives to further drive our Improvement agenda. As was mentioned to students at our whole school assembly recently, we now have better facilities, more programs and more student support staff than at any other time including the YES program which is now well established and with improved facilities through well-deserved grant funding, offering an even wider range of learning programs and support services for students and families.

Last year we were informed that our school is receiving \$2.5M for the development of facilities in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This is a significant development for our school and we are currently in the process of developing plans in consultation with the Education Department. See page 4 for some photos of possible interior designs.

Our focus is to work with students to ensure they are taking advantage of the opportunities available for them now and in the near future and that they are working with us in moving towards meaningful pathways, an optimistic future and success for all.

WE NEED PARENT SUPPORT

There are several areas in the school that require both parents and the school to be working closely together.

- **Uniform** - all students are required to be in uniform at school. This assists in the development of our school culture and identity and is also an important safety measure in that it quickly identifies potential intruders. Our policy clearly states that if a student is not in uniform they will need to remain in the main courtyard during breaks. Please contact Student Services if you need any support with uniform requirements.

- **Attendance and Punctuality**

There are clear links between attendance and student achievement. Even missing one day of school means a student will have to make an extra effort to keep up with the rest of the class. We will be keeping a close eye on school attendance this year and will contact parents where patterns emerge to ensure we are all working together to ensure students are taking full opportunity of the opportunities in our school.

Did you know?

If you are absent 5 days every term this means that you would have missed half a year of school by the time you have finished Year 12.

Research shows that one day missed takes four days of effort to catch up.

- **Lunch Passes**

We encourage students to remain at school during the lunch period. We have good canteen and recreation facilities for our students. However, if parents require their child to come home for lunch they must organise a formal lunch pass available through student services.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2017

Parent and community involvement in our school will be very important this year. The school's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 16 March at 5.00pm. The school extends a warm invitation to parents/caregivers and interested community members to attend. During the evening I will be presenting more information relating to the Future Directions of Port Augusta Secondary School. If any parents are interested in participating on our Governing Council or would like more information please contact me at the school.

I look forward to working with staff, students and parents during the exciting year ahead. Port Augusta Secondary School is a good school. Together we are going to make it a great school!



Paul Billows
Principal

STIRLING NORTH BUS RUN



In recent years the numbers of students traveling on the Stirling North bus have been increasing. This year there has been a significant increase. For this reason DECD transport services have approved for the run to be split into two runs, which commenced on Monday 27 February.

Two separate runs has operated successfully in the past and only concluded due to decreased numbers of students traveling from Stirling North.

The new bus timetable is available on the schoolstream app and the school's website under 'For Families / Parent Information'.

STUDENT DROP-OFF ZONES / EMU CROSSING

The Port Augusta City Council is looking into the possibility of installing an emu crossing at the front of the school. Due to this and the increased congestion at drop off and pick up times, the council is also reviewing our pick up/drop off and bus zones.



In the meantime, we wish to remind families that carparks located on school grounds are strictly for staff only. The car parks are not to be used as pick up and drop off zones.

The designated drop off and pick up zone is directly at the front of the school, and in front of the two storey building which runs parallel with Stirling Road, marked by a broken yellow line. We are concerned that parents have been parked in the bus zones, across exits and also stopping in the middle of the road, with students running across in front of oncoming traffic.

2016 SACE achievements

Port Augusta Secondary School would like to congratulate all their students who achieved their SACE with us in 2016. We had 52 out of 54 students successfully achieve their SACE and we had a number of impressive ATAR results including Finlay Mundy (95.15), Connor Shalley (93.8) and Claire Falconer (92.1) who were our highest achieving students.

We would also like to congratulate Katherine Turner who has been successful in winning a Swimming Scholarship to the USA which she will be undertaking from mid year. We look forward to hearing updates on her progress.

Our students achieved a total of 20 A grades including two A+ grades which were awarded to Dylan Hunt in Solo Performance and Ensemble Performance.

Of the students who applied for University entrance, we had 8 students receive a first round offer into their first preference course.

We had 11 Aboriginal students achieve their SACE and we also had 4 students achieve a modified SACE which is a fantastic achievement.

Several of our students have chosen to pursue further study through TAFE this year, as well as a number who have taken up full time employment positions. This includes Trent Ritter and Sharna Nadebaum who are now both members of staff at PASS. Trent is working in Student Services and Sharna in the YES Centre.

We are very proud of their efforts and now we look forward to working with this year's cohort to see what fantastic achievements lay before them. They have made a positive start to the year, participating in some 'goal setting' and 'growth mindset' workshops on day 1 to set them up for a rewarding year.

Sandy Glamuzina
Year 11/12 Assistant Principal

Year 10 outdoor education

On Tuesday week 2 the year 10 Outdoor Education class met at the Port Augusta Aquatic and Outdoor Adventure Centre where they were to spend two days learning about water safety through the sports of kayaking and sailing. Our day sailing was rescheduled to the following week due to extreme heat, giving the students an early introduction into risk management. Students learnt a variety of skills varying from paddling and capsize rescues to packing the right food to fuel their bodies for the day. They also learnt about the weather and the different challenging elements it brought to each activity. The group conquered some fears and absolutely nailed learning to sail in some very challenging conditions that really let their teamwork shine. It was hard to wipe the smiles off their faces and they were highly praised by the centre staff.

Ilona Flockhart, Year 10 Outdoor Education Teacher

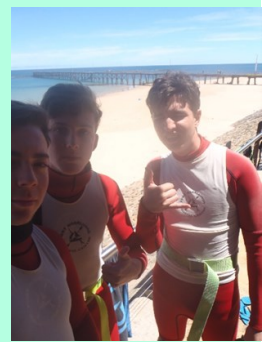


Year 12 outdoor education

From 13 to 15 February, the year 12 Outdoor Education class undertook their first camp, snorkelling in Port Noarlunga. They spent 3 days exploring the reef, getting to know the local flora and fauna and developing their skills. The group had the chance to analyse some local beaches before heading back to relax and discuss their adventures of the day with the group at camp.

Dani Librandi

Year 12 Outdoor Education teacher



From page 1 - STEM Centre interior designs



New SunSmart policy

What do you need to know?

PASS has introduced a new SunSmart policy in 2017. Key points to remember about the policy:

- ⇒ All staff will wear SunSmart hats for yard duty and outdoor lessons throughout the year, to model sun protection measures for students.
- ⇒ Students must wear a hat when participating in knockout sport events, on outdoor excursions and on Sports Day and other athletics carnivals.
- ⇒ All students will have access to sunscreen for outdoor HPE lessons, and are encouraged to wear hats whenever they are outdoors.

Bucket hats are available from Students Services for \$8.50. The full SunSmart policy is available at: www.pass.sa.edu.au - go to 'For Families / Parent Information / download the updated 2017 Parent Handbook.



Samantha Kondraciuk and Sean Everett complying with the SunSmart policy whilst on yard duty

Crows AFLW players run football clinic

The finer art of precision kicking, ball handling and learning to work as a team were some of the tips passed on to Port Augusta Secondary students who took part in a football clinic run by players from the Adelaide Football Club's AFL women's team on Thursday, February 23.

Crows AFLW co-captain Chelsea Randall and player Anne Hatchard took about 40 students through a variety of drills to work on developing and honing football skills.

The session ended with a game of football with students able to use some of the skills they had learned.

Following the clinic, the players signed autographs and posed for photographs with students.



Adelaide Crows AFLW co-captain Chelsea Randall explaining a drill to Ebony-Mae and Brit



Adelaide Crows AFLW player Anne Hatchard signs Vaniah's Crows Guernsey



Tyrell, left and Finn, right, taking part in a drill at the Adelaide Crows AFLW clinic on Thursday



Najjic and Renessa learning new skills



Adelaide Crows AFLW co-captain Chelsea Randall signing Christina's poster at the clinic



Adelaide Crows AFLW player Anne Hatchard (centre back) with PASS students Andrew, Christina, Vaniah, Brit, Renessa, Tyrell, Chantel, Tamika and HPE teacher Clayton Crabbe

Child Wellbeing Program – Northern Country Team

What we do

1. Work with preschools, primary schools and secondary schools to support staff/schools to respond to the wellbeing needs of children, young people and their families.
2. Provide information, advice and support directly to children and their families.
3. Make referrals to other support agencies and/or services who can offer specialised and longer term assistance.

Some of the issues faced by families that the program could assist with include, but are not limited to:

Family breakdown	Family Violence
Parenting Challenges	Behavioural/Social/Emotional issues
Mental Health	Health / Disability
Isolation	Financial Hardship
Substance Misuse	

The program is voluntary, meaning it is up to individuals whether they want to work with the program.



The Child Wellbeing Team - Northern Country

The Northern Country Team consists of five Child Wellbeing Practitioners, a Senior Aboriginal Practitioner and a Team Leader, who all work across a number of sites in the northern country region, including the Barossa region, Yorke Peninsula, Mid North and Port Augusta.

Sonja Tilbrook is the Child Wellbeing Practitioner working with Port Augusta Secondary School, as well as other schools across Port Augusta and Quorn.

What is the process?

The Child Wellbeing Team will have discussed wellbeing needs for a student/family with the school before a family is contacted by a team member. Sometimes however the discussion with the school will be enough, and no contact will need to be made with the family, especially if supports are already in place. Other times, either the school or Child Wellbeing Team will offer the family the service by contacting them.

What might happen?

As stated above, often information and support will be given to the school without a family being contacted. On those occasions when a family is contacted though, and are happy to move forward, the following might be offered:

- Your concerns/views will be listened to not judged.
- Information and advice will be offered to you either over the phone or in person.
- Your consent will be sought to speak to other people/services about your situation.
- Options for long term/specialised support will be suggested to you, and if you are in agreement, referrals to those services will be made.
- The school your child attends will be kept informed and part of the plan where appropriate.

Contact

The Child Wellbeing Team takes referrals from the various schools that each Child Wellbeing Practitioner works with. Therefore schools remain your first point of contact should you have concerns that relate to the wellbeing of your child/family. School staff work closely with the Child Wellbeing Program and will involve the program where it is appropriate.



SPORTS DAY PLANNING

Sports Day is coming up on Friday 10 March (week 6).

Students have been busy practicing for events in their HPE lessons. House meetings were held on Tuesday week 4 with house captains being elected and students nominating for events.

Sports Day will again be based at Central Oval with some events also running on Braddock Oval. Food and drink will be available from the Centrals canteen, and water and sunscreen will be available at house bays and event tents. Events start at 9.00am with presentations at 2.10pm. Students will be dismissed from Central Oval at the end of the presentations.

It would be great to see as many families as possible attending the day!

Keep an eye on schoolstream and the school website for our Sports Day program.

Aboriginal Education

Study Centre for ATSI students

If you would like to attend the study centre, please collect a form from Aboriginal Education or Cheryl Crane. The centre operates:

2.30 to 4.00pm on Mondays

3.00 to 4.30pm on Tuesdays to Thursdays