



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development



PORT AUGUSTA
SECONDARY SCHOOL
Promoting Success for all Students

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 7 July 2017

DIARY DATES

- 24 Jul: STEM Think Tank Adel (24-25/7)
- 26 Jul: Aboriginal family coffee, 9-10.30am
- 27 Jul: Open Boys & Girls basketball
- 1 Aug: Knockout Netball (Whyalla)
- 2 Aug: Yr7 Parent info evening, 6-7.30pm
Yr 12 SAASTA conference (2-3/8)
- 4 Aug: whole school assembly
Term 3 welcome BBQ lunch
- 7 Aug: Scott Darlow performance
Yr 8 Ambassador visits to primary
schools (7-18/8)
Yr 10IP work experience (7-11/8)
- 8 Aug: Yr12 Outdoor Ed camp (8-10/8)
- 14 Aug: National Science week
- 15 Aug: 8/9 boys soccer (Whyalla)
Yr 10/11 Witchelina Camp (15-18/8)
- 16 Aug: Aboriginal family voice, 5:30-7pm
- 17 Aug: Governing Council, 5.00pm
- 18 Aug: Polly camp, Uni open days (18-20/8)
- 21 Aug: Student free day
- 23 Aug: Yr10/11 Marine Sc camp (23-25/8)
- 24 Aug: Yr12 Parent Teacher
interviews (24-25/8)
- 28 Aug: Yr 7 visits to PASS (28/8-7/9)
- 8 Sept: School closure day

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

It has been a very busy time since our last newsletter with a wide range of activity including:

- music and dance performances
- Sorry Day assembly and activities
- Power Cup AFL event
- Operation Flinders
- variety of camps and excursions
- many sporting events
- year 12 formal

Further information relating to some of these events is in this newsletter.

External School Review

Many students, staff and parents participated in our external school review in the last week of term 1 this year. This involved an external panel of DECD leaders conducting an audit of our school's curriculum structure, operations, culture and data such as attendance, student behaviour and achievement. The final report from this review will be published on the school website by the end of July. I urge parents to read this document as a detailed and informative summary of our school. It contains many positive examples of successful student programs at PASS that contribute to our motto of 'Success for All'. The report will also serve as a valuable guide when we develop our new Strategic Plan for 2018-2020.

Student Free Days

Our school recently conducted a student free day on June 30. On this day our staff worked towards 'Collaborative Moderation of the Australian Curriculum'. This is a DECD initiative that all primary and secondary schools are participating in during 2017 and beyond. Put simply, moderation is a process that helps teachers arrive at common understandings about the level that our students are achieving in class within the Australian Curriculum Framework.

A Student Free Day is also planned for **Monday August 21**. The theme for this day is 'Strategic Directions'. Staff will be working towards the analysis of the external school review report and how this valuable information can be used to guide the future directions of our school. Please note that this day and other major school events will be included on the term 3 calendar sent home to all students with their term 2 school report.

Inside this newsletter:

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Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths (STEM) works

A STEM 'Start-up Meeting' has occurred since our last newsletter. At this meeting DECD works representatives, architects and curriculum consultants met with myself and a delegation of PASS staff. Strong partnerships were formed at this meeting resulting in all parties moving forward with a common understanding about our exciting new upcoming STEM building. Let's not forget the new Visual Arts wing planned for the STEM building which will be a welcome, long overdue upgrade to facilities in this important learning area.

A number of students are already immersed in STEM learning. Year 8 students Brian McNamee and Kurtis Gerlach are representing our region at the STEM Ambassador's Camp at Mylor in the second week of the upcoming holidays. Year 10 students Jess Allen and Andrew Hill have recently attended the Aboriginal Learners STEM Think Tank at Adelaide Oval. Both of these events are not 'one off' as the students involved have committed to recruiting many of their peers to be involved in the future.

Visit by Helen Connolly – Commissioner for Children and Young People

Commissioner Connolly will be visiting our school and speaking at our Assembly on Friday August 4 (8.50/am -9.45/am). The purpose of her visit is a 'Listening Tour' of our region. She aims to talk to as many PASS students as possible on the day in the hope of gaining an insight into their needs as young people in a regional centre. After the assembly the Commissioner will have morning tea with our student leadership group and then visit classrooms. Commissioner Connolly is basing her visit on the many good reports that she is hearing about our school.



Simon Owens
Principal

The passing of Auntie Elsie Jackson

The Port Augusta Secondary School Community express our deep and sincere sympathy to family and friends at the passing of Auntie Elsie. As a valued and respected very long serving Aboriginal Education staff member at local secondary schools and the Regional Education Office, as well as her earlier work at Nepabunna, she impacted on so many lives – staff, students and families - in such a positive and lasting way. Many of us will remember her loud laughter, better suited to the Flinders Ranges than a classroom, her warndu damper, Uti pie and other cooking, and some of the Yakartiapina certainly learnt the word Nhapartyi from her. Over the years she single-handedly introduced Port Augusta to the word Ngaingka – everyone uses it now, and which of course is now what we can say with respectful sincerity about her. She will be greatly missed in this community. Well done Auntie, and thank you.

Operation Flinders

Operation Flinders is a program unlike any other at Port Augusta Secondary. Participants are provided with the opportunity to reflect upon their direction in life and given time away from the noise of society. Participants are given the opportunity to develop personal attitudes such as self-confidence, leadership, motivation, team work and responsibility. Participants are taught some basic bush survival skills, abseiling skills and given an opportunity to learn about Aboriginal culture on the land. Nine young men volunteered themselves to undertake this challenge as 'Tango 6'. The 9 volunteers were Aksyl Dunn, Josh Gannon, Will "Bobby" Newbery, Blake Smith, Justin Strangways, Declan Ralph, Josh Baker, Jonathan King and Lachlan Charlesworth who were all pushed out of their comfort zones throughout the whole exercise. Every participant demonstrated throughout the exercise that they were able to achieve things and push themselves further than they even believed. Some of the highlights of the camp included abseiling, visiting an abandoned copper mine and meeting a number of other teams, one of which was at the top of the spectacular Mount Rose. Every participant should be proud of how they conducted themselves and how far they came together as a team while learning about each other's strengths and weaknesses to form a productive and positive team.



Open Mixed Netball

The year 12 PE class went to Whyalla on Tuesday June 27 to compete in an open mixed netball carnival. The idea behind the carnival was to get students and teachers together from schools around the region to compare and benchmark students' practical performance, so that their grades would be confirmed by the moderator in their assessment in term 3. It was also a chance for the students to see how they match up against other year 12's in our region.

The day started well with a win against Roxby Downs 1, keeping them scoreless, with the overall score 29-0. The second Roxby Downs team proved to be stronger competition and the game was a draw at 18-18. In the third game of the day, PASS came out on top of Edward John Eyre's second team with a score of 15-12. After the last break, PASS played the first Edward John Eyre team in the deciding match. It was extremely close, with very accurate shooting from both sides, and many intercepts, but ultimately EJEHS won by just one goal to take out the pennant, with PASS finishing a very close second.

The students displayed an amazing amount of support for one another throughout the games, by encouraging each other, talking tactics and backing each other up in defence. Our work throughout the year in practical lessons was evident in their skilful and strategic game play. They worked together to make sure we played competitive yet fair teams in all games and should all be very proud of themselves.

-Sam Kondraciuk



Aysha Zada, Celeste Ticehurst, Stefan Horner, Slade Petry, Zane Sard, Connor Dwyer

Montel Johnston-Hodshon, Sophie Corbett, Myria Cano-Hall, Kevin O'Connor, Tom Royals

Promoting Success for all Students

S.T.E.M.



On Wednesday of week 9, all year 8 students attended the STEM Regional Lecture Series hosted by The Children's University and The University of Adelaide. It was held at Central Oval so students and their teachers walked over at the end of lunch to spend the double lesson doing a range of activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

The activities included learning about macro-invertebrates, wasps and snakes, where students got to look at both living and preserved samples. Another activity was based on chemical sciences where students did an experiment with M&Ms. The last activity was a catapult building activity, where students had a set time to make a catapult out of

pop sticks, rubbers bands, sticky tape and a plastic spoon that could launch a mini marshmallow into a bucket. The teams got points depending on how close their marshmallow got to the bucket.

The students had a great time doing the hands-on activities and learning about STEM, and the presenters also gave them a lot of information on studying at university. The advice from the presenters was to "try your best in everything you do" and to "make sure you do something that you love". Hopefully the passion and enthusiasm the presenters had for science and technology has rubbed off on some of our students!

- Miss Kondraciuk



Emily, Lyeisha, Adele and Dakota



Open Girls Football



Open Girls Knockout Football

On Wednesday May 24, Port Augusta Secondary School hosted the open girls knockout football at ETSA Oval. PASS played against teams from Samaritan College and Roxby Downs Area School in a 15-a-side round robin competition.

The first game of the day was against Samaritan. It was a tough match to start with as Samaritan used their strength in contests to win the ball and had the majority of scoring opportunities. The PASS girls worked hard to put a score on the board but the opposition were just too strong which resulted in a loss, 0.3 (3) to 6.6 (42).

The second game for PASS was against Roxby who were extremely organised, having had several training sessions over the past month. They proved to be too good for PASS with the final result 1.2 (8) to 9.8 (62).

Thanks to the 17 year 10-12 girls who took the field and tried their best. Also thank you to Connor, Monique and Abbey who helped with the field and goal umpiring throughout the day and to Mr Shillabeer for organising the girls on the field, giving feedback during breaks and umpiring.



Back left: Rachel Munn, Soraya Lambadgee, Chevon McKenzie, Tamika Reid, Shawuana Kennedy, Amelia McKenzie, Taela McKinlay, Danielle Brown, Izzy Ralph, Ebony Reinertsen, Lily Ticehurst, Chloe Brusnahan

Front left: Abbey Renshaw, Shawndelle Saunders Connor McMillan, Takiyha Yarren, Tyrell Yarren, Shelbie-Rae Allen-Hammer, Tylah Winton, Monique Alchin

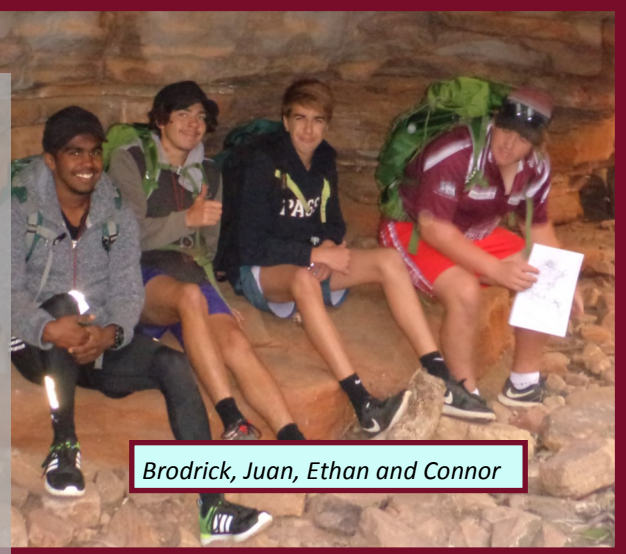
YR 10 BUSHWALK

On Tuesday the 20th, Miss Flockhart's year 10 Outdoor Ed class went to Alligator Gorge for an overnight bushwalk. The class trekked uphill and down throughout the day to uncover the beautiful parts within the Gorge. We explored the Narrows, the Terraces, and the stunning view of the power station from the Battery range. We learnt important ways to navigate and contour using small detailed maps and a compass.

- Abbey Renshaw and Lily Ticehurst



Jake, Clay, Danielle, Connor, Bailey, Abbey, Lily and Chloe



Brodrick, Juan, Ethan and Connor



Bailey, Sebastian, Clay, Abbey, Lily, Shavana & Chloe

DRAMA NIGHT

The Arts Faculty has been so productive this year, that we could not join together in a combined Music/ Drama evening because we had produced so much work, and this was something to be celebrated. Within the Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Drama classes, 12 plays were written, adapted, produced and presented in the Week 6 evening of Drama.

The first part of the evening's programme was the first performance of the play that I wrote in 2014, *'Waiting for Something'*. 2014 was a truly inspirational time for me as I returned to the world of performing arts after spending time away in leadership and research. At that time, my Year 9 Drama class was studying the themes from Samuel Beckett's Absurdist play *'Waiting for Godot'*, and week by week I wrote scene after scene, and the script was workshopped and developed in collaboration with the students but was not performed because we lost the main character when he left PASS to live overseas. For the next couple of years, I looked for the 'right' group of students to direct, and this finally happened in 2017 when an amazing group of Year 10 Drama students came into my class.

The play was adapted for the class and finally the play was on its way to performance.

The play evolved into an exploration of how we often spend our lives waiting for something to happen rather than appreciating every moment that we are living. The play explored what 'home' means; what it is to 'feel love' and 'to feel safe', and the courage that it takes to accept diversity and to face your fears.



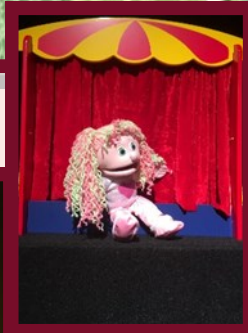
DRAMA NIGHT

Puppetry was the focus of study for my Year 9 Drama class in first semester, and so we presented, a number of short puppet plays throughout the evening's program that entertained and reminded us of what it is to believe in the possibility of an inanimate object becoming 'real'.

The young puppeteers did a great job of developing their voices, movement skills and gymnastic abilities in order to manage a wide range of puppets behind the set.

Year 9 students delivered the play "Parents" and applied their acting skills to the roles of students and parents. Andrew Hill and Blaise Ballard entertained us with the portrayal of **Steve and Edgar** and how a simple chemistry experiment led to a major disaster and a trip to the Principal's office which Steve was very familiar with, but was a new experience for Edgar.

The Creative Writing class provided the entertaining backdrop for the play "**Puppet Show**" in which Joel Baker and Jamie Walker played the students who were expected to write a puppet show, with some very funny moments displaying excellent puppets skills.



DRAMA NIGHT

Year 12 Drama students Zac Lentsment and Jemma

Newman played the feuding Grasshopper and Ant respectively in "The Ants and the Grasshopper".

The lazy Grasshopper soon learns the power of the Ants when he meets the *Milit-Ant* played by Gordon Meyers, and meets the ultimate fate.

Jemma joined the Year 11/12 Drama class late in Term 1 and displayed her strong ability in this subject by taking up two more major roles, as the student in "Mismatched" partnered by Abby Green, who played the lady in the front office. This play was dedicated to our front office ladies who patiently listen to students as they offer reasons for wanting to leave the school grounds.

Jemma's final role was in the very clever "*Little Red Riding Hood – Grandma's Revenge*", a play that was performed in the USA in a twisted fairy-tale competition. The play certainly introduced us to a new interpretation of the "big bad wolf" through the very contemporary context in which "Mother" played by Abby Green was a working mum, struggling to get ahead in a male-dominated world, and Lupa, played by Nell Miller, the so-called friend who turns out to be the 21st century wolf. Tom Royals played "Grandma" and displayed his skills in roles that are stranger than most.

The final play for the evening was 'Zombie Love', telling the story of Emily (Nell Miller) who has fallen in love with a Zombie called Walter (Tom Royals) and how Emily's best friend, Kathy (Abby Green) makes demands on Emily to give up Walter and return to her family and to normal life. Emily finally comes up with a solution, and Kathy joins Walter as a zombie and they become a happy threesome, or so Emily thinks, until it is too late! Special makeup, and costumes were developed for the play.





2017 ABORIGINAL POWER CUP

Port Augusta Secondary students have dominated the award ceremony at the 2017 Aboriginal Power Cup. The girl's team coached by Lucas Hill and Mikayla Hudson went through the carnival 5-1 and were unlucky to not go undefeated against quality metropolitan opposition. The girl's team also won the curtain raiser grand final at Adelaide Oval before the Port Adelaide vs Hawthorn match. To make this final students needed to complete a number of practical and academic tasks to be judged against 15 other state-wide South Australian Sports Training Academy (SAASTA) academies. The quality of work produced by the students was highlighted by the team taking out the Curriculum Excellence award. Adding to the list of awards on the night, Jake Strangways won the best Guernsey design award which was clear favourite at the carnival. Well done to all students and staff on a spectacular and memorable achievement.

- Sam Carter



Back (L-R) Sam Carter, Isabel Ralph, Jake Strangways, Arthur Bromley, Shawuana Kennedy, Jason Parrot, Tyrell Yarran, Connor McMillan, Ethan Johnson, Zakiah Johnson-Thomas, Darren Mohamed-Nan, Sean Taylor, Juan Braden-McAllister, Lucas Hill, Mikayla Hudson
Front (L-R) Ebony Reinertsen, Nadene Barnes, Tamika Fielding, McClay Martin, Jessica Allen, Chevon McKenzie, Tamika Reid, Takiyha Yarran, Shelbie-Rae Allen-Hammer, Danielle Brown, Amelia McKenzie.



ARABANA LANGUAGE CLUB

ARABANA LANGUAGE CLUB

Arru! During term 3 I am volunteering to run a language club for a small group of people. I hope to get about 5 or 6 secondary students and maybe the same number of young adults to meet once a week for 10 weeks and see if we can use some of the language recordings to get better at using Arabana in our daily lives.

At this stage the plan is to meet:

at the University of Adelaide (next to Cheap as Chips) and then later in the Arabana Centre

2.30 – 4.00pm Mondays

Starting July 31, (Term 3 Week 2)

There will be no cost, just an enthusiastic commitment! You would need to make your own travel arrangements. Please contact me by one of the ways below if you and/or your child is interested and can make this commitment.

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UNIDENTIFIED DEPOSIT INTO SCHOOL ACCOUNT



Money was deposited into our school bank account on 30/1/2017 from **Bendigo Bank**, with a reference of 'M&SCHG2017' but with no name reference. If you made this deposit please contact the school A.S.A.P. with proof of your deposit, so this amount can be credited to your account.

