



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development



**PORT AUGUSTA
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
Promoting Success for all Students

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 9 December 2016

DIARY DATES

12 to 13/12/16 year 7 transition

14 to 15/12/16 Yr 8/9 modified
program

16/12/2016 early dismissal (from
swimming pool) end of year 1:30pm

2017

Thurs 19/1 to Wed 25/1/2017:
office open for payment of m&s
charge, school card, uniforms,
collection of stationery packs

30/1/2017 first day of term 1 -
welcome BBQ & music

6/2/2017 whole school assembly

13/2/2017 school photos

15/2/2017 year 8 parent meeting &
BBQ 6:00pm

16/2/2017 open boys cricket;
Governing Council 5:00pm

21/2/2017 Sports Day house
meetings

24/2/2017 student free day
'Planning & Programming for
Learning'

9/3/2017 early closure 2:00pm

10/3/2017 Sports 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

LOOKING TOWARDS THE 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

This is a very busy time of the year for our school as we make arrangements around staffing, timetables, budgets and new programs. It is also an exciting time for staff and students as course work is being completed and holidays are fast approaching.

During the year the school has been working toward its strategic directions and priorities especially relating to:

- improving student literacy and numeracy outcomes, senior secondary achievements and post school options
- further improving how we support our identified Students with a Disability especially relating to making curriculum adjustments and accommodations
- further involvement of student voice in the teaching-learning process through the idea of developing 'Growth Mindsets' and working together to develop 'Expert Learners'
- the further development of our Community Hub (YES Centre), further expanding the wide variety of services and programs for students and families.

There have been a wide range of new strategies being implemented this year to support the schools work in these areas including the expansion of the Empowering Local Schools Numeracy Program involving all the public schools and preschools in Port Augusta. Literacy intervention programs in the school to identify and support some of our students who are below benchmarks. We are also looking at making some adjustments to our key priority areas during 2017 in response to recent analysis of key achievement data. We are confident that working together as a partnership of schools and working with our students and families we will be able to improve numeracy, literacy standards and other key achievement outcomes for all of our students.

Next year will also see plans develop further for our 2.5 million dollar Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) centre together with plans for a new Visual Arts facility. These plans have the potential to further transform our school in terms of state of the art facilities and equipment and twenty first century curriculum offerings.

We will be passing on further information relating to our priorities early next year as we refine our plans and strategic directions.

Our year 12 students have completed their schooling and are now eagerly awaiting their results and news of their pathway for 2017. We wish them the best for their futures and trust they will reflect fondly on their time at Port Augusta Secondary School.

We would also like to remind families that we will be running an activities week program during the last three days of the school year and that we will be finishing at 1.30pm on the last day of school, Friday December 16.

Paul Billows
Principal



Physical Education Week week 5 – 14 to 18 November *'Be Active, All Ways!'*

Physical Education Week offers South Australian students the chance to participate in a variety of activities and learn new skills. It celebrates the importance of active and healthy living in the lives of South Australian children. This year, the theme was 'Be Active, All ways!'

Several activities were run during the week at PASS. On Monday, Mr Kildea had a Frisbee competition, where students tried to throw the Frisbee the longest or do their best 'trick shot'. Mr Crabbe ran houseboat races on Tuesday, and Miss Librandi had students and staff playing bocce on Wednesday. Students were encouraged to wear their best sporting outfit or top on Thursday, and care groups participated in Miss Kondraciuk's daily care group quiz, with Mr Hill's year 10 care group taking out the top prize.

Physical activity information:

- ⇒ Children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years should do a minimum of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.
- ⇒ Children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years should not spend more than two hours per day on small screen entertainment.
- ⇒ Physical activity plays an important role in helping children and young people to be fit and healthy, including maintaining a healthy weight, developing strong bones and muscles, and helps with relaxation, self-esteem and social skills.
- ⇒ Physical activity can be as simple as family activities, playing with friends, or getting to places by walking or cycling.

be active.

Textiles students bring festive cheer to YES centre

Festive cheer was brought to the YES centre by Textiles students who made their own Christmas decorations and placed them on a tree in the entrance to the centre.

Students in years 8-11 designed and made fabric and ribbon decorations during their Textiles lessons in term four.

They used skills such as tacking, blanket stitch, beading, sequinning, embroidery and gathering to make an array of different decorations. There were stars, reindeers, Santas, stockings, gingerbread men, hearts, bells, Christmas trees and puddings, angels, snowflakes and spirals.

They also made a fabric garland with the words "Merry Christmas" which was hung next to the decorated tree.



Chantel, Tahlia and Britnee place some of the decorations they made in Textiles lessons on the Christmas tree in the YES centre.

SCHOOL PHOTOS - 2017

School Photos in 2017 will be taken by 'The School Photographer' on Monday 13 February (week 3 of term 1). Please refer to your 2017 Parent Handbook for pricing details. These will be posted home with 2017 Information Packs prior to Christmas and will also be available on the school website - www.pass.sa.edu.au



RFDS tour an eye-opener for students

Students studying health programs in the YES centre received an insight into the operations of the Royal Flying Doctor Service when they visited the Port Augusta base last month.

Students studying Certificate II in Health Support Services and Certificate III in Individual Support toured the RFDS base on November 7.

Mrs Emily Doran, who delivers the courses in the YES centre, said the students watched a film on how the RFDS was started and did a tour of the building. They toured the communications room where at the time there were three planes in the air for South Australia and Northern Territory.

"We went into the clinical/waiting area and were shown the training rooms where nurses practice their skills to keep up to date," Mrs Doran said.

"We then got shown through the plane. It was a lot smaller than anticipated!"

Mrs Doran said it was a "great tour".

Year 11 student Isabelle Harrison was one of the students who went on the tour.

"I thought the best part of the visit was going inside the plane and seeing what it was like in there," she said.

"It was so tiny."



YES centre student Bella and Joanne from Pika Wiya about to look inside the RFDS plane.

Students gain learner driver permits

Twelve students from Port Augusta Secondary School attended a learner driver program and received their Learner's Permits on Wednesday, November 16. The program was funded by the Workabout centre.

Workabout Coordinator, Ms Natalie Giles said students attended a theory session in the morning, delivered by Accustom Driving School. Then, they did some practice give way questions and practice tests, before sitting their actual Learner's Permit test in the afternoon.

Ms Giles said a staff member from Services SA came to PASS to conduct the tests in the afternoon.

Year 10 YES centre student Macacia Marich said she thought the program was a good way to sit her learner's permit and she was very happy to pass.

"I felt more comfortable and not under pressure," she said.

"They explained everything to you to make it as simple as they could."



Hannah, Tahnee, Macacia and Christina were some of the students who received their learner's permits.

A proud history of courage, service and sacrifice

The enormity of war and realisation of the sacrifices made by many to enable us to live the lives we do in Australia today was the overwhelming message YES centre students took away from their **visit to the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience in November.**

The travelling exhibition was at Port Augusta's Central Oval complex from November 9-14.

The realisation that many who went to the First and Second World Wars were of similar age to a lot of many of the students was confronting for some.

"They were not fully mature and volunteered to go off to war and they didn't know what they were signing up for," year 10 student Ethan Blair said.

Students learned about Australia's history of courage, service and sacrifice from the First World War, through all of the conflicts up to the present day.

"My favourite part was the weapons exhibit where it explained it all in detail," Ethan said.

"I also liked the part about what happened to them after the war when they came home and they didn't have anything.

Some ended up homeless because they couldn't deal with what they had seen and experienced."



The 'Lest We Forget' gallery was a place of reflection, contemplation and commemoration.



YES centre student Christina learning about the role nurses played during the wars.



For more than 100 years, Australia's armed forces have been involved in conflict, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief around the world.



Major Craig Chatterton (right) from the Australian Army Cadets (centre) talks with students Jessie (back) and Britnee about the skills young people can gain from being an army cadet.

Student learn about benefits of joining army cadets

The benefits and skills that can be gained from joining the Australian Army cadets were outlined to PASS students in a presentation by Major Craig Chatterton in the YES Centre last month.

Major Chatterton told students that army cadets are offered challenging and inspiring experiences while learning valuable life and work skills.

He said it was also a way for young people to have fun, make new friends, be part of a team, learn to take responsibility and gain leadership skills.

Cadets learn bush and camping skills, abseiling, communication, fieldcraft, orienteering and map reading, he said.

Cadets also get to attend annual camps and participate in challenging opportunities during the school holidays and on weekends.

The middle school arts showcase

For much of the school year, the arts faculty focuses on ensuring that our senior students have all the opportunities to shine brightly in their chosen arts form, whether it be in a performance, or completing a practical art work.

Working diligently alongside these students from years 11 and 12 are the younger arts students in years 8, 9 and 10 - the drama, music, dance and visual arts students working diligently to master their techniques, and develop their creativity and ensemble skills, and finally the time comes to present their work to the wider audience.

That's what happened on Wednesday 30 November in the PASS theatre to a packed audience of supportive families, friends, teachers and community members. It was wonderful to see so many year 12 drama and music graduates attending the event, looking forward to seeing who will carry the arts torch now that they have moved on. And what talent there was!

The music students again demonstrated their high level skills as each ensemble made their way to the music area, presenting a wide range of music from the theme from 'Game of Thrones' to 'Seven Nation Army'. Mr Alex Spalding has made a very strong impact on the development of music since his arrival in 2015. There is no doubt that we can look forward to some amazing senior music students in years to come.

The dance students had been studying the work of famous choreographer Bob Fosse, and looking at how dance is portrayed in musicals, so there was a combination of styles on offer as they danced to the music of Dave Brubeck; music from 'Sweet Charity' and 'Sister Act 2'.

The two drama performances completely engaged the audience, and showed the strong abilities of the year 9 and 10 drama students.

The visual arts exhibition, once again demonstrated a wealth of talent and creativity under the exceptional teaching from Ms Tiffany Isterling, Mr David Clark, and Mrs Marie Frahm.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this event highly successful, and to everyone for supporting the Showcase.

Dr Robyn Hewitson - [Arts Coordinator](#)



SAASTA year in review

This year in the South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy (SAASTA) students have experienced a flat out year of sport, cultural learning and academic achievement. Students have attended and performed well at both the SAASTA Aboriginal Power Cup and SAASTA Shield Baseball and Ultimate Frisbee carnivals. The stage 2 students organised, with the assistance of the stage 1 students, a cultural day held at the Port Augusta Youth Centre. The day was attended and enjoyed by Carlton Primary school students who participated in a number of different activities, including traditional Yulunga Games, Dreaming stories with damper preparation and cooking and dot painting.



This year Maria Edwards, Shianne Bendessi, Ethan Strangways, Aamish Warren, James Rathman, Tyrell Yarran, Nadene Barnes, Maddison Bodger, Shauna Thompson and Tamika Fielding completed their Certificate III in Sport and Recreation, an outstanding accomplishment which will open a number of different opportunities in the workforce. Congratulations also to Ethan Strangways and Shauna Thompson who have obtained their SACE certificate. Both these

students have worked exceptionally hard throughout the year to achieve their goals and the Aboriginal education team wish them all the best in the future.



A special mention needs to be given to Tyrell Yarran, Aysha Zada, Tamika Reid and Jess Allan who have been selected in the playing squad in the 2017 SAASTA Indigenous netball academy. This is an amazing accomplishment by the girls which will allow them to complete their Certificate III in Fitness as well as competing at the 2017 netball championships on the Gold Coast and potentially a trip to Fiji.



This year has been a fantastic year for the Port Augusta academy, with processes already put in place to ensure next year is even better. To find out more about the SAASTA senior school academy please contact Sam Carter at Port Augusta Secondary school on (08) 8647 3300.



Beauty students get creative

Beauty students in the YES centre demonstrated their flair for the creative and the dramatic when they completed their final practical assessments on November 22. Mrs Kristy Kuhn, who delivers the Certificate II in Retail Skincare and Make Up, said the students, who are all in year 11, had to both design and create a creative make up theme.

"A major component of Certificate II in Retail Skincare and Make Up is to design and create a creative make up," she said. She said once students were competent in analysing the skin type and the face shape of their clients, and the application of make up in both day and evening, they were required to choose a theme which interests them.

"They need to design a portfolio which includes sketches, pictures of ideas which they may need, and an explanation on hair, back drop etc," Mrs Kuhn said.

Alex Schumann worked on a 'Drag' theme, Matilda Irons had the 'Mad Hatter' and Tahli Ilich produced her interpretation of a 'Modern Clown'.

"After many practises and lots of time thinking and planning their design, the girls were able to achieve amazing creative make ups," she said.

"A job well done girls. See what can be achieved when you put your mind to it."



Tahli, with her 'Modern Clown' creative make up on Tarika, and Alex with her 'Drag' theme on Matilda.



Matilda creating 'The Madhatter' on Alex.

2017 information packs

Information packs will be posted home to families prior to Christmas. These packs will include: materials & services charge invoices, parent handbook, personal information update, and information on uniform, attendance, partnerships agreement, dental services, schoolstream, canteen, etc.

office opening times

The office will be open to organise invoice payment, school card and uniform at the following times:

Thursday 19 /1/17	8:00am - 3:30pm
Friday 20/1/17	8:00am - 3:30pm
Monday 23/1/17	8:00am - 3:30pm
Tuesday 24/1/17	8:00am - 3:30pm
Wednesday 25/1/17	8:00am - 6:00pm

Please note that we will be closed on

Thursday 26/1/17 &
Friday 27/1/17