



PRINCIPALS REPORT

AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD!



Port Augusta Secondary School welcomes new and continuing students and their families to the 2021 school year.

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 on the first day of school to celebrate the start of the year in recognition of everyone's efforts and to welcome our new students and staff. I also wish to acknowledge some of the outstanding results from our year 12 students last year which resulted in a SACE completion rate of about 94% and some very high individual scores. This also resulted in many students receiving their preferences at university and TAFE.

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THE YEAR AHEAD AND BEYOND – EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Our new Science, Technology, Engineering and Science (STEM) facility is now fully operational and delivering highly innovative programs across all year levels. This new facility is a world class learning environment for our students and together with new contemporary curriculum pathways it will help prepare our students for jobs of the future.

Last year the South Australian Government announced that our school will receive further capital works funding to assist preparations for year 7 students starting in 2022 and support predicted future growth of our school. This work has now begun.

This is a fantastic opportunity to further upgrade our school infrastructure and provide contemporary facilities for innovative learning.

These developments will further support our ability to provide world class educational opportunities for our students together with a broad range of pathways allowing all student to achieve success.



New Year 7 Facility

PORT AUGUSTA SECONDARY SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

Phillips/Pilkington Architects PIP

I will share more information about this project and the Year 7-Secondary School Initiative with you and families of current year 6 and 7 students during the year.

DIARY DATES

- 25 Feb— SUN Orientation (1-3pm)
- 25 Feb—Governing Council AGM (5:30pm)
- 1 Mar—Snr Leadership Conference—ADL
- 3 Mar—Family Voice (5:30pm)
- 3 Mar—Yr8 Clontarf camp
- 5 Mar—Student free day—staff T&D
- 8 Mar—Adelaide Cup—Public holiday
- 9 Mar—Yr9/10 Clontarf camp
- 18 Mar—Governing Council (5.00pm)
- 19 Mar—Leaders day—Adelaide
- 22 Mar—WASSAC (Ceduna)
- 29 Mar—SSSSA Athletics
- 31 Mar—Clontarf family BBQ/Info (5.00pm)
- 2 Apr—Good Friday—Public holiday
- 5 Apr—Easter Monday—Public holiday
- 9 Apr—End of Term (1:30pm finish)

Reminder for 2021

Students with BYOD must consistently use their own device at school to be eligible for credit to their account.

TERM DATES 2021

- Term 1: 27 Jan - 9 Apr
- Term 2: 27 April - 2 Jul
- Term 3: 19 Jul - 24 Sep
- Term 4: 11 Oct - 10 Dec

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Government of South Australia

Department for Education



WE NEED PARENT/CARER 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 advantage 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

As you would be aware lunch passes are only available for students in years 11-12.

We encourage all students to remain at school during the lunch period and we have excellent canteen facilities and recreation facilities for our students. However, if parents of year 11-12 students require their child to come home for lunch they must organise a formal lunch pass available through student services.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY FEB 25

Parent and community involvement in our school will be very important this year. The school's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for February 25 at 5.30pm. The school extends a warm invitation to parents/caregivers and interested community members to attend. During the evening Helen Cox our Chairperson and 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 very exciting year ahead.

Paul Billows
Principal



BREAKFAST CLUB!

The 2021 breakfast club is back in business. If you're looking for breakfast or a snack for later, come down to the aboriginal education room on Tuesdays and Thursdays and grab a bite to eat.



New Teaching Staff 2021



Ms Chloe Grantham



Mr Ben Vanderloos



Ms Tayla Sibley



Ms Emily Li



Ms Sophie Reid



Mr Ioan Marincus

The Port Augusta Secondary School welcomes new teaching staff including: Ioan Marincus (English & Humanities), Sophie Reid (English & Humanities), Emily Li (Mathematics), Chloe Grantham (Aboriginal Education and Learning Mainstream), Tayla Sibley (Special Education) and Ben van der Loos (ICT and STEM).

BOOKROOM SHOP

If you have lost a pen, pencil, book, or other stationary, or maybe need to buy a USB. Student Services have all the following and more:

Pens/Pencils \$0.55

Rulers \$0.60

Exercise books \$0.65 & \$1.20

Scissors \$2.00

16GB USB \$7.00



New School Support Staff 2021



Kate Brusnahan



Elaine Ladesma



Kaleesha Thompson



Kimberley Marden



Olivia Boyd



Summa Fotiou

We are also very pleased to welcome Kimberley Marden who joins us in an Aboriginal School Education Officer role working in our YES Centre, Elaine Ladesma who is supporting the Resource Technology Centre and Olivia Boyd, Kate Brusnahan, Kaleesha Thompson, and Summa Fotiou working in classroom support.

UNIFORM SHOP

If you were waiting on size 14 hooded jumpers, the order has now arrived. All sizes are available from student services \$44 each.



YES Centre News

YES Animal Studies program

The Animal Studies program in YES has some interesting new creatures this term, including a juvenile Central Bearded Dragon, some Rhinoceros Beetles and Antlions.

A competition is being held to name the new lizard, which arrived on Monday of week 4. She is proving a popular new addition and, having been hand-reared, she enjoys being handled and is very curious about students moving around near her enclosure.



The YES Centre obtained the Rhinoceros Beetle larvae in term 3 last year and they have now matured through their three stages into beetles.



Three Antlions also joined the program during week 4. Students have been keeping observational notes and recording photographic evidence.

