SPORTS DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

Sports day was held on Friday March 11 and what a day it was.

Mrs Richman and I had some big decisions to make and a little nervous about what the weather was going to be like on the day, but it turned out to be a magical day. Staff were out on the oval from 6:00am setting up the day and what a magnificent job they did.

The day started with a very moving Opening Ceremony presented by ‘Dusty Feet Mob’ from Port Augusta, highlighting that we are all one and the importance of our school value of inclusion. For our students to gain an understanding of Aboriginal Culture through a traditional Aboriginal dance was significant.

As you can see by the scores below I wasn't lying when I said that this was the closest Sports Day I have seen in eight years.

The participation trophy award went as follows:

1st Hummock 205 points
2nd Laura 204 points
3rd Young 186 points

The Penman Cup (Tabloid events)

1st Young 154 points
2nd Laura 140 points
3rd Hummock 138 points

Overall Athletics Shield
1st Young 777 points
2nd Hummock 709 points
3rd Laura 663 points

Individual Award Winners
Young Ambassador Award: Jonathon Traum
Hummock Ambassador Award: Emily Gloede
Laura Ambassador Award: Zoe Papadontas
Year 8 Boy Champion: Tyrone Coulter
Runner Up: Reece O’Callaghan and Marcus Dunn
Year 8 Girl Champion: Tullie Harris
Runner Up: Lucy Cole
Year 9 Boy Champion: Jake Hickey
Runner Up: Norielle Rubillar
Year 9 Girl Champion: Emma Ainsworth and Amalia Evans
Year 10 Boys Champion: Randall Bickley
Runner Up: Adam Chudleigh and Mark Dugan
Year 10 Girl Champion: Tayla Hart Aluni

Throughout the day there were lots of records broken and this was a true indication of the athleticism that was demonstrated on Sports Day. A quick mention must go to the following people - Teena, Julie, Leanne and Troy for the catering and drinks on the day, Westlands Hotel for supplying the drink coolers, Foodland Essington Lewis Avenue for donating the ice, Shiell party Hire for the marquees, Quality Sand Yard for the sand, to the staff at Whyalla High School thank you for all your support before and during the day, the parents for coming out and supporting our Sports Day and lastly to the students thank you for your positive behaviour, sportsmanship and teamwork you demonstrated all day.

Sean Sheedy
HPD Coordinator
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 15 MARCH 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Community Members,

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through term one. It has been very pleasing to see students so settled and engaged in their learning. The year 8’s are fitting into high school life very well, year 9’s are enjoying learning in the new classrooms and the year 10’s are extremely settled and focussed on their studies.

Congratulations to Ms Jenna Hewlett, who has been appointed as Deputy Principal for terms 1 and 2. I would like to officially welcome two new staff members to the Whyalla High School team. Ms Daisy Keating is working in the Learning Centre, as well as doing some PE and a Girls Group. Ms Leanne Cole has also started as a Curriculum SSO working in year 9 and 10 classrooms.

School Leaders
I am very happy to announce that Emily Gloede and William McKenna are our 2016 School Leaders. Harry Dunn, Sarah Simmonds and Georgia O’Bona are our Deputy School Leaders.

All leaders submitted a written application to staff and then gave a speech at assembly. All Care Groups then voted to decide who our 2016 School Leaders would be. Next week our five leaders will be attending a Leadership Conference in Adelaide with Mr Gapp and Ms Bennett.

Sports Day
Sports Day was a huge success last Friday. Mr Sean Sheedy did an exceptional job of organising the day, which started with an official opening ceremony by the ‘Dusty Feet Mob’. This performance was a very special way to start our Sports Day. Even though the weather was quite warm the behaviour and participation from students was excellent. It was also fantastic to see so many parents and family members out supporting the students.

Social Media
Social Media is an extremely effective way to deliver information about events happening at the school. When used properly, it is beneficial for students, staff, parents and the wider community. Can I please remind all users of our school Facebook page that posting inappropriate and disrespectful comments is not acceptable. If you have any issue that you would like to discuss please ring and make an appointment to see myself, Jenna Hewlett or a member of the leadership team.

Pupil Free Day
Friday April 1 will be our first Pupil Free Day for 2016. While students have the day off, staff will be engaged in sessions around using data, providing feedback to students and ways to differentiate the curriculum.

Staff will also have the opportunity to meet with the Feasibility Study consultants to discuss education options for Whyalla in the future.

Learning Conversations
Monday April 4 and Wednesday April 6, from 2.30pm to 8.00pm, will be when our Learning Conversations with parents and caregivers takes place. This year appointments will be made online.

These conversations provide you with up to date information about how your child is progressing with their learning, engagement and behaviour at school. Over the next few weeks your child’s care group teacher will ring and see if you would like to make a time with your child’s teachers.

Due to these Learning Conversations, school will finish at 2.15pm on Wednesday April 6. Jenna Hewlett, Don Gapp and I are also available if you would like to make an appointment to speak with us.

Knockout Cricket
Well done to the year 10 cricket team who won their first game and now travel to Adelaide next week to play in a state final.

Year 10 Transition
Our Year 10 students have begun their transition to Edward John Eyre High in 2017. Last week teachers from Edward John Eyre High came to speak with all year 10 students about subject choices and pathways. As the year progresses on, year 10 students will be involved in a range of transition activities/events to ensure a positive start to year 11 in 2017.

Camp Letters and Invoices
Over the past few weeks a range of camp letters, medical forms and invoices have been sent home with students. These include Year 8 Camp, Year 10 Tertiary Pathways Camp, Outdoor Ed Camp and Knockout Sports events. This year all camps will include a non refundable deposit. If you would like to arrange payment plans around your child’s camp or excursion, please come and see staff at Student Services or speak with our Business Manager, Ms Christine Rehn. If you have specific questions about a camp, please speak with your child’s care group teacher.

Governing Council
Our next Governing Council meeting is Monday March 21 at 7.00pm in the staff room. We still have vacancies and need to elect a Governing Council Chairperson. If you are interested in being a member of the Governing Council, please come and see me.

I wish you all a safe, happy and relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing many parents and caregivers at our Learning Conversation sessions.

Tricia Richman
Principal
CONGRATULATIONS ETHAN HUNTER

Below is an account of what Ethan Hunter has done this year in the lead up to his National selection.

On February 21 2016, Ethan attended the first major Judo competition for the year in Canberra. Judo players earn points for attending comps and also for winning medals at these competitions.

This year is Ethan's first year in the cadet division where the young men range in age from 14.5 years to 16.5 years and with weight grades from under 42kg to over 90kg. Ethan was in the over 90kg division, with a weight of 94kg he was the lightest with competitors being 105kg and above.

Ethan had three fights in total against boys from NSW and WA. His first win with the fist was with a Hipon where he threw the boy for an instant 100 points.

His second win was won with a chock hold with the other player having to tap out. Ethan then went into the gold medal contention round where he played against a boy from New Zealand. He lost this round to a Hipon giving him the silver medal.

The points Ethan gained from these fights have given him a national ranking of 2nd in Australia for his age and weight class.

On 24 February he received notice that he has been selected as part of the National team to represent Australia at the up and coming Oceania competition to be held in April this year.

Due to the lack of preparation time before the competition, Ethan and his coaches have decided not to accept the offer at this time and will focus on gaining a national title at this year's Australian Nationals to be held in June.

Thank you to all who attended and also to the parents who accepted nomination for membership of the GC and it's sub-committees.

There are still a few vacancies and I invite you to consider nominating as a member of GC and/or a sub-committee.

Governing Council meets twice each term on Monday evenings. Meetings run from 7.00pm for approximately two hours. No previous experience is necessary, just your interest.

The sub-committees of Governing Council; Finance, Grounds/Assets/Facilities and Canteen each meet once or twice a term at a time that suits the members and usually run for less than an hour. Members of any of these sub-committees may be but do not have to be Governing Council Members.

All of these roles are very important to the operations of our school and members find their involvement to be quite rewarding.

If you would like to have a say in the future directions of the school, be involved in the decision and policy making process and be active in the school community that your child attends please consider becoming a member of Governing Council and/or a sub-committee.

If you would like to know more, please contact the school.

Jan Wakeling, Secretary
Whyalla High School Governing Council

THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL

Rehearsals have now started for Whyalla High School's upcoming production of The Addams Family Musical.

Our amazing cast members have embraced their quirky characters and are thoroughly enjoying the scripts and music. We have already learnt our opening song 'When you're an Addams', and I was extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and energy of the cast.

We look forward to present you with our performance at the end of October 2016.
NEW YEAR 9 CLASSROOMS

Our four new classrooms in the Eastern Triple Block are looking fantastic with the refurbishment of the middle level.

The rooms have brand new furniture, technology, floors and walls and look like fantastic middle school learning spaces. One of the great features of the new classrooms is their ability to become four separate spaces with the closing of the glass doors or two combined open learning spaces when the glass doors are open. This allows the teachers and students to work as one core group or as individual care groups depending on the activity or lesson taking place.

9A and 9B care groups are currently doing their mathematics and English classes in this combined space as one core group. Ms Hewlett and Mr Manser along with additional support such as Mrs Preiss, share the learning space for mathematics classes, giving the students opportunities to choose different challenge level activities based on readiness and interest. It also allows the students to work with a variety of other students and receive help from more than one person. By receiving help from more than one person, students can access different methods of explanation and even different ways of learning, broadening their own knowledge and supporting them to understand their own learning styles.

This set-up also allows for future cross-curricular planning, connecting across the four core subject areas (English, mathematics, science and HASS). By connecting the subjects this way, students may find the work easier to connect with and more meaningful and realistic rather than when it’s taught in its individual areas. For example, students connecting their knowledge of data and statistics to interpret population growth and use persuasive techniques to demonstrate their opinion as to what technology needs to be developed in the future in order to support this increase. This example alone uses all four subject areas and allows the students to connect to a real-life example.

With so much success from the combined classes last year with Ms Hunter and Mr Riebeling, we hope to continue the good practice this year. Please feel free to contact the school with any queries regarding this.

Jenna Hewlett.

STUDENT CALCULATORS FOR MATHEMATICS

Scientific calculators are an important tool for learning at Whyalla High School across all year levels and are used in more than just the mathematics classes.

It is a requirement that every student brings their own scientific calculator to school every day along with all of their other school equipment.

Currently, many students do not have their own scientific calculator which is impacting on the teaching and learning process. Please ensure that you child has their own scientific calculator to ensure that learning programs involving the use of the calculators can be implemented correctly.

Calculators can be purchased from Woolworths, Coles or Target. Alternatively they can be purchased from Student Services for $20.00.

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Towards the end of term 1 as part of the Whyalla High School student reporting procedures, you are invited and encouraged to attend a conversation with your child’s teachers about their learning progress.

This is an important opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with teachers at this critical point of the year. As part of the conversation, students will be encouraged to share their work and the areas they believe they have been successful in as well as those they need to continue to work on. Teachers will share where the student’s learning started and where to next, including progress towards learning goals within the subject.

Within the next week, your child’s Care Group teacher will telephone you to discuss the process for making appointments. This year the appointments will be made online, which will be explained by the teacher when they contact you.

The available times are on Monday April 4 and Wednesday April 6 between the hours of 2.30pm and 8.00pm. We understand that some families cannot make these times, and alternative arrangements may be made. Please note that school will finish at 2.15pm on Wednesday April 6.

START SMART

We recently welcomed Start Smart to deliver their free, financial education workshops to all of our students.

Start Smart changes the way young people learn about money. By making money management interactive, engaging and fun, our students were equipped with the confidence and competence they need to make smart decisions about money.

Our school has proudly been involved with the Commonwealth Bank’s Start Smart Program for the last three years in its mission to improve the financial literacy of Australia’s young people. Overall, the program proved to be a highly beneficial experience for students and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

For more information on the program and each of the workshops we encourage you to visit www.startsmart.com.au.

GIRLS GROUP

Last week during Girl’s Group we discussed strengths and good advice. As a group the girls and I thought it would be a great idea to spread some cheer and happiness to the whole school.

We decided to decorate the Girl’s Rec quadrangle with positive quotes and inspirational sayings to brighten everyone’s Friday. The girls worked together to create drawings and messages of hope, strength, motivation and wisdom.

It was great to see this group of lovely young ladies get involved with such fun and take pride in what they were accomplishing. After all, “Happiness is the only thing that multiplies when you share it!”

Daisy Keating