NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 6 AUGUST 11

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to a very busy term three at Whyalla High School.

I hope that all students and parents enjoyed the holiday break and spent time reflecting on Student Reports that were posted home in the first week of the holidays.

I encourage you to spend some time with your child discussing their mid year report and remind them that this report gives a clear guide to how they are tracking and what they may still need to be working on before the end of the year. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s report, then please make contact with Jenna Hewlett or myself to discuss it.

Staff Update

I am very pleased to announce that Ms Jenna Hewlett will continue in the Deputy Principal position for the remainder of the year.

I would also like to welcome back Ms Mellissa John who has returned for the remainder of the year. Mellissa will be teaching year 9 HASS as well as providing literacy and numeracy support to our Aboriginal students.

Sadly Mr Dan Ryan made the decision to move back to Adelaide over the school holidays. I would like to thank Dan for his time at Whyalla High and wish him well for the future.

Ms Imogen Knight is currently on extended sick leave. We all hope that she makes a speedy recovery and will be able to return to work soon. In the meantime we have been very lucky to have TRT Ms Shannon Parsons taking Imogen’s classes.

I am very pleased to welcome some new staff members to the Whyalla High School team. Ms Christel Koch is working in the Learning Centre as well as teaching some year 8 Music and Art.

Ms Katie Edwards starts with us soon and will be teaching Year 9 HPE, Maths and Horticulture.

Ms Karen Shooter has started working with us two days a week. She will be doing some 1:1 SSO support with some of our students.

Snow Tour

28 year 10 students are getting very excited as they leave for the snow on Saturday. The students have been working hard to complete their snow safety course, to ensure that they are prepared for their upcoming adventure.

Staff attending the Snow Tour this year are Ms Jenna Hewlett, Ms Emma Green, Mr Melles Mander and Ms Krystal Percy. I will look forward to hearing about their time away when they return.

Knock Out Sports

We have already had two knock out sports events happen this term.

Last week the Netball Carnival was played in Whyalla. Our Year 10 team made it to the Grand Final and our Year 8/9 team 1 have progressed to the next stage and play in the State Finals in Adelaide in Week 6. I was very impressed with all four teams that competed in the carnival. Your teamwork and dedication is something that you all should be proud of.

On Monday Mr Fargher and Mrs Percy took the year 8/9 girls to play their state football final. The girls had a fantastic time and tried really hard, but unfortunately were beaten by Glossop High and Henley High School.

Music Focus School

At the beginning of the year, the school put in a submission to become a Music Focus School. I am very happy to announce that our submission has been approved.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Ms Emma Hunter for her work around our school musicals and Mr Chris West for his work in teaching music at the school.

It is due to their hardwork, creativity and dedication to the students at Whyalla High that we have been successful.

Year 10 Transition Visits and Subject Selections

Term three is the real starting point for our year 10 students in relation to their transition to senior school next year. During week 2 all year 10 students spent a day at Edward John Eyre High School. They are also in the process of starting their subject selections for next year.

If you have any questions in relation to your child’s transition to senior school, please feel free to contact our year 10 coordinator, Ms Amanda Bennett or our Senior Leader, Mr Don Gapp.

Special Events

Over the next few weeks the school will be celebrating Science Week in week 5 and Literacy and Numeracy Week in week 6. During week 6 we will also recognise Bookweek, and on Wednesday of week 6 students will be strongly encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

From past experience, I can safely say that the staff thoroughly enjoy this day and also make the most of getting dressed up.

Open Night

Wednesday night we opened our doors for our annual Open Night. We had many families come and visit the school and have a tour of our classrooms and facilities. This was a perfect opportunity to have a good look at what happens in our classrooms and learn more about the curriculum that we deliver. I would like to thank Mr Sean Sheedy for his work and coordination of this school event.

Please remember that if you have any questions or concerns in relation to your child’s education, feel free to make an appointment time with either Jenna or myself.

Tricia Richman
Principal
STEM AT WHYALLA HIGH

Term 2 was a STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics) full term for our students.

We have had activities ranging from classroom activities to various local excursions. One of our major projects that we are working on is the finishing the STEM room. This will be a STEM workshop equipped with STEM materials that allow students to apply their knowledge in creating masterpieces that can be linked to the developing world. Our students need a strong foundation in STEM to help drive the innovation needed in our fast changing global economy, understanding that a lot of job demands arise from these areas.

Some of the highlights from term 2 are:

1. Year 10 Forensics. Early in the term, students had a chance to experience the job of a forensics investigator. A crime scene was set up and students collected and explored the evidence to work out who the victim and the murderer were. Techniques used were fingerprint matching, hair identification, fibre analysis, blood analysis, murder scene analysis, murder weapon analysis, individual interview and alibi checking. Students enjoyed the week long activity and by the end most were able to identify both the victim and the murderer. Some pictures from the event follow:

2. STEM Connect program at UniSA. A group of year 10 students attended a session at UniSA Campus in Whyalla to take part in the STEM activity “Engineers Without Borders”. Personnel from the Mawson Lake campus combined with UniSA staff from Whyalla ran this session. The two major activities organised on the day were designing an efficient water filter and looking at energy plans. Students worked in groups to design a water filter using the finance available to their group (which varied for different groups). They found this task quite challenging and effectively used their designing skills to plan and make a model water filter. Secondly, they worked on the energy needs of a child’s home to plan the possible changes that could lead to energy saving and in turn cost cutting for the organisation. This required a fair bit of collaboration and calculations but our students again lived up to the challenge and showed their excellent STEM skills as usual. Some pictures from the session follow:

3. SA Museum Workshop. The South Australian Museum brought a group of presenters and organised a session for all local schools at Mt Laura Homestead. Two groups of year 9 students got the opportunity to be part of the session and experienced a session of a life-time. During these sessions students explored the various water life forms and interacted with the presenters to get some in-depth understanding of important life forms. Following are pictures from this workshop:

4. Questacon Workshops. Students from all year levels got the opportunity to be part of this STEM session organised by presenters from New South Wales. They attended these sessions in groups spread over a week organised at UniSA Whyalla Campus. Again, students worked in groups and created a Rube Goldberg Machine that could transform one form of energy to another. Materials and instructions provided varied for different groups and students had to apply their imagination skills to create a machine that transformed one action into a series of actions. Feedback received from the presenters and students were all positive and we are already planning ahead for more activities like this in the future. Following are pictures from this workshop:
Whyalla High School students were proud to be involved in the National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Observance Celebration (NAIDOC) march which took place on July 4 2016.

Each of our care groups worked on developing a story for NAIDOC week. They then prepared a piece of art work to tell their story. Each of these pieces of art work were displayed at the Middleback Theatre from July 3 to July 9 2016.

Our year 8 students also prepared art work showing the NAIDOC theme - Songlines and these were displayed in our main hallway.

We at Whyalla High School are trying to plan all possible activities to enhance the future of our students. We want them to be aware of new technologies and the future demands so that they are prepared for a successful future. Some planned events for the next two terms are:

* The Science and Engineering challenge. A group of year 9 and 10 students travelled to Port Lincoln to take part in this STEM based competition in week 2 of term 3.
* Science Week (August 13 - 21). A huge range of activities will be organised to motivate the science thinking and knowledge amongst our students. These will range from hands on activities in class to quizzes and competitions during break times.
* Numeracy Week (August 29 - September 4). Various activities will be organised in and out of classes to build the numeracy excitement amongst our students.
* STEM class project. A group of students will work closely with Mathematics, Science and Technology teachers to design projects that can be useful in today’s economy. This project will then be presented to the community to help build ideas to boost the local economy. Some staff will work closely with UniSA staff to plan and run these sessions.
* UniSA Connect programs. We will continue to work closely with UniSA staff to organise sessions to help boost the creativity skills of our students.

Reshnie Chandra
Science/STEM Coordinator

SCHOOL FEES
School fees are now overdue.
If you are intending to make payments online please include your child’s name and/or the reference number which is on the invoice.

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING REMINDER
Governing Council meeting will be held in the staff room on Monday 15 August starting at 7.00pm.

SNOW TOUR
The Snow Tour departs at 2.30pm on Saturday August 13 and arrives back at 10.00am on Saturday August 20.

Lorraine Haseldine
Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer

STEM AT WHS CONT’D
NAPLAN ONLINE READINESS TRIAL


The Australian Government is committed to delivering NAPLAN online from 2017, with all schools across the nation transitioning over a 2 to 3 year period.

This change will provide each child with a more personalised learning experience and a better assessment. It also means that the results will be returned to you and your child's teachers within a few weeks, rather than several months.

Our school will be participating in a trial of the new online system in August 2016. This trial is not a 'test' of content; it is a test of how the new online system will work in a real-life classroom environment. You may hear this trial referred to as the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial.

As part of the trial, students in Year 9 will undertake 2 online readiness tests. Each test will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

It is important that we participate in this trial before the system is officially in use in 2017 to enable familiarisation with the system in a classroom setting. Participation will allow us to confirm that every school is ready and that our teachers are confident that their students will be able to participate fully.

This trial will help our site to be well prepared to complete NAPLAN online in 2017 and provide feedback into final changes at a statewide level.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the NAPLAN online readiness trial please contact Amanda Bennett or Jenna Hewlett on 8645 8844.

PARENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

NAPLAN Online - answering your questions

What is NAPLAN online?

NAPLAN online is an initiative of the Australian Government and involves the transition of NAPLAN from pen and paper to a computer-based assessment.

Why is NAPLAN going online?

Moving NAPLAN online allows for better and more varied assessment tasks and a personalised test experience. It also means your child's results will be more precise and available to you within a couple of weeks, rather than several months.

When is it happening and who is doing it?

The Education Council, comprising state, territory and commonwealth education ministers, has agreed that NAPLAN online will be implemented from 2017 over a 2 to 3 year period.

DECD is encouraging as many schools as possible to move to NAPLAN online from 2017.

Who is managing the move online?

Education Services Australia (ESA) have been commissioned to develop and trial the platform which will deliver NAPLAN online.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will continue to be responsible for all aspects of development of the NAPLAN tests.

In South Australia, DECD is responsible for preparing schools to move online.

What is the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial?

The NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial is a practice run of the NAPLAN online platform. Schools will complete as many test sessions as they need to develop their understanding of the system and their readiness for the 2017 implementation. It is also an opportunity for schools to provide detailed feedback on their experiences and readiness.

Students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are asked to trial the online system and new question style. As part of this trial all students will log in with an anonymous student code so they cannot be identified.

The trial will involve students completing 2 assessments.

* a test for each year level containing sample NAPLAN online questions based on reading, numeracy and convention of languages (spelling, grammar and punctuation).

* a separate writing test for each year level.

Across Australia, the test is called the Platform Test Readiness Trial (PTRT).

Why is the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial important?

The trial will provide information about the school's internet capabilities and confirm that there are sufficient devices to run the test successfully. It will also allow staff to 'test drive' the new processes and trial classroom logistics.

What about schools that do not have the necessary bandwidth to undertake online assessment?

The Australian Government is developing a 'low bandwidth' solution for schools that are experiencing issues with internet connectivity. This will ensure that all students are also able to experience the online test.

Can students use their own devices?

Yes, many schools have a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy allowing students to use their own computer at school and in most cases these devices will be able to be used. Students will also be able to use their own headphones for the spelling, test.

Are you being affected by?

- Redundancy
- Reduced income
- Financial Hardship

FORGING AHEAD

The Upper Spencer Gulf Financial Roadshow will be held on Thursday 8th September 6 - 8 pm Whyalla Bowling Club Whitehead Street, Whyalla

This is a FREE Community Event

Coffee, Tea and light supper provided

NETBALL CARNIVAL

On Tuesday 29 August, four teams of eight students played in the Senior Interschool Netball Carnival. It was a day of four seasons but our girls of all year levels stood strong and tall. Each team represented our school with great confidence and respect to fellow teams and all teams won games.

Our Year 8/9 team coached by Terri Grollitt, consisting of Amy Deakin, Lucy Cole, Katie Kimberley, Sophie Harris, Emma Ainsworth, Shaniah Kingi, Emily Roundey & Tyra Spirat have earned the privilege of playing in the state final in Adelaide on Monday 29 August.

We wish these girls the best of luck and have confidence in them bringing home the flag.

Below: One of our 8/9 netball teams at the Netball Carnival