PRINCIPAL REPORT

Introducing the Text Messaging Notification of Absence System

Very soon parents and carers will receive a letter in the mail regarding our new Waikerie High School SMS Messaging and Attendance system. The letter explains the new system and asks you to update your mobile phone details.

From Monday day 1 of term 4 (13/10/14) parents/carers will be informed by mobile phone Short Message System (SMS) each time their child is away from school if parents have not notified the school in advance.

Safety is a high priority at Waikerie High School and we also know that students who attend regularly are more likely to be successful in their studies and training.

To improve our attendance procedures, we will be informing parents/carers about any unexplained absences for their child. We expect parents/carers to contact the school in advance if they know their child is to be absent.

From day 1 of next term, an SMS text message will be automatically sent to the mobile phone of the parent listed number 1 on our records (that is the parent who enrolled the child at WHS) explaining that our records show that your child is absent from school. The message will read as follows:

The message will arrive on your phone displaying the number ‘0427016460’. Please store this number in your mobile phone under ‘Waikerie High School’ so that when the message arrives you are aware the message is of high importance and comes from our school.

Please reply as soon as possible to the message or phone the school. Our minimum expectation of every parent is that a note explaining the absence is sent to the school after the absence. Every absence must be explained by a parent/carer.

This text messaging system on its own will not improve attendance, but it will help us focus on the importance of increasing the attendance of our students. The system will however allow us to increase the safety of our students through providing us with a process to alert parents/carers to a student absence in a timely manner each day.

Pupil Free day
On Monday staff participated in professional learning in order to improve student engagement and achievement. Teachers have been observing each other in their classrooms particularly focussing on engaging students in the learning and differentiating curriculum and personalising pedagogy so that every student increases their learning. On Monday teachers used the evaluation of the classroom observation and reflected on their practice in relation to the National Professional Standards for Teachers.

SCHOOL EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER
Fri 5th Sporting Colours Day
Wed 10th Year 10 Ag Royal Show
Mon 8th - 12th Science Week
Fri 19th FIELD DAY-SCHOOL CLOSURE-COOKING CHALLENGE

WHS records show that Vida Goldstein is absent MON 24/10/14. Please reply SMS student name/absence reason/absence date

The Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development
DECD have a goal that every teacher will be at the Proficient level – at Waikerie High School we are aiming for every teacher to be at the Highly Accomplished level. This work will increase over the year with the addition of teachers getting direct feedback from students in order to improve their practice.

One of the across curriculum priorities in the Australian Curriculum is Aboriginal Cultural Studies – these studies aim to support all Australians to understand and value the unique heritage and culture of Aboriginal people. In order to develop the cultural competence of our staff, we all spent the afternoon at Nildottie and participated in a tour of Naught Naught which was the first Aboriginal

Sheralyn Oakey
Principal

SCIENCE NEWS

1. National Science Week

National Science Week is a collection of events large and small staged by individuals and organisations that when taken together make up one of Australia’s largest festival. Science week occurred on the 16th – 24th August. The theme for this year was ‘Food for Our Future’ inspired by the International Year for Family Farming.

We have delayed our ‘Science Week’ until the 8th-12th September. Our reason for this is that it ties in nicely with the Year 10 ‘International Human Impact of Global Warming Summit’ which draws to a close the topic of ‘Earth and Space Science’.

The summit will occur on Friday 12th September, where students will come together to present their findings on ‘The Future of Earth and Space’.

We will also be hosting ‘The Science of Beer, Wine and Pizza’ evening (got your attention now??). This will occur on Thursday 11th September from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. We will start off with beer, wine, soft drinks and wood fired pizzas. While energising your bodies, parents and students can walk around viewing student work and playing with the interactive activities set up in the hall.

There will also be a couple of competitions where parents and their children can compete against others for prizes on the night.

To help with catering, could you please either ring the school and leave your name and number attending or email me with this information at paul.tripodi930@schools.sa.edu.au.

We hope to have a great evening and would like to see as many parents/students as possible.

2. IFLScience – Science Website

I don’t usually promote sites with foul language but the ‘I F$%#@n Love Science’ (yes it is the “F” word) is an amazing site with excellent information on current Science news and research as well as answering many questions. It is full of clips and explanations for all readers. I highly recommend this site for anyone interested in Science and for those who aren’t, as I am sure it will spark an interest.


Attached to this newsletter is Emily Grace’s report to Rotary. I had intended to reduce it to key points but after reading it I found that there are so many key points and wonderfully inspiring experiences that it would do it an injustice to reduce it. Congratulations to Emily Grace for taking the risk and applying for this. I hope you are successful in your pursuits to inspire as I and the rest of the teaching staff will support you.

Paul Tripodi
Maths / Science Co-ordinator

NUMERACY NEWS

It is essential that Australian students have sound numeracy skills. Numeracy is defined as:

“the ability to access, use, interpret and communicate mathematical information and ideas in order to engage in and manage the mathematical demands of a range of situations in adult life. Numeracy involves managing a situation or solving a problem in a real context, by responding to mathematical content /information /ideas represented in multiple ways.”
Parents have a pivotal role in their children’s numeracy development, through encouragement, support and exposure to the use of mathematics in everyday activities. Over 40 years of research tells us that how well children do at school has a lot to do with what happens at home. Parents are the first and most important influence on a child’s attitudes and values toward school and learning.

By creating a home environment that encourages a continuous love of learning from an early age, you can help your child to achieve positive outcomes throughout their schooling and beyond.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week aims to raise community awareness of the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all Australian students.

Throughout this week we recognise and celebrate the achievements of parents, teachers, principals, and members of the wider community who are making a difference to the development of literacy and numeracy skills in our students.

Engaging in your children’s education

I have attached a number of ways that you can help your child improve their numeracy and math skills by simple, easy, everyday activities that not only will benefit your child but will also give you quality time together. Please make an extra effort this week to enhance Numeracy and have fun enjoying the sharing of maths in everyday life situations.

Paul Tripodi
AP – Numeracy Coach
Maths & Science Co-ordinator

YEAR 10 AGRICULTURE CLASS

On the 21st August, fourteen Year 10 students went to Borung Poll Merino Stud, owned by Brenton Krahne, to observe and learn about the shearing and wool industry.

The students were very inquisitive, questioning Brenton, the shearers and roustabouts about every aspect of the wool shed as well as farm management.

Thank you to Brenton Krahne for allowing us to visit and speaking with the students.

Hayward Paynter
Ag Teacher

PICSE Grow Smart Science Research Investigations

On Wednesday the 20th August, a group of nineteen students presented their twenty week science research investigation to the PICSE Grow Smart challenge. The students competed against other local Riverland schools. Out of the schools participating, finalists were named, and will present their work to compete against other secondary schools at the Royal Adelaide Show on Monday the 8th September.

Four groups were chosen to go to Adelaide including Emma Ziegler, Jasman Singh and Michelle Twigden with their project on which surfaces contain the most bacteria. Rachael Smith and Katie Voigt with their project examining whether males or females are better at multi-tasking.

Tolan Frahm and Jessica Leigh were chosen due to their investigation on which drinks make people alert over a 24 hour period. Clayton Hollamby and Charles Temple with their investigation on cargo
weights in an aeroplane and the effect it has on flight take off. Emma, Jasman and Michelle also won the People’s Choice award. Each group won a $30 voucher to share.

It was a very good day, with the students enjoying seeing other student’s investigation ideas. We wish the four groups all the best in Adelaide.

Thanks to the students for being very well behaved and Paul Tripodi for driving the bus.

Donna Haynes
Science teacher

WHAT IS BO$$ CAMP?

Team BO$$ camp have recognised there are three things that are key to getting young people on the path to entrepreneurship:

1. **INSPIRATION.** Traditional pathways to employment don’t always suit everyone. During the course of two days participants will be inspired by eight top quality speakers and a host of coaches and mentors, inspirational people that have been there and are doing it.

2. **EXPERIENCE.** The intensive two-day workshop and mentoring program aims will challenge and foster the entrepreneurial spirit, by creating a competitive environment to find solutions to real world problems. Mentors and coaches will be on hand to guide participants with lean ways to rapidly develop a successful solution.

3. **CONNECTIONS.** There is a lot of assistance and support available for entrepreneurs. BO$$ camp is an ideal opportunity to kick start people and ensure they are connected to an ecosystem that will foster their aspirations. The team behind BO$$ camp also hopes it will play an ongoing role in contributing to economic growth.

A big thank you to everyone who reached out to support BO$$ camp during StartUp Weekend Adelaide and here’s a link to everything BO$$ camp.

We are pleased to announce BO$$ camp and the team behind it were awarded second place on the Sunday night and also walked away with the Majoran Prize.

Watch the runner up interview video here and read the early Monday morning press release.

Craig Griffiths
Senior Leader

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**2014 PRODUCTION “HIGH SCHOOL SPOOF-CAL”**

When Rebecca Smitran approached me with the script for High School Spoof-ical, I was immediately worried with the title... however, my concern settled after watching the production grow and mature into an brilliant performance, an entertaining parody of all those Hollywood teen movies you love to hate! Plus, the main star was a red head!

I am very proud of our students that were involved this year. The actors, band members and technical staff all committed a huge amount of time and effort to ensuring the performances were of excellent quality. The time that these students spent preparing, not only during school time, but mostly in their own personal time needs to be commended. It’s great to know that students from all five year levels have come together to create some great school memories.

The production is a community event that involves many volunteers, it is a team effort and all contributions are greatly appreciated. Parents supporting their child through rehearsals; students decorating front of house and waiting tables, community members cooking and fundraising, are a small sample of important contributions.

Rebecca Smitran (Director) and Anne Bascombe (Musical Director), are to be congratulated on their tireless work. Their commitment and enthusiasm were the backbone to the overall structure of this year’s event. I also thank the many staff who went out of their way to help with many different facets of the events – administration, decorating, technical set up, front of house, fundraising. A little help sure does go a long way.

This year also marks a change with Waikerie High School musicals, a change that took a lot of time to decide upon. As of this year the production will run bi-annually, to provide staff, students and the community with more time and resources to prepare for the event.

Once again, thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to another successful show in 2016.

Lauren Oswald
Musical Producer
On Monday 1st September, the SRC will be cooking a barbecue lunch and selling balloons to raise funds for the Kyle’s Kommandos Relay for Life team.

Today, students had the opportunity to order a balloon which they will collect for $2 and release at lunchtime on Monday 1st September. This balloon release will be happening all over Waikerie on this day at 1pm. Students purchasing a balloon should try and get to the barbecue area as soon as possible at the beginning of lunch so all balloons can be released at the same time. Soft drinks, chicken steaks and sausages in bread will be available from the barbecues throughout lunch at a small cost, the money raised from which will also go towards Kyle’s Kommandos.

Friday 5th September is Footy Colours Day! This is a national initiative, however to make it more applicable to our school we are renaming it Sports Colours Day. This will be a full casual day, and students are asked to wear clothes representing a sporting team, and to bring a gold coin to be donated to the Fight Cancer Foundation. For sale at lunch will be hot chips with gravy.

Cancer is a terrible disease which all too many people have had close and emotional experiences with, and within just five days we will be holding two fundraisers to help combat the disease, so we would love for everyone do get involved and make a donation. Whether it’s through purchasing and releasing a balloon, wearing casual clothes, or buying some yummy lunch, every little bit helps Waikerie High School make a contribution to cancer support and research.

Stefanie Zerner
SRC

I recently read “The book whisperer” by Donalyn Miller. In this book she reflects on her journey to become a reading teacher and describes how she inspires and motivates her middle school students to read 40 or more books a year. That is a lot of books to read in a year and anyone who reads that many certainly has the making of becoming a lifelong reader.

Bearing that in mind, I think it is important to acknowledge the efforts of one of our students who has connected to reading in a big way and is well on her way to becoming a lifelong reader. Simran Gill has borrowed forty eight books from the school library so far this year. What a tremendous effort Simran. Well done and I am sure your love of reading will enhance your life experiences.

Connie Little
Library Manager

Adelaide
Education Consultants
SACE Spring Revision Programme
Week 1: Mon 29 Sep - Fri 3 Oct
and/or Week 2: Mon 6 - Fri 10 Oct

“The most useful holiday program I have ever been to. There is no doubt these seminars helped my results improve by at least 15%.”
M. Dimauro

“Very useful seminars. I feel much more confident about my exams. These seminars help to structure and motivate students to do work during the holidays!” M. Fioretti

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Bookings Essential Ph 8231 7776

Thank you for your assistance, if you are unable to attend please arrange a substitute or ring Marion on 85413097 or 0417 897 295 (after school hours).

Times of arrival are 10:45am for recess and 12:50pm for lunch. Approximate finish time is 2:15pm. There is no need to stay between recess and lunch.

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Marion Maywald
Canteen Manager

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Connie Little
Library Manager
FANTASTIC!! Would love to see it again

A massive well done to you

WELL DONE!! Great enthusiasm

FABULOUS Good Job!

What a great night’s entertainment!

A very talented group of young people

Band was great too A+ Music

Can’t get over Alicia and Josh’s singing

Very well done I really enjoyed it

A GREAT SHOW

WELL DONE!! A+ Drama

Loved the Costumes

Everyone did really well
In January of this year, I attended Session C of the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) in Canberra. It was during this time that my love and passion for science strengthened and I was exposed to a whole new world. I also learnt about the International Programs that the NYSF offer. After attending NYSF, I thought the opportunity to apply for such programs was too good to ignore, so I applied. I applied to go to the Canada-Wide Science Fair because the program interested me and it was a place I hadn’t visited before. Much to my surprise, I was accepted! I was ecstatic, and couldn’t wait to meet the students I would be travelling with. We were going to be representing Australia at the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) in Windsor, Ontario.

After a very early start, I arrived at Sydney airport and met my travelling companions, Tarra, Courteney, Riley, Shoshana, Kanishk and our chaperone, Matt. As I was the only Session C student, it was great to meet fellow NYSFers and reminisce about our experiences at NYSF. We then set off for Canada.

After more than 24 hours of travelling, we finally arrived. We would be staying at the University of Windsor in Ontario. From the moment we arrived, we were treated like celebrities. At the Fair, the Aussies were almost royalty. The Canadian students all wanted to talk to us, hang out with us and learn as much as they could about our country. The atmosphere was fantastic, a mix of culture, ideas, opinions and most of all, science!

The first week of our trip was spent at the Canada-Wide Science Fair. This event is nationwide, and welcomed us and a girl from Mexico as the only international delegates, so we felt extremely privileged to be there. Canadian students attend the Fair after winning their school and regional science fairs. We spent the first week educating the Canadians about Australian science, culture, animals and most importantly, food! It was an extremely fun week, filled with socialising, games, pin trading and chants in the cafeteria. All of the Canadian people were welcoming, friendly, caring, humble and beautiful. They were genuinely interested in interacting with us, as were we with them. We all had so much fun learning about Canada. It was particularly interesting to learn about the schooling and education system. During the week we visited Point Pelee National Park and stood at the southernmost point of Canada, which was pretty amazing. We also sighted several native animal species.

We did a day trip to Niagara Falls which included a boat ride under the falls and jet boating through the rapids, both of which were incredible. Canada is such a geographically beautiful place, and I had the opportunity to really appreciate nature and life.

We also had the opportunity to view the students’ projects. I was astounded at the amount of high calibre students at the Fair. There were so many talented, innovative and passionate students, who had been working on their projects for years. Fifteen year olds were delving into areas of science I had never heard of. Thirteen year olds were conducting studies beyond what I had ever imagined. The Canadian students put us to shame. It really inspired me to want to be better and do more. It also made me realise that Australia is really behind in the times, especially in terms of education and supporting young people’s ideas. The amount of support, both locally and globally, for the CWSF was phenomenal. Numerous students were awarded scholarships worth thousands of dollars, as well as cash prizes. There were also highly specific industry and government awards. It was truly incredible to see so many young people being recognised for their work in an area other than sport or music. Seeing all of this made me want to start something similar in Australia. It made me feel frustrated that there isn’t more recognition or rewards in place for young Australians, particularly in rural areas. Apart from NYSF, there just isn’t enough focus on science.
Whilst at the Fair, our main objective was to choose three Canadian students to attend NYSF in Australia the following year. This experience involved us judging and interviewing students. It was extremely rewarding, and allowed us to recognise the students’ amazing work and appreciate their passions. It was almost like reliving the moment of when we were selected for NYSF.

At the end of the first week of our trip, it was sad to say goodbye to the Canadians. We had met some amazing people and made lots of great friends. It had been such an incredible week, filled with fun, friends and laughter. I felt extremely grateful to have been able to attend, as the week spent at the Fair just further reaffirmed my passions for science and made me really keen to get home and spread my excitement. It was also a similar experience to NYSF in several ways, which made it that bit more special.

Our time at the Fair was over, but we were excited to start our next adventure. Matt picked up our cliché “soccer mom” van and off we went, on our week long road trip through the Canadian Rockies. The week was jam packed with adventurous activities, sightseeing, socialising and team building. We got lost several times. There were tears. There were bruises. But we were like a family. The scenery was breathtaking, the accommodation simple, the food delicious and the people beautiful. What a memorable week. It really was the best way to experience Canada. Our week was spent getting to know one another perhaps a little too well. All of us had so much fun, playing in snow, marvelling over mountains and doing things we had never dreamed of. I am so appreciative of every single opportunity I had during that week, to challenge myself and my views. I learnt a lot about myself and started to realise that I can do anything I want, if I am willing to work hard enough for it. The week finished in Vancouver, where we dined with a professor we had met at CWSF; just another example of the generosity and kindness of Canadians.

Before I knew it, my time in Canada was over. It had been two amazing weeks, filled with fun, adventure and unexpected surprises. It was a time for me to reflect on my life and my choices and appreciate everything I have. It was an unforgettable experience, and left me with more knowledge and incredible friends. I saw and did things I never thought possible and learnt so much about myself. I could not have asked for a better group of people to travel with, they are all beautiful and unique and made the trip even more special. I am so thankful to my parents, family, teachers and Rotary Club for their continued support and recognition of my achievements. I am so grateful to the NYSF for providing me with this opportunity, and allowing me to become a better person. It was such a privilege to be an ambassador for Australian people and science, and I loved every minute of it.
Emergency Service Speed Zones will come into effect when the new Section 83 of the Road Traffic Act commences on 1 September 2014. This legislation drops the speed limit to 25 kph from 40 kph in two circumstances:-

(a) in the immediate vicinity of an emergency vehicle that has stopped on the road and is displaying a flashing blue or red light (whether or not it is also displaying other lights); or
(b) between 2 sets of flashing blue or red lights that have been placed by an emergency worker at either end of a length of road on which an emergency vehicle has stopped.

Note that the zone does not apply if the person is driving on a road that is divided by a median strip and the emergency service speed zone is on the other side of the road beyond the median strip.

This legislation is designed to protect our fire, police, ambulance and emergency services personnel at the scenes of emergencies.

A full explanation of the new legislation can be accessed by using the following link:


Senior Sergeant Paul Warren, BSS (JA)
Officer in Charge, Road Safety Section (30) South Australia Police

AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

REGISTRATIONS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd from 4-6PM

THIS INCLUDES Aussie Hoops Aged 5-7, Primary School Local Comp Aged 8-13 and High School Local Comp

AT THE WAIKERIE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

TRIALS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10th FOR GIRLS & WOMEN

AND

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17th FOR BOYS & MEN

(more details will be supplied at the registration night) Inquiries to Marisa Wilson 0427 423 206
ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GIVE BLOOD

The Blood Service Donormobile will be visiting:

Waikerie
Waikerie Health Services, 1 Lawrie Street
Thursday 4 September 12.30 pm – 6.30 pm
Friday 5 September 7.30 am – 1.30 pm

Call 13 95 96 or visit donateblood.com.au

Australian Red Cross
BLOOD SERVICE

RIVERLAND CAREERS CONNECT
Follow the balloons along the online/onsite discovery trail

Friday 19th September - all day program
1 Check out the Chaffey Learning Exchange
2 Reinvent your future and collect career tips
3 Get tech Savvy with BIZIFYD, facebook, twitter & Instagram

Saturday 20th September - all day program
1 Enjoy Magical Mandarin Moments
2 Get tech savvy with BIZIFYD - facebook, twitter & Instagram
3 Get creative with ABC - video, photography & creative writing
4 Check out online learning with Chaffey Learning Exchange and ENROL

Enter a competition to win an iPad mini

School: Beyond
KPPM
Trade Schools SA