



DIARY DATES

- 3 Apr— End of term 1
- 10 Apr—Good Friday
- 27 Apr—Start of term 2
- 4 May—Whole School Assembly
- 11 May—School Photo Day;
- Parent Teacher Interviews (2.50)
- 14 May—Governing Council (5.00)
- 25 May—Sports Day Meetings
- 25 May—Reconciliation Week
- 26 May—Yr 8/9 Witchelina Camp induction
- 5 Jun—Sports Day
- 8 Jun—Queens Birthday (Public Holiday)
- 15 Jun—Yr8/9 Witchelina camp
- 18 Jun—Governing Council (5.00)
- 29 Jun—Yr10 IPP work Experience week

YEAR 8 & YEAR 10 IMMUNISATIONS

POSTPONED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

TERM DATES 2020

- Term 1: 28 Jan - 9 Apr
- Term 2: 27 April - 3 Jul
- Term 3: 20 Jul - 25 Sep
- Term 4: 12 Oct - 11 Dec

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Government of South Australia
 Department for Education

PRINCIPALS REPORT

It is difficult to believe we are already approaching the end of term 1. As usual our students have been presented with many and varied opportunities to learn across all learning areas. It has always been my belief that the role of a school is not only to educate, but to inspire. At Port Augusta Secondary School the core business of all staff is to support all students to enter the adult world with the best chance possible to fulfil their ambitions. Term 1 2020 has been no exception.

I sincerely wish to acknowledge:

- All students for the way they have settled in to the 2020 school year. In particular our year 8 students, to their credit have quickly become familiar with the expectations and routines at secondary school.
- All staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare for classes, support and mentor students and ensure their emotional and physical safety. In the previous newsletter we featured the many new teaching and support staff that have come to us in 2020. I wish to thank these staff for the way that they have integrated into our sometimes complex and definitely vibrant school community.
- Parents whose involvement in education is essential. As always it is refreshing when parents work with us in supporting their children which is the regular at PASS. Our Governing Council Chairperson Helen Cox also heads up a team of hard working and caring parents that support the school.

Although not always obvious or tangible, our community at PASS has maintained a sense of calm and cooperation when presented with challenges around the Covid-19 Pandemic. I wish to sincerely thank staff, students and families for their high levels of understanding, cooperation and teamwork. Times like these bring out the best in people. I have witnessed this from many. Please take the time to read the information later in this newsletter to help us all maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students and each other.

Whilst we respect family decisions to keep their children at home, the site is still open and teachers continue to plan, assess and report for their current classes. Requests for individual hard copy packs of work at this point in time cannot be accommodated while the school remains open. Teachers are planning and preparing for any potential disruption to student learning and need time to do so. There are however a number of resources already online (DAYMAP) that teachers are uploading that can be accessed if you wish.

The DfE 'Our Learning SA' website is now up and running to support continued learning. A link to this is on our Facebook page and soon to be on our website.

It is essential that students and families regularly check the DAYMAP parent portal or the Port Augusta Secondary School Facebook page as these provide an efficient and effective means of information regarding current departmental updates and for student learning programs.

As an experienced educator I am still in awe of just what our young people are capable of, and the variety of opportunities presented to them in today's modern schools. I call these 'teaching moments'. When these occur they remind us all of why we are here.



Inside this newsletter:

- From the principal
- Yr12 Leadership & Goal Setting
- SAASTA
- Polly Farmer Program
- Clontarf
- Student Reports
- Staying Connected with our Children
- Wellbeing Corner

I have shared below three examples of these times from term 1:-

- Recently I spoke with five of our year 12 students as they were about to embark on a trip with Mrs Glamuzina and Ms Collins to St Peters College in Adelaide. Dressed in their official school blazers they attended a National Student Leadership Conference. The focus of the day was on connection, communication and creation. As you would expect our students “did us proud” on the big stage bringing valuable experiences and skills back to school.
- Many of our STEM students had the opportunity to fly an F-18 fighter jet taking off from school and landing safely back at school sometime later. Before some parents may panic, this was in very high tech flight simulators set up by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The RAAF staff in attendance commented on how welcoming, friendly and attentive our students were.
- Some of our year 11 students travelled to Kangaroo Island as part of their involvement in the Clontarf Academy. Director Kriston Thompson spoke about how the boys all worked tirelessly to landscape a community garden at Parndana saving already exhausted locals many days work. The response from the local community was an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

Governing Council Annual General Meeting

The schools AGM was held February 20. Existing and prospective parents/councillors and community members met to discuss the exciting developments at the school, future directions and the importance of parent and community involvement. The school would like to acknowledge the commitment of our Governing Council members and to point out that there are still some remaining vacancies for parents on our Governing Council.

For further information about Governing Council please contact Di Pratt at the school.

2022 – Year 7’s to Secondary

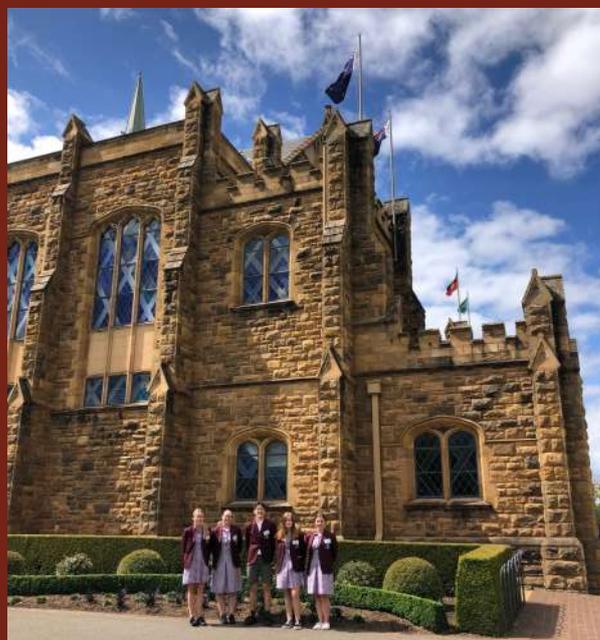
Plans are still on track to welcome year 7 students to PASS in 2022. These plans include the upgrading and building of new facilities, Australian Curriculum development relevant to year 7 students and the recruitment of staff with the appropriate skills to support our students.

Mr Billows Returns

Paul Billows returns from leave as Principal on Monday March 30. We welcome Paul back to continue his excellent work in leading the school into what is going to be exciting times ahead.

I will return to my position as Deputy Principal. I would like to sincerely thank all staff, students and parents for their support while I have been Acting Principal during term 1. In particular Ms Angela Dyer for her work as Deputy Principal and Mr Sam Carter for stepping into the Middle School Senior Leader role.

Simon Owens - Acting Principal



Year 12 Leadership & Goal Setting

On March 6 our Senior Student Leadership Team attended the National Leadership Summit at St Peters College in Adelaide. They learned about their own individual leaderships skills and then worked on ways to reinforce positive attitudes within their cohort. The afternoon was spent looking for a key activity to focus their attention on once they returned to school. The group will meet fortnightly with their support teacher Mr Hill to continue their positive work within the school.

On Friday February 21 all the year 12 students attended a goal setting ‘bowl and roll’ afternoon at the Port Augusta Bowls Club. The students firstly shared some lunch together and then we were taught the basic of lawn bowls, thanks to volunteers from the club. A fun hour was spent on the rinks before we went inside to focus on our key goals for 2020. Students were asked to think about what they wanted to achieve and what they would need to do to get there. After this we talked about barriers to achieving our goals. Students wrote down the things they thoughts could hold them back and we threw these concerns away. Some powerful moments were shared and some fun was had along the way! Special thanks to the year 12 home group teachers who helped organise the day.



SAASTA Stage 1 Aboriginal Studies Artefact Making

In this subject we had to do a creative task to learn more about Aboriginal history and culture, and to express our identity. The class had a unique opportunity to make our own wooden artefact. This happened with the expert help of Nukunu elder Mr Darryl Thomas, and AET Cam Foulis.

We researched the wood carving being done by Aboriginal artists, including the local Malka Wood Carvers who Mr Foulis works with. We saw a video about Uncle Roy Coulthard who talked about the need for young people to learn these crafts, including girls. Mr Thomas spoke to the class about how to get started, and came with us on the day trip to help supervise the collection of suitable pieces of wood. We were careful not to take more than we needed, and not to damage the environment. When we were in the bush we removed most of the outside bark.

We set up our workshop at the end of the oval, and were lucky to be able to use tools from the Malka Carving group. It was quite hard shaping our wood, and took lots of time. Some pieces broke, but we learned how to carve the wood in the best way, and helped each other. Afterwards we had to write up about how we did it and what any markings we put on our piece meant, like Zion's markings represented the generations in his family.

We are all proud of our carvings, and our homes now have beautiful walking sticks, music sticks, dishes, or boomerangs.



Polly Farmer Program

This is a tutoring and mentoring program for about 30 Aboriginal students which has the Polly Farmer Foundation has run here for over twelve years. The most recent Coordinator Ms Kelly Kimber, has transferred to Mount Barker, and so the process is underway to find a new Coordinator. Many students and families were sad to see Kelly leave, and know the help that she gave personally, or organised for students, will have really helped them succeed in their chosen pathways. Thank you Ms Kimber for your energetic, committed, excellent work from 2014-2019 running this program.

Chris Warren has been released from her AET role at PASS one day a week to help organise things for 2020. The Centre has been operating on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.30 – 5.30 pm. Transport is provided from PASS to the centre in Mildred Street, and then from the centre to student homes afterwards.

So far this term we have had 11 continuing students attend, although some others have been unable to so far because of work or sport.

Luckily most of our tutors from last year have been available to help out when needed. In the last few weeks of term we will be advertising to Aboriginal students throughout the school, including Year 8's, so that we can select new students for the program. If any parents are interested in finding out more about the centre please get in touch with Chris Warren at the school, or request an application form to be sent home with your student.

For applications to be successful students need to show their commitment to achieving at their highest levels by attending school well, engaging with their teachers and the tasks in class, and being prepared to set goals and work towards them. Although students get help to work on assignments, they can also focus on improving their skills in a particular area, like literacy or numeracy, to help them in their career pathway or job searching.

We are hoping that the ENEL Solar Energy project will be able to get underway again led by Mr Harding and Mr Kildea. Students who choose to be in this STEM project will be working one afternoon each week at the school to build a solar vehicle, and some people may have the opportunity to visit solar businesses.

CLONTARF

Port Augusta and Ocean View academies joined forces for our year 11 camp to Kangaroo Island in week 3 this term. The boys had a stack of fun sand boarding down the Sahara dunes, enjoyed swimming at multiple beautiful beaches and spent an afternoon volunteering with All Hands and Hearts to build a vegetable garden aimed at growing food for those affected by the terrible bush fires that happened recently.

A real highlight for us as a foundation occurred when we went to Pennington beach and a lady from Adelaide there had a chat to us about Clontarf and what we do. On our way back to the bus, the man working in a food truck informed us that she had paid for all of our boys to have a free ice-cream!

It was a wonderful testament to the work that we do and we are very grateful for her generosity. The Clontarf Spirit award for the camp was given to Zach Sterlson for going above and beyond and Quentin Grantham earned himself the Good Bloke award. Wade Fielding and Izack Haines received honourable mentions.

Perfect attendance – 6 of 8 Clontarf academy members joined staff at a dinner to reward them for 100% attendance during weeks 1-5. Terrelle McKenzie, Nydell Sailor, Mitchell Collins, Lachlan Shepherd, Ronan McKenzie and Wade Fielding are leading from the front, along with Micheal

Collins and Brian McNamee who couldn't attend dinner Wednesday night. We look forward to these guys continuing this trend and encouraging their peers to follow suit.





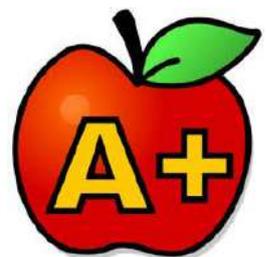
STUDENT REPORTS will be distributed via DAYMAP



Our end of term 1 student reports will be available via the Daymap Parent Portal. Steps to follow:

1. Connect to Daymap Parent Portal - please find the instructions on the school website:
<http://www.pass.sa.edu.au/>

2. If you have problems in connecting to the Parent Portal, it is more than likely the email address you have registered with the school is incorrect. You will need to send an email to the school at DL.0790.info@schools.sa.edu.au providing us with your correct email address, your name and the names of your children attending PASS.
3. Please do not ring the school with this information. This must be done via email.
4. If you need to provide a copy of your child's report to another organisation, you are able to save a copy on your phone or computer and forward it by email.
5. If you have any concerns regarding this, please email the school at DL.0790.info@schools.sa.edu.au.



Staying Connected With Our Children

Now is the time to stay close to our children.

They need to feel us beside them so they don't feel as worried as they are.

We need to be honest with them and let them know that good people from around the world are working very hard to keep them safe and healthy.

Our children will believe us, we love them deeply.

Be Honest

"COVID 19 is a sickness like a cold. Some people will get it. Maybe someone in our family might get sick. We are all a little bit scared. Being scared is a sign that we are concentrating on being safe. There are really good people like doctors who know what to do. They are helping to figure it out."

Validate Their Feelings

"I know I might look worried sometimes. Mums or dads get worried too, just like children. I know it can make you feel scared. But I am ok."
"It is ok to be feeling scared, or worried, or whatever you are feeling right now. You can share that with me whenever you need to."

Acknowledge Day to Day Disruptions

"Even if school and your after school activities stop for a while, they will start up again. How about we think about some ways of doing versions of these things together at home if we need to?"

Remind Them

"I love you, and that is one thing that will never change."

Here are some ways that parents and carers can share connection, comfort and care with their children right now.

Look to History

"There have been sicknesses like this before. And they have stopped. Clever people from around the world have worked them out together. The scientists are doing this right now with this one."

Remain Available

"You can talk with me whenever you need to. I will answer any questions you have. If I don't know the answers, I will find out and then I will tell you."

Have fun

Share some time with your children that is just for them, and let them lead the play.

"Let's do some things that you like to do."

Create some quiet time

Find a regular time where you can just be still with children. Stroke their hair. Watch a favourite show on TV. Listen to music together. Let them decide if they want to talk. Be present with them. Enjoy it.



Wellbeing Corner:

Port Augusta Secondary School staff are very mindful of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) causing disruptions to your usual routines. Information, conversations and increased levels of stress in the community can lead to people feeling overwhelmed. Knowing what information to trust can also be challenging. Please know the school is being updated with relevant information and this will be communicated to you in a manner that is safe and supportive.

Headspace Managing stress related to covid-19 virus includes tips to maintain a healthy mindset: <https://headspace.org.au/young-people/how-to-cope-with-stress-related-to-covid-19/>

e-Headspace, a free online counselling platform: <https://eheadspace.org.au/>

****It's also important to note that the school Headspace clinic will not be running face-to-face sessions at this time only phone or Skype sessions.**

Kids help line

WebChat counselling: <https://www.kidshelpline.com.au/get-help/webchat-counselling>

Phone counselling: 1800 55 1800 (free and confidential)

Reachout

Self-care tips: <https://au.reachout.com/collections/self-care>

Professionally reviewed self-help tools-and-apps:

<https://au.reachout.com/tools-and-apps>

Youth Beyond Blue

Mental health information: <https://www.youthbeyondblue.com/>

Online chat forum: <https://online.beyondblue.org.au/WebModules/Chat/InitialInformation.aspx>

Phone counselling service: 1300 22 4636

Blackdog Institute Dream On – smart phone app trial for young people experiencing sleep difficulties: <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/research/participate-in-our-research-for-young-people/dream-on>

Self-help-tools-apps: <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/getting-help/self-Help-tools-apps>

Please also remember that if you wish to speak to someone about concerns or anxieties at school you can make an appointment with Miss Gillespie or Mrs Wallace.



To request an appointment online, go to: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dentalappointment

For clinic locations, go to: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/findyourclinic



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

A World of Opportunities!

- ❖ **Experience** life as a local in another country
- ❖ Engage in a different **culture**
- ❖ **Develop** self confidence and maturity
- ❖ Form lifelong **friendships** with international students
- ❖ Develop new **language** skills
- ❖ Experience a different system of **education**

Find out more at:
<http://www.rotaryyouth9500.org.au/youth-exchange/>

CONTACT US

Rotary Port Augusta
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information@rcpa.org.au



BECOME A HOST FAMILY

Are you interested in hosting a student from overseas?

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program offers students the opportunity to experience life in another country. The Rotary Club of Port Augusta is looking for families to host an incoming student.

What is expected of a host family?

Host families voluntarily open their homes to an overseas student for a 3 to 4 month period, and offer them a safe and family friendly environment to live in. Students are typically between 15 and 18 years of age and are required to attend school during their stay.

This is a wonderful opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and learn about a different culture.

Rotary
Port Augusta 

For further information contact information@rcpa.org.au

Promoting Success for all Students