



From the Principal's Desk...

Welcome back to term 2

We have started Term 2 with a flurry. The NAPLAN testing is upon us this week and students from Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 have been engaged in the testing right across this week. The testing is a national testing program that gives all students across Australia the same test, at the same time so that comparisons can be made. We will run catch up sessions on Friday to give anyone who was ill a chance to participate. After Friday however, the tests are packaged up and sent off for marking and so no further catch up time is possible. The testing impacts right across our school as the routines have to be all put on hold and arrangements made to provide a program for the year levels not involved in the testing. We hope to be back to normal routines to start next week.

Student Free Day summary

We started the term off with a **Student Free Day on Monday 2nd May**. The morning session was based around the uses and analysis of the data that we collect and have available to us from other sources. As staff we looked at the 3 main purposes that the data can be used for and then started to analyse our data to meet those purposes.

The first purpose that data can be used for is to determine strengths and weaknesses for **individual students**. We can see what a student knows and doesn't know and we can then build a program to support that student with their learning.

The second purpose of data is to tell us what should be in the **class teacher's program**. What concepts and knowledge do the students have and so what should be the next part of the course to teach.

The third purpose for the data is to tell us how we are **progressing as a school** and whether we need to have a whole or part of school focus in some area of the curriculum. We also measure distance travelled over time to see that we are moving ahead at an acceptable rate.

During the morning teachers had a look at the various data sets and worked on drawing the information that they needed for the 3 purposes. This was a major introduction to the use and power of data and will form a part of teacher's work for the rest of the year. Teachers will be showing what the data tells them and then be able to trace where they have responded to it for individuals and for their class planning.

The second part of the day looked at how we move forward as a school. We had a look at some work being done at a state level, nationally and internationally around supporting students to take more control in their learning. Part of the thinking is about giving children the courage and confidence to tackle problems they encounter with the skills they have learnt in school. The second part was to look at how we achieve this transfer of attitude and skill to the children. We are basing our future development around a body of work called **Growth Mindsets**. This looks at how we develop resilience and confidence in our young people so that they can start to take control of their learning. In this approach, we ask children to **have a go** at solving a problem using the skills and knowledge they have. We then go back and look at what they did and explore how else we may have done it and then teach more explicit skills so they have them ready for next time.

The Natural Maths approach we are using across the Primary section of the school is a great example of how this **building powerful learners** takes place.

As part of our future planning we also looked at who are our clients and what are their needs. This has some bearing on how we structure the school and how we replace staff who are leaving at the end of this year. The RSAS team joined us during this exercise and we thank them for their support.

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Government of South Australia
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Child Development

On Leave

I will be taking some medical leave shortly and as it could be reasonably disruptive to normal operations, I have asked the Education Department to replace me with a longer term view in mind. We are still awaiting the result of this request so that we know how they will replace me.

Excursions

We have some major excursion on the go in the next couple of weeks. The Outdoor Education students are away this week on a camp that meets the requirements of their major practical assignments. They are down near Victor Harbor and we are hopeful that the weather improves as the week goes ahead.

The following week we have a number of senior secondary students away on a Careers Expo trip to Adelaide. This will be an exciting trip that hopefully gives our students more information about future options for them. Mr Kenny has this camp under control.

There will be some impact on our bus runs but we have the support of RSAS and so we hope to minimize the impact. Our thanks are extended to RSAS for their support with this.

Governing Council

Our Governing Council meet on Monday 16th May in the Board Room at the library at 5 pm.

Mark Ireland

Principal

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Outdoor Education Camp— 6th May—15th May

Careers Camp— 19th May-21th May

Counsellors' Corner



At the end of last term, Sophie Rose from Whitelion Stride and artist Narisha Cash visited our school to deliver the Art for Life program. Students from Year 4—10 worked together to come up with ideas for a mural. The result was this stunning piece that was created in just two days using aerosol paint.

The SWAT (Students Working Actively Together) team will be meeting this week to start some projects that will involve planting trees and garden beds. If any families or organisations would like to be involved in this project, please let us know.

Gerri Savill, Student Counsellor