

## Comment from the Principal - 9th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

At last we have been enjoying some lovely weather, with our surfing and aquatic electives benefiting hugely after weeks of cold, gloomy conditions.

### SPORT

So, too, our sport. Our girls' football team is but newly formed and so they were always going to find it hard against more experienced teams; however they brought to their training and matches a refreshing enthusiasm and willingness to learn. This was amply shown in the the recent festival which saw them play against ESHS and John Paul College, Kalgoorlie, whom we hosted, as we did when they came down for the Music Festival. It is good that we have such positive links with JPC and I hope these can be cemented further in the years to come.

### MUSIC

Mention of music prompts me to comment on the Band's preparations for the forthcoming biennial Anglican Schools Commission Concert on Friday 16th September. It has been good to see the commitment of our students and staff in their rehearsals, and hearing their playing after Chapel was both heartening and reassuring. I am certainly looking forward to hearing them in Perth. Of course the Band will be in Perth this week on their camp which involves rehearsals with other ASC musicians.

### CHAPEL

It was good to welcome Revd. Jean-Pierre Schroeder from St Mark's ACS to lead us in Chapel last week. With musicians Ray and Tanya from the Church we are beginning to develop a variety of opportunities in our services. Mr Geoff Usher and his Year 7 students led us this week in a thoughtful service. We will also benefit from having the *locum* Parish Priest, Revd. Howard MacCallum assisting us for the next few weeks.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

This really is developing well, and the breakfast club at Nulsen School is one excellent example of our commitment in this regard. I am so grateful to Mrs Natalie Shipp and Year 9 students who have spearheaded this initiative which will continue next term, with Year 7 students involved. Mrs Shipp will be writing to all involved with more details.

**Operation Christmas Child** is also gaining a pleasing momentum. All boxes need to be filled and sealed ready for collection by this Friday 16th September. Each PCG is required to submit TWO completed shoe boxes (one boy and one girl) by this time. **THIS IS THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT!** PCGs are encouraged to submit more than the minimum requirement and I can sense already that they will exceed this requirement easily.

**Make a Wish Foundation** aims to help seriously ill children, with life-threatening conditions, have a wish come true and many of our community want to support it. The plan to do so is for every student in the school to support *Make a Wish Foundation* by purchasing a Subway and a drink for \$10 which will be taken as lunch at the Athletics Carnival on Tuesday 20th September. The hope and intention is that this initiative may be able to raise up to \$1,000: we will write separately with more details.

Whilst on this theme I was so pleased to learn that we raised, in our two recent free-dress days (Daffodil Day and Footy Colours Day), over \$400 for the fight against cancer.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Week 9 Jackman on duty

Tuesday 13th - Band Camp in Perth starts

- Wildflower Festival starts
- Year 11/12 First Aid coursework for outdoor education students
- Nulsen NAIDOC Week event - Year 9 non-band attendees to assist

Wednesday 14th - 1030 School Council Meeting in Library

Thursday 15th - meeting of ASC Principals and Chairs at Swan Valley ACS - combined with SVACS's 10th Anniversary Celebrations

Friday 16th - ASC Schools' Concert in Perth

Sunday 18th - ASC Service and Eucharist in Perth

Monday 19th - Mallee schools in boarding house all week

Please note the change of date for the athletics carnival - Week 10 - Tuesday 20th September.

## **YEAR 12 ATAR REVISION CLASSES and MOCK EXAMINATIONS**

We will repeat the success of last year's revision seminars whereby students and their teachers will have two dedicated morning, or afternoon sessions per subject starting this coming Thursday (Tuesday 20th excepting). When not in the revision sessions, or not in normal class, students will be expected to do private study in School. General and vocational classes will continue as normal. All those involved have been given timetables, as well as mock-exam and ATAR-exam timetables. As intimated earlier all ATAR mock and final examinations will be held in St Andrew's Parish Centre; students have been told they must attend in uniform - winter or summer as preferred. I hope that these initiatives will help our students achieve of their best.

## **STAFFING**

Sadly we must say farewell to three members of staff at the end of the year: Ms Claire Wilson wishes to return to Perth, as does Mr Liam Newton; Mr Joel Olsder wishes to return home to Adelaide.

Mrs Melinda Ford has been appointed to replace Ms Wilson, and comes to us with a wealth of mathematical experience around the world and in Australia, and with very strong references.

Ms Amelia Green will replace Mr Olsder: she is a newly qualified teacher who also has been given very strong references. She is familiar with living and working in remote and rural locations, and attended boarding school as a student.

I have not been successful so far in finding a suitable replacement for Mr Newton but have the time to re-advertise and re-interview.

Ms Jesse Happe, who has worked with us in a relief-teacher capacity, will, next term, replace Ms Esther Welsh who has been graciously covering Mrs Alysha Castelli's timetable in health and PE this term.

## **TEACHER APPRAISAL**

All staff are currently going through the *Educator Impact* appraisal process which I have made mention of before. Suffice to say that students, staff and I are involved in the process of providing feedback on key areas of each teacher's work in the classroom. This will be followed early next term by a goal-setting process and interview with me to identify key targets. This process worked very effectively last year with a trial group, and earlier this term with new staff. I feel sure that it helps in developing staff competencies and improving the learning of our students.

I have rambled on rather longer than usual so will end for now with all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

**Kerr**

**P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles**

**Principal**