Term 3 2012

This will be a busy term with the Year 12 Trial Exams, Year 12 Formal, a Pupil Free Day on 17th August (where staff will be working on redeveloping their Curriculum and incorporating E-learning in readiness for the Australian curriculum delivery), the Show Day on Wednesday 12th September, Course Counselling for year 8 - 11 levels on 5th September, as well as many other exciting activities for our students.

Year 12 students: This is the last full term that our Year 12 students will be with us. It is a “pressure cooker” time for them and I know that they are getting great support from their families and their teachers. We wish them success with their trial examinations, their SATAC selections for courses (they will have a special information session on this), the Formal (which of course is the social event of the school year) and then their final examinations, which begin early Term 4.

Year Level Coordinators: The first point of contact for parents is the Year Level Coordinator. These people are allocated release time and all have a great deal of expertise in working with students, providing counselling where necessary and assisting parents. The Year 8 Coordinator is Mr Caleb Macrow, Year 9 and Year 12 is Mr Chris Duncan (Mr Duncan is replacing Mr Gaunt who has won the position of Health and Personal Development Coordinator). The Year 10 Coordinator is Mr Leith Gourlay and the Year 11 coordinators is Mr Phil Boyle.

Supporting Students with Disabilities Initiative: Our school has been successful in securing a $155,000 grant to “support staff to differentiate the curriculum and learning experiences of students with disabilities and learning difficulties”. This will provide us with the time and money we need to further support our staff in providing relevant and engaging experience for our students who have some difficulties with their learning.

Professional Development: Over 40 staff members have been participating in an e-learning experience provided by NBNco, entitled ‘Ideaslab’. This experience is giving us opportunities to explore new ways of delivering content and learning experiences to our students. Over 10 weeks, teachers have been giving up 1.5 hours of their after school time, working with Bruce Dixon and Richard Olsen, who are both experts in on-line delivery. It has been a new and exciting, as well as a challenging experience. Bruce Dixon will be spending a whole day with us on the 6th of August and will also talk with our Governing Council about how we can move our school into the next phase of the 1-1 computer model (ie one computer for each child). I have been very impressed with every one’s enthusiasm and the innovative learning that staff are doing in their classrooms.
Around the Community

Some fabulous news from Lee James from the Willunga Academy of Rock:

“I just wanted to bring to your attention an exciting achievement from some WHS students. As you may be aware, Shaun White, Rory McSheffrey and Matt Bolton from Year 10 and Riley James from Year 9 are in a band together called ‘EXIT’. They’ve been working very hard, gathering a lot of support and producing some great music. We found out on Monday afternoon that they’ve won a national music competition, against nearly 400 other bands across the country. The competition (The Red Bull Bedroom Jam) required them to upload a video of a performance of an original song to the Red Bull website. Each band is rated according to how much “Buzz” they generate each day (determined by the number of YouTube plays their video gets, how much attention they get via social networking (Facebook, twitter, etc.) and how many people rate their profile on the Red Bull site. The top 10 bands are displayed each day on the website.

Within a couple of days of entering, the band had gone to the top of the Buzz Chart and managed to stay there for over 4 weeks, eventually taking out the current round of the competition.

As a result of winning, they will be filmed by a film production crew over the next few days that will produce a webcast of them playing live. On Thursday they will spend the day being filmed with the host of the competition, a well-known Aussie musician called Ella Hooper, who will interview them and follow them around the township, building up a bit of a profile of them and showing them having fun and hanging out together. This will be released as a webcast next Thursday. Later in the year once the competition has finished (there are 4 more rounds to go, with each winner getting a webcast), they will be flown interstate to perform at a big music event with the other winners and a high-profile headline act.

As you may imagine, they are extremely excited and thrilled with their achievement. This will be a wonderful experience for them all and it will give them some incredible exposure and performance experience. The judges of this competition include the programming director for the Channel V and MAX music channels on Foxtel, the man who set up the Nova radio network, and some high profile band managers and industry heavyweights. So who knows what doors it may open for them?

For now though, we’re thrilled that they have done so well and we thought you should know about it so that the school can celebrate the achievement with them. Their peers were no doubt heavily supporting them in the voting process and have been very excited to share the news of the win with them over the last couple of days. We’d be keen to get them to play at the school later in the term when the weather fines up a bit.

If you’d like to see the song that they entered with, it can be viewed here:
http://www.youtube.com/rockwithexit

Janelle Reimann
Principal

Japanese Sister School Exchange Program:

The following students are excitedly preparing for our biannual exchange visit to our Sister School, Okayama Shoka University High school in Okayama, Japan: Jess Wakelam, Arran Greene, Brodie Dunn, Zoe Pfeiffer, Emily Madden, Jasmine Laube, David Cole and Megan Fortanier.

We will be leaving on September 15th for an 18 day trip which will include 10 days at school and 6 days travelling. Mr Andy Temple will be accompanying us on the trip. Along with the wonderful school visits and Home stay we will be visiting Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, Hiroshima and Miyajima. In preparation Students are now busy writing speeches, practicing language and folding paper cranes (1000) to take to Hiroshima Peace Park.

Liz Selby
Japanese Teacher

Police Recruiting:

South Coast Crime Prevention Section will be holding two recruiting information sessions at the Christies Beach Police Station, 94 Dyson road Christie Downs for Year 9-12 students.

Recruiting information will be available on the evening and parents are welcome to attend. Sessions will be:

6/8/12 7.00pm – 9.00pm
21/8/12 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Training room, Christies Beach Police Station, supper provided, please confirm attendance on 8392 9046 or susan.oconnor@police.sa.gov.au / david.uthenwoldt@police.sa.gov.au

SUCCESS | FAIRNESS | SAFETY | RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY
At the end of last term, our two year 9 Japanese classes participated in a wonderful excursion to the Himeji Gardens and the Adelaide Central markets. Students really enjoyed the ambience and culture of the gardens along with teachers Liz Selby, Jess Abell and practicing teacher Rachel Ashford.

After a couple of hours in the gardens we visited the Adelaide Central Markets together for lunch and a quick look at the Asian food sections and stalls. All students were excellent ambassadors for Willunga High School and their behavior, uniform and attitudes were an absolute pleasure to witness. A big thank you to all staff and students who made this day one worth remembering!

Liz Selby—Japanese Teacher