FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I know that I always say this, but it is amazing how quickly a term progresses. You just feel that everything is starting, when all of a sudden; it is already beginning to draw to a close. The year started very well with our staff in place, student enrolments very high (1,006 students) and our young people fully engaged in their learning.

Our vision this year is to look at the WHY. That is, why are we doing what we are doing? How can we do it better? How can we clearly articulate the relevance of the actions we undertake? I was recently very impressed with a speaker named Simon Sinek and I would encourage you to visit the YouTube TED Talks, http://www.youtube.com/user/SimonSinek where you can see him speaking about what he believes to be the WHY. His philosophy is that we know WHAT we are doing (teaching), we know the HOW (strategies and pedagogy), but do we clearly articulate the WHY. Once we do this it all becomes very clear, as people and students can understand the reasons behind what they are learning, the reasons why teachers are teaching in a certain way and how this learning then connects with each individual’s preferred learning styles and builds on what they already know. I found this inspiring; as did the teachers I shared it with.

I have been very impressed with our students so far this year and the ways in which they have engaged with their learning and embraced the opportunities that have been provided to them. As I walk through the classrooms and into the yard, I get a real sense of community. Willunga High School is truly a lovely place to teach and to learn! How proud I am as I take visitors around our school on Principal’s Tours and then see how impressed new parents are. Parents from our surrounding Primary Schools have been very impressed with students’ engagement in learning, our facilities and most of all the general feel around the school. Open Night was well attended by our current families and prospective families. This night was a great opportunity to showcase what we do in the school and I appreciated the efforts of staff and student volunteers.

Sports Day was again a triumph, with all students having a great time, achieving their personal best throws, jumps and running times. The weather was kind to us and there was an overall carnival atmosphere. Thanks must go to Mr Gaunt and to his team for their great organisation. The winning team on the day was McLaren (RED) but it is my belief that all students are winners! The school team for SANTOS was chosen based on students’ performances at Sports Day and these competitors went to compete against neighbouring schools on March 28th and once again, Willunga High School was victorious at this event. It is my belief that a “champion team” beats a “team of champions” everyday! Our students are indeed a team and they work with the staff and each other. Every year we have every event filled and participating students really do try their very best.

Year 12 students have begun the year very well and they have quickly adapted to the pressure of 32 weeks of study. The Research Project is underway and students will be finishing this over the next few months. Deadlines are being met and students appear to be keeping up with their workloads. I encourage students to come into school on the “lesson free” Wednesday to meet with their peers to collectively work together and get things done. It is pleasing to watch how the students and staff have been using Edmodo to connect with each other. This is a “social networking” site where information can be posted, but it is controlled by the Administrator (the teacher). No personal information is allowed and it has a focus on learning and information. If a student does not know something or wishes for more clarification they can gain these insights by asking or “posting messages” to other students and their teachers. It has proven to be a very powerful learning and clarifying tool.

Janelle Reimann - Principal

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PARENT INFORMATION

Bullying In Schools
Our strategic plan
“A partnership approach to reducing bullying is valued at Willunga High School, to ensure our school environment is friendly and free of bullying behaviours.”

The statement above summarizes our focus for a series of newsletter articles. Over the next six or seven newsletters we will present articles for parents/caregivers to read, and support us in our work to keep our school a safe and bully free environment.

Articles will be introduced by the headline above, with each article having a single focus;

**Newsletter 1:** Communicating effectively with your children.
**Newsletter 2:** The nature of bullying/how can I support my child?
**Newsletter 3:** How parents/caregivers can support the school.
**Newsletter 4:** Cyberbully NOT.
**Newsletter 5:** How to respond to bullying.
**Newsletter 6:** Encourage your child not to bully.
**Newsletter 7:** Bystanders.
**Newsletter 8:** Helpful parent responses.

As a means of evaluating our current practice we constructed a student audit, and have sent home a parent audit. Please use these to discuss any issues you feel are relevant, and contact the school if you would like further information or support.

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Communicating effectively with your children

At Willunga High School we are committed to zero tolerance of bullying and harassment in our school community and see the support of families as integral to this goal.

In the next few newsletters we will feature articles that may help you talk with your children about bullying. It is important to discuss bullying with your children on a regular basis. Regular communication with a person they trust and respect will help them form their own opinions and beliefs about bullying. Your children will also feel more comfortable telling you if they are being bullied.

**The following ideas may support the way you talk with your children.**

**Sit shoulder to shoulder or walk with your child as you talk.**

Talking face to face can be quite confrontational, particularly for boys. Sitting or walking side by side will encourage both you and your child to talk freely.

**Use open ended questions.**

It is easy to ask your child if they had a good day or if they would like toast for breakfast, however these questions only require a yes or no answer.

Try asking questions such as “What did you do today?” or “What would you like for breakfast?” These types of questions encourage discussion between you and your child.

**Talk with your children about what to do rather than what not to do.**

It is common for us to focus on poor behaviour, such as “stop swinging on your chair”. Using positive language allows you to tell your children what you would like them to do, rather than what you don’t want them to do. Try rewarding negative statements to positive statements such as “please put the chair legs on the floor”.

Phil Boyle - Senior Leader

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Daymap Parent Portal

The Daymap Parent Portal will be online and available from the beginning of Term 2. A link will be put on the school’s website with details on how to access the portal using the email address you provided the school.

Parents and caregivers will be able to access Attendance, Assessment and Reporting information via this portal.

The school will notify via text and a letter will be enclosed with the end of term report. The letter will explain the process in detail.

If you have yet to provide your email details, please do so as a priority by phoning the school on 85562105 or emailing the details to: info@whs.sa.edu.au

Caine Gillard - ICT Coordinator

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Finance

By now all families with outstanding M&S fees should have received a statement.

**Fees are due and payable by the 12th April 2013**

which of course is the end of Term 1.

For those families who have payment arrangements in place or are paying via internet banking/credit card please note that no further action is required. The statements are for your information only.

**Are you eligible for school card?**

Please contact the Finance Office for application forms.

Outstanding M&S fees with no payment arrangements in place or default instalment agreements in conjunction with Willunga High School Governing Council will be forwarded to DECD Recoveries in May 2013 and will incur legal fees. We ask that you please take action if this relates to you.

Finance Office - Carol Smith and Amy Hughes

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**SRC Training Day**

On the 27th of February 2013 the SRC went to the Willunga Show Hall, to welcome and nominate our new members, along with the Year 8 Leaders.

This was the perfect opportunity to get to know our peers. During the day we participated in a number of activities such as table tennis, human bingo and a game where we had to hold hands and try to untangle each other, as a group! Our day started off at Willunga High School where we all gathered to walk up the road to the Willunga Show Hall. When we arrived we met a table tennis coach who then showed us how to play table tennis games. After playing games for a while we gathered into a room where the SRC information was announced, such as the new President and Vice President, who are Glen Davidson (Year 12) and Sarah Filkin (Year 11). We then participated in the games listed above. When we were all tired out, we broke off into pairs and groups of threes to write speeches for the Year 8 leaders. After this the Year 8s performed their speeches and we voted. There were so many Year 8 candidates. When we were told who was successful the Year 8s left the room to decide who will be their leader. The rest of the SRC members worked out who would take the remaining roles.

Mrs. Rowe provided lunch; we had pies, sausages, pasties, fruit boxes and finger buns. They were very yummy! Some of the students left at that point and went back to school, but the remainder of us stayed and played some more table tennis. We left at around 1:00pm and walked back to school. Overall it was a very fun and interesting day. By Adele Wellman, Kalki Gagliardi and Becky Steffe

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**School to School Partnership**

47 students in Reception at Willunga Primary School came on a visit to our school to work with the Year 12 Child Studies class. The children prepared food in a safe manner under the supervision of the Year 12 students. Foods prepared were selected using the DECD Healthy Eating Guidelines.

This activity benefitted all involved. The Reception children were able to complete many different skills using food and equipment. The Year 12 students were able to interact with age appropriate children for the course they are studying. They were able to apply their knowledge of child development to a real situation and design age appropriate food activities to use with these children.

All 70 people who were involved in this event enjoyed the reaction of the children to their learning experiences.

We thank Willunga Primary School for their involvement in the Year 12 program so far and look forward to two more opportunities to get together this year.

Fiona Adams - Child Studies Teacher

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**Open Boys Cricket**

The Open Boys took on Tatachilla Lutheran College in the 1st round of the knockout competition. The boys made 211 of their 35 overs, with Ryan Haverty (56 runs), Joel Docking (44), Trent Ormsby (53) and Isaac Tierney (25) doing the damage with the bat. Willunga then bowled Tatachilla out for 126 for a commanding win.

This meant they took on Eastern Fleurieu in the 2nd round. Batting first, Eastern Fleurieu made 129 with Dillon Bilney taking 3 for 24. In reply, Willunga could only make 104 with Joel Docking making 49. All boys played fairly and in the spirit of the game and should be proud of their efforts.

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**Year 8/9 Boys Cricket**

The 8/9 Boys took on Tatachilla Lutheran College in their 1st round of the knockout competition. The boys were able to restrict Tatachilla to 150 off their 35 overs, with Ryan Collier doing the damage with 4 wickets. In reply, the lads never really got going, being dismissed for 59. Nick Scanlon top scored with 17, whilst Matt Schafer was able to hit his 1st ever six towards the end of the innings. A disappointing result for the lads, but with all but 3 of the boys being Year 8, they will return next year a stronger side.

Andrew Gaunt - Sports Coordinator
On the 26th of March, Willunga High School sent 63 students to SANTOS to compete in our interschool Sports Day against seven other Southern Vales and Fleurieu Schools. The students demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship throughout the day and were willing to jump in and fill up events wherever needed.

The day was extremely successful for our school. Led by Captains, Murlin Every and Allyson Veasey, the school was able to win its 4th consecutive Championship and was also able to take out the Handicap Shield, where points are adjusted according to the size of the school. This was a fantastic result by all students involved, the teachers and the whole school! Throughout the day, the relays were a standout. Willunga High School won six of the relay events and came 2nd in the other two. This justifies the hard work put in by the students and Mr Jacques in the week leading up to the event.

Congratulations to all involved and thanks to the other staff members; Ms Dienelt, Mr Princi and Ms Wreford.

Andrew Gaunt - Sports Coordinator