End of Term 4 Newsletter!
“Be the Change that you wish to see in the world” (Mahatma Ghandi). This is how we have approached 2013 and our students, parents and staff did indeed grasp the concept, going with the flow and enjoying the experience. We have been on a journey of transformational self discovery over the last 8 years and it appears to me that we have been successful. You always ask yourself, how do you know?

Well, it appears evident from the feedback from parents and visitors to our school, from our increasing numbers, the fact that staff do not wish to leave our school and others are applying in very large numbers to become part of our community.

If you look at the media, our success should be reflected in our NAPLAN results or academic results. Certainly we have had continued improvement in our SACE results with increases in our ‘A’ and ‘B’ results and 82% of our students achieving their Senior School Certificate. However, I was once asked by a parent about how I do measure the success of a school, my reply and my personal belief is:

- Is each child happy?
- Does each child have friends?
- Is he or she involved in the school and community?
- Do they enjoy coming to school
- Are they experiencing success and personal growth?

I took a visitor around the school and we had only walked 20 metres and for each metre that we covered students were saying “Hello!”. They were asking me questions and they were smiling, happy, engaged and positive young people. You can imagine how proud I was of them, the staff, and our educational program. It is my philosophy that in order to be inspiring you need to be inspired. These young people inspire me everyday; they amaze me with their talents, their ideas and their enthusiasm. I would not want to be doing anything else! Is it not a joy to be able to say exactly this?

Looking back on this year we have had some amazing highlights and these are just a few:

Year 12 Graduation: this event is always inspirational with the Valedictorians for the evening, Glenn and Jess, delivering a heartfelt speech on the impact of the education at Willunga High School on themselves and their peers. There were tears and joy, happiness and sorrow, but most of all a sense of achievement and no regrets.

The National Broadband Network: We have been able to harness the power of this technology to transform our teaching and learning experiences. Everyone is a learner and as one teacher said: “It has allowed my students to move from ‘C’ grades into ‘A’ grades”. The reason this has happened is that students have been engaged in their learning, learning from each other, sharing their experiences and teachers have become the artisans of the development and delivery of the learning program. The consistency and power of the NBN has encouraged teachers to take risks in using technology.
There are 9,200 schools across Australia and only 33 are connected to the NBN. We have been recognised as delivering cutting edge learning programs and we have been invited to a number of conferences to deliver Keynotes and addresses to other educators, as well as featuring in news items, articles and publications. We have also been participating in National Projects where students in Advanced Science in Year 10 are getting access to learning through world class scientists in the areas of Astrophysics and Nanotechnology through Monash University and the University of New South Wales. Students have been guiding and driving the Mars Rover replica through the Powerhouse Museum, talking and discovering new and exciting aspects of how life began!

As our numbers grow, we have continued to develop our beautiful grounds and add more classrooms. We have discovered that we are short of classrooms and over the next six months we will have two new Science Laboratories and two classrooms built, the tennis courts will be resurfaced and relined (which has been on the top of my list for eight years) and made fit for purpose. The school has a new fence which replaces the low, old rusty one that has been in place forever and we have plans for the building of a new Gym and outdoor circuit.

Our students continue to amaze me in everything that they do, how they carry themselves when representing the school and the fantastic comments I receive about their manners, conduct and demeanours. Our students have so many opportunities to be involved in community endeavours, camps, trips and world tours. This year we had our Japanese Sister School visit and it was a huge success. Many students have volunteered to be part of the World Challenge program where they visit Vietnam, work in an orphanage or school, give to that community and experience the country. They were so enthusiastic, embracing the idea and have set themselves the challenge of raising their own money, working in the community and going on the program in 2014.

Student Leadership continues to flourish with students campaigning to become members of the SRC. The students run our assemblies, participate in formal events and just love representing our school. In sport we continue the winning tradition with our 4th consecutive win at the Interschool Athletics events, competing against local schools. Our students participate in Volleyball at the National Championships and this year 10 teams competed.

Technology: we have embraced the use of technology in every sphere of our learning, it does not replace good and appropriate explicit teaching, but what it does is allow us to push the boundaries of our learning experiences. We have trialled the use of electronic textbooks for our Year 8 students, replacing the dated textbooks of old, and we will move to use these in both Year 8 and 9 in 2014. We have upgraded our computers and have purchased some 3D printers. These printers allow students to design an item, draw it up using the CAD programs and then print it out! Can you imagine, designing a rocket or a chest of drawers, then being able to get a 3D image of it, evaluate the issues and problems, redraw and then be able to see what the final product will look like before you have even built it. Goodness – we are only limited by our imaginations!

Royal Show: our team really got organised this year with new equipment and stylish uniforms. Not only did they look good but they were professional, reliable and a joy to work with and then they got the results! The cattle won Grand Champion in their class, the goats received ribbons and one was Reserve Champion. Our Orchid Club won first prize in the School Competition and second prize in the Open. What a team… I was so impressed with the mentoring that was occurring with our older and more experienced students, guiding and assisting our less experienced younger students.

Reflecting upon the highlights it has become evident that Willunga High School is a champion team, where everyone is working towards a common goal and vision and that this enthusiasm and positivity is infectious.

We love to see our Year 8 students coming into the school from 37 or more primary schools who very quickly embrace the ethos of what Willunga High School is all about and that is being the best that you can be!

Everyone has a talent that can be harnessed, moulded and developed and if our students walk through our gates and are not engaged by something in our learning program, then the student is not trying hard enough! We offer such a broad range of activities, experiences and learning that there will be something that spark their interest, and ignite their flame of learning.
What we do pride ourselves on is producing wonderful citizens and that is what it is all about; having people who look beyond themselves, want to give back to their community, who feel valued and then they really are the change that we want to see in the world. This year I heard Bob Brown (ex-Green’s Senator) talk about our world and the impact that we have on our environment and I must say I was inspired by him. His philosophy is: “Let us honour our ancestors, dance with our companions, sing with our children as we celebrate the existence of the planet beneath our feet and the beckoning stars above.” Leaving a legacy for our children and our children’s children is so important. That is why school is so pivotal - it does make a difference, educators make a difference and working together with young people and their families makes a world of difference.

I wish to thank everyone this year for their hard work, for those who are leaving us we thank you for your contributions, to those who will be joining us, we look forward to your contributions. A special farewell to Ms Cathy Trenouth who is retiring from active teaching service and her role as Deputy Principal. Cathy has been a teacher and a leader at Willunga High School for 30 years.

A reminder that Year 8 and Year 12 students will start school on Tuesday January 28th 2014 and everyone else begins on the Wednesday! This will allow a proper induction process to occur for these year levels, given the very large number of students. See you all upon your return, safe, happy and ready to begin work.

Janelle Reimann—Principal
JUST A FEW......CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS
A partnership approach to reducing bullying is valued at Willunga High School to ensure our school environment is friendly and free of bullying behaviours.

It is important that parents have strategies to effectively help your children deal with bullying.

It is natural for parents to feel upset and want to protect their children if they are being bullied. However, an upset parent can often increase the involved child’s distress.

Parent responses that have been found to be helpful are to:

- Encourage your children to discuss the situation.
- Be aware of your own responses and react in a calm, helpful and supportive manner.
- Believe your children - It is important that your children feel confident talking to you about problems.
- Tell your children that bullying is wrong and remind your children that they have the right to feel safe and happy.
- Encourage your children to make friends. Having at least one good friend has been shown to reduce likelihood and impact of bullying.
- Make sure your children know how to get help from school.
- Talk to your children’s teacher.
- Ask your children what they would like you to do.

Phil Boyle ~ Senior Leader

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As the school year draws to a close, some of you may be thinking of planning or hosting a Party. The South Coast Local Service Area would like to provide you with information that will assist in making your event safe and free from incident.

**Pre Planning:**
- Let your nearby neighbours aware that you are having a party.
- Ensure that the guest list is kept to a manageable size.
- If it is an underage event ensure that responsible adults are present throughout the event.
- If the party is being held at your house ensure that all valuables are locked away and secure.

**During the Party:**
- Do not allow guests to bring their own alcohol.
- Serve the drinks in plastic cups.
- Ensure that food and non-alcoholic drinks are available throughout the party.

**For Parents of Party Guests:**
- Speak with the host to check start and finish times.
- Check to see if the party will be supervised.
- Encourage your teenager to contact you if they feel unsafe during the event.

**For the Party Guests:**
- Ensure that you know how you are getting to and from the party.
- If you are driving ensure that you do not drink.
- Nominate a designated driver if going with friends.
- Team up with a friend for the evening, stay with them during the party.
- Do not leave your drinks unattended.

**Applicable Laws:**
- It is an offence for a person under the age of 18 to consume or possess liquor in a public place.
- To supply liquor to a person under the age of 18 in a public place (unless it is the persons parent or guardian).
- For a person acting at the request of a person under the age of 18 to purchase liquor from a licenced premises.

**Excessive Noise:**
- It is an offence for noise to be emitted from premises so that it unreasonably interferes with the enjoyment of the area by any other person.
- This means that if the noise coming from your premises is so loud that it interferes with the comfort of any other person you may be committing an offence.
- There is no time limit for when the noise is deemed to be excessive. It can be anytime of the day or night.

Party Safe information packs which includes the ability to register your ‘Party’ with the local police are available from any police station.

For further information in relation to Safe Parties please contact your local police station, or the Crime Prevention Section, attached to your Local Service Area.
Who wants to be a hero?

Jessica, Jordan and Glenn have spread the word about blood donation at Willunga High School through the Blood Service’s Youth Ambassadors Program. They have shared their thoughts and insights on a very successful year.

Q&A

How did you spread the word about donating at Willunga High School?

We promoted blood donation by going to classes and informing them of what we were doing with the Ambassador program, along with presentations at assemblies. We have talked to teachers at staff meetings and met with key members of the admin team to help implement the program, created wristbands to raise awareness and organised appointments during school hours for year 12s wanting to donate.

We thought wristbands were a great idea because they promote what we are doing as a school and promote blood donations in the greater community! The three youth ambassadors and our coordinating teacher got together and designed a band that was the red and white colouring of the blood service and on it said ‘I SAVED 3 LIVES TODAY’ which is a great opening to promote blood donation! Who doesn’t want to be a hero? Everyone who received a wrist band wears it proudly as a reminder of the lives they have saved!

Have you had a successful year?

More students and staff have managed to donate over the past few months than they have in the previous years. Our students and staff at Willunga High School are now all more aware of blood donation and therefore more likely to make future donations.

Finally, a message out there to anyone considering donating...

Jessica: I want to tell them it’s a great thing to do. If there’s one great thing you do in your day why not make it saving three lives?

Jordan: If you already know how important blood donations are then you really have no excuse not to sign up.

Glenn: It doesn’t hurt! It’s a great way to help someone who is in need. Get a group of friends and go together, make it a fun thing to do.
On November 21st our Year 8 MS6 Society and Environment class visited the Court House and Slate Museum in Willunga for an afternoon. Students were dressed in 19th century costume and were involved in a mock law session. This was a fabulous afternoon and it was great to tie in some local heritage and history with our studies on Law and Citizenship. A big thank you to Mrs Judith Lamb and local volunteers, along with Willunga High School teacher Miss Alice Nicholls who joined us for the session. A great afternoon of fun and learning was had by all.

Liz Selby—Teacher
Between the 29th October and 2nd September 2013, South Coast Local Service Area Crime Prevention Section in partnership with Christies Beach Blue Light, conducted a Blue Light Canberra Leadership Camp for Year 10 students from schools within the South Coast Local Service Area. Sixteen students were selected to participate in the five day program, after submitting an essay in the South Coast Essay Competition. Topics chosen by students included Alcohol, Drugs and Truancy.

The program was designed to
- Improve self esteem
- Encourage and assist in the development of personal and social skills
- Enhance a sense of community responsibilities
- Provide opportunities to develop positive partner/relationships
- Create trust, motivation and leadership skills
- Enhance Police/Youth relationships.

The students who participated in the program were challenged during the camp and all camp participants managed to climb Mount Kosciuszko, which is the highest mountain in Australia with a height of 2,228 metres high. Students also attended the National Police Memorial, Australian War Memorial, Parliament House and Old Parliament House.

Students described their highlights of the camp from the Afghanistan Exhibition at the War Memorial, the debate in Old Parliament House, seeing snow, and reaching the top of Mount Kosciuszko, to being able to stand in the Prime Minister's office.

The camp was supported by Christies Beach Blue Light, City of Onkaparinga Council, DECD, South Coast Neighbourhood Watch groups, McDonalds (Noarlunga and Seaford), Department of Premier and Cabinet Indigenous Affairs, Minister for Youth and SAPOL.

Leith Gourlay—Teacher
There have been many events within the Performing Arts this year including two Arts Showcases, the Yr 12 Drama Moderation of ‘Find Me’, the Year 12 Dance Moderation and various lunch time performances.

On Friday the 31st of May, Willunga High School students presented the Semester One Arts Showcase at the Port Noarlunga Arts Centre. The event included Dance, Drama and Music and involved students from Year 9 to 12. Mr Cavaiuolo’s talented singers and musicians opened the night. Next, followed Mr Princi’s Year 9 Drama students, who enthusiastically performed scenes from the play “Year 9’s are Animals”, written by Richard Tulloch. The play is about a first year out teacher, Alan Howman, who is confronted with the tough assignment of teaching a class labelled by some of the teachers as “animals”. The Year 10 Drama class then followed with “Bus Stop”, a play about a girl named Catherine, who is running away from her troubled family life, hoping to find an easy transformation to a new life. Lastly, Ms Lehmann’s Year 9 &10 Dancers performed a variety of pieces, showcasing various styles of Dance including Jazz, Hip Hop & Contemporary. This event was a culmination of a semester’s work, in which the students learnt many skills and worked very hard.

The next week, on the 7th June, Ms Lehmann’s Year 12 Drama students successfully performed their production of Find Me. Based upon a true story, this play was written in 1977 by Olwen Wymark. It is a thought-provoking and gripping play about a girl called Verity Taylor, who experiences socialisation problems and slips through every net, at every turn. Set in the 60s and 70s, Find Me tells the story of Verity, who suffers from an undiagnosed mental disorder for years, before being incarcerated indefinitely at age 20, after setting fire to a chair. The students delivered a memorable and realistic performance, and should be proud of their achievements.

The performances kept coming in Term 2, and on the 27th June the Year 12 Dance Moderation was presented at the Port Noarlunga Arts Centre. It featured various styles of Dance and highlighted the dedication and skills of the students. The evening, whilst starring the Year 12 dancers, also featured performances by some talented Year 9 and Year 11 students. The performers, with the guidance of their teacher Ms Dienelt, presented a polished and entertaining performance.

On Friday the 8th of November, the Semester Two Arts Showcase was held at the Port Noarlunga Arts Centre. The event involved Music and Dance students from Years 9 to 11. Mr Cavaiuolo’s gifted singers and musicians performed various items including the memorable finale ‘Give Me Love’. After interval, Ms Lehmann’s Year 9 &10 Dancers performed a variety of pieces, showcasing various Dance styles, with many of the dances choreographed by the students. This event was a fantastic way to finish of the year.

There have also been several lunch time performances held throughout the year featuring Dance, Drama and Music students, both past and present, which have been enjoyed by large audiences. The Performing Arts Faculty would like to congratulate all of the students on their achievements and thank all of the staff who assisted in the preparation, organisation and running of the various performances throughout the year.

The Performing Arts Faculty
THE PERFORMING ARTS 2013

SUCCESS FAIRNESS SAFETY RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY
At Willunga High School, we are fortunate to be part of a supportive community, with over 50 different businesses providing support to both the Work Experience and Vocational Learning programs. On the 21st of November, Community Partnerships @ Work and the DECD Industry Skills program held the Inaugural Southern Shine Awards Industry Breakfast to celebrate school and business partnerships in the Outer South.

The event was highly successful, and enabled representatives from the school and identified local businesses to celebrate the meaningful partnerships that are so important in providing students at the school with a well-rounded and future pathways oriented education. The quality of the partnerships between Willunga High School and local businesses was recognised, being awarded two out of the three industry awards.

**Marvellous Mentoring Partnerships**

**Award Winner – Aldinga Timber & Hardware**

Aldinga Timber & Hardware was recognised with the Marvellous Mentoring Partnerships Award – recognising partnerships that provide mentorship to students.

The family-owned business on Lacey Drive at Aldinga, provides valuable work experience and tutoring opportunities to the students enrolled in the Doorways to Construction (D2C) program, along with providing materials and equipment at reduced rates.

Colin, Mary, Niki, Brett and Staff continue to support students who are hoping to enter the Construction and Furnishing trades by regularly taking students for extended work experience placements. Through their support, students are able to experience work in the timber yard, the hardware sales area and off-site with Brett in a range of construction projects. In addition to supporting the work experience program, this year Colin and Brett were able to take one of our students as a full-time carpenter’s apprentice - A fantastic result for Travis and the school.

Brett and Colin are a remarkable resource for our school as they are both extremely skilled and also have a natural ability to communicate their knowledge to others. This is not only valuable for the students, but also for the instructors, with D2C teacher Dave Hooper seeking their advice for suitable projects and tasks for the students enrolled in the program.

We are truly very lucky to have industry partners with the quality of Aldinga Timber, and it was very pleasing to see them recognised for their support through the inaugural Marvellous Mentoring Partnerships Award.
Partnerships with a Purpose Award winner – Victor Harbor Aquatics Centre

Victor Harbor Aquatics Centre was recognised with the **Partnerships with a Purpose Award** recognising partnerships that are targeted at specific cohorts of students – in this case supporting our Certificate II Outdoor Recreation students. For over ten years, the Victor Harbor Aquatics Centre has supported the delivery of the Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation by delivering the instruction of the practical skills in:

- Kayaking
- Sailing
- Sailboarding
- Surfing
- Snorkelling
- Bodyboarding

The centre not only provides quality instruction. They also provide equipment and local knowledge in terms of environment and safety issues. Stephen Moore, our Outdoor Recreation Teacher, recounts how Victor Harbor Aquatics Centre staff often go “above and beyond” in order to support our students to achieve their full potential.

“What impresses me even more, is that the instructors personally provide equipment and “luxury” items to our students. This is most evident when we are on our 3 day kayak expedition in the Coorong, where instructors participate fully for the entire time on camp. Joining in with camp activities, night walks and building positive relationships outside of their paid time. This is one of the many reasons why I continually return with students and continue my involvement with the Centre and the instructors.”

Thankyou to all of the businesses who have supported the vocational learning and work experience programs this year. Without your continued support, we would struggle to offer the range and quality of courses for students at this school.
On the 11th November, 2013 Sonya Ryan from the Carly Ryan Foundation and Tammy from SAPOL presented to families on the topics of Online Safety and Digital Footprint. The evening was well supported and extremely informative. More information about safe socialising online can be found by visiting [http://www.communications.gov.au/easyguide](http://www.communications.gov.au/easyguide)

**WILLUNGA HIGH SCHOOL FEES**

The poll has been conducted in accordance with the Education Act 1972 and the Materials and Services Charges Administrative Instructions and Guidelines. The 2014 Materials and Services Charge of $430 will be legally recoverable in the event of non-payment.

**DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN**

It is important for children to have strong, healthy teeth and gums.

All children (0 – 17 years) are welcome to attend School Dental Service clinics.

Dental treatment is free at School Dental Service clinics if:
- Family Tax Benefit Part A is paid for your child, or
- Your child is covered by a School Card, Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The School Dental Service will bulk-bill under the new Medicare Child Dental Benefits Schedule that starts in 2014. Under this scheme, most children aged between 2-17 years will be eligible to claim up to $1000 of Dental services over 2 years.

If your child already attends a SA Dental Service clinic, contact us when their next appointment is due. If your child does not already attend one of our clinics, please phone us to make an appointment in 2014.

For more information contact your local clinic. Clinic list found at [www.sadental.sa.gov.au](http://www.sadental.sa.gov.au)