22 FEBRUARY, 2019
VOLUME 1

WHS NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL | Anthony van Ruiten

To all the members of the Willunga High School community, past and present, welcome to the 2019 new school year.

We are already almost half way through the first term but I would like to look over the shoulder and reflect on 2018 for a minute. At the beginning of each year we always take the time to congratulate our 2018 Alumni as they make their way toward their preferred futures, having performed very well in their Stage 2 studies. For the third consecutive year our Year 12 students have outperformed those that came before them. This is a pleasing trend, one which we are determined to continue and the positive partnerships between our families and the school have played a large part in this. We would like to celebrate the achievement of the following students whose hard work resulted in their achievement of the highest Stage 2 scores in 2018.

Ida Moore	95.4
Abby Guy	93.3
Carter Slater	92
Indiana Kernick	87.5
Mia Thorpe	87.2
Katrice Turner	83.55

These students have already embarked on their preferred pathways having achieved their success through hard work and persistence. We also congratulate their teachers and families for the support they provided these young people throughout the year.

We are delighted to welcome 203 Year 8 students and the almost 30 new Year 9-12 students, along with their families into our community. I would like to give a special welcome to Elena, Mika and Tomoya who are joining Alma as Study Abroad students in our community. Study Abroad students are students from overseas, in our case Japan and Germany, who come to experience the Australian education system, gain an understanding of Australian culture and improve their English language skills.

We also welcome 7 new staff members who, we are sure, will add value to our already vibrant and progressive staff. The start to the 2019 school year has been very positive with a great industrious feel about the place.

The beginning of the school year is also an opportune time to remind the school community of some of the important principles that promote the best learning outcomes for students.

The Willunga High School staff value highly the supportive interactions we have with our parent and carer community as we can see firsthand how that enhances the outcomes for students and maintains their engagement in learning.

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

There is ample research that shows how important this relationship is and this can be enhanced through consistent, positive 2 way communication between us and families so that everyone can support better outcomes for students.

As important for students is their connection to the school and their attendance at school. There is a clear connection between attendance and student achievement. It is absolutely critical that students are absent from school as little as possible and for families to ensure this is the case is a highly supportive way to make sure your child is able to meet their potential. This is especially critical for Stage 2 students who will require every lesson and tutorial to help them develop and consolidate their understandings in what is a challenging year with a very high workload.

I would expect that by now you would have received some communication from your child's home group and class teachers regarding a range of topics, including some administrative matters and information regarding teaching programs or your child's progress. The most efficient way for this to occur is via email so it is important that all families provide the school with their most current email address along with current phone numbers and residential addresses.

Over the past three years we have had a focus on providing our students with high quality, engaging learning experiences. This has involved a strong focus for our teachers in developing educational programs and experiences that best use the technologies available to us to. It is important that students have access to their own device as we move forward with the development of modern teaching methodologies that are engaging and enhance student outcomes. In fact in 2018 the first Stage 2 exams were done online requiring students to have access to devices so that they can achieve to their potential in a familiar digital environment.

KEY DATES 2019

FEBRUARY:

Fri 22 Feb
Principal's Tour, 9:30 - 10:30am

MARCH:

Fri 1 Mar
STUDENT FREE DAY
Mon 4 Mar
WHS AGM, 6:30pm
Wed 6 Mar
Japanese Study Tour Visitors Arrive
Fri 8 Mar
Yr 12 Formal
Mon 11 Mar
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
Fri 15 Mar
Sports Day
Sat 16 Mar
Japanese Study Tour Visitors Depart
Wed 20 Mar
WHS Open Night, 5:30 - 7:30pm

APRIL:

Mon 8 - Fri 12 Apr
Yr 10 Work Experience
Tues 9 Apr
Student / Parent / Teacher Conferences
Fri 12 Apr
Last Day Term 1, 2pm Dismissal
Mon 29 Apr
First Day Term 2

Cont.

We have spent some time as a staff group working on the consistency of what students and parents can access through our Learner Management System. This will continue to provide greater ongoing access for families and our students to learning, attendance and achievement through the SEQTA Engage (parents) and SEQTA Learn (students) Portals.
There are many opportunities for being more involved with the school, this may be through becoming a volunteer in the school canteen, volunteering in other parts of the school or joining the Governing Council. The Willunga HS canteen provides a fantastic service to our students with 'home cooked', healthy foods for the students and staff. Anybody wishing to help out in the canteen or wishing to volunteer in any other part of the school please contact us through the school reception. The school will support the completion of all the required documentation for working in a school environment.

The Willunga High School Governing Council AGM will be held on the March 4 at 6:30pm in the new Learning Hub. This is where we will be seeking to appoint our Governing Council for 2019. All families are encouraged to attend this meeting and we would be delighted to have new members join the Governing Council to provide much valued input into the governance and directions of the school.

I look forward to meeting many of the school community members and our old scholars throughout 2019.
Anthony van Ruiten
Principal

Welcome new International Students!

By Leeanne Storr, International Student Program Manager

This term we warmly welcome three new International students to Willunga High School, Mika & Tomoya from Japan and Elena from Germany.

Sharing our culture and learning about another's is a great part of our International program.

Our International Student Program depends on the warm hospitality and generosity of our local community. Due to the growth and diversity of our International Program we are constantly looking for families to host students.

Homestay families are paid to host a student, meaning that there's spending money for the whole family to have great adventures with their International Student.

As a local family hosting an international student, you will have the chance to:

- learn about other cultures, customs and traditions
- make lifelong friendships with your student
- participate in activities and meet other host families
- explore fun things to see and do in South Australia

We have a number of short term student tours visiting WHS throughout the year. Why not register now for upcoming opportunities! For more information visit http://www.whs.sa.edu.au/special-programs/international
We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your family being part of our international community.

Wellbeing at WHS

by Ben Sanderson & Leisa Yanner, Wellbeing Leaders

The Willunga High School Wellbeing Team would like to welcome everyone back to school in 2019! This term the school's Wellbeing Leaders are Ben Sanderson and Leisa Yanner.

The wellbeing of the school community continues to be a priority at Willunga High School. This Term we have expanded the Doctor on Campus (DoC) program to include another Psychologist, which has increased our capacity to support students experiencing mental health issues. Through the DoC program, students can arrange appointments with a Social Worker, a GP, or a Psychologist at no cost as all appointments are bulked billed. Please contact the school and ask to speak to one of the Wellbeing Leaders if you want further information.

Ben and Leisa are also available to support students with any wellbeing concerns including friendship / relationship issues, self-esteem, attendance arising from student's wellbeing to name a few. If you want to arrange an appointment or you are concerned about the welfare of another person / student at the school, it's best to first speak to the home group teacher and the year level co-ordinator who will arrange a time with the Wellbeing Leaders to discuss any concerns.

There is also a large range of online resources to support individuals and their families. These websites provide confidential counselling on the phone or by chat, as well as tools, apps, and information for young people around mental health.

https://www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/

https://au.reachout.com/

https://www.beyondblue.org.au/

https://www.lifeline.org.au/

https://kidshelpline.com.au/

https://headspace.org.au/

http://www.wch.sa.gov.au

https://www.mindmatters.edu.au/

https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/

After School Surfing

by Leith Gourlay, Middle School Manager

After School Surfing is a great program that provides students with the opportunity to develop their surf safety skills and knowledge, make new friendships and build familiarity with other students while exercising the body and mind.

This program is suitable for beginners through to advanced and is offered in Term 1 on Wednesday afternoons, at the Southport Surf Life Saving Club from 4:15 - 5:45pm.

Cost is $26.40 for the term, covering surfboard and wetsuit hire and instructor costs.

Please see Mr Gourlay for more information and collect a form from Student Services or email leith.gourlay@whs.sa.edu.au

2018 Australian Volleyball Schools Cup

by Andrew Gaunt, HPE/Sports Coordinator

The 2018 Australian Volleyball Schools Cup was a success for Willunga High School. The AVSC is the highlight of the Volleyball program at Willunga and is something that the students will remember for years to come. Taking one of the largest groups ever in 9 teams, hopes were high for some good results in Melbourne. In the end, we came away with 3 medals and 3 other teams placing in the top 6 in their division. The students need to be applauded for their outstanding efforts throughout the year and week with their commitment to the volleyball program. Their behaviour and willingness to support each other off the court was also a highlight of the trip.

Year 10 Boys – 2nd
Year 8 Girls – 2nd
Year 9 Boys – 3rd
Year 12 Girls – 4th
Year 11 Girls – 5th
Year 9 Girls – 6th
Year 8 Girls – 10th
Year 9 Girls – 11th
Year 10 Girls – 18th

This year, the AVSC moves to the Gold Coast and runs from the December 7 to 14. There will be a letter coming out to parents shortly about the impact this has on the cost of the trip. Try outs for all teams will be occurring in the first term for all interested students.

Huge congratulations to Ella M who has been chosen in the Volleyball SA Academy Program. This program gives young athletes the opportunity to develop into elite players through a carefully designed high performance training program. A fantastic effort.

Athletics

By Andrew Gaunt, HPE/Sports Coordinator

The Willunga High School Sports Day is on Friday 15 March.

All parents and families are invited to attend to watch one of the highlights on the Calendar. This event is used as a selection process to enable students to compete at the Interschool Carnival held at Athletics SA Stadium at Mile End on the Monday 8 April.

All students have been allocated a house and have the opportunity to nominate for events during House Meetings that occur in the Pathways session.

Can any team stop Sara (yellow) from going back to back?

Yr 8 History started with a BANG

By Daniel Froiland, Teacher, English/HASS

Year 8 History started off with a BANG and a BOOM this year, with students participating in the Viking Clap!

In term one we will be discovering the Viking Age, learning about the cultural, technological and political changes that societies undertook as they entered the modern world. Given our topic, we thought it would be appropriate to incorporate a Scandinavian ritual with the first day of high school for the students.

Classmates took turns beating the drum and leading the group, chanting 'Schol!' with a thunderous clap above their heads. The booming beat and deafening raw rapidly built to stir excitement and hysteria; with cheers and yahoo's concluding the set.

The modern Icelandic ritual is an iconic, national gesture to celebrate unity and recognise success. As we welcome our new students into the school community, we wish them all the best with their journey ahead.

A Community Safety Message

From the City of Onkaparinga

The 'Australian Road Rules'that are most prevalent to school parking and those which Community Safety Officers enforce compliance with are as follows:

· Vehicles must not stop in a NO STOPPING ZONE, even for a few seconds to pick up your child.
· Vehicles may stop in a NO PARKING ZONE for 3 minutes or less to pick up a child. You must not leave the vehicle.
· Vehicles must not double park, or stop in the line of traffic, to pick up or drop off a child.
· Vehicles must not stop in a bicycle lane.
· Vehicles must not stop in a Bus Zones
· Vehicles must not stop within 20 metres before a crossing or 10 metres after a crossing.
· Vehicles must not stop within 10 metres of an intersection or junction without traffic lights.
· Vehicles must not park over driveways
· Vehicles must not park on the verge

Community Safety Officers recognise that vehicle movement around schools create high risks zones for pedestrian safety and will engage and educate drivers, along with issue fines for illegal parking if appropriate. We wish everyone a successful and safe school year and ask parents to be mindful of their behaviour around schools, in relation to where they park and the respect shown to our Officers trying to ensure safety of others.

Historical Research Competition

By Alexandra Price, English/HASS/Languages Coordinator

If you are interested in working on the Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize, please see either an English / History teacher, or Ms Price. We can assist you with your entry. The prize is a trip to Vietnam later this year. Entries are due in May.

The competition provides the opportunity for young South Australians to examine and empathise with the remarkable sacrifices of South Australian service men and women during the 20th century.

You need to choose a South Australian service man or woman who served (Navy, Army, Airforce or Nursing), conduct research and then write a biography of their life. You also choose two of the characteristics of the Anzac Spirit and describe how the individual you researched demonstrated these two characteristics.

For further information, visit https://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/community/2019-premiers-anzac-spirit-school-prize/

To celebrate the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Almond Blossom Festival, the organising committee of the event are looking for community members to write down and submit an account detailing their memories of the Almond Blossom Festival in the aim of creating a project titled "50 years 50 stories.

One of our aims is to produce a book, either printed, e-book or both, if we believe we have enough quality stories for such an exercise.

The committee is looking for submissions from students, parents and other members of our community.

The stories do not have to be historical they can relate to any period and experiences within 50 years.

Please contact your English Coordinator for more detail.

Southern Adelaide Local Health Network

Aboriginal Family Clinic

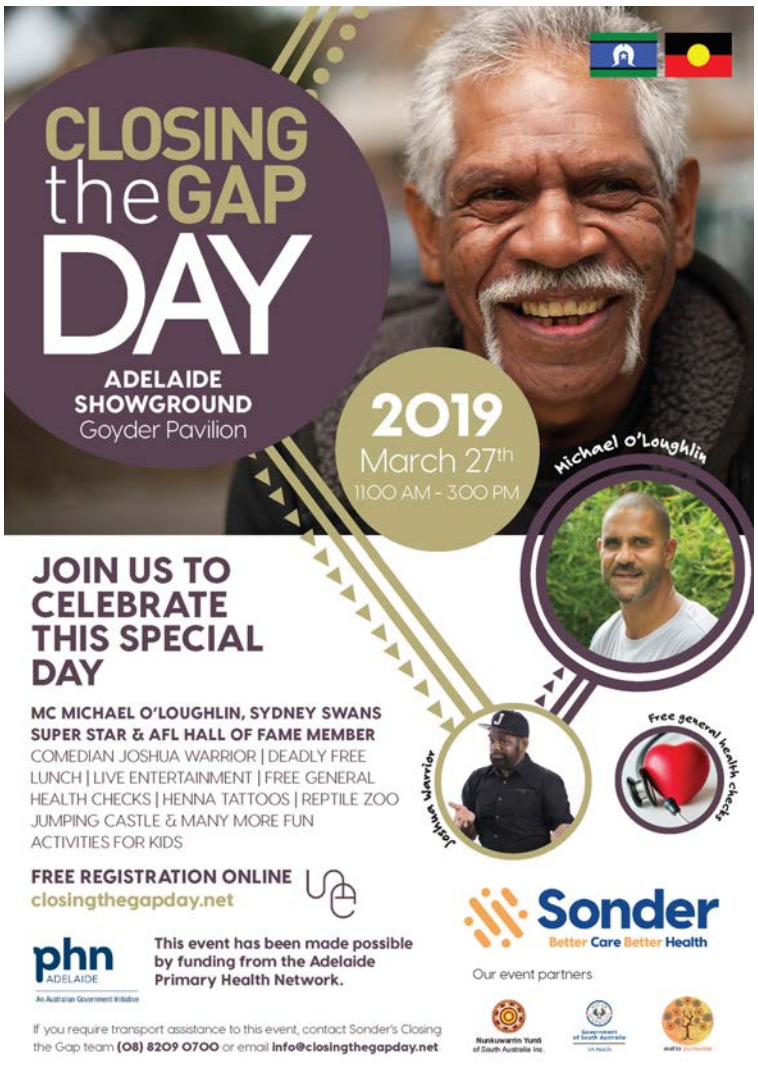
Traditional Healers (Ngangkari) Sessions

Ngangkari healers provide one-on-one consultations and treatments to Aboriginal people in need of physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual healing.

You can make a booking to see a Ngangkari:

- **When:** 10:30am – 1:00pm
  Tuesday, 19 February 2019
- **Where:** Aboriginal Family Clinic
  Building 12, Alexander Kelly Drive
  Noarlunga Centre

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients of the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN) may access up to three Ngangkari sessions for free.

For bookings and more information

Darren Hincks
Aboriginal Health Services
Phone: (08) 8179 5953