

WHS NEWSLETTER



FROM THE PRINCIPAL | Anthony van Ruiten

Dear Willunga High School Community,

National Reconciliation Week 2019:
GROUNDED IN TRUTH: Walk Together with Courage

Reconciliation Week is an important time in our calendar as we take time to reflect on our failings and celebrate our successes in moving our school, our community and our country to a place where we have true reconciliation with the traditional custodians of our country. Where as a society we place a high value on our shared history, created over more than 40 000 years (not 231 years).

Aboriginal history and culture is Australia's history and culture and I believe it is important that we embrace that if we are to achieve reconciliation. Willunga High School has a unique connection to that shared history, one that we should be very proud of. Harold Thomas, the artist who designed and copyrighted the Aboriginal flag as a symbol of the Indigenous land rights movement, is a former student of our school.

In the apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008 the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, said

"There comes a time in the history of nations when their peoples must become fully reconciled to their past if they are to go forward with confidence to embrace

their future. Our nation, Australia, has reached such a time. That is why the parliament is today here assembled: to deal with this unfinished business of the nation, to remove a great stain from the nation's soul and, in a true spirit of reconciliation, to open a new chapter in the history of this great land, Australia."

"Therefore, for our nation, the course of action is clear: that is, to deal now with what has become one of the darkest chapters in Australia's history.

In doing so, we are doing more than contending with the facts, the evidence and the often rancorous public debate. In doing so, we are also wrestling with our own soul. This is not, as some would argue, a black-arnband view of history; it is just the truth: the cold, confronting, uncomfortable truth—facing it, dealing with it, moving on from it. Until we fully confront that truth, there will always be a shadow hanging over us and our future as a fully united and fully reconciled people. It is time to reconcile. It is time to recognise the injustices of the past. It is time to say sorry. It is time to move forward together."

This statement, made 11 years ago, still rings true today, we have made progress. As a school, school community, and society we need to recognise and confront the truth of our shared history and walk together with courage to strive toward true reconciliation.



As winter is fast approaching we again turn our attention to our school uniform. In colder weather, students arrive at school in a wide range of attire which creates an environment which is less safe and less conducive to high quality educational outcomes.

While conversations around uniform can be polarising, it is important to reflect on the purpose of schools and the many things that schools provide for our young people. Schools provide a high quality curriculum that promotes positive academic outcomes for students but we are also tasked with making students work ready, supporting their wellbeing and helping them develop socially. Schools also have a responsibility for the safety of their students, to promote their public image for the benefit of the students and to promote a positive, productive learning environment. Students in all schools have the same rights to feel proud of their school, have a sense of equality and a belonging to the School and to have a positive image of themselves as young people and themselves as learners. School uniform is a key part of supporting those objectives and together we have a commitment to maintain the highest standard of student presentation within our community.

We remind families that uniform forms part of the responsible behaviour code and aligns with our values of respect and responsibility. It is an expectation that students arrive in attire which meets the uniform policy. Your support is appreciated.

Again as the weather gets colder and flu season arrives we also need to address attendance. Attendance is a key driver of success at school, it is important that families support their students to be at school every day. We need to continue to strive to reduce the number of students who miss school for any reason other than illness. To date we have had an average attendance rate of 88%. Irregular attendance at school increases the likelihood that students will not complete their secondary education, and "Longitudinal studies have shown that not completing school is a strong predictor of negative economic, physical, and mental health outcomes in adulthood and involvement with the criminal justice system." (Attendance matters in South Australian preschools and schools 2018 to 2021, Department for Education)

We would like to thank families, students and staff for continuing to improve our culture of attendance.

Anthony van Ruiten, Principal

KEY DATES 2019

JUNE:

Mon 3 - Fri 7

Yr 9 Men @ Work, Work Experience

Yr 10 Exams

Wed 5 - Fri 7

Yr 11 Outdoor Ed Camp

Mon 10

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tues 11

STUDENT FREE DAY

Wed 12

Yr 12 UniSA Visit

Wed 12 - Thurs 13

Yr 9 Outdoor Ed Camp

Wed 12 - Fri 14

Yr 11 Exams

Mon 17

Governing Council Meeting, 7pm

Wed 19

Yr 12 Flinders Uni Visit

Thurs 20

SACE / VET Information Evening

Fri 21

Principal's Tour, 9:30am

Wed 26

Yr 12 Adelaide Uni Visit

Fri 28

Music Night

JULY:

Mon 1 - Thurs 4

Mobile Dental Visit

Wed 3

Middle School Recognition Event

Fri 5

Last Day Term 2, 2pm Dismissal

Mon 22

First day Term 3

Mon 22 - Fri 26

Yr 12 Mid-Year Exams

Adventure Therapy Program

by Ben Sanderson & Gemma Viselli, Wellbeing Leaders

Over the past term, a small group of year 10 lads have been fortunate to partake in the Adventure Therapy Program through Baptist Care. The Tumbelin GO - "Awaken and Live" program supports young people to establish positive connections, discover new strengths, resilience and abilities within themselves. So far, the group has embraced the great outdoors and enjoyed kayaking with dolphins, archery, rock climbing, mountain biking and an overnight camp in the Coorong National Park. The connection with nature endeavours to build confidence, self-respect and positive behaviours. We are excited about the possibility of building our participation and engagement in this program next year. To wrap up 2019, we are off to Flinders Rangers for a few days of bush walking and caving!



Brainstorm Productions: Cyber Safety & Online Activity

By Rebecca Cousins, Year 10 Coordinator & Gemma Viselli, Wellbeing Leader

In week 2, Brainstorm Productions presented *The Flipside*, a contemporary production that addressed ethical online behaviour and cyber bullying, to the year 10 cohort. Through educational theatre, students' were given an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the implications of social media, and to challenge individual perspectives on what's funny, toxic, personal and private, embarrassing, safe and appropriate behaviour online. Highly relevant themes were tackled including safety, what it means to be a bystander and the varying consequences. It truly was a fantastic production and we hope that our young people embrace the key messages when interacting online.

Whilst we are on the topic of online behaviour - did you know the latest Child Health Poll found that one-third of Australian pre-schoolers, two-thirds of primary school children and almost ALL teenagers own their own tablet or smart phone! The Director of the Australian Child Health Poll, paediatrician Dr Anthea Rhodes said one of the most significant findings, that directly affected children's health, was the impact of screen use at bedtime on sleep. "Almost half of children regularly use screen-based devices at bedtime, with one in four children reporting associated sleep problems. Teenagers using screens routinely at bedtime were also more likely to report experiencing online bullying. It's best to have no screen-time an hour before bed and keep screens out of the bedroom, to ensure a better quality of sleep," she said.

Screen time is a major concern for many parents and carers. With this in mind, we have included some further information and tips from the eSafety Commissioner in the following pages.

Screen time for your child – 7 tips

There is a lot of conflicting advice and emerging research around screen time. But, the right amount of screen time can depend on a range of factors like your child's age and maturity, the kind of content they are consuming, their learning needs and your family routine. It can be easy to focus only on the clock and how long your child is spending in front of the screen, but the quality and nature of what they are doing online, and your involvement are just as important.

Consider your child's screen use in the context of their overall health and wellbeing – for example, is online time getting in the way of their sleep and exercise? Is it impacting on their face-to-face connections with family and friends? The answers to these questions will guide you and help strike the right balance of online and offline activities for your child.



1. Be involved

Sharing screen time and online activities like gaming with your child helps you gauge the appropriateness of what they are doing and manage potential risks. It's also a great way to start conversations with your child about their online experiences.

2. Work with your child to set boundaries for screen use

If you decide that setting screen time limits is right for you and your child, discuss these new rules with your child. Older children are more likely to cooperate if they have been part of the decision-making process. Colourful pictures or charts of daily limits and other important activities is a fun way to get younger children on board.

3. Be clear about the consequences of not switching off

Part of our role as parents is to set clear limitations and boundaries. The same applies to technology limitations so, being clear and consistent about the consequences for your child if they do not stick to these rules is paramount. The [Raising Children Network](#) provides some useful tools and advice.

4. Set device-free zones and times at home

Device-free zones can help you manage your family's digital use. Here are some ideas for setting digital boundaries within your home:

- no devices in the bedroom for younger children
- all screens off in bedrooms after a certain time for older children
- all screens off at least one hour before planned bedtime
- all family members switch off at dinner time
- charge devices overnight in a place your child cannot access

5. Ask your child to explain their screen use

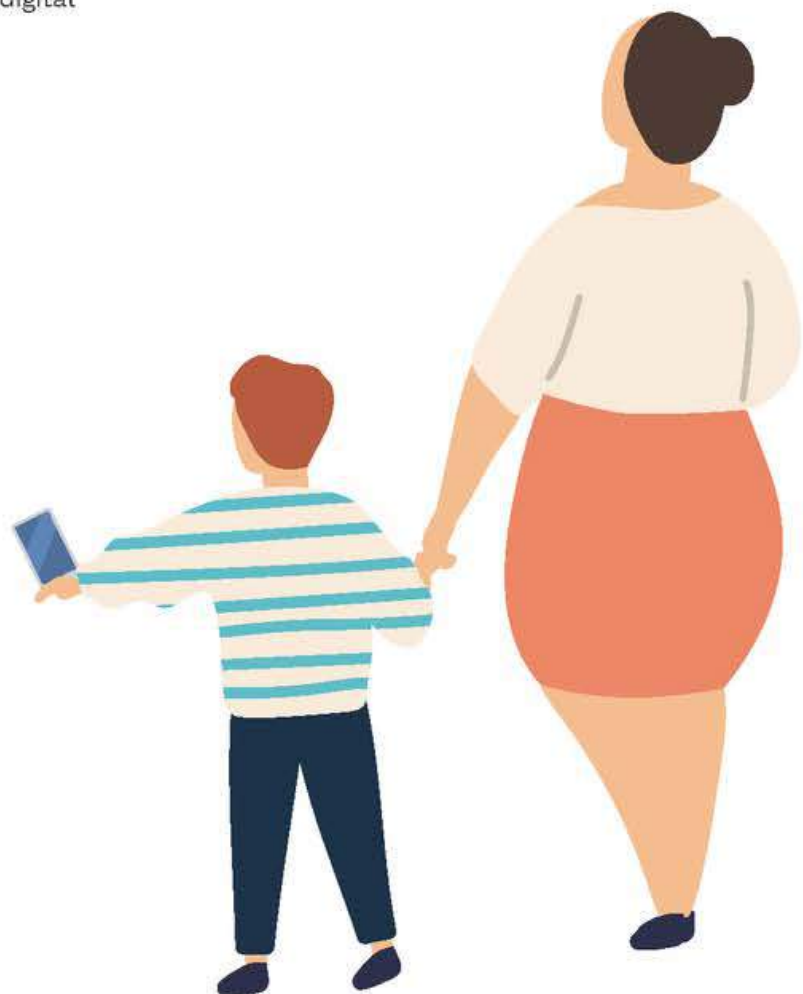
Get your child in the habit of explaining why they want to be in front of a screen or online. It's a great way to get them thinking about their own digital habits and balancing screen time with other activities.

6. Use tech tools to help manage access

There are robust products and device functions which allow you to see which apps are being used in your home and for how long. But try not to use these tools to secretly monitor your child. Instead, be open about the process and check the whole family's usage, including your own. Start with [Google Family Link](#) for Android devices or [parental controls](#) and [Screen Time](#) for iPhone/iPad.

7. Lead by example

Your behaviour is one of the most effective ways to help your child develop a positive digital mindset. Show your child you can put down your device too.





OLIVE HARVEST

At the start of term 2, our Willunga High School Ag team embarked on their next harvest mission - the olives! All Ag classes from years 9 - 10, along with our maintenance crew harvested 836kg of olives, using traditional methods of hand picking and some learning to use electric harvesting rakes.

Great work from our Ag team with support from our grounds staff, DJ's Growers - McLaren Vale, CL Contracting Pty Ltd & Diana Olive Oil.

To purchase WHS olives, olive oil or wine, go to <http://www.whs.sa.edu.au/special-programs/whs-produce>

PRESSING WINE

At the later half of term 1, our 2019 ferment was pressed out using a basket press. We had an extraction rate of nearly 700L/tonne and spread the wine between two barrels ready for malolactic fermentation.

The students used buckets to transfer the ferment into the press and then wheelbarrows to transfer the pressed skins to our compost near the winery. The newly pressed wine was inoculated with malolactic bacteria as it moved into its next stage of production.



READING CHALLENGE

The Premier's Reading Challenge is a literacy engagement program that was introduced by the Premier in 2004 to:

- Encourage students to read more books and enjoy reading
- Improve literacy levels.

The Challenge requires students to read 12 books between the beginning of the school year and early September.

www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au/PRC/



SA Suffrage 125 Schools Competition

by Alexandra Price, English/HASS/Languages Coordinator

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Adult Suffrage Bill that enabled women in South Australia - for the first time anywhere in Australia - to vote in elections and to stand as members of Parliament.

Students in Years 8 and 9 can enter the SA Suffrage 125 schools competition.

To enter, students are required to select one question and respond as a written piece (maximum 800 words) or in multimodal format which includes podcast (maximum 6 minutes), film (maximum 6 minutes) or slide presentation (maximum 15 slides).

Question 1: Through the eyes of a suffragist, explain how the lives of women were improved by women's suffrage in 1894?

Question 2: Through the eyes of a suffragist, explain what challenges suffragists faced in the 1890s to reach their goal of women's suffrage?

Two recognitions will be awarded - one for the written piece and one for the multimodal entry.

Due 30th August

Entries will be judged on:

- knowledge and understanding
- structure and clarity
- evidence of research and use of both primary and secondary sources

For more information visit: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sa-suffrage-125-schools-competition>

125 years of women's suffrage in SA

125 Their triumph our motivation #SASuffrage125

Mary Lee, Social Activist

SA Suffrage 125 Schools Competition!

Entries close 30 August 2019

Students!
Help mark a great democratic stride towards equality for women in South Australia.

Get creative!
Tell the historic suffragist story through their eyes or show what life was like for women at that time.

Enter!
Make a short film, podcast, slide presentation or create a written piece.

WIN!
Winners will be invited to an event at Parliament House hosted by the Minister for Education.

Women's Suffrage in South Australia
This year marks the 125th anniversary of women in South Australia winning the right to vote for the first time across Australia. This allowed women to have their say about what was important to them and what their lives should be like.

What you need to know!
The competition is open to all South Australian school students in years 6 to 9. Students can submit entries as individuals, in groups or as a class. Competition requirements vary for different year groups, including questions that students are asked to respond to.

www.education.sa.gov.au/sa-suffrage-125-schools-competition

EDEN PRIZE

ThinkwriteWIN

DOES KNOWING THE PAST MAKE THE PRESENT
A HAPPIER AND BETTER PLACE?



Write a 600-800 word response
to this thought provoking question for your chance to win!

The JJ and Lydia Eden School Prize is open to all year 10 students in public schools. The prizes for the competition are provided from the 1956 bequest of John Joseph Eden who requested in his will that the Minister for Education conduct an essay competition for young people in South Australian public schools. In 2019 the focus of the essay is: *does knowing the past make the present a happier and better place?*

Entries close Friday 6 September 2019

\$2500 IN PRIZES!

1st \$1,250 | 2nd \$750 | 3rd \$500

eden prize

Further information contact malcolm.mcinerney@sa.gov.au



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

WILLUNGA ALMOND BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

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.

What does your spare room mean to you?



It could mean the world to an international student!

Join the South Australian Government Schools Homestay Program and bring the world home!

Choose to host an international high school student for one term, up to one year or longer.

Contact Willunga High School for more information:
8557 0100 or email leanne.storr@whs.sa.edu.au

APPLY NOW AT:
www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au



Department for Education T/A South Australian Government Schools, CRICOS Provider Number: 00018A