NEWSLETTER

Number 3, Term 1
March, 2014

DIARY DATES

March
18 OPEN NIGHT
18 R-6 Assembly
21 Harmony Day
26 SANTOS Athletics
31 Year 12 Aquatics

April
1 GOVERNING COUNCIL
1 R-6 Assembly
1 & 2 Year 12 Aquatics
4 SANTOS Athletics
11 Last Day of Term EARLY DISMISSAL

TERM 2
April
28 First day back Term 2

May
2 Pupil Free Day
6 2nd Round Immunisations

BELL TIMES

8.40 am Lessons start
11.05-11.25 am Recess
12.55 - 1.35 pm Lunch
3.00 pm Dismissal

7-12 SPORTS DAY 2014
Students and staff from Years 7-12 enjoyed a fantastic day of sport, cheering, participation, sunshine, food and fun!!
R-6 Values Assembly
Several weeks ago I attended the R-6 values assembly. Each of the R-6 classes had been asked to develop a visual representation of what our school values of respect, honesty, integrity and safety might look like.

There was a wonderful range of ideas including; posters, story boards and imovies. I was impressed with the student’s willingness to stand up in front of the assembly and explain their representation of our values.

Thank you to those parents who found the time to attend as I know the students just love to show off their work to family. I encourage parents from all year levels to attend our student presentation assemblies if they have the time available.

SA Public Teaching Awards
I would like to congratulate Sandy Stuart who has been nominated for an Award.

As you would have read in our earlier newsletters this term the school has made significant improvements in the number of students completing their SACE and increased the number of students who are achieving in the higher passing grade bands. This has been as a result of the hard work of a dedicated team of teachers led by Sandy. It is fitting that our community would like to recognise this through nominating her for an award.

The truth is that at Paralowie R-12 we have an entire staff of dedicated and committed teachers and school support staff and I would encourage you to considering nominating other members of staff in recognition of the tireless efforts they make in providing your children with the best learning opportunities possible.

Data Collection
One of the real improvements in recent educational circles has been the development of quality tools to gather information about where students are on the learning continuum across a range of key learning areas such as reading, writing, spelling, numeracy etc.

These tools allow us to continually gather information on each individual student to monitor their learning progress and if necessary implement an early intervention program to ensure they do not fall too far behind what would considered to be the minimum standard.

At Paralowie we are further developing our information system to allow this data to be collected and viewed by teachers right across the school from R - 12. Teachers will have this information readily available and will be able to use it to tailor curriculum and teaching strategies to better support students to be successful.

Sincerely,

PETER MCKAY
PRINCIPAL

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

The Middle School Student Voice team enthusiastically participated in Clean Up Australia on Tuesday March 4th.

Students scoured the school to remove as much rubbish and recyclables as possible to help our school be a much cleaner place.

We have learnt that there are many items that can be recycled and this is important for our environment.

Keeping our school neat and tidy is a team effort!

SANDRINE POISSONNIER
FOR STUDENT VOICE

THANK YOU

Special thank you to Mikayla Faulkner and friends who raised $111 for the Community Garden.

The students worked hard selling delicious lunches for staff.
As part of the Wider Reading Program here at Paralowie R-12, students from the middle primary years until the lower secondary years, participate in the Lexile program.

**What is the Lexile Framework?**

The Lexile Framework is an online reading program to support student engagement in reading by ensuring students are given the opportunity to select reading texts appropriate for their individual reading skills, and comprehension abilities. In essence, students will read texts that are: appropriate for their reading and comprehension abilities; engaging and relevant.

During term 1, students will complete the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI), a computerised test that evaluates students' reading levels. In the test, students read fiction and non-fiction passages drawn from books and informational materials, and complete sentences that measure their understanding of what they read. Based on this, SRI generates a reading comprehension level for each student. (Australia, Scholastic, 2013)

Following the SRI test, students will use the online Lexile program to generate a list of novels which match their individual reading skills, abilities and interests. This will support students with novel selection for Wider Reading. At the completion of a novel, students participate in a computerised quiz that will assess whether the book was completed and the level of comprehension.

With the help of the Lexile Framework, teachers will be able to keep track of individual student reading and comprehension progress, to inform their practice.

For more information about Lexile, visit www.lexile.com.au

If you would like to find out more about Lexile at Paralowie, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

**What are the benefits of using the Lexile Framework?**

The goals of the program are: to promote reading for all students; to improve results and to develop language skills that will support student reading across all curriculum areas. These goals form part of our Site Improvement Plan at Paralowie.

When students read at an appropriate reading comprehension level; material is challenging, without being frustrating or boring. This encourages students to read more, which is critical to academic success. (Australia, Scholastic, 2013)

Snezana Semak, one of our 2013 Year 12 students, recently received a University of Adelaide Principals' Scholarship. Sandy Stuart attended the ceremony with her.

Snezana studied Mathematical Studies, Biology, Physics, Chemistry and the Research Project. She worked hard all year in a committed and focussed way to achieve entry into the University of Adelaide, studying a Bachelor of Science – Biomedical Science.

We wish her all the best in her studies and her university life.
The Human Declaration of Rights Poem
by Bridie O'Boyle

Changing the way of Society
Saving many unresolved fights,
Giving citizens a fair go
'The Human Declaration of Rights'

With an allowance for a voice
An opinion and a choice,
Acceptance of different religions
Each with their own thoughts

Everyone the right to feel safe
Everyone the right to feel free,
Where people can have privacy
And be married; with a family

Access to clothing and housing
An education we can trust,
A well paid salary for us all
Fair-living is a must

So if we all are treated equally
Laws and rules abided.
Our society will be prided on;
The Human Declaration of Rights

SCIENCE NEWS
What's Been Happening in Term One

The science faculty has been busy and we have made strong progress towards further developing our curriculum. One of our great achievements is that all Year 8-9 students will sit for their Semester one and two Common Science Test. Year 10 students will also sit for their Semester one and two science exam this year. Our aim is to help students learn how to prepare and understand the rigor required sitting for an exam. This is only one component of the assessment.

It has been a hive of learning and fun activities in the science laboratories with Mrs Tharmalingham’s Year 8 classes working on the topic Chemical Science and Mrs Murphy’s Year 7 class mastering the topic Science Inquiry Skills.

The Year 12 Biology students are working hard and also enjoying the course. Early in the term they performed and completed the practical component of the course.

MARY AGRIOS
SCIENCE COORDINATOR
YEAR 8 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Year 8 Physical Education program has started with an abundance of mine fields, newspapers and water!

The first two weeks of this term consisted of Year 8 PE classes learning to work together to achieve particular outcomes and unite as a force. Students learned from participating in ‘Group Adventure Initiative Tasks’ (GAIT) included listening skills, the use and power of explicit instructions, team work, initiative, empathy and so many more.

The tasks included students helping their partner across a forgotten mine field to safety after unfortunately being in a spiraling plane crash. Helping save a poor builder who was stuck down a well by causing a water overflow and being part of the Royal family’s secret service and helping deceive the public by attempting to dress two stunt doubles exactly the same!

All activities required students to work together to achieve a particular goal and then participate in valuable discussion to develop the desired understandings.

What a fantastic way to start Year 8 and learn how to be a part of a team!

SCHOOL SPORT

Inter School Sport has started and Paralowie R-12 students are ready for the great year ahead!

Already students have competed in Rock Climbing and Cricket and we have had great results. We reached new heights in Rock Climbing for both Boys and Girls however, an honorable mention must be awarded to the girls who participated, as we won the ‘Girls division’ for the first time ever!

Well done!

Our Open Boys Cricketer’s participated well at Indoor cricket and represented the school in a positive manner, playing as a team. The team showed their patience and determination in game 3 against Gawler High School, where students and observers alike were biting their fingernails as to what the result would be. Gallantly we came away with victory! A great effort!

Other sport offered this term includes 4-a-side Beach Volleyball, Open Beach Volleyball, Year 8/9 Indoor Cricket and all years Girls ‘Learn to Surf’ day!

We urge all students to get involved in School Sport this year. It is a fun day representing your school and participating in different sports at various levels!
SATURDAY MORNING SCHOOL FOOTY

The season starts early next term!
We invite all interested players and parents to come along to the Registration of Interest day on Friday 21st March on the school oval (outside front office area) at 4 pm.
We hope to have teams in all three grades, starting with year 2 students. All games are played at Ridley Road oval between 8.30 and 11.30 am.
Contact Mary Jo Bellew for more information on 8182 7222

SA EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARDS

SHARE CELEBRATE REWARD

Nominations are now open for the 2014 SA Excellence in Public Education Awards.
For the first time, 2014 will see nominations opened up to all DECD employees, recognising and rewarding the outstanding contributions made by teachers, leaders, support staff and also corporate and services staff from across the state.
Don’t miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional, care or protection worker within DECD to recognise and reward their dedicated and inspirational contribution to young South Australians.
To nominate an employee at your school, preschool or corporate office go to: www.decd.sa.gov.au/teachingawards.
Like us on facebook and follow the progress of the Awards: www.facebook.com/SATeachingAwards.
Nominations close 5pm Thursday 10 April 2014.
For further information contact the Awards team on 08 8226 3079 or email DECD.Recognition@sa.gov.au.

COMMUNITY NEWS

IRISH DANCING: Boys and girls 4 to adult - 8250 5333 or 0405 244 181.
FREE YOUTH WEEK EVENT: SLAM - live bands, food, giveaways, skate competition on Friday 4th April from 5 - 11pm at 73 Elizabeth Way Elizabeth - Phone 8255 5560.
TREASURE HUNT - FREE Interactive discovery trail for children 8 - 10 years old in the school holidays. Wednesday 16th April at 10am on the lawns of the University of Adelaide, North Terrace.
AMERICAL FOOTBALL - The Eagles Gridiron club are looking for juniors aged 14 - 18, info@eagles.org.au or check www.facebook.com/adelaideeagles.

STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION EVENINGS - Have you always wondered what it would be like to live on the other side of the world? High school students can experience just that, as an STS exchange student in 2014/15 and make it the most exciting year of your life. Applications for next August close on April 30th so come along to an information evening on Tuesday 25th March. Scholarships available.
please phone Margaret Riches on 0412639049 or free call to STS Head Office 1800263964 or check our our website. www.sts-education.com.au

EASTER EGG HUNT on Saturday 5th April from 11.30am - 2pm at Freedom Uniting Church at Paralowie. Phone 8280 8185.

THE DIRECT LINE FOR ABSENCE IS 8182 7281