

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPORT 2012

I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of staff, students and volunteers over the last year.

This has been a busy and productive year for Stuart High School. As Governing Council Chairperson, I have had the honour of observing and participating in many great projects that have enhanced our school community.

At the beginning of the year we proudly opened the Albert Ellis Learning Centre, which is a first for Whyalla and Australia. This Centre through the guidance of Giulio Bortolozzo. In conjunction with this our supportive staff team have also implemented programs such as the Passport Program and this have been implemented into the school with great success.

These programs have powerful messages and students have gained skills that will benefit them at school and within their everyday life. This term through introducing the Passport Program students have been aiming towards getting yellow and green stickers. Stickers are collected and can be used to be exchanged for prizes. They can also buy school supplies. Each colour represents a different area of life skills: **Purple= control feelings**, **Blue= keep trying**, **Yellow = show respect**, **Green= be organized**, **Red= I am worthwhile**. As a result of this program, and others like it the school's attendance record has improved to one of the best of the state, and we have noticed a huge reduction in suspensions. Overall staff and students are working in partnership and are more relaxed and engaged in learning.

Also this year a small group of parents and staff have been working hard to build the Minya Murray. (Minya is a local Aboriginal word meaning small) This involves digging a small river that will house Murray Cod, Yabbies' and other fish. We will also be growing a variety of bush tucker and native plants next to the river. This complements our horticulture and aquaculture programmes. The educational and tourism benefits of this huge project are such a great asset to Stuart High and Whyalla and I hope you follow the progress and learn more. We have many local companies have helped with sponsorship. If you are able to help out or want to learn more about this great initiative please feel free phone the school and leave your contact details. We will be finished this program next year and look forward to the opening.

A Governing Council Alliance between all 3 public high schools has also been a huge positive for our region. Members from Stuart, Whyalla and Eyre High Schools meet once a term to ensure we have the best programs and facilities for our students to share. This year we have seen students and teachers moving between the three schools with great results for all. Teachers are sharing knowledge, students' resources and leadership ideas and policies. As a result students are able to access more programs.

Secondary School Alliance Summary.

The purpose of the three secondary schools working together more;

- Alliance to initiate, develop and consolidate innovative curriculum and governance structures to ensure seamless delivery of curriculum.
- Common operational arrangements across the 8-12 secondary alliance.
- Seamless pathways provided by Eyre and Western Trade Training Centre
- Consortium Alliance of Governing Councils across the three schools
- Shared policy development
- Partners for literacy improvement

We will continue to work together in 2013.

I would like to thank our team of dedicated hard working teachers, SSO's and volunteers who go above and beyond their roles to support our children to reach their potential.

Thank you to our governing council in supporting Stuart High in what has been a positive 12 months. Our Governing Council Meetings are casual and held on Mondays twice a term at 7:30 for 1 hour. Being on the Governing Council gives parents the opportunity to have their say in their child's education, policies the school implements and the general running of the school. If you are interested in joining our group of easy-going parents: please feel free to attend our AGM at the start of next year.

Lastly, I would like to say congratulations to all the students, who worked hard all year, have a safe and happy holiday, and we wish everyone the best for next year.

Thanks, Tamy Pond