Dear Parents, Caregivers and associated community members.

As the end of Term 1 rapidly approaches we can look back over the term and celebrate all the activities and events that have occurred.

The parent ‘Meet and Greet’ night was very successful with a good turnout where parents and caregivers met with care group and subject teachers over an informal BBQ and salad supper. The evening ended with a ‘lucky dip’ of door prizes donated by the principal. Several parents received vouchers for sending in an RSVP and by taking the time to attend the event. Meaningful conversations about individual students and programs were held which have gone a long way to further positive relationships between parents and staff.

If you have visited the school lately you will have noticed the new signage at the entrance of the driveway. These announce the school’s presence on Bastyan Crescent with the purposeful ‘industrial look’ that fits with our Aquaculture Centre and 70’s look of the buildings.

Staff also attended training presented by Carol Toole from the Engagement Strategy DECD. Carol presented two sessions, the first focusing on Strengthening Community Engagement for Learning with the second being an introduction to Mentoring for Learning. Both sessions proved to be thought provoking and provided future plans and strategies that we can use to encourage greater parent and community involvement in our school.

Sport’s Day was due to occur early this term but the decision was made to move this event to Term 3. We are negotiating to share the day with Primary School to make it an across campus event.

Jeanette Conroy
Principal

END OF TERM REPORTS

Teachers are currently writing End-of-Term progress reports to indicate the skills students are using and achieving. The reports are intended as discussion starters between parents, their child and the class/subject teachers. Parents are invited to make a time to meet with the teachers to have a conversation about their child’s progress. The aim is that there are no surprises in the progress students are making in the class group and other subject areas, including choice subjects. We urge parents and caregivers to be active in their child’s education, to ask questions, find out what child enjoys, what they are good at and areas where they can improve. This can occur through support and open communication between the teachers and parents.
Public Holidays
Monday 25th April
Anzac Day (during holidays)

Primary Health Network
Community Consultation
Tuesday 3rd May
7.00—9.00pm
To register online-
https://events.countrysaphn.com.au
or call
85658900
Consultation is a drug and alcohol needs assessment for Whyalla

VANDALISM
I need to report the rise of vandalism for the school by a small group of young people who reside within proximity to the school. The perpetrators have been captured on our video surveillance on numerous occasions, the worst being several break-ins and damage over the long weekend. It appears that the damage done is senseless and is being done to ‘entertain’ the young people as the things taken or destroyed would not serve any practical purpose other than to the school. During the clean up a cubby was discovered where items such as a first aid kit, shovel and other tools were hidden away. Unfortunately the cubby was created out of a natural growing saltbush but covered with branches from nearby gum trees, destroying these in the process. Entry was gained through the fence being cut into Horticulture area but this did not stop the vandals also scaling the fence into the neighbouring Aquaculture area where further damage was done with blue paint being splashed around. The children are known to the school and SAPOL and on more than one occasion the parents have been notified. It will be appreciated if the residents on Bastyan Crescent can support the school by keeping a watchful eye out for unusual activity, especially over the holidays. Anything suspicious can be reported to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 if the vandals are known, or 131 444 for Police Assistance. 000 can be called in an emergency.

FAREWELL
Recently a local man, Wayne Carn passed away. Many people currently involved with Stuart High may not be aware of strong support he gave to development of the school’s infrastructure. When the Aquaculture Centre was built Wayne provided extensive knowledge and gave a lot of voluntary time and labour towards the project. Additionally he gave us our first fish for very little monetary reward, some Murray Cod from his own experimental farm.

Staff members Mr Stephen Walker and past SSO, Mr Matt Thursby were very grateful for the on-going input from Mr Carn and would ask that he be remembered.

END OF TERM
Friday 15th is the last day of Term 1. We traditionally have a casual day with a gold coin donation, the money raised goes toward supporting Stuart High’s World Vision child. We ask that students dress sensibly when going ‘casual’ on the last day of term.

EARLY DISMISSAL
We remind parents and caregivers that on the last day of term students are dismissed at 2.00pm
Please ensure that they are collected at this time or be aware that students will be leaving school by 2.00pm.

Buses and taxis will revert to the Monday run times.

We wish all students and their families a safe and relaxing holiday.

SCHOOL FEES
School fees for 2016 are $303.
These can be paid at the front office during school hours.
EFTPOS facilities are available for your convenience.
School card forms are also available at the front office. School card needs to be applied for yearly, so please come in and fill in a form if you need to apply for 2016.
YEAR 10 REPORT

The year has started well for the Year 10 students at Stuart High School. The students have shown growth in their maturity with an excellent attitude toward their educational outcomes at this level.

Already, they have completed their first Personal Learning Plan (PLP) assignment, with several students achieving a ‘B’ grade or higher.

Year 10 has been set up uniquely this year, with four main core subjects—Maths, Science, English and WOSE conducted in the same suite of rooms for all students with the same teachers and SSO’s. The teachers, Mrs Clarke and Mr Hale are able to vary the content, delivery and working environment to suit both the subject outcomes and individual student needs.

The rooms include a traditional classroom, a computer suite, and some ‘breakout’ spaces for students to be able to work in small groups. Furniture has been adjusted to include bean bags, low tables to enable the students to work in different locations and seating arrangements.

Comments by students about the advantages on the new layout include: ‘Bean bags are great’; ‘We’ve got more freedom’; ‘We get to work in groups’; ‘We get to move between rooms’; ‘Getting ready for work experience’; ‘I enjoy working with my classmates’.

Year 10 staff (teachers and SSO’s) are finding the students more responsive and showing greater independence when allowed the freedom to work in the style that suits them or their friendship group.

Staff members have also noticed that enabling students to work together collaboratively has improved their work ethic and the output of the work quality and quantity has increased significantly.

FISHY FRINGE

Stuart High School had a marquee at the Snapper Competition weekend as part of the Fishy Fringe. Mr Clarke set up the tent to sell smoked salmon that had been prepared by the students doing Aquaculture. The students learnt how to prepare the fish, the smoking process and to then vacuum pack the final product ready for sale.

The fish proved popular with many visitors seeking out the stand as they already knew of the quality from previous events.

Thanks goes to Mr Clarke for his commitment by being on the stand all day. Also thanks to Mr Spangenberg who helped set up for the day and to Byron Maddigan who worked tirelessly throughout the day, advertising the fish by taking samples around to the visitors which prompted more sales.

It was a wonderful example where enterprise and education come together, providing authentic and practical learning experiences for the students.

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION

A small but dedicated group of students are working with Mr Clarke looking at environmental issues around the school and in the broader Whyalla community. They have engaged in a number of projects including visiting the Whyalla Recycle Centre where they learned about the way that Whyalla waste is managed.

The students also worked with Kate Brocklehurst from the Whyalla Council to create a Cuttlefish out of found items including thongs discarded at the beach.

The photo below proudly displays the work the students have done.
YEAR 9 CLASSES

The Year 9 team has had a great start to the year. We've joined our two classes together and have moved into a larger space upstairs. Year 9 teachers have been exploring creating different learning spaces for our students that will maximise the benefits of our new two teacher classrooms, in particular creating more relaxed, student focused learning environments. Through discussions and the support of our students we have also been working on developing units of work that cater to the variety of different ways that our Year 9's learn and present their learning, which has so far been producing some great, creative work.

Our Care Group program has also seen a few new changes with the introduction of new programs that will target crucial areas for teenagers including relationships with peers, managing study loads, resilience, personal safety and units of work on goal development and skills for finding work and being in the workplace.

The Year 9's have also been excited to experience the variety of choice subjects that are available to our Year 9 and 10 students including dance, music, digital media and outdoor education. These classes offer our students the chance to explore personal preferences in their learning and the opportunity to work with students from other year levels in new ways. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Year 9 Teachers and SSO’s Team

SCIENCE EXCURSION

Mr Wiechmann and Mr Clarke’s Year 9 Science class exploring the geological features of Mt Laura. The students discovered the uplifting of limestone (an anticline) at the explorative quarry site revealing that the top of Mt Laura was once a sea floor. Also note the living Fossil seven from the right (Mr Clarke).

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

McRITCHIE COMMUNITY EVENT

On Thursday 7th April a number of local agencies braved the drizzly weather to hold stalls and activities at Norton Park as part of the Collective Impact planned events. Despite the weather around 200 people turned out to enjoy what was on offer. Mission Australia proved popular with the coloured hair activity and the jumpy castles were kept busy even though the rain added another dimension to the slippery slide. The ever popular sausage sizzle was a welcome relief to the cold weather, while the face painting, the totem tennis and Frisbee throwing kept the young ones very active.

Stuart High School asked children and adults alike for their feedback on the events and also sought information about what people would see Whyalla Stuart being like in five years time. We also gathered some data about how children travel to school. This information will be presented at the next Collective Impact meeting as a way to gauge the sorts of services, events and community based infrastructure that will help to improve the perception of the Whyalla Stuart area and provide resources for the residents on the eastern side of Whyalla.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out on the day. Plans are under way for another event in the near future.