From the Principal... Janette Scott

Congratulations to all performers, artists, behind the scenes people, and teachers, who made the Art Showcase such a success. It was held on 3 November at the Golden Grove Arts and Recreation Centre and it showcased our students’ wonderful visual and performing arts skills. There are some more photographs inside the newsletter.

Many other things have already happened this term: for example,

- We have worked with architects to finalise designs for our $2.5 million renovations to Maths and Science as part of the government’s STEM Works project. The concept plans have been submitted to the department for approval. We have started discussions about how we will manage the disruption through the building, which is estimated to be 42 weeks if all spaces can be worked on at the same time (longer if one at a time or part at a time).

- 3 Year 10 and 11 students, our Deputy Principal, Computer Systems and Administration Managers, have been working on the plan for allocating laptops to Year 11 and 12 students in 2017. Good attendance (80%+) is one of the criteria for whether a student will get to take a laptop home or not.

- We were successful in winning a $15,000 grant to continue a chaplaincy service in 2017. We thank the local churches, which continue to support our school to provide additional support.

- NASSSA has again been been announced as one of 3 finalists for the National VET Award. Announcement of the winner will be made at a dinner in Darwin on 17 November. This shows the high quality of the VET programs that our students are able to access.

I have been in many classrooms recently observing how teachers are developing students’ writing skills. Also this week, I enjoyed being questioned by the Year 11 Legal Studies students about my experiences of being on Jury Duty in September this year. They are in the process of writing a persuasive essay about whether Australia should continue to have juries. I hope I gave them some ideas to think about!

Finally, on behalf of the school, I would like to farewell a Japanese student, Arina Terauchi, who has attended Para Hills High School during this year. Arina studied Year 11, was involved in the SRC, and has made many good friends. It will be sad to see her leave. We hope she has enjoyed her time with us and that she feels well prepared to continue her studies to be an English teacher in Japan.

Ps All the very best to our Year 12 students, who are currently undertaking exams and finishing assignments and thanks to their teachers and parents for keeping them going!

FAREWELL ARINA
YEAR 11 LEGAL STUDIES

GUEST SPEAKER
In week 2 of this term, the Year 11 Legal Studies class was fortunate to have a past Para Hills High School teacher come in and talk to them. Matthew McCurry taught Drama at our school and left at the end of 2013, when the Year 11s were finishing year 8. He now teaches at Cavan Training Centre. He spoke to the students about young offenders and what life is like for them inside a detention facility. The students were fascinated and asked many questions. They were quite horrified at some of the things he told them and it made them realise that life inside a detention facility is not a holiday camp. I would like to thank Matthew for giving up his time to speak to the students in such an interesting, informative session where we all learnt a lot.

EXCURSION
On 1st November 1st the Year 11 Legal Studies class visited the Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts as well as Parliament House. It was an informative and interesting day. In the Supreme Court some students sat in on a sentencing of a woman convicted of aggravated assault, attempting to dissuade a witness, breach of a bond, driving whilst disqualified and deception. They also saw the final stages of a District Court trial in which a man and a woman were accused of 47 counts of deception.

In the Magistrates Court several students were also “dressed up” as Judges and Barristers in the appropriate clothing. We sat in on a general court session where offenders were pleading guilty to minor offences such as drink driving, driving without a license, and failing to complete community service, assault etc.

In the afternoon we sat in on “Question Time” in the lower house of Parliament and then did a tour of Parliament House visiting both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council. Question time was particularly relevant since our local Member of Parliament, Jack Snelling, gave a Ministerial statement of the Repatriation Hospital. Many questions were directed to the Premier and the Minister of Transport and at times Members of the Opposition were quite vocal in their disagreement with the Government.

The students enjoyed their experience and found it worthwhile to see what they had been learning about in the classroom, in real life situations. I would like to thank the students for making this a very enjoyable day. A special thank you also to Chad Buchanan of Jack Snelling’s Electoral Office who gave up his valuable time to give our students the tour of Parliament House.

Jenny Fantinel
Legal Studies Teacher

2016 PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

180 Completers!
2016 was yet another excellent year for achievement. Congratulations again to all those who participated in 2016 Special mention to Eric Reardon who is the first student to complete 13 years of Challenge 4life Certificate which means he has completed the challenge every year since it began. Well done.
We look forward to doing it all again in 2017!
In the immortal words of the Bard – Friends, Romans, countrymen, pick up a book and read.

Filomena Mercurio
Senior Leader

CONGRATULATIONS ICE FACTOR STUDENTS

Aiden Edwards-Neeson, Marqis Astley-Cervantes and Dakota Hampton have been selected to be the face of Peter Shearer School Formal Wear for the next 2 years!!
Twenty boys from eighteen schools were selected. What a compliment it is to their personal attributes! Without Ice factor, they wouldn't have had this opportunity.
So make sure to look out for Peter Shearer formal wear catalogues!

Melissa Rossi
PE, Ice Factor Teacher
UNIT STUDENTS VISIT PLANETARIUM

All students from Year 8,9,10 and ASD class from the Disability Unit visited The Planetarium at UNISA Mawson Lakes as part of their science excursion. The students had been learning about Space, Solar System and Constellations. The students had great time learning about the night sky through the Planetarium’s Dome Projectile. It ended with a presentation and a small movie about “The Wildest Weather in the Solar System”

Dipleen Arneja
Unit Teacher

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Four Year 10 students in the Unit successfully completed their work experience placements for PLP. The students worked at Provenance Indigenous Plants, Hoyts Cinema, Woolworths and Coles. All students received outstanding evaluations and one student was offered part time employment as well. We are proud of our students for working so hard towards their life goals and demonstrating Rigour!

Lena Ardenburg
Unit Teacher

SPORTS FUN DAY

Late in Term 3, Year 8 and 9 students from the Disability Unit visited Nazareth College for a Sports Fun Day as part of their Year 12 SACE Physical Education Program. The College students organised athletic events in conjunction with Special Olympics SA. It was a great opportunity for the Unit students to participate in the event and mix with the College students.

Dipleen Arneja
Unit Teacher

LABS ‘N’ LIFE

Every Thursday morning during term 3, Year 8 Unit students enjoyed helping to train assistance dogs. The very friendly and usually obedient Labradors quickly became friends with our students as they learnt to follow commands in return for treats. The dogs are trained to be assistance dogs for children and adults with a range of disabilities. We were all sorry to see the end of the program and to say goodbye to the trainers and the dogs.

Alison Kies
Unit Teacher
The annual Para Hills High School Arts Showcase was held on Thursday 3rd November at the Golden Grove Arts Centre. Once again, work was featured from across Year 8-12 Dance, Design, Drama, Music and Visual Art for the community to enjoy.

A guided gallery was provided in the foyer to exhibit the exceptional work of our Design and Visual Art students, under the tutelage of Ms Laura White, Ms Rachel Hall and Mr Martin Bell. Parents and community members interacted with the works before the performance and during intermission. The live Performance again featured highlights of Performing Arts works with brilliant Dance performances and choreography demonstrating the knowledge gained from Ms Trudy Surman’s teaching.

Year 11 Drama students once again did a superior job hosting the night with Year 9/10 Drama performing their own scripted work and Year 12s delivering a final performance. Congratulations to Ms Cleonikki Kefalas’ students.

Fantastic musical performances were featured with the Year 9/10 Band and Year 11 Band giving their all. The Ukulele Ensemble made its Showcase debut and the African Drum Ensemble returned again, this time in collaboration with Dance in the piece, ‘Koyimama’ as taught to them by Ghanaian Musician/Dancer, Bortier Okoe.

In all, it was another successful Arts Showcase with students exhibiting their developing skills in presentation, creativity, team work and innovation. Thank you to all staff, parents and community members who came to support our students.

Daniel Roberts – Music Teacher/Arts Coordinator
**WE WON! $20 BOSS**

Para Hills High School has won two state awards in the national $20 Boss Challenge. ‘Feel Good’ Cookies took out the awards for Most Successful Business and Social Entrepreneur. Both awards came with $1,000 prize money. On Tuesday 15th November Jordan Taylor and Danni Leombruni represented team members from the Year 11 Workplace Practices class at the national awards event hosted at the NAB Stadium in Melbourne. We may not have won a national prize but the girls represented the team and our school with pride and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of meeting other young entrepreneurs from across Australia.

We want to thank everyone who supported our business and we look forward to more teams from the school entering next year and hopefully returning to the national awards event in 2017.

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**THANK YOU AND GOODBYE**

I am an exchange student from Japan and I have been here for 10 months. Doing study abroad was my dream since I was little. I was so excited but also nervous. At first when I came to this school I didn’t know anything and I didn’t have any friends but everyone was so kind and always helped me. Now I have lots of friends and can talk to anyone. Even when I felt alone or missed my family and friends in Japan, my friends made me happy all the time. I am really lucky that I have such nice friends.

I was the only international student from Japan in this school and I thought it was sometimes difficult for me, but now I know this is the luckiest thing for an exchange student. I am so glad that I had experiences of an Australian high school with year 11s at Para Hills High School. I love this school and my friends.

Ten months have passed so quickly and I have had many experiences that I will never forget. Also, this study abroad has helped my future as I did not know what I wanted to do when I finished school, but I love talking to people in English so I want to use English in the future. I would like to work in a travel agency or be a tour guide, so when I return to Japan I will go to university and there I will study English and Business. Hopefully one day I will come back to Australia and visit my friends and host family.

Thank you so much for having me. I really had a good time at Para Hills High School.

*Arina Terauchi (Japanese Exchange Student)*

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**CHILD WELL-BEING PRACTITIONER**

Hi, my name is Sonja Hamblin, Child Wellbeing Practitioner for DECD. I will be working in your school and other schools in the area. I will be working across Para Hills High School, Para Hills Primary, Para Hills West Primary and Keller Road Primary. The Child Wellbeing Program is running in 311 school sites across South Australia.

My role is to increase the wellbeing of children and their families. I will work with staff and families to support their needs and link them to community resources. I am able to help with a variety of issues and if I don’t know how to assist, I will find someone who does! I am very pleased to be here at Para Hills High School and look forward to working with many of you. If you see me around, come and have a chat.

*Sonja Hamblin  
Child well-being practitioner*

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**NASSSA DEBATING**

On Wednesday October 26, the Year 9 Debating team competed in the semi-finals of the NASSSA Debating competition. The event, which was sponsored by local Rotary Clubs and the City of Salisbury, was held at Twelve25 Salisbury Youth Enterprise Centre and allowed all the competing teams to celebrate their achievements as well as socialise over lunch.

The competition began in Term 1, with debates occurring every three to four weeks. Students who have participated have developed valuable research and public speaking skills.

The topic for the day’s debate was ‘That there should be a sugar tax’, which the team was required to argue against. Despite this challenging task and plenty of nerves, the team for the day consisting of Zac Hillier, Bradley Leao and Tye-Sun Sau, put up a good fight, but narrowly lost to Paralowie High.

Congratulations also to Caleb Holme and Brayden Hajdu for their contributions to behind the scenes research and preparation before the debate, as well as participation in the minor rounds.

*Tess Standen  
English / Debating Teacher*
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Complete communication solution

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4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click “Open”.
6. Select “OK” to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the “More button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the “Play Store” button on your Android Device.
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
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3. Install the Skoolbag app
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6. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.