It has been an exceptionally busy end to term 2: SACE exams, semester change and term 2 reports. This is in addition to excursions and sporting events and two new programs: all Year 8 students participated in an intensive 3 day Business and Economics course and all of the Year 9 students were involved in a 2 day Work, Business and Entrepreneurial Skills conference. Thanks to a huge effort from staff, I am pleased to report that all classes have been very productive and the semester change-over went very smoothly.

One of the special times that the whole school shared recently was an assembly to celebrate and reflect on Shakespeare's work as it is 400 years since his death. Ms Mercurio, Ms Kefalas and many students convinced the audience of his continued relevance through live and filmed performances. Many thanks to Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Drama students as they prepare to present one of Shakespeare’s play – A Midsummer’s Night Dream – in August. Of course, there were 400 decorated cupcakes …thanks to Ms Mercurio and Mrs Roberts!

Congratulations to the SACE Stage 2 Research Project students who have just completed this compulsory subject for the SACE. A number of students will continue to work on the research project in semester 2 to complete their folio or polish their outcome and evaluation tasks.

I would like to thank the Research Project teachers for their work during classes, lunch-time and after school to support the development of each student’s research skills and their investigations.

Recently we began an inquiry into how all learners are challenged and extended and to identify strategies that can be shared to extend student learning at Para Hills High School. A small group of teachers and students will research intellectual stretch/challenge in our school. They will investigate:

- What does intellectual stretch/challenge look like and is it the same in English, Maths, Science, The Arts etc?
- What are the best ways that teachers can stretch/extend the learning of all students?
- What are the best ways that students can stretch their learning?

The results of the inquiry will be shared with students, staff and parents and we hope will lead to students doing more than their best and learning at higher levels.

Term 2 reports will be posted home. Please contact your son or daughter’s subject or care Group teachers if you have any concerns about their progress.
A group of year 9 Drama student's were asked to participate as an audience for a Chanel 7 ‘Sunrise morning show’ segment. Guest speaker John Weeks is a burns victim who survived a horrific car accident in 2014. John shared his story with the students and how he persevered through this life changing experience. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students that offered inspiration, advice and life lessons. On behalf of the students I would like to thank John for sharing his story with us as well as Chanel 7 Sunrise for the opportunity. The segment will air on national television in a few weeks.

Cleonikki Kefalas
Drama Teacher

On Saturday the 18th of July, students and staff involved in the schools Ice Factor program, ran a barbeque fundraiser at Bunnings Parafield in order to raise much needed funds for equipment and jumpers. It was a long day but a HUGE success, selling over 1,000 sausages! The students were a credit to themselves and must be congratulated for their excellent customer service and food handling skills! A massive thank you to all staff who assisted in the organisation and the running of the event.

Mel Rossi
PE Teacher
Ice Factor Manager

On Friday 10 June, Music and Dance students were treated to an interactive African Drum workshop with Ghanaian musician/dancer, Bortier Okoe. Bortier shared his understanding of the role of the African Drums in Ghana along with how the music is constructed. He then taught the student how to play and sing a traditional Ghanaian piece.

Bortier will return twice next term, firstly to do a workshop with our Dance students and then again to work with both the Dance and Music students to create a traditional performance.

Daniel Roberts
Arts and School Promotions Coordinator
Music Teacher
Attendance – Why is it important?

Regular attendance and participation in schooling is an important factor in educational and life success. Absence for any reason impacts on the student’s connectedness with their learning and therefore achievement. Both parents and school staff want students to gain a great education and the main foundation to achieve this is attending each and every day. Attending school every day promotes a good routine that will help students in their future whatever pathway they undertake. Absence from school is like missing important appointments and affects their performance in assessment tasks. Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and leads to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement both at school and beyond.

Why students are absent?

There are a number of ‘acceptable’ explanations for absence, including illness and family emergencies, but too often students have ‘soft’ explanations such as birthdays or sleeping in after a late night. Please support your son or daughter to build their resilience and come to school if they are able.

Para Hills High School uses the DayMap system that records and tracks student’s attendance. It is a goal for us to have all absences explained by families; however, some absences continue to remain unexplained so we ask that you continue to work with the school by providing a note in the diary for all absences. Parents can access DayMap via the Login button on the school’s website (www.phhs.sa.edu.au) to monitor lesson by lesson attendance and homework set.

What can families do?

- Be positive about school and support the schools values: respect, responsibility and rigour, doing your best.
- Support the school culture around punctuality and uniform. Young people need to realise that there are some things they just need to do. Students who meet the expectations of school are usually more focused on the learning.
- Be tough, if your son/daughter is not well enough to go to school, they are not well enough to work, play sport or go out socially.
- Ensure you are communicating any legitimate absences with the school through email, notes and phone calls.
- If there are issues related to non-attendance, contact the school sooner than later. Phone your student’s Care Group teacher or our school Counsellor Leonie Roberts. It is better to get an issue sorted out quickly. Students need to learn to face and work through issues rather than avoid them.
- Don’t allow your son/daughter to have days off school for events such as birthdays.
- Monitor your son/daughters attendance with them on the DayMap system – talk about it.
- Have reward systems in place – set a target with a clear goal – e.g. to go to the formal you need x% attendance. If you want to get your Learners and driving lessons you need to show responsibility e.g. x% attendance. Students need to understand privileges are earned not simply given.

Guy Harrison
Deputy Principal
2016 marks the 400th anniversary of death of Shakespeare and in typical Para Hills style we celebrated the *Wonder of Will* 400 with a whole school assembly and 400 cupcakes.

*Is Shakespeare still relevant in the 21st Century?*

*Who cares?* Well, millions and millions of people. Shakespeare remains the most produced playwright in the world. In Australia in most high schools, students study his plays and poetry, not to mention half of all secondary school students around the world.

All the world’s a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

*As You Like It* Act 2, scene 7, 139–143

**Why does the conversation continue?**

Shakespeare speaks to us in 2016 because politics, war, and the task of trying to understand one another still matter.

Through Shakespeare’s plays we learn to empathise with those who are not like ourselves, or to glimpse the communities we might someday become – for better and for worse.

Think of familiar situations found in his plays: troubled relationships of fathers with daughters (*King Lear, The Tempest*), sibling rivalry (*As You Like It, Richard III*), familial loss (*Hamlet, Pericles*), forgiveness (*The Winter’s Tale*), self-destruction (*Macbeth*), youthful rebellion (*Henry IV, The Two Gentlemen of Verona*), falling in love (*Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing*), or standing up for what you believe (*Measure for Measure, King John*).

**What do our students think of Shakespeare?**

"Learning about Shakespeare was inspiring". Karoline Stanic

"I think Shakespeare was ahead of his time and has become more relevant as time passes". Jamie Morgan

"If Shakespeare didn’t exist a lot of the English language wouldn’t either". Alex Hockey -Kuyomba

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**Filomena Mercurio**

Senior Leader

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**Community Corner**

**TRITONS COME ‘N TRY WATER POLO 2016**

Every Sun 31st July to 25th Sept.
5.30 to 6.30 PM
Adelaide Aquatic Centre
FREE COACHING
pool entry payable

Strong swimmers only
10 to 17 yrs
For more information 83420110

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400 cupcakes before the icing.