



**PARA HILLS
HIGH SCHOOL**
Your vision Your future



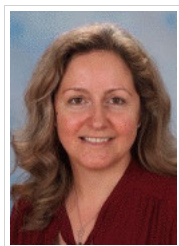
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11 November 2019

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As we are approaching the end of the year, term 4 can often feel like a 'race to the finish line'.

This week our year 12s entered the final stage of their SACE work and finished their formal lessons, now busily preparing for their final examinations or their next destination, be it work, study, or a bit of

both. We thank them warmly for their extensive contribution to the school community and wish them well for the future.

We have been doing a lot of thinking this year about what might best support our students to achieve their dreams. We would like to see more choice available for students regarding their pathways, but also allow more time for them to acquire those essential skills that we need no matter what our career path is. Things like knowing how to work your way around an unexpected issue or challenge and come up with creative solutions, being able to connect with people and communicate effectively, having the resilience to try again and again until you succeed are all skills and abilities that we will always need.

For this reason, we would like to change slightly the way we deliver learning at school. To support this, we would also like to change slightly the timing of lessons and the day and are seeking your views on a proposal to alter the end of the day as follows:

We are proposing that the length of the day is extended to 3:10 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday to accommodate an early finish for students on Wednesdays at 2:20.

This will not reduce the time students are taught, but give our students slightly longer lessons and one extra option of subjects to choose from. We are looking at reworking our care group time into a more productive, extended time that will see students engage with a program of activities that deliver skills

for life and, wherever possible, accredited learning in the senior years.

The Governing Council, which is made up of staff, parents and community members are overwhelmingly in favour of this small change, but we would like to know your views and the implications for you and your child.

A consultation letter is attached to this newsletter and also coming home with every student in years 8-11. Please return it by Friday 15th November to your son/daughter's care group teacher. I would be very happy to discuss any concerns or provide any further details on this proposal.

We would be delighted to provide further information and give everyone an opportunity for an open discussion regarding this. For this reason, information sessions have been scheduled for **Monday 11th November at 5.00pm** and **Wednesday 13th November at 9.00am**. Please let us know if you would like to attend either date by calling or emailing the school: Ph:8258 5466;

Email: dl.0574.info@schools.sa.edu.au

This is a wonderful opportunity for students and staff and I am confident it will see the school strengthen the way it supports students in the years to come.

We are already looking forward to a number of exciting developments at the school in the years to come. Of particular interest is the new scholarship available by application for and immersive language and cultural experience in Japan in 2021. (See the Japanese Update, Mrs Fergusons article for more details).

A dance -focused trip to Canada in 2022 is also in the pipeline.

DIARY

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|----------|---|
| 13/11/19 | Yr 8 Boys & Girls Gardasil Vaccinations |
| 27/11/19 | Governing Council Meeting |
| 04/12/19 | Presentation Evening |
| 05/12/19 | Year 10 Stepping into SACE |

EALD AQUATICS DAY OUT AT WEST LAKES

On October 24th, 44 of our English as a Second Language students spent the day at West Lakes with Aquatics Instructors.

They were taught water safety skills on the lake and at the beach and developed confidence in sailing, surfing, kayaking and snorkelling.

The students enjoyed time with friends away from the classroom, and it was a pleasure taking the group out.

Thanks to Fida, our EALD SSO and social worker, and teacher Nasiba Doski for their support.

Leonie Roberts
School Counsellor



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ARTS

'Arts For All' Project

Year 8 students attended KATA a dance performance as part of the Oz Asia Festival. Students viewed a contemporary breakdance performance before walking to the Art Gallery of South Australia to explore the exhibition 'No god but God: The art of Islam'. Sima one of our students shared some very informative information with other guests at the gallery. I was really proud of how well our students engaged in this day of cultural activities.



Dance Performance Exam

At the end of term three dance students attended Golden Grove theatre where they performed their work as part of the year 12 dance performance exam.



PARA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PERFORMANCE

On Saturday, 2nd November, a Year 11 Music student, Helena Madronio performed at the Ethnic Schools Association Concert for International Children's Week. In attendance was the Governor, Hieu Van Le, Shadow Education Minister, Dr Susan Close and representatives from the Premier's Office along with 600 students of various South Australian Ethnic schools. The performance took place in Telstra Plaza, Adelaide Oval where Helena showcased her fine singing skills. Well done, Helena.

Mr Roberts
Music Teacher



REFLECTING ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF DEBATE:

I am so proud of our year 8 and 9 students who participated in the NASSSA Debating Competition this year. They worked together every week after school to develop the most convincing arguments they could for each new debate topic.

Their individual and collective scores earned them their place in the finals. This year the Para Hills High School debating team took one step closer towards the first place trophy, coming third overall. Their place at the end of the competition is evidence of their hard work, commitment and desire to improve. I have witnessed tears, stutters and shyness be replaced by confidence, clarity and strong arguments.

I asked our team to share with you what they have learnt through debating, as well as some of the hardships they overcame, and this is what they have to say:

"When I first started debate I was already a confident speaker. But when it came to debating, I couldn't bring myself to get up in front of just a few people to debate. In fact, I struggled so much that I cried when I had to do a short argument in a practice debate in front of very few people. Now, I can say with confidence that I am able to create arguments and rebuttals, and then stand up and read them to a large group of people. Without debate, that statement would not be true. I am incredibly thankful to Miss Beer and the rest of the team because debate has truly benefited me greatly.

As for our grand final fun debate, I definitely struggled with the 'fun' in this one. After debating five rounds I had it drilled in my head that debating was serious, my speaking skills had to be perfect and my language had to be formal. Because of this, I

needed a lot of help writing my arguments and even with how to read them. I believe that our team did very well at our grand final fun debate and we definitely deserved to have made it that far.” – *Stephanie Iannace, Year 8, first-time debater.*

“One of my family members regretted not having this opportunity and experience in high school. My inspiration came from another person’s regret. It’s a major confidence boost and has helped my research skills” – *Emily Meyrick, Year 8, first-time debater.*

“From tears to cheers. First time I spoke, I cried a lot. But then I got myself together at my first debate and since then, I’ve become really good at public speaking.” – *Catherine Reiman, Year 8, first-time debater.*

“I was first bribed to join. After sitting down for a couple of weeks to support the team, I slowly became invested and felt welcomed as part of the team.” *D.J. Fuangfoo, Year 9, first-time debater.*

“I’ve learnt how to both work as part of a team and to lead a team. Debating has been a rollercoaster of emotions, however it was well worth it.” – *Billy Wu, Year 9, Team Captain.*

“This year as the Para Hills High School debate team, we have learnt numerous invaluable skills. We’ve learnt to speak in public with confidence, how to research effectively and quote sources, and how to cooperate – even when it seems we can’t agree on anything. In addition, we’ve overcome the challenges of stage fright, creating a rebuttal on the spot and researching complex topics. We, as the debate team of 2019, enjoyed watching each other grow as both debaters and as people, and would absolutely recommend anyone to join, even if it’s only a slight interest!” – *The 2019 PHHS Debate Team*

Next year we will be asking students from years 8 to 10 to join the team. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please come see Miss Beer or one of our current team members for information about the **Debate Workshop in Week 6** this term.

We always welcome new speakers and supporters, especially if it will help take us the next step towards bringing home the Grand Final trophy!

Miss Beer,
Debate Team Mentor

DISABILITY UNIT AQUATICS CAMP

In week 2, the disability unit trialled an overnight aquatics camp in Port Noarlunga staying at the Sea Scout Group Hall.

We had the chance to do a variety of aquatics activities including snorkelling, kayaking, surfing, SUPs and body boarding over the 2 days.

Day 1 at the beach was the place to be; the weather was perfect, sun was shining and students were smiling. The first half of the day students tried snorkelling, kayaking and body boarding under the wonderful watch of instructors then had the chance to change activities after lunch.

At the end of aquatics we bombarded the ice cream shop before heading to our accommodation. Once we arrived we set up bedding and students had a bit of free time. Staff cooked tea

and then everyone went for a night walk which included fishing and crabbing from the jetty. No fish were biting but Ben caught a Port Jackson shark on his line, which was the talk on the walk back to the hall.

Day 2 Mother Nature wasn’t our friend with the weather dropping at least 15 degrees, no sun and strong winds. This didn’t deter staff and students from entering the water and catching some large waves.

The 2 days saw students outside their comfort zone and interacting in different circles of friendship groups. The growth of students in a short amount of time was amazing to watch. Staff were extremely pleased with all student interactions and their positivity over the 2 days.



JAPANESE UPDATE

Para Hills High School is excited to confirm that we have won a Department of Education In-Country Scholarship Grant to help financially support 14 of our students to go to Japan in 2021.

This grant will cover the majority of costs and Para Hills High School will support students with fundraising next year so that the out of pocket expense is minimal.

ALL students that are continuing their study of Japanese from this year will have the opportunity to apply for this ONCE in a lifetime experience. The trip to Japan will be for 2 weeks during Term 1 school holidays in 2021.

We will be starting the application process for students and information sessions for families towards the end of Term 1 next year to ensure everyone involved is prepared.

If you CAN NOT WAIT (like me) and you want more information NOW, then send me an email: Candice.Ferguson8@schools.sa.edu.au

I would be happy to help.

Mrs Ferguson
Japanese Teacher



STEM SPOTLIGHT

This year our STEM Action Team have been developing a STEM garden. Our goal has been to develop a Wi-Fi enabled moisture probe that could tell us when the plants need to be watered, as well as to work with the disability unit to help grow their kitchen garden.

The Action Team broke into three smaller groups, one to help plan the garden and look after the plants, one to design a case for our sensor that could be 3D printed and another to work on the code to get the sensor working.

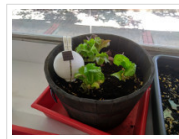


The team working on the garden had to decide which plants to buy, which required a lot of research. We wanted plants that would grow well in Adelaide's climate and that people would want to actually eat! We decided that our first crop should be carrots, and we successfully harvested them a few weeks ago! We have now shifted our focus to growing herbs that could be used by students in Food Technology.



The team designing the sensor case went through a serious engineering process. We built a prototype of our design using CAD software and a 3D Printer. Then we tested it out and identified a number of flaws with the design, which meant we had to go back and make some changes to our design. After doing this a few times we have designed and printed a sensor case that is strong enough to withstand the elements, big enough to house all of the required components and uses less plastic than our original design!

Our last group worked on coding a board to take data from a probe and turn it into a webpage that could be read from our phones. After some help from Dr. Swanson we were able to get this done too.



The action team is now working on making our sensors solar powered and trying to grow our garden.

Mr McLoughlin
Science Teacher

MEET THE WRITERS

Each time our students finish reading a novel, they are encouraged to write the details on a coloured square of paper which represents a brick, and add it to the Reading Wall in Block 10, the English/Humanities area. Bricks are red, blue or green based on House colours. The aim is to complete the wall by the end of the year.

On June 20th a number of our Year 8,9 and 10 students attended "Meet the Writers Festival" at the Adelaide Convention Centre with hundreds of other students from across South Australia. They were chosen because of the number of bricks they had contributed to the Reading Wall. At the festival students attended a session where Morris Gleitzman addressed the whole group on his writing. Students were then broken up into smaller groups to attend sessions with different writers. Some of our students went to a session with Dan McGuinness, while others attended Jaclyn Moriarty's session.

After a short break students attended sessions with Allayne Webster or Kristin Weidenbach.

It was a very enjoyable and informative day and I think our students benefited from it greatly. They also conducted themselves admirably and were a credit to our school.

Jenny Fantinel
English Coordinator



SAASTA

Coming in to the last few weeks before the final SAASTA Shield carnival, students are completing their final assessment tasks which contribute to the academy's score in the carnival. The work being undertaken by our students has challenged them to reflect on and learn more about their own culture and history. Some of the tasks have required students to explore ways in which they can promote this knowledge and educate others.

One of our tasks has led us to the creation of an 'Amazing Race' course which will be set up for groups of year 8's. Our 'Amazing Race' promotes Aboriginal culture and history through a series of tasks and challenges which have been created by the class. From activities which require students to learn Ngarrindjeri language, to challenges which highlight famous Indigenous Australians who have contributed to our society, this task paints a great picture of the diverse learning that our SAASTA students have been undertaking over the course of this semester.

A special congratulation to our Year 12 SAASTA students, Chloe Milera-McLennan and Caleb Gollan who have now completed the requirements for the course. Both students have been fantastic leaders for our younger students and have contribute greatly during their time in the Academy.

AFLMax and Adelaide Football Club visit



SPORTS UPDATE

Term 3 was a busy one for school sport. We hosted a variety of 5-a-side soccer carnivals here on our oval. A number of staff and visiting parents commented on how fantastic our oval looks- thanks Mr Simon Roney for keeping the grass in such great shape! Tag rugby was also popular- with our Year 10 boys' finishing 2nd overall in the zone carnival. The Para Hills students represented our school in a very positive manner, with excellent displays of sportsmanship and team work.

A highlight to start Term 4 was the NRL tackle rugby carnival. Our Year 9/10 girls (+1 Year 8) finished in 1st place. This was an outstanding achievement from a group of girls who had (all but one) never played tackle rugby before. The girls had to adjust their game play from their usual tactics in tag rugby to adjust to the tackling element. Well done girls!

Coming up for the remainder of the term, we have boys' and girls' days out at West Lakes, 8/9 badminton, boys' and girls' indoor cricket, and beach soccer. Remember to get your forms and money in to the front office ASAP to ensure teams go ahead.

Mrs Semmens

Sports Coordinator-Ice Factor Manager

Tag Rugby Team



2020 MATERIALS AND SERVICES CHARGES

Governing Council will be discussing for approval of the 2020 Material and Services Charges at the next council meeting. Parents / Caregivers are invited to attend to participate in the discussion process.

Governing Council Meeting
6:00 pm on Wednesday 27th November 2018
In the Admin Staffroom