Principal’s Corner

In contemplating the coming holidays, I am mindful of the commencement of the traditional winter sporting seasons with a particular focus on Australian Rules Football, Soccer and Netball. It is in this context that two articles that I have read recently have caused me to ponder.

I am unashamedly a lover of the sense of health and well-being one gets from being fit and healthy, and being able to enjoy an active lifestyle. I also thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to watch any kind of sport and confess to spending many spare hours watching my children or others pursuing their sport of passion. Thus the article by Ali Clarke in the recent Sunday Mail entitled “We are sports mad but the Arts matter equally” caught my attention. Ali says, and I quote “I have been merciless in calling for more attention and funding for physical education and if I am honest, I have never truly considered the role of sport’s traditional rival – the Arts – also has to play in health and education. That all changed after a recent discussion with Arts Integration Specialist, Professor Katie Dawson, who is in Adelaide to work with a variety of schools actively encouraging creative learning processes. Study after study shows students who either engage in artistic pursuits or adapt their learning of harder subjects like Science and Math into a creative realm, develop confidence, motivation, perseverance, focus, tolerance and empathy.”

Ali goes on to suggest that these attributes are equally as important as physical health in developing all around healthy and engaged individuals.

The second article I mention is one entitled “Being a good sports parent” and its opening paragraph suggests that “sports lead parents to an emotional excess because sport lets you do what normal parenting doesn’t! … that is, cheer out loud for children when they are under pressure and something’s on the line. The key to the game, as in life, is to endure failure, adapt, and, through grit, hit more than you miss.” This quote adapted from an article written by John Dickerson on how Baseball encourages bad parenting, also suggests some great pieces of advice for parents and as the winter season of sports approaches, I thought it was timely advice for us all, me included:

1. Don’t quiz children after the game immediately it’s over, as it puts too much pressure on them, when they are still processing the experience or finally taking a break from the pressure of the game.
2. If you do talk about the game, put a time limit on it.
3. (and my favourite advice) Tell your child that you love to watch them play.

How true the last statement is, “I love to watch you play”, and from a personal experience, my own 24 year old son still asks whether I am going to watch him play his Soccer matches, and I still look forward to this opportunity. How lucky am I?

With both Ali Clarke’s article and the follow up article on being a good sports parent, I am reminded of our own SPW vision, which is “to nurture our students to be happy, knowledgeable and creative young people, who care for others and make a difference in the world”. It is in this context that we will continue to encourage equally both the Arts and an active lifestyle through Sport and Physical Education.

In closing, I hope you enjoy the SPW News. This publication provides an opportunity to document and celebrate our successes of Term 1 and in turn to share those with our entire school community. Hence it is a great privilege and joy to read the articles that are included in this edition, and to wonder at the diversity of the opportunities that are offered here at SPW.

Christopher Prance, Principal
Year 6 and 7 Centre

This year certainly began with a ‘bang’ for the students and teachers in the Year 6 and 7 Centre. Both students and staff were greeted by six fully refurbished rooms housing brand new furniture and a brilliant teaching and learning wall equipped with two 65 inch televisions with Apple TV. In addition to the new rooms, students have been engaged in the rigorous Australian Curriculum that sets ‘consistent national standards to improve learning outcomes for all young Australians’ and ‘... is the base for future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community.’ (from the Australian Curriculum website).

Staff in the Year 6 and 7 Centre have paired up to lead subject specialisation in the areas of Media Arts, Science and Design and Technology.

During Media Arts with Mrs Roocke and Mrs Ramsay students have been investigating advertisements and discussing target audiences. They worked in learning teams to create an advertisement to promote SPW to a target audience of parents, students or teachers. They are looking forward to utilising the new Media Arts Centre and its green screen in the near future.

In Science with Mrs Blight and Mr Fletcher the students have been inquiring into Electric Circuits and the properties of water, including its states and the suspension of salts. The Electric Circuits inquiry has involved students investigating how a circuit works and this has been a helpful link with their work in Technology.

During Technology with Mr Kennedy and Mr Woodhouse the students have utilised an app called DrawinDots to investigate the design process. The Year 6 students have utilised their circuitry inquiry from Science to create a lighting solution, whilst the Year 7 students have been working on designing and making self-propelled vehicles using a set list of materials.

David Kennedy
Year 6 and 7 Centre Curriculum Coordinator

School Leadership 2015

Our students are the leaders and thinkers of the future.

A key element of our student leadership is the active involvement of students in the life of our school and beyond, with the focus on service to others. There are many opportunities for students to rise to leadership at SPW in both formal and informal ways – you don’t need a badge to be a leader. The School offers a diverse range of leadership opportunities for all students to participate in leadership. These include School Captains, House Captains, Student Representative Council (SRC), Student Voice, Environmental Leaders, Class Captains, Buddy Support, ICT Support, Journalists, The Arts, etc.

Opportunities for students to participate in school wide decision making is highly valued at SPW. This opportunity will be provided to students through the Student Representative Council (Reception–Year 3 and Years 4-7) and the newly formed group Student Voice. Student Voice group includes two SRC representatives from the R-3 SRC and Year 4-7 SRC, two House Captains and our School Captains. The group will meet once per term with the Executive Leadership Team to discuss initiatives and raise any ideas, issues, etc.

Our School Captains for 2015, Freya Y and Oliver S, have already made an impact within the school in various ways through whole school events and participation with the groups outlined above. In addition, all Year 6 and 7 students have the opportunity to take on leadership responsibility in other school and class based roles.

The leadership groups have a Community Service focus through both formal and informal structures.
Student Representative Council

Student Representative Council (SRC) representatives have been elected by their classes and have already begun to make a significant contribution to both SPW and the wider community. The role of the SRC this year will be to raise money for their chosen charity and also to raise awareness of the cause they are supporting.

The SRC have chosen to support the valuable work of the Hutt Street Centre, a city-based organisation helping people facing homelessness, rebuild their lives, without judgement. Supporting a local charity will allow the SRC to make a real difference and hopefully see the results of their work.

Many exciting events have been discussed for the year ahead and the SRC are looking forward to bringing these to fruition; they encourage you to support the work they do in whatever way you can.

2015 looks set to be a year in which the SRC will fully embody the SPW values of service, respect and courage. I look forward to working with these motivated students, encouraging and enabling them to have the courage to achieve great things.

Kerry Ramsay
SRC Key Teacher

From The Pines

Early Learning Centre—Celebrating all things

The main highlight of our term in the ELC has been characterised by the quality interactions that occur every day. These key relationships between staff, children and parents are fundamental to children feeling safe and happy in the ELC environment.

This Term our delightful children in Playgroup, Toddler and Preschool have settled well into routines and have thrived in the engaging and nurturing learning environment created by their educators.

Playgroup and Toddler learning experiences have provided opportunities for children to explore, think, interact, create and become au fait with routines.

During Term 1 our Preschool children have engaged in the Unit of Inquiry All About Me.

This unit has availed children the opportunity to engage in learning which celebrates who they are and the uniqueness of their families, this unit has included:

- A wonderful celebration of family and community at Partridge House which was enjoyed by children, parents and educators alike
- Children enjoying various visits from parents who shared an array of their skills and interests, and provided cultural experiences for the children
- Our budding artists thriving in the opportunity to complete a self-portrait and a life-size drawing of themselves which they decorated

One relationship which I have observed this term is the connection that our Preschool children have already developed with their buddies. There is a wonderful energy between them. It is the delight on the Preschool children’s faces and the sense of joy that they exchange in each other’s company that make it a delight to see.

It has been an exciting Term 1 and we look forward to the wonderful learning and interactions that Term 2 will bring.

Gemma D’Angelo
Head of Early Learning

Preschool children experience chickens hatching and growing
Canberra Tour

This year’s Canberra tour began with Year 7 students arriving at Adelaide Airport at 5.15am on Tuesday 3 March. Four days of fun and great educational opportunities followed before all returned tired, but safe on Friday afternoon.

The tour was the culmination of their Civics and Citizenship unit of learning with visits to Parliament House, Government House and Old Parliament House helping their learning come alive. Other attractions visited included the National Museum, the Australian War Memorial, Questacon, the National Gallery and the Australian Institute of Sport.

“The War Memorial was the highlight for me in Canberra. I enjoyed visiting the museum and paying respect to the soldiers who fought in the wars.” Brayden

The Federal Government supports such tours to Canberra and is acknowledged below:

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist us in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed $60 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program towards travel expenses incurred. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

“There was never a dull moment in Canberra because we were always on the move and learning something new!” Angelique

The students were outstanding in their attitude and behavior throughout their four day experience in Canberra. They learnt lots and enjoyed the opportunities presented.

Andrew Woodhouse
Year 7 Key Teacher

Japanese Journey

日本のきょうしつ

Japanese Classroom

Konnichi-wow!!!

Our Japanese classroom has become a traditional Japanese room. It is an authentic and very special place for the students to immerse in Japanese language and culture.

7KR Students reflect on their new Japanese learning area:

“The new Japanese room is beautiful and inspiring, it feels like you’re in Japan! We are very lucky to be taught in such an amazing classroom.” Jack B

“This room is fantastic. The new tables are very cultural and the style is great. It feels like a real Japanese room.” Emma S

“It has had an amazing effect on our learning, allowing us to really expand our thinking … We have now been able to experience so much more of the Japanese traditions.” Madeleine B

“The new room is a great learning environment. I feel like I am in Japan when I come in. I love the Japanese tables and the tatami flooring.” Nathaniel D

“The new Japanese room is a beautiful place where students are encouraged to indulge in their learning of Japanese culture.” Tahlia K

“The new room is amazing. I just love the smell, the furniture, the decorations and just the feeling of it. It really does make me feel like I am in Japan.” Cooper T

Visit to Old Parliament House 'Order in the Court'

Japanese Classroom—a traditional Japanese room
From The Chaplain

With the launch of the new Strategic Plan 2015-2019 we started this year in Chapel by reflecting on the value statement. As an Anglican school community we uphold our Christian faith and are guided by the following values in all we do: Wonder… Courage… Respect… Service…

These four words are very apt for our school and can provide a myriad of avenues for reflection and exploration. In our opening Service for the year at which we inducted our School and House Captains, we considered the theme “Leading with Values”. Our Bible readings fitted each value and provided some links to a faith perspective on each of these words.

**WONDER** Approaching each day with curiosity and appreciation; sharing fun and happiness; and expressing gratitude.

Lord, you are a great God who causes awe and wonder. You keep your agreement of love with all who love you and obey your commands.

*The Prophet Daniel 9:4*

**COURAGE** Always doing our best; being honest, strong and resilient; and standing up for what is right.

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

*Book of Joshua 1:9*

**RESPECT** Being true to yourself; appreciating other people and cultures; and caring for the environment.

Live as servants of God. Show respect for all people: Love the brothers and sisters of God’s family and respect God.

*First letter of Peter 2:17*

**SERVICE** Helping others; contributing to the community; and being a good citizen.

Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God’s various gifts of grace.

*First letter of Peter 4:10*

In order to further reflect on these four values, a new Chapel song has been written which the Chapel Choir has been leading throughout the term. This song is an attempt to help the students to come to their own understanding of these values. It was a wonderful moment to hear the Chapel Choir sing this song at Bishop’s Court for a Sudanese Friendship night recently, where it was very well received. I leave you with the lyrics to reflect on further.

I wonder all about this amazing world we share
Why is it the way it is? What can we do to care?
We need faith and courage to stand for what is good
And respect to treat each other in the way we should
So we can make a difference through the things we do to serve
Learning more, each and every day.

Father Andrew Mintern
Chaplain

**Sports Day**

As you may know, earlier this term the School held the Year 3-7 Sports Day at SA Athletics Stadium. Everyone put in their best efforts during the day and in the end it was Eyre House which took home the trophy. Sturt came 2nd, Light came 3rd and Flinders placed 4th.

Without a shadow of a doubt, there was not one person who didn’t try their best that long, hard day. Nothing would have been possible without our wonderful staff and helpers; especially Mr Bowen who organised the whole event. A special thanks to all the parents and teachers who helped out during the day.

And last but not least, our House Captains who were at the venue from 7.00am - 4.30pm plus attending after school activities at the end of the day. So to sum it up, Thank you everyone!

Samara B, Richard M and Hayley D
Parents and Friends News

It has become custom for the final PFA meeting of the school year to centre on the planning of events for the forthcoming year. After this meeting the PFA executive and the School executive meet to ensure that it is possible to fit as many wonderful events into an already busy school calendar as possible. This year has started off with our mostly traditional fundraising and friendraising events.

Monday After School Barbeques
The barbeques continue to be one of the PFA’s steady fundraisers. Even with the change to Monday Junior Primary sport this continues to be successful.

Money that is raised by this has enabled the PFA to support the school with many projects to benefit the children. We look forward to your continued support next term.

Twilight on the Green
This was to be our third Twilight on the Green but alas the weather was not in our favour and in accordance with the School’s hot weather policy we postpone this year’s event.

For those new to the school this is traditionally a lovely evening spent on the school oval with picnic food and entertainment for the children. It is a wonderful way to meet new people and enjoy the summer evening. We sincerely hope that the weather will be perfect for next year.

Shrove Tuesday
Typically one of the most popular events on our school program for both Students and helpers is Shrove Tuesday and, as in previous years, we were overwhelmed with offers of help.

Over 700 pancakes are made and delivered with lemons sliced and jam and cream to every child and teacher in the school. The happy faces say it all and it was a wonderful morning for all involved.

Easter Raffle
The Easter Raffle is always an exciting event for the children, they are quite enthusiastic during the final announcement as their friends, brothers or sisters win a prize. This is a large event to organise and this year was successfully put together by a team of Year 4 mums and class representatives from all year levels. The prizes were awarded just in time for Easter.

We look forward to Term 2 with various Mother’s Day celebrations, Bogan Bingo and the sale of Entertainment Books to name just a few.

Jane Tuohy and Tonya Atkin, Co-Presidents
Laura Matthews, Secretary
Sharon Smith, Treasurer

The PFA’s new banner
Our third SPW Cabaret was held on Tuesday 31 March at 6.30pm in St Margaret’s Chapel. It was a fantastic night of song! A record number of students participated with 47 singers taking to the stage plus our Show Choir. The SPW Cabaret started as a way to give singing students the opportunity to perform to a supportive audience. It has grown into a showcase of not only the amazing singing happening at SPW, but also demonstrates students being risk takers confidently taking to the stage and sharing their skills. The effort demonstrated by the students on Tuesday evening was evident from the costumes, choreography and joy in performing.

The Show Choir opened the night with energy and fun performing the smash hit ‘Uptown Funk’ featuring great drum work from Jonathan B. The Show Choir is a new initiative giving students from Year 4 to 7 more opportunity to shape the Choir. The choreography and performance decisions were made by the students. The Choir also performed a challenging three part song titled ‘Donna Nobis Pacem’ and the Jessie J hit ‘Masterpiece’. This was a great first performance for our Show Choir.

It would not be possible to write about each student and the highlights of the evening. Every student who performed was outstanding! Many students performing for the first time blew the audience away with their skills and bravery. It was also great to see students who have studied for more than a year demonstrate their growth and development.
Old Scholars’ News

Year 7 Class of 2014 Reunion
On Friday 27 March we welcomed back our Year 7 students from last year. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to get together, re-ignite friendships, talk about their transition into Year 8 at their new schools, tour the new Year 6 and 7 classrooms and have an early BBQ tea. A wonderful initiative generated by the St Peter’s Woodlands Old Scholars’ Association.

Year 7 Class of 2010—5 Year Reunion
The Old Scholars’ Association also hosted a reunion event on Friday 13 March. This event was a 5-year reunion for the Year 7 Class of 2014; student who are in Year 12 this year.

The group were excited to have a tour around the school and all commented on how much the School had changed over the last 5 years. In particular they were extremely impressed with the Year 6 and 7 classrooms, Library, Dance Studio, Japanese Room and the upgrade of Year 2 classrooms.

Here is another example of a wonderful opportunity for our past students to visit our School and reconnect with their friends and the school community.

Visit from an old scholar
Recently Rosemary Edkins (Gliddon) one our School’s old scholars from Woodlands Church of England Girls Grammar School visited us from Strathalbyn. Rosemary attended Woodlands from 1937 to 1942.

As we walked around the school and spoke about her time here at Woodlands we realised that we had a very talented past student in our midst. In her final year at the School in 1942 she was Head Prefect, in the A Tennis Team and the A Hockey Team.

Rosemary said she had a wonderful time reminiscing and visiting our School’s Museum, in the Law Smith Building.

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