



# DARLING RANGE SPORTS COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

| 2017 TERM 2, EDITION 2

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 2 has been another busy time for students and staff.

I had the privilege of attending the College Dance Production, Peter Pan. What an amazing production! The choreography was exceptional, the costumes brilliant and the dancers outstanding. In preparation for Peter Pan, students rehearsed for months and gave up their time on weekends to attend additional rehearsals. They have wonderful role models in their dance teachers, Ms Brooks, Ms Guthrie and Ms Caskey. The dance team, including back stage, numbered close to one hundred students. The depth of talent in the Dance Program complements our strong Arts Program and signals bigger and better performances for the future.

Our Year 6 Academic Program, PACES (Primary Academic Challenge and Enrichment Studies) was again well supported by our partner primary schools in the Darling Range Learning Community. Students from Dawson Park, Edney, Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Wattle Grove and Woodlupine Primary Schools attended the PACES Program every week learning about building and architecture. The Program culminated in a presentation morning where students showcased their models to an audience of parents, family members, teachers and Principals. Once again, the PACES Program highlighted the quality of students in our primary schools. Congratulations to all students on their exceptional presentations.

Term 2 has been a big term for our Year 12 ATAR students as they prepared for and sat their Semester 1 exams. The examinations are a good test for students in the lead up to their mock WACE examinations at the end of Term 3. It is now timely for students to reflect on their success and plan their Term 3 study and revision programs. While some students had outstanding results, there are others who still have some hard work to do in the remaining ten weeks prior to their next examinations. With only about 50% of assessment programs completed, there remains much time to improve on past performance. Students have been assisted by their mentors and supported by weekend revision seminars throughout the term. The revision seminars will run again and it is imperative that all ATAR students take advantage of this opportunity. Students are also encouraged to attend external revision programs, the cost of which will be subsidised by the College. I wish all Year 12's every success in their final term.

Thanks to all parents who attended the parent reporting afternoon/evening. Attendance was steady throughout the day with many teachers seeing 20 or more parents. If parents were unable to attend on the day, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or email to discuss your child's progress or to arrange an alternative time to meet. This year, the parent reporting afternoon/evening was coupled with a Careers Expo. Industry representatives were on hand to discuss career opportunities with students and parents, as students consider their future. Congratulations to Mrs Hewitt on this innovative initiative.

In the sporting arena, our past and present students continue to excel. Many students have achieved individual success with selection in state and national teams. Of particular note is the success of Jess Anstiss, past graduate of the College and Netball Program. Jess was selected in the West Coast Fever team and in her first year at this elite level, won the MVP. Jess has also been selected to play in the Australian U21's at the World Youth Cup. Also selected to play netball for Australia is Katie Te Ao who joined the Australian U15's team.

I wish all students a safe holiday break.

Peter Noack  
Principal



## ATTENDANCE

A key focus for the College is student attendance. It is imperative that students attend school every day unless there are extenuating circumstances that prevent their attendance. The Department of Education defines regular attendance as 90% attendance. In Semester 1 this year, 59% of students across Years 7-12 had "regular attendance" and 23% had attendance rates between 80% and 89%.

The College will be increasing its focus ensuring student attendance rates improve. If students are absent from school, they are not learning. A student whose attendance is 90% misses on average, one day per fortnight which equates to 4 weeks per year. Over five years of schooling, this equates to half a year of missed education. A student with 80% attendance misses more than one year over the course of their secondary schooling. It is in the best interest of all students to attend school every day.

When a student's attendance falls below 90%, parents will be contacted to discuss strategies in an attempt to improve their child's attendance.

## COLLEGE UPGRADES

The College has embarked on a number of minor projects over the last six months.

- A number of toilet blocks have been upgraded with new tiling, painting and utility saving devices.
- Additional seating has been installed in shaded areas for student use at recess and lunch.
- The ovals and grassed quadrangle areas have been top dressed and are being mowed more frequently to provide a better surface for our students.
- We are currently investigating the option of exterior painting to our buildings to move away from the red face brick.

## VET UPDATE

Darling Range Sports College has always been an integral part of the community. Our Year 11 and 12 students participate in Workplace Learning opportunities (work experience) throughout the year at organisations and establishments to gain integral and valuable job skills. During the ATAR exams, some of our students attended their work placements and the school has been receiving some amazing feedback. Some comments have been overwhelmingly positive, so much so that a few of the supervisors have mentioned that our students are out performing their own employees!



## PETER PAN PRODUCTION

Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to attend the Peter Pan production on Tuesday, 27 June as their reward excursion. Students were enthralled by the experience and the applause indicated an appreciation of the hard work and dedication by their peers in putting together an awesome show.





## NETBALL UPDATE

“Dare to Dream” is the motto of Darling Range Sports College and the school has cemented its reputation for producing elite athletes who embody this determination to achieve.

West Coast Fever recruit and past student Jessica Anstiss and current Year 11 student Katie Te Ao, are the success stories of the High Performance Netball Program at the College.

Jessica Anstiss is the epitome of “daring to dream” and her achievements since her graduation in 2013 are extensive.

In September 2016, Anstiss was selected as the final player in the West Coast Fever squad, playing a pivotal role for the team in the Suncorp Super Netball League.

Anstiss said she was scared to enter the Fever environment as a new and young recruit.

When questioned on the challenges she faced, Anstiss said “Training in a high performance environment every day and stepping up to the intensity of trainings and games was the most confronting”.

Anstiss however, finished the season with 28 interceptions and 23 deflections and was awarded Most Valuable Player at the recent West Coast Fever Awards Night.

“It was hard to adapt to a different level of physicality and intensity and to win MVP is surreal,” she said. “It is a credit to the team and I wouldn’t have won it without any of them.”

Katie Te Ao is also carving her own path to success and earlier this year, she was announced in the School Sport Australia Under 15’s Australian team which travelled to Fiji in May 2017.

“The most challenging aspect of Fiji was meeting all these new girls who had different styles of play and combining it all together in under three days before the competition started” said Te Ao. “The experience overall was the most rewarding aspect by far.”

Te Ao credited Darling Range Sports College and said the High Performance Netball Program gave her the opportunity to learn more about the game and improve her own style of play.

Te Ao and Anstiss are currently participating in the 2017 Western Australian Netball League for the Darling Range Netball Region.

Anstiss however, was also named in the Australian World Youth Cup team that will be travelling to Botswana in July. She said experience is the aspect that she wants to take away from the tour. “Having the experience of playing against international teams and the best players in the world of my age group is important to me,” she said.

It is evident Jessica Anstiss and Katie Te Ao embody the “Dare to Dream” motto of Darling Range Sports College as they continue their successes on the netball court.

Interviewed and written by Amy Delcaro



## HOMEWORK CLASSES

Beginning Wednesday, 26 July we will be offering after school homework classes for any students who would like to catch up on homework, do some extra study or receive additional help with any of their school work.

The classes will run from 3pm until 4pm in the library.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This term has seen the introduction of a new social and emotional program at the College called Rock and Water. Our Chaplain, Jason Armstrong and Youth Worker, Justine Hughes have engaged a group of determined Year 7 and 8 students over the term. The program gives students the chance to learn skills and strategies for decision making and conflict resolution and has helped the students to grow in confidence and self-esteem. We look forward to running the program throughout the rest of the year with our focus being on the Year 7 students.

Term 2 has seen the Year 9 boys enjoying another round of the 'Blokes' Program' which has seen a group of students talking about issues such as identity, conflict resolution, relationships and choices. The boys have been enjoying the freedom to talk about some challenging issues and participating in some fun activities. Year 8 students will take part in the program next term.

Recently DRSC partnered with Donovan Retirement Village in Forrestfield with a small number of Year 10 students visiting the residents to join in activities as a way to have inter-generational contact with the elderly in our community and help to brighten their day with some games and activities. Thanks go to our Chaplain, Jason and our Youth Workers, Justine and Kayla for supporting the students as they try to give back to our community in a small way.

The EdConnect Mentoring program continued this term with four fantastic volunteers coming into the College weekly to engage with some students and assist them in their social and emotional development. Thanks go to Marie, Candice, Verna and Jordan for their support of this great program.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

At Darling Range Sports College, we aim to be involved in the community as much as possible. As such, we are assisting a non-profit group called Brothers and Sisters Perth. This organisation was created by brother and sister duo Siham and Mirwan Carollisen in April 2016. Their mission is to provide clothing, food and services (free of charge) in a caring and dignified manner.

As such, we would like to ask for donations of blankets that are not being used but are in good condition. We will then pass these onto Brothers and Sisters Perth for the homeless.

If you can assist, please drop your blankets to our front office.

Thank you for helping to make a difference.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent WA in their sport.

Emma Nanut  
Western Australia Schools AFL Girls 15's Team

Ula-Mari Time-Crib  
Rugby League Under 16's Female Team