



DARLING RANGE SPORTS COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER | TERM 3

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As we move towards the end of Term 3, I am pleased to bring you an update on recent developments in the College.

Funding \$10million

As you would be aware, the State Government made a \$10million funding commitment to the College during the recent state elections. This is a confirmed commitment and the funds are expected to be available in the 2018-2019 financial year. The funding will be targeted primarily at a renewed Design and Technology Centre and Home Economics Centre. This will provide modern facilities in tune with industry standards. The funds will also be used to develop and renew other areas of the College including the Science laboratories and a range of other areas in need of improvement.

Year 12's

This term, the second of the ATAR revision seminars has been running. The College has contracted Academic Associates to provide the seminars in each of the ATAR subjects. The seminars, which have been running on Saturday mornings, have been well attended by students. The remainder of Term 3 and the first two weeks of Term 4 are vital for all students as the ATAR students complete their courses and revision programs in preparation for WACE mock examinations. For non-ATAR students, it is a time to make sure all assessment tasks are complete. I wish all ATAR students every success in their final examinations.

Attendance

The College has commenced a strategy to improve student attendance. In Semester 1, only 52% of students attended school more than 90% of the time. This means that 48% of students were absent more than one day per fortnight. This is definitely something that needs to improve. To put this into perspective, a student who misses one day per fortnight over the course of 5 years, actually misses half a year of school.

As part of this attendance strategy, parents will be contacted to establish the reason for an absence. To avoid receiving these phone calls, please advise the College by email or SMS when your child is absent.

Parents whose children have excessive absences will be required to attend a meeting with the College administration to discuss the student's absence and to establish strategies to improve attendance.

I look forward to the support of all parents and guardians as we seek to increase the percentage of students with better than 90% attendance and in doing so, increase academic performance.

Business Plan

The College is in the final year of its business plan and is now working on the next business plan which will identify the College's priorities and targets for the period 2018-2020. It is important that we receive feedback on the business plan from parents and guardians. This will occur through parent representation on the College Board. We will also provide a draft of the business plan for your feedback around the middle of Term 4.

Uniform

I remind all parents of the requirement for students to wear school uniform as approved by the College Board. In recent times some female students have been wearing tights/leggings without shorts or a skirt over the top. Tights and leggings are not appropriate for school and students who choose to wear these items will not be permitted to go to recess and lunch with other students. Parents will be phoned to bring a change of clothes for their child. Also unacceptable are "hoodies". These are not uniform and students wearing hoodies will also receive detention. I look forward to the support of all parents in this matter.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (cont'd)

Ringling home

There are many occasions when the College has to phone parents. Please note that when you receive a phone call from the College, it will show as a "private number" and we frequently find that parents are not answering our calls. I do appreciate that for many parents it is difficult to take calls during the day however, in an emergency this can be a real problem. I encourage all parents where possible to answer "private number" calls to facilitate improved communication between home and school.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are now available and individual student statements have been mailed to parents. I commend all students who have given their best effort in NAPLAN testing. College results are available on Schools Online. Results will also be posted on the College website. The NAPLAN results are an important piece of information that the College uses to improve assessment and grading practices, and to identify key focus areas for improvement.

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Year 12 students are nearing the end of their final year of schooling and will be transitioning to full time work, TAFE or university at the end of 2017. A lot of preparation has gone into the final events for our Year 12's including the Farewell Dinner, the Valedictory Ceremony, final assembly and Leavers' breakfast.

We look forward to all Year 12's using their final days at the College to strive for the highest grades possible which will assist them in their entry to university, TAFE aspirations or pursuit of employment. Many Year 12's are taking the opportunity to visit Mrs Hewitt, our Vocational Education and Training (VET) Coordinator, to discuss options after Year 12.

Year 11 students are in the first year of their two year Senior School courses. Many are flourishing in the challenging subjects offered in Year 11 and we expect high standards of our Year 11's as the year progresses.

Year 10 students are in the process of their journey into Senior School in 2018. In Term 2, Year 10 students and their parents attended the Parent Information Evening which provided details of what is required in Year 11 and Year 12. This term, students and their parents met with their subject counsellor who guided them through the subject selection process for Year 11.

One of the highlights of the Senior School calendar was the College Ball. Students dressed up in their finery and looked stunning. It was certainly fun watching them 'busting some moves' on the dance floor and having a great time. Taylor Slater was crowned Belle of the Ball and Jayden Turner-Hames declared Beau. Kobi Lowicki and Chloe Hill were voted The Cutest Couple.

The College has an amazing Senior School Student Services team who are dedicated in their support of our Senior School students – Mr James Embley, Student Services Manager; Mr Ken McGee, Student Co-ordinator; Mrs Hewitt, VET Coordinator; Mrs Maria Thomas, Aboriginal Education Co-ordinator; Miss Melissa Yarran, Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer; and Ms Kayla Allen, Youth Worker.

As the Associate Principal of Senior School, I am looking forward to the rest of the semester and the highlights it will bring.

Sue McLaren
Associate Principal, Senior School



TALENT QUEST

Over the past two terms, Darling Range Sports College has been running its inaugural "Talent Quest". The Quest began in Term 2 with over 40 students auditioning for the newly established event. There was a range of different acts, from guitarists, dancers, and beatboxers, but only 25 of those hopeful acts would compete in the heats this Term.

We are coming to the end of the Heats, where students have performed in front of a panel of judges comprised of talented staff members (Mrs Keenan, Mr Henderson, Mrs Guthrie, Mrs Pratt and Miss Grieco). Student attendance during the heats has been phenomenal, with an estimate of 200 students in consistent attendance.

The organisation and management of this event has been a collaborative effort between The Arts staff members and a student committee. Special thanks goes out to the following people:

Staff

Dean Umu
Michelle Grieco
Luq Lut Ali

Student Committee

Kai Stephens
Jordan Woods
Jareth Raycraft
Sebastian Davis
Rhys Prosser
Kaylee Toop



VACSWIM

Enrol your children now in VacSwim swimming lessons during the October and December/January school holidays.

Your children can join in the fun of learning to swim in lessons conducted at pools and open water venues across the State. VacSwim is for all children - from beginners through to advanced survival, rescue and resuscitation.

To find out more about VacSwim and to enrol online please visit education.wa.edu.au/swimming

NATIONAL BANDANNA DAY

National Bandanna Day is on Friday, 27 October and Darling Range Sports College is proud to be part of this wonderful initiative to support CanTeen.

Bandannas can be purchased from the front office for \$5 each and we have a variety of colours and designs to choose from.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.canteen.org.au/bandanna-day/>





R U OK? DAY

DRSC recently held a very successful 'R U OK? Day'. Some of the highlights included:

- Mindfulness and yoga sessions
- Photo booth with dress up and silly costumes (there were some cracking photos)
- Chillout zone - where students could literally just 'chill out' and listen to music
- Visual messages played on a big screen in the PAC
- City of Kalamunda set up a station and provided handouts, give aways and 'advice'
- A staff/student/community basketball game was played between some legends of the College, current Year 12 students and a few officers from the Forreestfield police station.

All events were absolutely fantastic and students either participated or watched. A big thank you to Justine Hughes, Youth Worker, who organised and collaborated with staff and students to make this day possible. Well done and thank you to everyone who participated, helped or supervised. Days and events like these would not be possible without so many active and engaging staff members.





ACHIEVEMENTS

- Baseball Coach, Mr Andy Kyle who has been appointed as Coach of the Perth Heat
- Athletics Coach, Mrs Kobi Nichols who won a bronze medal in the Pentathlon event at Nationals
- Director of Sport, Mr Clay McLernon on his appointment as Assistant Coach of the successful WAFL State Team
- Mr Aaron Black, WAFL State team
- Mrs Karly Guadagnin, West Coast Warriors Coach on her team's premiership success in the State Netball League
- Jason Martin (Year 11) competed in the State Swimming Championships and won 1 bronze, 3 silver and 1 gold (100m Freestyle) medal
- Nathan Sason (Year 7) competed in the International Swimming Competition in Singapore and won the Most Outstanding Swimmer Award (12-13 years) plus 6 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal
- Kaitlyn Billing (Year 8) was recently awarded a Western Australian State record in her key event of triple jump for U13 girls, with a jump of 11.69m.
- Jake Teague (Year 9) competed in the International Little Athletics Championships in Malaysia and won 1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal
- Joshua Jones (Year 10) competed in the International Little Athletics in Malaysia and won 3 silver medals
- Erin Heathcote-Bradley (Year 12) (Vice Captain), Tia McFarland (Year 11) and Cassandra Hewitt (Year 10) competed in the National Indoor Netball Championships in Melbourne
- Christian Bavadra (Year 11) was selected in the 2017 Western Force Schoolboys team
- James Hosking (Year 10) will represent WA in a Pro Football Tour in England
- Stefanus Edward (Year 10) placed 5th in the National SunCorp ESSI Money Challenge (Economics Challenge)

DRSC Student To Walk Runway in New York

Year 10 student, Nakita Williams, took to the runway as part of the prestigious New York Fashion Week.

Nakita has been modelling for two years and amongst many other achievements, has appeared at the following:

- 2014 Melbourne Fashion Week
- 2014 Los Angeles Fashion Week Design Competition
- 2017 Invited to Vancouver Fashion Week

Nakita was recently scouted by local fashion designer, Azulant Akora, at Kalgoorlie Fashion Week.

You can read more on the [Community News website](#).

