End of term two is upon us!

Look here! To find out what this is all about read below…….

Term three starts on Tuesday July 25th. Pat’s bacon and egg feeds are always special so don’t miss out!

Well the year is half over—unbelievable how quickly the first two terms have gone! I have just finished reading through the students’ reports for the end of the first semester. What stood out for me overwhelmingly was that the students who attend regularly are those who achieve the best grades; and of course those whose attendance is poor have the lowest grades….. The link between attendance and achievement is well known; the teachers do the very best they can but they can’t teach absent students! Additionally, Centrelink checks student attendance at the end of every term; students who receive Abstudy and who do not meet attendance targets face paying money back to Centrelink or indeed having payments cut entirely. Not good!

We ask that all families make getting kids to school a priority for term 3 and beyond.

Lots of really interesting articles in this edition of the newsletter, feel free to share it with family and friends. Enjoy the winter break; we look forward to working with all students and families again next term.

Dave Basher
Principal
Art and Student Voice

Problem: Students were coming to school with bags and nowhere to keep them.

Complication: The lockers we had in storage were rusty and an unattractive grey

Solution: Get the Art students to paint the lockers

Result: see below

The lockers have been a truly collaborative project with students from years 8-12 contributing their designs and or/painting skills. Some of the junior students chose to ‘bars’ a door to do their Art assessment on, painting a design with the theme of a ‘close-up’ (see Robbie’s burning skull (top right) inspired by a close up of a tattoo design and Amber’s ‘butterfly wing under a microscope’ - painted by Daniel (top left) other combined efforts were Amber working on Tristan’s traditional design (centre) and Annie completing Chanelle’s hand design (centre right), Takani designed and completed a Sally Morgan inspired design (centre left) as did Caitlyn (centre top) with her ‘Njarrindjeri black swan’ design. The bottom row is still to be completed by Natasha, Yassie and Alicia. I think you’ll agree that it’s coming together beautifully! We are hoping to have them ‘fully operational’ by the start of term 3.
POWER CUP & McLEOD CUP

As always term 2 provides senior students with the opportunity to participate in the Aboriginal Power Cup (APC) at Alber-ton oval. This year middle school students also participated in the McLeod Cup for the first time. Warriappendi had fourteen students play in the APC carnival and both our girls and boys team had successful campaigns by winning more games than we lost.

The APC is the culmination of the SACE course students complete including guernsey design, war-cries and cultural studies. This year we won our first off field award by collecting the gong for the best Motor Accident Commission commercial promoting safe driving, it can be viewed on the school’s Facebook page.

Our guernsey was designed by Wynona Fielding.

The middle school classes competed at football Park in the McLeod Cup, again we had great participation from our year 8 & 9 students on the day.

Well done to all the students who represented themselves and the school well in these events.

Junior History Students Investigate Grote Street

Students undertook an historic investigation of historic buildings in Grote Street. Significant theatres, churches, education facilities, hotels and the markets were investigated with students making connections between the growth of these institutions and population growth linked to the Gold Rush.
Shine’s 2 day Relationships and Sexual Health summit saw our year 10-12s exposed to many experts— from young mums (with their babies and toddlers) sharing the hardships of their chosen (or not chosen!) path to SAPOL talking about the support they offer to victims and perpetrators of Domestic Violence to SHine workers talking about contraception, consent and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

Students worked with professional Aboriginal actors from the ‘Act now’ theatre company in exploring homophobia— what forms it can take and how to not be a bystander. Students learnt that it’s hurtful to use a ‘gay voice’, use homophobic terms and to say things like ‘that’s so gay’ as a put down- and the importance of picking others up on their behaviour. It was a powerful roleplay and one in which our students participated in a brave, proactive and creative way.

Students were also treated to an afternoon of Aboriginal culture from Jack Buckskin who educated students on what it actually means to be an Aboriginal person. The cultural knowledge Jack has not only in Kaurna language but about all the language groups in South Australia, is astounding. Listening to an elder like Jack felt quite an honour.

We returned to school full of new understanding of the importance of making smart decisions and the knowledge to make that an easier job.
Wellbeing

This term in wellbeing we have continued to learn about the brain—through making 3D models (see right).

We also continued to trial ways of keeping our mental health healthy—which included hip hop, yoga, mindful meditation and sensory exploration—see below!

Thank you to our many volunteers that have helped make our wellbeing program a success—including Nicole from MYH, Luke from Yarrow Place and the medical students from Insight.

Health Checks

This term we have been lucky enough to have health checks every Thursday run by Dylan—an Aboriginal Health worker from Metropolitan Youth Health. Dylan has already supported us in referring student to Doctors and others specialist through identifying health needs through his checks. Dylan has even organised a day in week two next term for us to go and visit a doctor so that students can update their Health Plans if need be and chat confidentially with a doctor about any issues they may have.

All students are able to access the checks—please see your home group teacher if you have not yet signed a consent form (students over 16 are able to sign their own consent).

Next term the service will be extended to included free 1:1 counselling with a youth worker.
In term 2, week 9 the whole school got on the bus to head to Camp Coorong which is about ten minutes from Meningie. When we got to Camp Coorong we quickly unpacked the bus and then met Aunty Ellen at the start of the Bonney Reserve Bush Tucker Trail. Aunty Ellen Trevorrow is a Ngarrindjeri elder who has been working at Camp Coorong since 1988. Aunty Ellen took us on a two hour walk through Bonney Reserve and along the way told us all about the bush food available and some of the bush medicines. Most of us tried the different bush food as we were walking. About half way through the walk we came to a lookout...there Aunty Ellen told us about the land, the culture and how long she had been doing the walks for. Finally the walking trail ended at the Coorong which was quite a fantastic sight!

After we got back from the bush walk we had dinner at the camp site and kicked the footy for a bit. Once it got dark we headed over to the museum where Uncle Daryl Sumner met with us. Uncle Daryl talked to us about the art work in the museum but mostly about the Ngarrindjeri flag and what it means.

The next morning we got on the bus for a tour to the northern end of the Coorong. We visited Raukkan, The Barrage, The Coorong Fish Traps and Meningie Park. Personally I was quite interested in the fish traps because I liked how they worked. When the tide comes in the fish would swim over the rocks but when the tide went out the fish could no longer get over the rocks and they would become trapped. Once they were trapped you could just go into the rock pools and pick them up.

The final night on camp we had lasagne for dinner and then did basket weaving with Aunty Ellen. I made a mini basket which I saved to give to my niece.

By Tristan Neville
On the last Tuesday of term Warriappendi held a NAIDOC Week event where we invited a year 4 class from Richmond Primary to join us for some kangaroo sausages, wattle seed damper, salad from our garden and a whole snapper from friends in Kangaroo island. Our students worked very hard in cooking, setting up and packing up.

Richmond Primary students participated in a lesson about the history of NAIDOC Week in the Trade Skills Centre. They had fun dot painting pebbles to take home and each student chose a native plant, which was donated by West Torrens council, to take home or back to school.

We would like to thank Carroll and Lena from Tauondi College for doing the cooking with our students. Thankyou to all of the guests, students and helpers that made the event special for everyone.

Have a safe and relaxing break.

See you next term!