



# Adelaide Secondary School of English

We value:

**Respect**

**Responsibility**

**Resilience**

## Newsletter

## Term 3, 2020



### *From the Principal*

As we head towards the end of the year, we start to take the time to reflect on the year we've had, and what a year 2020 has been so far! Despite the challenges of COVID-19, students and staff have continued to further improve their skills, and as a school we have made many improvements.

Our new building works have commenced and our transition and advanced students had a wonderful time on our first day trip to Woodhouse, despite missing out on an overnight field trip. We were able to celebrate SSO week, Wear It Purple Day and



the International Day of Peace, as well as student achievements in our first whole school assembly for the year. We also celebrated the successes of our graduating students.

Our outstanding work through the Trauma Aware Schools Initiative was recognised by the Department for Education, and although we were unable to showcase our achievements as part of a "face to face" conference, we were invited to share our journey with a film crew. The film was recently launched and has been made available to all schools. A major focus of this work has been on improving teacher practice and introducing our own version of

self-regulation scales, which can be used in classes by students to identify how they are feeling and when they need some support. Feedback provided by students and staff to one of our professional learning teams will help us to refine the scales and embed them into the curriculum.

With improvement in reading and writing being our 2 main site improvement goals this year, we have continued the focus on oral language and the development of a suitable phonics program, which will be implemented from 2021. Staff feedback and student progress indicates we are well on track to achieve our improvement goals for 2020, and early in term 4, staff will be considering how to refine our improvement goals and challenges of practice for 2021. Your feedback via the parent survey is also valuable in helping us to refine our improvement goals.

This term, teachers have engaged in a range of professional development, including EALD methodologies, phonics training, Trauma Informed Practice and the Learning English: Achievement and Proficiency (LEAP) levels training. Staff and students also practiced an emergency evacuation and evacuation drill earlier in the term.

Teachers have been working intensively on the development of our term 4 post transition course which will be implemented for the first time next term. This program has been developed to ensure we better prepare our students for success in mainstream schools, as the length of our Intensive English program has been extended and in future all students will transition at the end of a semester (namely end of terms 2 & 4) rather than mid semester.

We look forward to implementing this new program next term, and as a school will continue to work towards achieving our improvement goals for 2020.

Anti Macri  
**Principal**



### **Term 4 Dates**

- **Monday 11/10/2020**  
**First day of Term 4**
- **Thursday 12/11/2020**  
**Governing Council meeting**
- **Tuesday 08/12/2020**  
**Parent/Teacher interviews**
- **Friday 11/12/2020**  
**Last day of Term 4**



## Walk a Mile in My Boots Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

This year, Class 32 took on the organisation of the walk as a Community Service project.

First we had a class meeting and talked about Community Service and shared our ideas. We decided to support the Hutt Street Centre and do the "Walk a Mile in My Boots" walk. We decided students would donate a gold coin for the walk, and could bring in canned food to donate.

Ms Macri came to a meeting and was supportive of our ideas so we invited the whole school to our walk.

Ali took the idea to the SRC meeting and then we visited classes. We encouraged them to come on the walk and to donate canned food. The class then made posters, and bandanas and set up an area in Student Services for people to bring in their donated food. In week 4 we conducted the walk. We had around 220 students join in the walk.

We raised over \$300 for the Hutt Street Centre and felt very proud that we were able to help people experiencing homelessness. We would like to volunteer again in the future and help other organisations.

*Students of Class 32 (photographer: Ali Sina Haidari)*

## Food and Money for the Homeless



On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August, Mr Mike Francis, the General Manager of the Hutt Street Centre, came to class 32 and spoke to the students about the work that the Hutt Street Centre does to support people that are experiencing homelessness. His talk was interesting, informative and thought provoking. Students then presented Mr Francis with the collection tins and the donated food.

*Ms Koula Giannini*

*On Thursdays during lunch, many students come to the back of the library to weave bracelets in Art Club. Here are some of their designs:*



*On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August many students and teachers brought tins of food and some money to give to people in Adelaide who do not have enough money or a house. In the morning, we walked around our school to think about the people sleeping in the streets and parks.*

*In my country, Laos, I saw some people sleeping in the streets and parks and I would give them money and food.*

*In this photo our class 9 are very happy because we are helping people.*

*Vanna Sayasane (class 9)*

## Community Service

This term Class 19 decided to do community service in the School Library and help Ms Catherine Gates with some of the work she does. Students spent 4 lessons and some lunch breaks cleaning and organising the shelves as well as borrowing and returning books on the computer. They also made some posters about the correct behaviour in the library.

*Ms Ayesha Naem*





## Port Power Community Program - Power to End Violence against Women

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September, 3 players of the Port Power Football Club attended ASSoE and presented two 1 hour workshops to a group of 25 male students from various cultural backgrounds. The workshops focussed on looking at the current facts about Domestic Violence in Australia, societies expectations of males and females, the role of culture, what contributes to healthy or unhealthy relationships, safe use of Social Media and the creation of our digital footprint.

The students participated enthusiastically in the discussions and were able to articulate their ideas and opinions clearly. They particularly enjoyed the activity where they had to listen to various scenarios and express their viewpoints.

Students were rewarded for their engagement by prizes of guernseys and caps.

*Ms Koula Giannini*



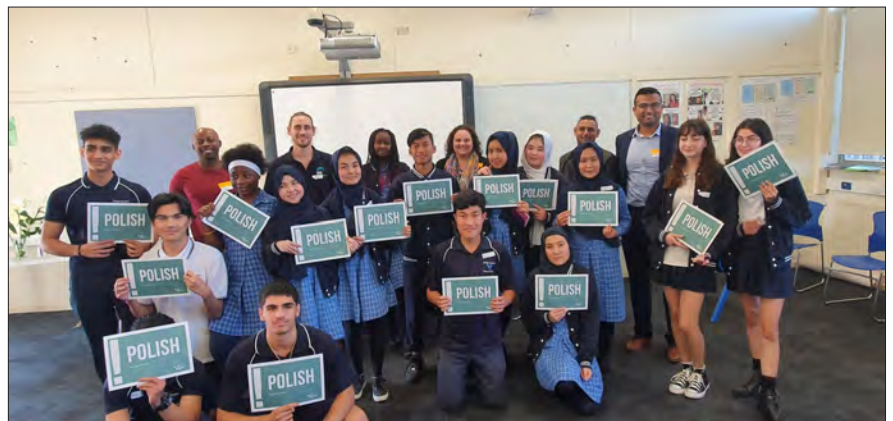
## Beacon "Polish"

This term, we were lucky to be able to organise a Beacon 'Polish' program for our graduating classes. 'Polish' empowers students to better navigate their transition into the future world of work. The program equips students with an awareness of global trends, the demand for cultivating a transferrable set of skills and the importance of self-advocacy.

Two Transition classes, classes 7 and 11, participated in this program and through interactive modules students learnt to identify, build and promote their own enterprising skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking and networking.

Activities in 'Polish' included a panel session with other mentors, a networking lunch with students and mock interviews for students to practice the skills they had learnt. The program was quite interactive and lively.

*Mr Ash Parekh*



## National Tree Day 2020

National Tree Day is an important annual event when schools and community groups plant trees to improve our environment. Unfortunately this year, due to COVID-19, the official National Tree Day was cancelled, however students at ASSoE decided to plant trees anyway. We were fortunate to get sponsorship from the City of Charles Sturt to purchase trees and with the support and organisation of our capable new Groundsman, Mr Dave Smith, we organised to plant over 100 native trees and shrubs around the school grounds. The students feel proud of the legacy they are creating, adding beauty to school grounds, creating habitat for native animals and improving the health of our environment.

*Mr Paul Coats*



## Geography Excursion

On Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, classes 18, 31 and 41 went to the Torrens River to check the water there. We saw some birds like black swans and pelicans. Insects like backswimmers, tiny worms and some little reed plants. Then we went to the Botanic Gardens Wetlands to check the water there. We saw a turtle, mosquito larvae, water fleas, lots of reeds, bushes and grasses.

We used a microscope, and other equipment to find the quality of the water. We enjoyed this excursion for geography.

*Rohullah Dosti  
(class 18)*





## Woodhouse Day Trip - 16/09/2020

Students and teachers from 10 different classes had a wonderful day at Woodhouse Activity Centre, where the students participated in a range of activities designed to build skills in teamwork, risk taking and overcoming challenges, all while engaging with the Australian natural environment. Activities included orienteering, the large maze, and of course Challenge Hill, an obstacle course that involves many difficult challenges to climb over, crawl through or swing across.

*Mr Chris Rasch*

## Morialta Conservation Park

In the final week of term 2, class 11 and class 28 had a wonderful, health-giving excursion to Morialta Conservation Park. It was a beautiful day weatherwise and perfectly suited to the vigorous climbs and walking trails we negotiated for 2 and a half to 3 hours. There were moments when all we could hear was the sound of waterfalls and birds, being completely at one with the magnificent, natural environment. Since our visit, several students have been inspired to return to the Falls with family and friends. Both classes recommend Morialta for a family outing. *Ms Fran Rydon & Ms Gayle Schipanski*



*Patrick Fimmano, pre-service teacher from Flinders University.*

## Tree of Life Presentation

At the end of Term 2, Class 19 proudly presented their *Tree of Life* posters. Ms Macri (*Principal*) and Ms Vonney (*Coordinator*) were invited to listen to the presentations. Shella, Amisi and Rohullah were awarded certificates and gifts for being the top 3. *Ms Ayesha Naeem*



*So Great!*

## Ravioli the Guinea Pig visits ASSOe

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September a guinea pig called Ravioli visited the school for the day.

Ravioli and his owner Nicola spent time in class 19, with individual students in the Resource Centre and with a group of female students.

Many students were excited to have Ravioli at school and were keen to handle and feed him under the supervision of Nicola. Some students approached Ravioli with caution yet curiosity and inquisitiveness.

Overall his visit had a positive effect on the students, many were keen to have photos taken with him and have asked if he can visit again.

*Ms Koula Giannini*

