From The Principal

Welcome to all members of our school community

I know many of you have received a letter from our Governing Council Chairperson Tamy Pond informing you of the change in Principal at the school. Paul Havelberg has accepted a position as Regional Manager at the University of South Australia for the remainder of the year and I have been appointed as his replacement during this time. For me personally it has been a long time since I have been in Whyalla in an education capacity. I taught here at Edward John Eyre High School back in 1995 and since then have held various leadership positions, the first being at Port Augusta Secondary School. For the past 13 years I have been at Henley High School where up until recently I held the position of Assistant Principal.

In my brief time at Edward John Eyre High School this year I have been extremely impressed in many areas of our school community. We are very fortunate to have both teaching and support staff who are extremely dedicated and highly collegiate in support of our students and their teaching and learning. It is an aspect of our school which we will continue to foster in support of our young people’s pathways from school to work or further education.

I am pleased to announce that the first stage of our Western Precinct Development has been approved by DECD. I have a number of meetings in the near future to discuss the roll out of this and will keep the school community informed as these talks progress. It is appropriate to acknowledge the work Paul has done over the past year with this and we look forward to him visiting the school as the project takes shape.

We have had a number of highlights this term that are also worthwhile mentioning:

- Our Open Boys Cricket Team are through to the Semi Finals of the State-Wide Schools Cricket Competition.
- Congratulations to Mr Brooks and the Year 12 Food and Hospitality class who held a successful Coffee Shop for staff and students raising over $160. This money will support the ongoing costs associated with the programme.
- Our WASSAC (Western Area’s Secondary School Athletics Carnival) representatives travelled to Ceduna as part of our combined Whyalla team. All reports suggest that we were extremely competitive with some outstanding individual results.

A personal highlight for me thus far has been the outstanding work of our Student Voice committee. I was privileged to attend one of their meetings on my first day at the school. We should be extremely proud of our young leaders. The way they support our school community is outstanding and to have the presence they do within the school is a great asset.

Can I please remind parents about our Uniform Policy. All students are required to wear the Edward John Eyre High School top, and black shorts/pants. There have been instances recently where this policy has not been followed, and we are asking for support from all parents in enforcing this to help improve both school pride and the safety of our students.

In staffing news we are pleased to announce the employment of our new Apprenticeship Broker Karen Skinner who will be based in our Trade Training Centre office. Staff also farewelled long term employee Liz Allen at a special morning tea on Monday 23 March.

Finally, our Annual Report is now complete and available for families to view. This can be done either via the Blog at www.ejehs.com or by contacting the Front Office for a hard copy.

Tim Kloeden, Principal
From Mr Marino

Front of School Access
Please be advised about an update to the process for entering the school grounds throughout the day.

The student entrance doors (front foyer) will be open in the morning for students to enter. These doors will be locked during Home Group (from 8.55 am) and remain locked for the whole school day. They will be opened again in time for students to exit.

All visitors will need to go through the Front Office entrance and will need to sign in using the Visitor’s Book, recording the purpose of the visit and collecting a visitor sticker. The Front Office staff will gladly assist in contacting staff members for appointments or queries. We thank you for your support in this.

Students who arrive once doors have been locked will also need to enter via the Front Office and then sign in at the SSC. Likewise, students who leave school during the day will still need to sign out via the SSC and are asked to leave through the Front Office.

This process is to make sure we know who is present on site and to ensure everyone's safety. If you have any questions about this process, please contact school administration.

Student Matters, from Mr Jeffery

Driving
Grundel Street is horrific between 3.05 and 3.15 pm! Could I urge all drivers to please be patient and careful at these times. A reminder that around the entire school, the speed limit is 25 kph when students are present.

For our student P-plate drivers, a reminder that the new P-plate laws enable only one passenger aged between 16 and 20, apart from direct family members.

A reminder that every student who drives a car to school, or is a passenger in a car driven by another student, is required to have their parent/caregiver complete the permissions slip in the school diary.

Leaving School During the Day
In general terms, no Year 11 student should be leaving school during the day.

Exceptions include:
- Medical appointments etc where they have parental permission to do so
- Going HOME for lunch where they have parental permission to do so
- Early departures due to frees at the end of the day (only applies to part-time students or those students who have a free due to VET courses etc)

All other circumstances need to be negotiated with the Principal.

Year 12 students MAY leave the grounds, with parental permission, when they have extended study periods, for the purposes of home study.

We do not allow students to go to Westlands etc - as we cannot monitor their safety. In this vain, students leaving the school by car during the school day are not permitted to carry passengers.

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Reports
The first term reporting period has now finished. Reports are in process, and you should receive them in the post during Week 10.

Parent Teacher Interviews will be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 11. Included in this mail out is a Interview Request Sheet. This can be returned to SSC staff who will organise interview times for you. I would encourage all parents to utilise this opportunity to speak to the teachers, and help support your student’s education.

Grant Jeffery, Senior Leader
SACE News

New 90 Credit University Aggregate & ATAR

Students completing Year 12 this year who want an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will be the first to experience the new 90 credit University Aggregate. These students must be studying four full year (20 credit) subjects and the Research Project (10 credits). Students who have completed a Certificate III may use this as ONE of their four full year subjects. After scaling (you can see a video about this on the SATAC website) students will receive a score out of 20 for each of their full year subjects, and one out of 10 for the Research Project, giving a total score out of 90. Students will then be ranked on a range from 0 to 99.95 based on their university aggregate. This ranking is referred to as their ATAR.

New Bonus Points Schemes

The three South Australian universities are replacing all existing equity and subject bonus schemes with two new bonus schemes: The SA Universities Equity Scheme and the SA Language, Literacy and Mathematics Bonus Scheme.

Students at Edward John Eyre High School will receive five bonus points due to the school’s geographical location, through the SA Universities Equity Scheme. Students studying English Communications, Mathematical Studies or Specialist Mathematics will receive an additional two bonus points per subject (must attain a C- or better) but only to a maximum of four points from the SA Language, Literacy & Mathematics Bonus Scheme.

These points are added to the student’s university aggregate (ie score out of 90) and a new ATAR rank is calculated, but is referred to as your Selection Rank.

A free SATAC Tertiary Entrance Guide is available for parents or students at the school.

Breach of Rules

Some students will regularly comment that they can’t get work done at school and that they prefer to do their work at home. Other students will hand in a piece of work for assessment, on the due date, without having submitted a draft for teacher feedback and/or without the teacher having seen the student work on that task at school. Parents and students need to be aware that if the teacher is unable to verify that work submitted is the student’s own, they are not obligated to accept the work. This applies to work which is school-assessed as well as for externally assessed work in Stage 2 of the SACE.

If you have any questions about any of the above information, please contact the SACE Coordinator, Helen Farrell, on 8645 7677.

Helen Farrell, SACE Coordinator

Year 11 Outdoor Education

So far this year the Year 11 Outdoor Education Class has participated in a variety of activities outside of the classroom. A large focus for the class has been around teamwork, communication and learning a new skill set that they will be able to use in different situations in the future.

The first activity that was completed by the class was a daytrip to ERRAPPA Blue Light Camp where students completed a series of high ropes as well as team building and communication activities. All students (and teachers) had a go at the high ropes that were on offer as well as the rock climbing wall and the infamous leap of faith. Many students overcame their fears of heights and all students enjoyed the opportunity to explore unfamiliar situations.

As a part of the program students partook in an overnight camp at the Port Augusta Aquatic and Outdoor Centre where students were given the opportunity to complete the activities of windsurfing and canoeing. For many students these activities were different to what they have previously completed and they all enjoyed themselves. The centre has recently made contact with the school explaining the enjoyment they received in teaching such an active and polite group of students. Congratulations to all who have participated.

Jarrad Lee & Belinda McEvoy, Outdoor Education Teachers

Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 Formal will be held on Thursday 19 November at the Whyalla Golf Club.

Any students interested in joining the Formal Committee, please see Zoe in the SSC. Our Term 1 Fundraiser is an Easter Raffle. Donations of chocolate to make Easter Baskets are much appreciated. We will be accepting chocolate donations until the end of this week. Raffle tickets will go on sale this week to all students and staff.

Zoe, on behalf of the Year 12 Formal Committee
Student Voice Corner

Student Voice Induction Session
On Thursday 19 February, 13 students who are interested in being part of Student Voice and MindMatters during 2015 went to the Whyalla Yacht Club to engage in a range of leadership activities and to induct new students into the Student Voice team. Students voted for other students to be our School Representatives; a male and a female student from both year levels were selected. Congratulations to Ford King and Kim Simmonds who were voted to be our Year 12 School Representatives for 2015 and Bryden Atkinson and Amelia Pudney our Year 11 Representatives.

Guest speaker Eddie Hughes (Member for Giles) shared his unique leadership journey including the importance of developing perseverance and resiliency along with the ability to work successfully as part of a team. Students also shared their own journeys with the whole group. Overall the day was a huge success.

Angel Woeltjes, Student Voice/MindMatters

Visit from the Premier
As detailed in the last Newsletter, on Tuesday 18 February Premier Jay Weatherill and Member for Giles Eddie Hughes visited Edward John Eyre High School. It was an honour and a joyous experience to have the Premier visit and to get to know him and ask him a few questions. Also, it was wonderful when he took an interest in what Year 12 students were doing for their Research Project. The Premier engaged in conversations about the different topics that were being explored.

Premier Weatherill also attended an Assembly which was hosted by Jackson Kerr and Ford King, two EJEHS Student Voice Representatives. During Assembly, the Premier responded to a series of questions presented by Ford King on behalf of the students. The questions were as follows:

1. What is the government doing to help students with all the cuts to education?
2. Opportunities for students from the country to study at university are taken away when families can no longer afford it. There are constant struggles to pay board and other living costs while studying. What is the direction you are looking into, to make this easier and achievable for all families?
3. What directions are you heading towards to improve students’ education?
4. After being a lawyer with an Economics Degree and establishing your own law firm before becoming Premier of South Australia, what gave you the direction to go into politics?

The Premier shared his journey about how he entered politics, and it was good to hear what he had to say about Whyalla and South Australia. We felt very privileged to have Premier Jay Weatherill come to our school to talk about his life and vision for South Australia.

Ford King, Student Voice/MindMatters

The Last Farewell
On Friday 13 March, the school community said their last goodbyes to our Principal, Mr Paul Havelberg. It was a sad, but momentous occasion as Student Voice members Ford King and Kim Simmonds gave a meaningful speech to thank him for all his efforts over the years and to acknowledge the positive impact he has had on our school. Edward John Eyre High School has become a much safer, happier environment, with students getting full support to achieve their best.

On behalf of the students of Edward John Eyre High School, I would like to wish Mr Havelberg all the best in his new position at the UNISA across the road. We also warmly welcome our new Principal, Mr Kloeden.

Alex Burchell, Student Voice/MindMatters