Welcome to all members of our school community

Welcome to Term 2
The beginning of Term 2 has been an extremely busy time for staff and students at Edward John Eyre High School. Students are now very much entrenched in their subjects with Year 12 students looking to complete their Research Project over the next few weeks. Last week saw the beginning of Pathways Counselling for Year 11 students and we welcomed the Year 10 students from Whyalla and Stuart High Schools for their first day of our transition program on Thursday 14 May.

In reviewing our student’s Term 1 achievement we are pleased to inform you that our impressive achievement data continues to grow from both our Year 11 and Year 12 students. We have had:

- A 10% growth in the number of A’s over the past two years for Stage 2 students.
- An increase of over 17% in students achieving a C or better.
- An increase of 13% in students obtaining a successful grade in their compulsory Literacy subjects and 17% growth in their Numeracy subjects.
- An overall increase of 12% of Year 11 students achieving a successful grade from 2013, with an increase of 14% of students obtaining an A or B during this time.

I would like to congratulate both staff and students on this achievement and look forward to seeing this pattern continuing in Term 2.

New Staff
This term we welcome 3 new staff to the school. Greg Trelor has been appointed Senior Leader of Student Pathways. Whilst Greg is based at our school he is also working with Port Augusta and Roxby Downs schools. We welcome Susan Innes who is here to replace Robyn Payne for Terms 2 and 3 whilst Robyn is on Long Service Leave. Karen Skinner will begin working at our school as our Apprenticeship Broker and will work closely with Greg and the Trade Training Centre team.

Student Free Days
As you are aware we have had two Student Free Days this term. The first of these was for the power cut to the school on Tuesday of Week 3. This time was used to look at a range of areas in support of our staff and students. This included:

- Staff investigating task design and improvements in support of catering for all students.
- Leaders reviewing current roles and developing future plans of improvement.

The Alliance Student Free Day in Week 4 provided all our Alliance Year 8-12 teachers a chance to look at our Whyalla Education Priority of Numeracy. Curriculum areas had the opportunity to work with the DECD Numeracy team in support of developing the numeracy skills of our students in all three schools.

Congratulations
A variety of student achievements have occurred since our last newsletter. Our Open Boys Football Team had two great wins over Port Augusta and Roxby Downs, and now move onto the next round of the Secondary School Sports Knockout Competition. Our Open Boys Cricket Team made it through to the Semi Finals of the State-Wide Knockout Competition and Megan Spirat organised our very own “Eyre’s got Talent”, showcasing a variety of student acts and performances.

I would also like to recognise Alisha Grillett who was chosen for our first Principal Award for this term. A member of our Young Mums program run by Kirsty Rogers, Alisha has displayed all qualities bestowed of this award. She has great academic participation and a strong sense of community. One highlight had been her support of others in need during the recent gas outage by offering to cook meals for families who were unable to do so. This combined with balancing independent living, parenting her daughter Summa and attending school, clearly demonstrates our key values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. Congratulations Alisha.

Tim Kloeden, Principal
Well Done

Well done to EJEHS student Brandon Gibbs. Brandon won the State Under 18 Snooker Championships in May.

University Visit

University of South Australia held their annual Regional Aboriginal Student Pathways Conference on 19 and 20 February. This provided opportunities for Year 10 to Year 12 Indigenous students to further their studies into a health career. The conference was designed to inspire students to successfully complete their SACE and expose them to the Health Industry.

Debbie Giles, Aboriginal Education Worker

Road Awareness Program

The SAMFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) was presented to our Stage 1 students at the end of Term 1.

Students were shown a range of video clips and heard expert discussion from the Metropolitan Fire Service. The session ended with a very honest "survivor’s story", which highlighted the impact of road crashes. Students found the session both confronting and educational, with most students indicating that it made them think about driving and the care they need to take.

Some of the feedback received from students included:
- It was fantastic and was a great reminder to always look out for our mates as well as ourselves.
- Helped me understand the dangers on the road and how easy it is to get distracted. Helped me understand the road rules a bit better.
- This program really opened my eyes towards Road Safety and from today I will be responsible.
- Everything was so relevant. Made me think twice about my future driving.
- It really opened my eyes to potential road dangers and how to avoid them.

The RAP Coordinator shared the following with us:
- Of your group of 95 students, 67 students nominated that they were Risk Takers AND 1 nominated that they were Totally Irresponsible as road users prior to seeing RAP.
- After seeing RAP all 95 students checked the box indicating they choose to be a Responsible Road User.
- All 95 students responded YES to the question: “following the program will you adopt safer road behaviours?”

Grant Jeffery, Assistant Principal

Tertiary Studies & Careers Expo Adelaide

Students are being invited to put their name down at the SSC if they are interested in travelling down to the Tertiary Studies and Careers Expo Adelaide at the Convention Centre on Sunday 14 June and Monday 15 June. The deadline for putting your name down is Friday 29 May. If there is sufficient interest, the school may organise to take the group of students down. Cost and travel information will be made available if the excursion goes ahead.

John Carter, VET Coordinator

Student Free Day Tuesday Week 3

Staff participated in a range of Professional Development sessions throughout the Student Free Day on Tuesday 12 May. These sessions were personalised into three groups, to cater specifically for Support Staff, Teachers and Leaders.

Site Support Staff looked at their Performance Development Plans and goal setting, followed by Conflict Management (presented by Don Gapp, Whyalla High School) and a Literacy session (presented by Megan Spirat, EJEHS).

Teachers participated in a SACE Assessment Task development workshop, hosted by Adele Pring (SACE board). Leaders spent the day working on learning area improvement plans, where they reviewed data and set targets for continuing to support improved student achievement.

A successful day was had by all. Staff walked away with new ideas, strategies and knowledge.

Davide Marino, Deputy Principal
Paying School Fees Online

We now accept online payments (using your credit/debit card) through the secure government payment portal BizGate, via the school website.

To use this option, go to http://www.ejehs.sa.edu.au and click on the "Bizgate" link. Please use the invoice number and your student’s EDID Number, located on the top of your Invoice. You will receive a receipt number when the payment is finalised, please make note of this.

Subject Fees and the Materials and Services Charge will need to be paid separately with their own invoice number in order to determine the correct payment for each invoice.

Kate Scarman, Finance Officer

Attendance Results

EJEHS is proud to announce our Attendance Rates in Term 1 using the new Sentral system:
- Year 11’s: 89.45%
- Year 12’s: 91.9%
- Year 13’s: 92.9%

We have seen a significant increase in our school attendance over the last few years. Each Home Group will receive a reward and certificate for their excellent attendance and explained absences.

If your student is absent, please contact the school on 8645 7677 or send a note explaining their absence. You can also text the school on 0427 016 201.

Kristy Patterson, Year 12 Coordinator

Community Notices

Army Cadets

Army Cadets meet every Friday night from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm at the Training Centre located on Port Augusta Highway (next to the HMAS Whyalla and the Tourist Information Centre). Ages 12-17 years welcome. For more information, please contact Dave Hughes on 0417 424 703.

Do you own a Pony or Horse?

Mt Young Pony Club aims to provide a safe and pleasant environment for people of all ages to ride and enjoy horse related activities. Learn to care for and manage your horse and associated equipment, as well as improve your riding skills. Come and try sessions are 3 sessions for $30. For more information, please phone 8645 7886 or email bemy@internode.on.net.

Student Voice Corner

Bullying No Way Day and Harmony Day

On Friday 20 March (Week 8), EJEHS came together in celebration of both Harmony Day and Bullying No Way Day. Both students and staff looked very bright, draped in orange clothing, headbands and colourful bracelets, all in support of these special events.

During Home Group, students watched short films about the progress of a person who survived being bullied. The film showed the person’s resilience and perseverance. Both these qualities are continually promoted throughout our school via newsletters and assemblies.

Guest speaker, Tahlia Wanganeen, came to our school and gave a very thought provoking presentation on bullying and harassment, particularly cyber-bullying, which really opened the eyes of many. Feedback from students indicated that they learned about particular aspects of cyber bullying such as:
- Bullying can be physical or emotional
- Banter is bullying
- Don't banter over the internet
- Sexting is bullying
- Don't say yes to making videos because it is illegal
- The presentation really influenced me to stand up for anyone being bullied
- Cyber bullying - harassment from one student to another
- Cyber bullying is a regular occurrence
- Bullying includes exclusion, threats, damage of property and physical violence

At lunchtime a free barbecue was held by Student Voice. Staff members and students mingled together and enjoyed a hamburger.

The day produced positive feedback and turned out to be a big hit. Overall, spending the day promoting unity, acceptance and positivity was a huge success.

Amelia Pudney, Student Voice/MindMatters
Student Voice Corner Continued

Alliance Student Voice Meeting Term 2 2015

On Wednesday 6 May (Week 2) students from EJEHS visited Whyalla High School to engage in an Alliance Student Voice meeting. Melissa Kruger and Lee Martinez, Mental Health Lecturers from UniSA Whyalla Campus, came to speak to the students about leadership and the role of Student Voice (SV).

Lee Martinez talked about the ABC of leadership:
• A – Attention to self and the environment around you. To be aware of how things are working around you. You need to ask the question: is it functioning at a high standard or do we need to make some changes?
• B – Believe in yourself you can make a difference. Know what your values and goals are and what you want to achieve.
• C – Communication. Always listen and give opportunities for others to have their say. Different perspectives are always needed in making good choices. Always share your own ideas.

Melissa Kruger and Lee Martinez are also a part of the Whyalla Community Partnership and want to organise a Youth Health Hub. Amelia Pudney and Bryden Atkinson were voted to be the representatives from EJEHS to support with this program. We have already been able to provide data from the 2014 Eyre Peninsula SV Forum regarding common needs and common issues of students all over the region. This data will be very helpful in terms of helping Melissa and Lee get started with their project.

Noeline Gapp, School Counsellor

Lunch was provided and students were able to mingle and catch up with each other.

After lunch students worked together in groups and brainstormed where we are at as a whole school community. We then planned where we want to be at the end of 2015. The planning event was a huge success as all students contributed their knowledge about promoting mental health.

Johanes Azucena, Student Voice/MindMatters

End of Term 1 Celebration

Student Voice organised a small thank you party for all EJEHS teachers at the staff meeting on Monday 30 March. We had the Easter Bunny come and hand out Easter Eggs with little inspiring messages to say thank you for all the hard work they have done throughout Term 1.

The event was a great success. Teachers enjoyed the food and being acknowledged for their hard work. They thought it was a great and smart idea. We hope that all the teachers know that the students realise and appreciate how much effort and time they put in to ensure student success.

Thank you to all the teachers at Eyre High.

Angel Woeltjes, Student Voice/MindMatters

MindMatters Planning for 2015

On Wednesday 25 March, the MindMatters students had their first planning meeting for 2015 at the Quest Hotel in Whyalla. Students from Whyalla High School and EJEHS attended. The discussion was facilitated by Cheree Taylor, the MindMatters Project Officer from Adelaide. Students revisited what mental health means and engaged in various activities that reinforced their understanding around this area.