Birdwood High School

Birdwood News

Edition 1
2018

From the Principal

I extend a very warm welcome to our Year 8 students and their families, together with all new families who have joined the school community for the first time this year. There are a myriad of amazing opportunities that await you at Birdwood High School. My advice is to immerse yourself in all that we have to offer, take advantage of every opportunity to engage in classroom activities and the diverse range of co-curricular experiences.

The beginning of each year sees all students in a period of transition to the next year level. This can be a great opportunity for self-reflection, a time to look back at the previous year and congratulate themselves on the aspects that went well, and take note of what it was that led to their successes. It is also perhaps a time to reflect on anything that hampered progress or was a barrier to achieving a goal. The beginning of a new year is a time when students have new classes, new teachers and new beginnings. If there are areas that they would like to do differently or develop strategies we would be more than happy to support every individual to achieve their personal best.

I look forward to working with you and your family to ensure that 2018 meets your expectations. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns or there are issues you would like to discuss.

Heather Makris

Our School Values and Expectations

Term 4, 2017 students in Years 8 to 11, families and staff were involved in a process supported by the Governing Council and the leadership team to establish our school values.

We are proud that our students identified the Values such as excellence although this is defined in terms of each student achieving their personal best. We were delighted by our students identifying two other important values – Creativity and Opportunity, that they believed characterised our community.

They saw Respect, perseverance and diversity as underpinning values enabling students to learn, develop the skills to work and play together in a peaceful safe environment and to celebrate each others' differences as well as our common humanity.

The community commented Opportunity is delivered through our wide range of curriculum options, a rich Student Life and Sporting program, and an environment that enables students to discover who they are as adolescents and who they wish to become as adults thriving in the exciting and challenging global community of the 21st Century.

Our school motto – *Labor Omnia Vincit* (hard work conquers all) comes from our heritage however is very closely aligned to our values. We understand our motto to mean everyone working hard and striving to achieve their best and to discover what they are really capable of achieving together.

School Values:

Creativity

Excellence

Opportunity

In preparation for the 2018 year term 4 was a time where we encouraged and launched our selection process for student leadership positions. Earlier this term we ran the student representative nominations for year 8-11. Students were formally recognised at the celebration assembly held in week 2 of this year. Student duties have already commenced with a commitment to Student Forum and will continue by taking a leadership role in Sports Day.

It is thus timely to reflect briefly on what we value at Birdwood High School. The types of behaviours and attitudes that we want to see embedded in the fabric of our school.

As such we should be able to see these values at

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

work in our school on a daily basis. To this end, we expect the following of our students:

- Arrival to start Lesson 1 or Advisory at 8.40am
- Attending every day
- Absences supported by a parent/guardian note
- Wearing full school uniform
- Interacting positively with teachers and peers
- Questioning, being curious and creative in lessons
- Following safety instructions
- Completing homework and meeting deadlines

Mobile phones are not permitted for use during class time, these learning areas are mobile free zones to enable students to feel safe in their learning environment.

Most importantly adhering to school rules – remembering that we have zero tolerance to bullying and harassment, damage to school property and equipment and throwing of objects.

We trust that you will encourage your student to embrace our values and adhere to school behaviour expectations.

Our consultative work continues with the Adelaide Hills Council to ensure that the school surrounds are safe for students, staff, parents and visitors.

A range of strategies are currently under consideration/ investigation by the abovementioned council and the out of bounds staff parking areas. Topics On our agenda include:

- SAPOL monitoring of 25kph speed limits
- Monitoring bus stops due to a recent incident
- Local police talks regarding safety

We kindly request that you adhere to the speed limits to ensure that our community remains safe.

Student Leadership Team

I would also like to welcome and congratulate our 2018 Student Leaders (names published in the next newsletter). This year we have Student prefects and House captains from year 12 as the Executive Group. In turn they will work closely with you and for you with the Advisory elected leaders from years 8-11.

These two groups will work closely together and with our head prefects, to make sure that each and every student has opportunity to share their ideas and opinions and have their voices heard. I look forward to working with our school leaders and wish them well in their leadership roles this year.

Prefect Report

As the head prefects of BHS, we would like to welcome back or welcome for the first time, the students, staff, and teachers. The start of the year has already been busy, with the introduction of new buildings and updates to the school, as well as our high achiever's assembly, to congratulate our top five year 12 students who reached excellence in their studies last year. Furthermore, our open boys cricket team won the first round of the knock out stages against St Patricks, winning 215 runs to 105. We have many events coming up this term, including our highly anticipated sports day on march 16th with throwing events occurring a day earlier, so make sure to get involved! A massive award will go to the best dressed person on the day, so make sure to organise your costumes early to get extra points for your house!

As prefects, we represent the student body, and as such, if you have any ideas, opinions, or problems, then make sure they are voiced to us so that we can work with you to achieve the best possible outcome. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the student representatives from each advisory group that have been chosen to represent their class. We look forward to working with you, and for your, in the year to come.

Andrew, Connor, Ella and Megan

Students with Medical / Health Conditions

It is important that the school has up to date and accurate information with respect to any medical or health concerns that might impact student safety, learning or access to curriculum. Such conditions can include Asthma, Allergies, Anxiety, Diabetes and Epilepsy etc. Health Care Plans provide additional information from doctors or health care professionals and enable staff to be proactive in providing any required support. Copies of the Health Care Plan templates are available on the school website under forms. Please complete and return to Student Services by 17 March 2018.

SACE Stage 2 Results 2017

I would like to congratulate our 2017 Year 12 students who collectively achieved outstanding results, with particular note:

- 99% completed their SACE
- 99% achieved their RP at a C grade or higher
- Over 40% used VET to complete their SACE

Our top 5 students achieved entry into their first choice preference at university. Eliza McCarthy, Sarah Rice, Megan Rausch, Kaitlyn Markos, Sarah Hartmann.

Inclement Weather Arrangements

In the event of inclement weather Birdwood High School will operate the normal program of lessons and students should attend each day. 2 bells signalling students to make their way to their allocated sheltered area. Additional staff will supervise these areas of the school at recess and lunch times and this information will be provided to students on a daily basis.

Students who are feeling unwell should report to a staff member who will provide assistance and support.
With many new students on site we will be running an evacuation drill this term to induct all new students and staff. If you have any queries please contact the school on 85685100.

Student Free Days 2018

The following Student Free Days have been approved:

13 March - Numeracy and Literacy / Daymap - LMS

4 May - Assessment and Evidence of Learning

31 August - School Closure - Royal Adelaide Show Day

3 September - Adelaide Hills Moderation

3 December - Impact Teaching and Learning

International

International Tours

Short-term visits are offered to groups of students usually from the same school. The visits usually include intensive English study and organised cultural experiences. The International students stay with host families from the school. A member of the host family, who is also a student at Birdwood High School, is matched with each visiting student on an 'ambassadors' system.

Ikeda - Japan August 2018
This tour is organised by the International Education Service of the Department for Education and Child Development. There is a payment of approximately $225 per week. The visiting students are between 13 and 15 years of age.

Morioka - Japan August 2018
This tour is organised by the International Education Service of the Department for Education and Child Development. There is a payment of approximately $225 per week. The visiting students are between 13 and 15 years of age.

HOMESTAY FAMILIES NEEDED

Birdwood High School has a wonderful reputation for hosting students from our partner schools from Japan, thanks to the generosity and openness of its students and their families. This year we have 3 groups visiting during the year – 6 Students from Thailand, students each from Germany, Ikeda (Japan) and Morioka (Japan).

From past experiences, visiting students enjoy the relaxed lifestyle and warm hospitality of their Australian host families. They have fun practising English conversation with you and trying various foods. On weekdays they are involved in school-based programs or excursions.

We are currently looking for more homestay families to support our International program. If you would like to help or gain further information please contact Jayne Lewis on 85685100 or email jayne.lewis595@schools.sa.edu.au

Study Abroad Programs

This program gives International students the opportunity to experience the life, language and culture of South Australia. The main emphasis of this program is for students to improve their English language skills. These students are not here to do SACE.

High School Programs

This program is for students who intend to complete their SACE and are usually hoping to enter a University in Australia. Students may commence their education at any year level.

STEM Works

Facilities

During our school holidays the STEM works planning group met a number of times to fine tune plans with the engineers and architects. We have identified March 2018 as the commencement of Stage 1.

Our 2.5 million STEM building works is in its final stages of planning. Facilities will include, think tanks, individual breakout spaces, collaborative networking spaces and outdoor learning areas. Learning spaces will be fitted out to specialise in areas that include robotics, 3D printing and agricultural engineering to name a few. STEM is the integrated learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. These contemporary facilities will support cutting-edge teaching and learning approaches.

We received a $250,000 grant for Solar panels that will are currently due for installation to improve sustainability. We are delighted that we are on schedule and working towards a November 2018 completion. Landscaping in the heart of the school will provide students with outdoor seating and green space along with learning spaces, due to commence late March.

ICT Update

Since the beginning of the term the new IT team has been managing and monitoring the school Internet connection.

This team has been in contact with and been supported by the Assistant Director ICT Technical Services whom will meet with me in a few weeks to discuss the options available to us as a short term fix and explore long term plans to ensure this crucial component of education today meets our growing school needs.

The school team has already explored access to the NBN and increasing limits and connection speeds but is cautious that in many local schools this will not meet long term needs. The school will continue to keep you informed as we progress through this process.

Steven Knipe

Sports News

Knockout Cricket

Our open girls cricket team faced Adelaide High School, with Adelaide High School 170 defeating Birdwood High School 32

Our open boys cricket team progressed to the next round of the knock out stage, defeating St Patricks, 215 runs to 105.

Students demonstrated their comradery although they knew they were up against Adelaide High School's specialist cricket team. Our students did remarkably well persevering and supporting one another.

Umpire, Shaun Hughes shared the following comments:
'I have recently had the honour of umpiring both your boys and girls cricket teams in the knock-out competition. I wanted to pass on how pleased I was with every single player's behaviour, attitude, teamwork and effort in the field, sometimes in trying weather conditions. They represented your school in an exemplary manner.'

Student Life Report

On behalf of the Student Life Forum, some 30 plus students I would like to introduce our leadership team, Lexie Seeger, Erin Casey and I, Marley Synnerdahl. We will be working collaboratively with the other prefects and house captains to lay the foundation for a new aspect of student leadership called Student Life. We will each take on an individual role, that overlooks many elements of engagement for students. Our International Representative is Lexie, who will be striving towards achieving our cultural awareness and developing our international mindedness through Study Tours, an ambassadors clubs along with cultural specific events.

Our Community Representative, Erin will have a significant focus in providing us with the opportunity to be immersed in the broader community, for example through local and state sporting events. My role wil be to focus on building and leading an internal positive school culture, with an aim to engage and involve as many students as possible

in as much as we can offer through school events such as International Women's Day, Harmony Day, Sporting days and more. As the Student Life Team, we want students to be able to determine what experiences they take away from school with them; they are the biggest influencers in shaping their journey and hence, we want to provide them with the chance to experience and be involved in as many enriching opportunities as we make. We are dedicated to seeing the improvement of student activity, involvement and voice within our school and hold a fierce motivation to develop this quickly. As said by renown Professor Rick Rigsby, 'Good enough is not good enough if it can be better and better is not enough if it can be best'.

Marley Synnerdahl

SPECIAL MEMORY - Councillor Val Hall

Adelaide Hills Councillor Val Hall sadly passed away peacefully last week. We had the pleasure of meeting Val on many occasions last year. She had a real passion for education and improving opportunities for our youth. She always looked at identifying ways in which we could support mentor and coach students by connecting them with the community.

She had a very strong connection to the school and served on round table assessments, taking on the mentoring of students to find employment and conducting mock interviews. Her keen interest was working with staff to develop student leadership. We began conversations late last year with regards to our redevelopment of the land in the heart of our school with Val identifying an interest to involve the community of Birdwood High School's past, present and making it a welcoming place for our future. We will certainly continue this work and continue exploring the ideas Val put to us.

We extend our sympathies to Val's family at this very difficult time. She will be sadly missed by all.

Senior School

SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

I would like to congratulate our 2017 Year 12 students on their SACE results. We are very proud of the students and look forward to hearing about their achievements as they begin their chosen pathways.

On 14 February the 2018 Seniors attended an Orientation daylocated at the University of South Australia. The orientation aimed to support students in their final year of schooling. It covered important areas connected to their Year 12 studies and explored four top study tips and skills for a successful journey into post studies and the world of work. Discussions were centered on the notion that it doesn't matter where you start, that is students may go to the world of work, then pursue studies, or take a gap year then commence their studies, TAFE then onto university; no matter the pathway as long as your journey is one that allows you to continuously learn.

Important key dates such as SATAC, offers were shared to assist with planning the year ahead. Study opportunities, the application process, what to expect in typical week at university or TAFE, student experience and support serviceswere shared.

Students toured the Campus and were impressed with their facilities. Students participated in team building exercises in Advisory groups which were well received with winning teams gaining points contributing to 'sports day house points'.

It was a great start to the school year and we wish all our 2018 Seniors the very best for a successful year ahead.

VET Certificate II - 3D Animation

Certificate 2 in 3D Animation is a VET course held at Hills Christian College and is one of the many courses offered to our students as part of the AHSPS (Adelaide Hills and Student pathways).
The following Birdwood High School students are enrolled in the course Jordan Mazuran, Blake Hogben and Kane May.

VET Certificate III - Bakery

Students made bread for their first task in the Bakery Course and they were excited and pleased with their efforts as were we. The food critics amongst the staff gave it a 10!

Vocational Education and Training

Adelaide Hills Student Pathways provide VET courses for Adelaide Hills secondary school students.

Year 11 – 12 students enrolled in VET and external courses commenced their learning programs in the week beginning 6 February 2018.

In 2018 Birdwood High School will have access to Cert III in Horsemanship, Bakery and Cert III in Fitness will be offered onsite and online. For more information please visit the AHSPS website for more information or contact Michelle Povey at Birdwood High School.
Students participating in VET have a responsibility to:

- Sign out at ICT before attending VET course.
- Attend school and training as negotiated, arrive punctually and break only during allocated times.
- Wear full school uniform and be prepared with any safety clothing as required by the trainer.
- Consistently meet all assessment deadlines unless prior negotiation has occurred with the teacher.
- Use Senior School Tutorial time at school, work and home productively to underpin success.
- Regularly discuss progress with subject teachers and VET trainers.
- Notify both the school and trainer of any absence from the training program.
- Actively seek help and counselling when needed.
- Report VET training results to the VET Leader - Ms Povey at school to utilise results towards SACE General.
- Follow all rules and expectation of the school.
- Payment of tuition and equipment fees have been discussed and agreed by all parties.

For further enquiries please contact Michelle Povey during school hours on 85685100 or email michelle.povey834@schools.sa.edu.au

ADELAIDE HILLS STUDENT PATHWAYS

2018 Tertiary Studies and Careers Expo, Adelaide

The 9th annual TSCEA offers a unique opportunity for anyone interested in starting their career! Featuring many local, interstate and overseas education providers, student services and support agencies. Don't miss this great opportunity to map out your future, all in the one location!

The Adelaide Careers and Employment Expo 2018

The Adelaide Careers and Employment Expo is a leading career, training, education and employment event in SA. This

event offers the opportunity for students, job seekers and career changers to connect with organisations for guidance, clarity and opportunities in relation to career options.

There will be over 100 exhibitors in:

- Tertiary, VET Education & Training
- Graduate, Apprenticeship & Traineeship Opportunities
- Defence Force Recruiting
- Career Workshops & Resume Advice Services
- Top Growth Industry Leaders
- Pathways to University
- Subject Selection

In addition, students can experience the Interactive Stage – hosted by Andrew 'Cosi' Costello.

Interactive Skills Area – where your students can "Try a Skill" Please note the details below:

- Friday 25 May – 9am to 3pm and Saturday 26 May - 10am to 4pm
- Free Admission

Hosted at the Wayville Showgrounds, Jubilee Pavilion.
For more information, visit:
http://careersemploymentexpo.com.au/Adelaide.html

Community News

NEWSFLASH

AGM - Governing Council
26th March at 6:30pm!

Birdwood Farm Day

Farm day is coming up on May 20, come along for a chance to support Birdwood Primary school!

Australian Air Force Cadets - Adelaide Hills

602 Squadron (AAFC) Woodside is holding an Interest Night on Friday the 2nd March from 7.30pm at our Squadron – Woodside Army Barracks.

Everyone is invited to come to find out about the challenging and fun activities we offer in our training and survival camps, field craft and navigation, flying, water activities, abseiling, caving and much more.

How exciting to be able to learn to fly by 17 if you wish. Our program is accredited for SACE and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

For more information about the AAFC, log onto www.aafc.org.au

If you would like to register your attendance to gain entry into the Base or for more information, please contact the Commanding Officer Paul Lemar on 0417 203 196 or email co.622sqn@aafc.org.au
or
Brock Le Cerf on 0447 338 119 or email

admino.622sqn@aafc.org.au

Youth Ambassador

An opportunity for our students to become more globally minded. Apply to be a Save the Children youth Ambassador.

For more information, visit:

https://act.savethechildren.net/savechildrenaus/

I am settling in well to school at Birdwood and enjoying meeting new friends. I am excited to still see my first koala!!
Karin Tanaka

Year 8 Splash Carnival

Birdwood High School

Open Day

5th April 2018

9:15am start until 11am

- Principal's Address
- School Tour
- Morning Tea with Leadership Team

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Birdwood High School

TERM 1 2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 0	22/1	23/1 COORDINATORS RETURN	24/1 STAFF RETURN	25/1 STAFF RETURN	26/1 AUSTRALIA DAY
Week 1	29/1	30/1	31/1	1/2 Student Leadership Lunchtime Meeting	2/2 Year 8 Splash Carnival
Week 2	5/2	6/2 VET Induction Day Acquaintance Night	7/2 PAC MEETING Year 12 Recognition Assembly	8/2	9/2
Week 3	12/2	13/2 SCHOOL PHOTOS	14/2 YR 12 UNISA Orientation Day	15/2	16/2
Week 4	19/2 6.15pm Finance Com 7.00pm Gov Council	20/2 VET Bakery Begins	21/2 PAC Meeting Year 8 Immunisations	22/2 School Tour	23/2
Week 5	26/2	27/2	28/2 Yr 10 BATYR@ School Presentation Advisory Program	1/3	2/3 Traffic Lights
Week 6	5/3	6/3	7/3 Year 11 BATYR @ School Presentation Advisory Program	8/3 Finance Audit Day	9/3
Week 7	12/3 ADELAIDE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY	13/3 PUPIL FREE DAY	14/3 Year 12BATYR@ School Presentation	15/3 THROW EVENTS/SPORTSDAY	16/3 SPORTS DAY
Week 8 18/3 – 7/4 THAI STUDENTS	19/3 THAI STUDY TOUR	20/3 THAI STUDY TOUR	21/3 THAI STUDY TOUR	22/3 THAI STUDY TOUR	23/3 THAI STUDY TOUR ANGASTON HOGGET COMP
Week 9 THAI STUDENTS	26/3 THAI STUDY TOUR AGM - GOVERNING COUNCIL	27/3 THAI STUDY TOUR	28/3 THAI STUDY TOUR YR 12 PE AQUATICS CAMP	29/3 THAI STUDY TOUR	30/3 THAI STUDY TOUR EASTER / GOOD FRIDAY
Week 10 THAI STUDENTS DEPART SAT 7/4	2/4 EASTER MONDAY THAI STUDY TOUR	3/4 REPORT COMPLETION THAI STUDY TOUR	4/4 THAI STUDY TOUR	5/4 OPEN DAY THAI STUDY TOUR	6/4 THAI STUDY TOUR
Week 11	9/4	10/4 LEADERS MEETING RAA Street Smart Excursion	11/4	12/4	13/4 LAST DAY OF TERM Reports