Dear Parents/Caregivers, Staff and Students
A few weeks ago I attended the SA Secondary Principals Association Conference and one of the best speakers was Tim Costello, head of World Vision. He talked about the purpose of education being about shaping a future that is better than the past or the present, and the idea that education is an investment rather than a cost. He also discussed the need for schools to focus on values and encourage students to develop a strong sense of social justice, purpose and responsibility for other people.

There is a range of ways we are working to put these principles into practice at Wirreanda. One is our Projects Abroad group, which will be leaving on Monday 22nd September to spend two weeks working in Cambodia supporting a local community. We want to provide opportunities for our students to develop themselves as young people and leaders, both at school and in the wider community.

Developing student leadership has been a real focus for us over the last few years at Wirreanda. This year is our second year with School Captains and Vice-Captains, and Addison, Mel, Benny and Cara have done a fantastic job in their roles. They have provided a clear voice for our students within the school, represented Wirreanda in a range of forums and venues and provided great leadership and role-modelling in a range of ways.

Our members of Student Voice are nominated to represent their peers at each year level. This year, they have worked on a number of initiatives and events, most recently Wear it Purple Day. Another excellent contribution has been their input at Staff Conferences and Staff Meetings where we have really appreciated and valued students’ perspectives on our school and their learning.

Our Digital Leaders are a relatively new group within the school but they are really having a big influence, both within and outside Wirreanda. They have been trained to support teachers in their use of technologies in the classroom and the Learning Hub, led training sessions for staff and students and Skyped students from other schools interested in forming their own digital leaders groups. Currently, they are preparing for the Australian Computers in Education Conference in Adelaide during the upcoming holidays. They’ll be providing tech support, acting as social media journalists and Teach-meet presenters, and providing a student voice throughout the Conference. Their invitation to participate is acknowledgement of their skills and expertise, as well as the support provided to them by our Innovative Pedagogies Coordinator, Gabrielle Rinaldi, and our Network Systems Manager, Nathan Reiter.

The last few weeks of term will be very busy, particularly for our Year 12 students and teachers who are moving into the last stage of their year’s work. We have our Projects Abroad group heading off to Cambodia, a Year 11 Outdoor Education Camp happening and end of term reports to prepare. Planning for next year is also well underway in a range of areas including timetable, staffing and the budget.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you as part of the Wirreanda Secondary School community.

Regards
Tony Lunniss, Principal
WEAR IT PURPLE DAY – FRIDAY 29 AUGUST
Wear It Purple is a youth-led organization that exists to support and empower rainbow (i.e. sexuality and gender diverse) young people. We are young people, working for young people. Wear it Purple believes that every young person is unique, important and worthy of love. We believe no one should be subject to bullying, belittlement or invalidation: whoever you are. We are working toward a world in which every young person can thrive; irrelevant of sexuality or gender identity. Our aim is for rainbow young people to be safe, supported and empowered in each of their environments.

KOISHIKAWA STUDY TOUR 2014
In August, the school once again had the pleasure of hosting 19 Year 9 students from Koishikawa Secondary Education School in Tokyo, Japan. The students stayed with local families and spent time at school learning English and being involved in a number of different activities and excursions. The Japanese students each had a ‘buddy’ from Wirreanda who helped them study English and joined them in these activities. All Wirreanda students involved in the program are to be congratulated. They were friendly, welcoming, supportive and great ambassadors for our school! A huge thank you to our host families who welcomed the students into their homes and gave them a taste of ‘Australian Life’

SCIENCE WEEK
Sally Nadebaum
National Science Week was held on the 18th – 22nd of September and is Australia’s annual celebration of Science and Technology. The theme for this year was “Food for our future: Science feeding the world” and the Science faculty decided to celebrate this week by holding a full-day “hands on” Expo for students on the 21st September in the Learning Hub. Students were able to explore the Expo and participate in many activities and learn about sustainable food. Exploring how we can grow lettuce in space, food dehydration, tropical and temperate fruits, genetically modified foods and our “fish for a prize” sustainable fishing game were a hit! The edible bugs were a highlight for some students and many
challenges were faced in attempting to eat cockroaches, meal worms, crickets and other critters! Students were also able to participate in food spherification (as seen on Master Chef) which is the culinary process of shaping a liquid into spheres which visually and texturally resemble caviar. Many flavours were made but the most popular was strawberry. Students also had fun blind taste testing Jelly Belly flavours and trying to distinguish between Coke, Diet Coke, Pepsi, Pepsi Max and Home Brand Cola.

There were a few competitions within the Expo, but the most debated over was the “guess how old this cupcake is” challenge. Nearly a year ago the Science faculty decided to take a Woolworths home brand cupcake and keep it up on a shelf to investigate how long it would take to show signs of decomposition (as we were all sceptical about the levels of preservative in cupcakes such as these). Even after 10 months it looked identical to a second cupcake that we bought only 2 weeks prior to the expo. Guesses ranged from days to years – the closest student will be announced this week!

A huge thank you goes out to the Science faculty for all their hard work and effort in making the expo in the Learning Hub a fantastic success.

WSS @ ACEC 2014  
Isbah and Deepali, Yr 10

A number of Wirreanda Secondary School students have been selected to be part in the national Australian Computers in Education Conference - ACEC 2014, which is being held in Adelaide this year. The conference will consist of a number of our Digital Leaders and a range of other students specifically chosen for their critical thinking and literacy skills. Our role throughout the 3 day conference is to document, and challenge, the things we hear, see and learn during the conference from a student's perspective, as the theme is ‘Now it’s Personal’. We’ll have an opportunity to share our opinions via blog posting, tweeting and by using other social networks. Some of us will be working as tech support whilst the ‘thought group’ will have an opportunity to interview each of the keynote speakers- challenging them on their concepts from our viewpoints! In order to get ready we have been practicing by watching TedTalks from leading education speakers George Couros and Dean Shareski and then Tweeting them our comments and questions through our Twitter account @ACECdls. Highlights from the conversation can be found in our storify: http://tinyurl.com/ACECstorify
DIGITAL LEADERS: GETTING SACE CREDIT
Zac, Lachlan and Cooper
Year 9 Digital Leaders
A number of us (3 Year 9s and one Year 11) have been taking part in an Information and Technologies (IT) Course through the Digital Leaders Program at school. We have been learning about how the school IT systems work, how to assume the role of an IT professional and what is required for this line of work, while earning Stage 1 SACE credits.

This course has been running for 2 terms and teachers have been supportive in allowing us out of lessons to be able to take part in this wonderful opportunity. We have worked on a plethora of projects to do with IT in the school, replacing and refurbishing the older computers in the school, aiding with the use of technology in the classroom and talking to teachers about better utilizing technologies in the classroom. The majority of our role consists of looking at technology from a student's point of view, what is working and what might not be and suggesting how we could better implement these into the school environment.

The ability to be able to actually gain experience in being an IT professional for a couple of lessons a week is a real help into looking at the field and how we can ready ourselves for that as a possible career. We also get experience in seeing some of the more 'simple' parts of the job- like showing someone how to do something in Microsoft Word, for example, which is really good for learning communication skills and dealing with people.

Restorative: to give back, to repair the harm and rebuild, restore a sense of wellbeing and connection.
Recently some Australian and New Zealand schools have led the way with a different approach to behaviour management - through restorative practice. The restorative practice approach to behaviour management in schools has its origins in restorative justice and victim-offender mediation although restorative approaches have a long history as a form of communal justice in the Maori and other traditional communities.

In schools a restorative approach emphasises the importance of sound, healthy relationships between all members of the school community. From this perspective behaviour problems are viewed as a breakdown in relationships and misbehaviour is defined as a violation against people and relationships in the school and wider community rather than as a violation of the school and its rules. To implement restorative practices at Wirreanda, during terms 3 & 4 staff and students are focusing on using restorative language. A large part of this focus is using questioning to problem solve conflict; this process involves all parties accounting for their roles and restoring the relationship in order to avoid future conflict and move forward positively.

If you have any questions, or would like further information please contact Emily Parker (Student Counsellor). Emily.parker964@schools.sa.edu.au

Restorative Language
Schools adopting a restorative philosophy use relational language that demonstrates respect, care and mutual responsibility. Feelings are shared and explored through affective statements and affective questions (Wachtel, 2004). Conversations about misbehaviour provide opportunities for students to consider how their behaviour impacts on others and how things can be put right. Students are supported to accept responsibility for their actions. A teacher using this approach would talk through what has happened using the type of affective questions indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Affective questions
- Can you explain what happened?
- How did it happen?
- How did you act in this situation?
- Who do you think has been affected by this?
- How were they affected?
- How were you affected?
What needs to happen to make things right?
If the same situation happens again, what could you do differently?
- How did it happen?
- How did you act in this situation?
- Who do you think has been affected by this?
- How were they affected?
- How were you affected?
- What needs to happen to make things right?
If the same situation happens again, what could you do differently?

SEXTING
Benjamin
In Term 3 myself, Addison, Amber and Tahlia were asked to be ‘student advisors’ and help develop a report, recommending the next actions to be taken, in regards to; creating new legislation governing the use of sexting in youth (under 18yrs). A committee had been set up with people from all areas of SA i.e. Lawyers, Teachers, Educators, and Law enforcement, to help formulate a recommendation to the Australian Government about youth and sexting. Our role as ‘student advisors’ was to provide these committee members with information, both in experience and opinion. We spent a good portion of the day discussing the definition of sexting and, specifically, what parts of sexting are ‘illegal’ for example; sending sexually suggestive message is not considered against the law, But, forwarding and sharing sexually explicit photos IS, which, can result in prosecution.

The day also consisted of discussions, regarding, our opinions on: why it’s done, the consequences, and how it can be stopped. We suggested solutions to the issues, most of which, highlighting the lack of education on this topic and how that needs to change in order for everyone to see improvements. We came up with many ways to help raise awareness, suggestions like; having youth speak to the students would be magnitudes more effective than having someone of mature age, we also thought that having SAPOL part of the presentation would increase the impact.

I have heard from some of the committee members since this day and, with visits to other schools, they have made significant progress with their report and are presenting it to the Australian Government by the end of this year. I’m glad they wanted the views of the students; it was great for us to have our voice and opinion heard. It was fortunate for us that they didn’t try to change the legislation, without consulting those who are directly involved, being, the student body and youth.

Introducing Anita Dunbar...
Anita Dunbar....Bachelor of Music; Graduate Certificate in Counselling; Masters in Counselling Practice (current)
My name is Anita Dunbar, and I am currently on a field placement in the Learner Wellbeing Centre from Tabor College. I commenced my work at the beginning of this year, and have been really thankful for the warm welcome I have received from so many in the Wirreanda community.

In addition to enjoying a successful and very rewarding career in piano teaching, I have had a number of interesting musical jobs including working as an accompanist for the Adelaide Girls’ Choir, teaching piano in small groups for a company known as Future Music Australia, and working as the music director for the children's television program Here's Humphrey (some of the parents out there may remember this funny old fellow!)

Throughout my background in music education, and also in my journey as a mother of two beautiful daughters, I have long felt the desire to provide support to those struggling with life's inevitable challenges. It is this genuine passion for people and their stories that has directly led me to pursue a new career in counselling, in which I am dedicated to helping each individual reach their true potential. I have been trained in a number of areas including Narrative Therapy, working with addictions, Solution Focused Therapy, and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, and have a particular interest in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Regardless of the modality I utilise, my aim is always to create a warm and understanding atmosphere for discussion as I encourage positivity in others.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far in the Learner Wellbeing Centre, and I look forward to continuing work and meeting many new people during the remainder of this year. I am at Wirreanda every Tuesday and Wednesday.
SPORT NEWS

Year 8 & 9 Basketball Reflections
Riley 12D

On Monday 25th of August, the year 8/9’s competed in a basketball knock-out competition against Unley and Cardijn. Our first game was up against Unley and their height gave them a great advantage. Despite the loss, Chris of our Wirreanda team scored the first three baskets as well as Jaiden playing a lead role in the teams’ offensive plays.

The second game started and we went head to head against Cardijn, within the first half our highest lead was 14 points and Wirreanda showed a great form of team work. It was an intense and close game and fortunately we held out and won by 2 points. Once again Jaiden showed an outstanding effort and scoring 14 points. Also well done to Chris not wasting any opportunities when gaining possession of the ball and well done to Brayden and Brodie representing the year 8’s.

Score: Unley defeated Wirreanda
Wirreanda defeated Cardijn

SSC INTERVIEW - SAM YEAR 9

Welcome to Athlete Profiles. Each newsletter will have at least one of our SSC students’ profiles for you to read. It will provide an insight into how much time, effort, dedication and commitment is required to work towards your sporting and academic goals. For those who are interested in being part of our SSC program, being passionate about a career in sport may mean sacrifices in other parts of your life.

Sam Robertson is one of our talented student athletes here at Wirreanda Secondary. He has been a passionate soccer player for a long time and has represented the State at National Championships.

How long have you been part of the SSC Program?
Since Year 8

What are your SSC highlights?
Playing in the Wirreanda Open Soccer team against William Light and Reynella as a year 9 Student.

What sports have you participated in?
Soccer, Basketball

What is the sport you are most passionate about?
Soccer

Who do play for?
Noarlunga United Soccer Club - U/17, U/15 Junior Premier League B
State U/14 Representative

What are your sporting goals?
I’m a realist, if I could play for Australia I would, but my goals are to play Federation at a good club.

How often are you training?
In addition to the work in SSC I’ll train 3 times a week plus games. This is usually training Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday plus 2 games on a Saturday. I’ll also play zone tournaments, which can be up to 4 games in a day.

Why is training important?
We train to keep fit, learn team strategy and develop our game sense and awareness. This, as well as developing your individual skill in lots of small sided games. Our sessions are really focussed on game related training.

What are the best things about being a part of the SSC group?
You get to do a specific sport that you enjoy playing. The extra training keeps me fitter, but I wish the training was a bit harder. And I wish there was no beep test!

What is your best score in the beep test?
11.1

What things do you hope to do in SSC?
Be a part of SSC until the end of year 10 and become better at basketball.

What are you plans for after year 9?
After this year I plan to continue into year 10 SSC, then go on to 11 and 12PE.

What do you want to do after School?
I’m not sure, but I’d like to continue to play soccer for the highest level I can reach, but at the same time become a firefighter or be part of the rescue services.

What advice would you give someone wanting to reach the highest level of their chosen sport?
Don’t quit ever. Take your opportunities no matter what team/event you’re in. If you’re having a bad game - increase your work rate - better than having a bad game and being lazy. Don’t ever think that you’re bad. You’ll never be good unless you think you’re good. Always encourage your team-mates, motivation breeds motivation.

OPEN BOYS INDOOR CRICKET
Alicia Dean

The Wirreanda Open Boys Indoor Cricket Team are through to the State finals after a comprehensive victory over Reynella East.

Batting first, our senior team members Josh and Shaun got our side off to a solid start, posting 35 for the opening pair. We lost our way a little in the middle pairs however, contributing only 5 runs in the middle 8 overs. Youngsters Connor and State indoor player, Josh then proceeded to set up a formidable total,
putting on an impressive 48, rounding off the innings at 87.
Reynella came out hard, but our experience with the indoor game proved the difference. Captain and fellow state indoor player, Lachlan was superb and claimed 5 scalps, while year 8, Josh capped off an impressive all round game, bagging 4 of his own.
The boys will need to step things up another notch again if we are to take out the state final come week 7. This will be held on Thursday 4 September.

Community Notices

- Families are invited to come and try Little Athletics at Noarlunga Little Athletics on Sunday mornings at the Christies Beach High School Oval from 9am. Little Athletics is open to students aged 3-16 years. For more information visit www.noarlungalac.com.au
- Feast Queer Youth Drop In is run by the Feast Festival and is for LGBTIQ young people (15-25) and their families. It is a bi-monthly Drop in Space for young people to meet, feel comfortable and take part in activities. They meet every second and fourth Thursday from 6-9pm at Experience Café, 13 Hut Street Adelaide. For further information contact Youth Project Officers Edwin and Caitlyn on ypo@geast.org.au alternatively call 8463 0684.
- The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Provider. All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome. For your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au
- An information seminar for Year 11 and 12 students interested in a career in the Police Force is being held at the Christies Beach Police Complex on Monday 29 September from 7.30pm to 9pm. To register your attendance please call 8392 9046.
- South Australian Police would like to let families know about the introduction of Emergency Service Speed Zones to commence on 1 September 2014. All the new information is available at DL:SAPOL Road Safety Section.
- Police and Community Working Together Forum. SA Police want to know your views on crime and community safety in the southern area. The forum is being held on Tuesday 30 September at the Seaford Ecumenical Mission, Grand Boulevard, Seaford from 1pm-3pm. For questions and enquiries please call 81725824.