Dear Parents, Caregivers, Staff and Students
Welcome to all members of our Wirreanda Secondary School Community to the 2015 school year.
In particular, I’d like to welcome our new Year 8 students and their families to Wirreanda. Our Year 8’s have made a very smooth start to the year and their teachers have reported how impressed they have been with the students’ work and attitude in class. The Year 8 Camps will be happening in Week 4, which will provide a great opportunity for the students and their teachers to get to know each other even better.
We also have a number of students in Years 9-12 who have started with us this year, as well as several international students: Luca Mairose from Germany, Baiqiu Zhang from China, Miku Oyamada & Nobuyuki Isaka from Japan.
Having international students at school not only provides them with an insight into life and school in Australia, but also gives our students an opportunity to learn about how young people live in other parts of the world.

This time last year the Learning Hub and the Learner Wellbeing Centre were still under construction. Since then, both areas have contributed substantially to the culture and effectiveness of Wirreanda. These areas represent our commitment to 2 of our key priorities – Quality Teaching and Learner Wellbeing. We believe that every one of our students can be successful in their learning and that what happens in the classroom and the way students are feeling in themselves and about themselves are key ingredients to success. Our third key priority is Literacy and Numeracy Improvement, which is based on the importance of literacy and numeracy in students’ success, both within and outside of school.

Another essential element of success at school is regular attendance. Basically, it’s difficult to be successful if you’re not at school and in class. Attendance involves a partnership between home and school and it’s very important for students to be encouraged to attend all the time and to let us know if there is a legitimate reason for them not to be at school. If you would like to discuss any issue relating to attendance, or any other issue, including how we might work more effectively together to support your son or daughter, please contact us at school. The best point of contact, initially, is generally your child’s Home Group Teacher, although there are also Year Level Leaders, Counsellors and Senior Leaders allocated to each year level. The list of Home Groups and staff members allocated to classes and year levels is included in this Newsletter, on page 2. Communication of any issues or concerns is critical, and the earlier issues are raised and addressed, the more likely it is that they will be resolved.

It was great to see so many families at our Middle School and Senior School Welcome Barbeques in Week 2. These events provide an opportunity for you to meet and talk with your child’s teacher, as well as get some information. In Week 11, on Wednesday April 8, we have scheduled Parent-Teacher Interviews, which are generally very well
attended. However, if at any time you would like to
discuss anything about your child’s progress, please
make contact, either by email or phone.
One of the reasons for our smooth start to the year
was having all of our staff in place from Day 1. Over
the last few years we have maintained a very stable
staff, increasing the number of teachers appointed
permanently to our school and maintaining regular
contract teachers, which helps the school and our
students’ learning. This year, we welcome several
new staff members to our school, some for extended
tenures and some for 2015:

**New to Wirreanda Secondary School**
- Peter Norde – Senior Student Counsellor (5
  year tenure)
- Caroline Redding – Coordinator Attendance
  Improvement, English (2015)
- Julia Nicholson – Maths & Science Teacher
  (2015)
- David O’Callaghan – Art Teacher (2015)
- Catherine O’Brien – Maths & Science Teacher
  (2015)

**Returning to Wirreanda Secondary School**
- Alison Buse – English, S&E, Special Ed tutoring
  (2015)
- Ingrid Cobiac – Home Ec (2015)
- Katrina Williams – The Unit, Maths (2015)

We also have several new non-teaching staff
members who we are very happy to welcome to
Wirreanda Secondary School:
- Christopher Poore – ICT Network
  Manager (2015)
- Natasha Finnigan – Finance

I look forward to our partnership and work together
during 2015.

Kind regards

Tony Lunniss
Principal

**HOME GROUP TEACHERS 2015**
Listed below are the Home Group Teachers for 2015
together with the leaders and staff allocated to
each year level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Leader</th>
<th>Year Level Leader</th>
<th>Counsellor</th>
<th>Unit Manager</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Fishpool</td>
<td>Andrew Atwell-Gill</td>
<td>Peter Norde</td>
<td>Ashley Golding</td>
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**Unit 1**
- Katrina Williams

**Unit 2**
- Carey Evans

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 8: Year Level Coordinator</th>
<th>A. Atwell-Gill</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8A</td>
<td>Geoff Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>Ben Menzies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8C</td>
<td>Julia Nicholson</td>
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**Year 9**

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<tr>
<th>Senior Leader</th>
<th>Year Level Leader</th>
<th>Counsellor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Bruno</td>
<td>Emily Parker</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Senior Leader</th>
<th>Year Level Leader</th>
<th>Counsellor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tim Byers-Thomas</td>
<td>Kat Hosking</td>
<td>Kadri Auvaart</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Senior Leader</th>
<th>Year Level Leader</th>
<th>Counsellor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhoni McFarlane</td>
<td>Sally Nadebaum</td>
<td>Peter Norde</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 12</th>
<th>Senior Leader</th>
<th>Year Level Leader / SACE</th>
<th>Counsellors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shane Cunningham</td>
<td>Shane Cunningham</td>
<td>Kadri Auvaart &amp; Peter Norde</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level Leader / SACE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shane Cunningham</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 12</th>
<th>Senior Leader</th>
<th>Year Level Leader / SACE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shane Cunningham</td>
<td>Kadri Auvaart</td>
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</table>

**FLO Sub School Senior Leaders**
- P Sherman

**FLO**
- J Krawiec

**ATSI Team**
- Antony Yates
- Azra Rochester
- Kadri Auvaart
**NEW SCHOOL COUNSELLOR**

Hello everyone,

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Peter Norde. I have just started working at Wirreanda as a Counsellor in the Learner Wellbeing Team, as well as leading a Restorative Approach to learning, interactions and communication across the school.

I have three children, two boys and a girl, who are 15, 12, and 10 and I am married to Rachael, who is also a teacher. We have just moved from Kapunda to Goolwa and everything is new for us all! I enjoy travel, gardening, and building things. I look forward to working with our school to help all students do their personal best in learning and in becoming positive, productive adult members of Australian society.

Enough about me, I hope you are well and have had a good start to the school year. If it is anything like our family you are flat out with an endless supply of tasks, duties and chores, while still trying to have a bit of fun and enjoy life.

School is also a busy place for students and staff as it is very dynamic with lots of things happening, both officially and unofficially, each day and week. This, at times, can be stressful for members of our learning community as they make their way through, make decisions and prioritise how they may spend their time and mental energies.

I think it’s important to recognise that we all share this space and time and we all have busy days where there are many good things that happen to us. If we are able to recognise this in ourselves and others then we may be able to have more forgiveness about others and ourselves and be able to work at our individual goals or shared goals in a more harmonious environment.

It is also important to talk about difficult situations and how they affect us in a positive and practical manner, seeking direction, or simply to be heard. One of the aspects that I have seen working well here at Wirreanda Secondary School is people listening to others. I see a great deal of listening happening, not just between adults and students, but between students. I think people recognise that nobody has a magic wand, although that would great, but everybody has 2 ears, a brain and a heart and can listen and empathise. Even when things are really busy this still seems to occur and I hope it will continue to occur. What a positive aspect of this school!

Remember, you can to contact me through the school if there are specific concerns or issues you need to discuss.

My website of the week is ChatFirst.org.au which is a support for split and blended families. There is a great deal of information from a range of perspectives, as well as contact details for further support for your family.

**Peter Norde**  
School Counsellor

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**ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL**

Attendance is an area of continuing priority at Wirreanda Secondary School. If students are not at school, they are not able to access the learning and support being provided. If they are not regularly in class, they lose continuity and can fall behind. While it may be possible to ‘give them the work to catch up’, it is not the same as actually being there when the teaching is taking place.

Research shows that students who are absent for more than 10 days per year are disadvantaged both educationally and socially. **Is your child at risk of falling into this category?**

Attendance over the course of this year will have a positive effect on your child’s learning. Some of the negative effects experienced by poor attendance have been documented below:

- missing one day a week of school from reception to year 10 means missing two years and one term of schooling
- gaps in knowledge and understanding resulting in missing basic concepts - there is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement
- lack of continuity and familiarity resulting in them feeling less secure within the school environment and difficulties in forming positive relationships
- the loss of opportunities for activities which improve social / emotional and cognitive development
- missing out on learning important basics such as class rules and behaviour norms
- belief that punctuality and attendance are unimportant
- inability to maintain friendships resulting in isolation, bullying or teasing
- loss or self-esteem and self-confidence
• increased likelihood of leaving school early. Improving attendance works best when there is a solid partnership between school and home. It begins with strong encouragement for students to attend, for absences to be the absolute exception to the rule and for students to be absent only when there is a very good reason.

Effective communication is also vital, so that we all know what is going on and can support each other. Through the Parent Portal, which can be accessed via the school’s website: http://wirreandasecondary.sa.edu.au/ you are able to view your child’s attendance to Home Group and to lessons.

We ask you to consider the reasons for your child’s absences and to support the school by trying to improve attendance where possible, as well as communicating reasons for absences and concerns. Should you be having difficulty in getting your son/daughter to attend school regularly, please call the school and make a time with your child’s Home Group teacher (in the first instance), Year Level Leader or Student Counsellor to see how we can possibly help you or bring in support services that can assist.

Caroline Redding
Attendance and Improvement Coordinator

LEARNER WELLBEING CENTRE
It has been an exciting start to the year in the Learner Wellbeing Centre and Community Connections. This year there will be some programs continuing like “Girls Art Hangout”, for girls in Years 8 & 9 interested in art. This will be facilitated by Peta Black from Mission Australia in the Wellbeing Centre every Monday and Wednesday at lunch.

Flinders University will offer a range of programs throughout the year including: River Journey for Year 8 students, including a Campus visit; Pre PLP sessions with Year 9 students; Year 10 Enrichment Day which encourages Year 10’s to spend a day at university experiencing different study areas; Inspire mentor Program which links Flinders Uni students to support Year 11 and 12 students. This year, we will be receiving support for English, Research Project and the TUTE Room.

Catherine Johnson will continue her Mindfulness research with Year 8 students this year. Information will go out soon to those involved.

Our partnership with The Smith Family continues this year with individual support for families and students and also the ‘I’Track Program which links 15 students with a professional mentor, once a week over 20 weeks in their pathway interest area. Year 9 and 10 students will receive information shortly regarding the application process.

Tabor College will once again work in partnership with Wirreanda with a Counselling placement student working at the school to offer one to one and small group counselling. This year we welcome Alice Mudie as our placement student who will be here each Tuesday. We also welcome back Scott Millar, Youth Worker from Reengage who will be here every Wednesday and Thursday.

Welcome back to Cara Crothers from Headstart Psychology who will continue to work at Wirreanda on Monday and Tuesday of each week. Also, a GP will commence one day a week shortly. If you wish to access GP services at the school, please have your child collect a consent and information form from LWC reception.

Should you wish to enquire about accessing any of these services, please contact our Learner Wellbeing Centre. Further information is also accessible via our blog through the school website: http://learnerwellbeingcentre.wordpress.com/

The Wellbeing staff:
Teresa Bruno – Senior Leader Wellbeing
Peter Norde – Counsellor/ Restorative Practice
Kadri Auvaart – Counsellor/ Community Connections

YEAR 9
The Year 9 Team would like to warmly welcome you to the 2015 school year. Our first community event was our Middle School Family BBQ on Tuesday 3 February where students, parents and caregivers could interact and meet our Home Group teachers and support staff. We have also held one of our ‘Explore Adelaide’ excursions, where our students had the opportunity to explore the Adelaide CBD and interact with their peers outside of the classroom.

We, as a team, are here to support you and your child to achieve their goals and prepare them for their senior years of schooling. To do so, we hope to work collaboratively with our students, parents, caregivers and community. Email is generally the most effective way to contact Home Group Teachers. Staff email addresses can be found on the school website. All Home Group teachers can also be contacted on (08) 83297200. Teachers will be difficult to contact during the school day, but calls will be returned as soon as possible.

Emily Parker, Year 9 Year Level Leader

CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS
It is important that we are able to contact parents and families. There are a number of ways in which we can do this including by mail, phone calls, sms and email. We therefore must have the correct information. Parents are asked to contact the school if there are any changes to this information a.s.a.p.

Sue Bogumil

SUNSCREEN USAGE AT WIRREANDA SECONDARY SCHOOL
The health and wellbeing of students and staff is a priority for Wirreanda Secondary School. Students always have access to sunscreen during their time at school. The brand we use for all outside activities and excursions is Auscreen 50+ SPF. The students are made aware that it is available at the start of their lesson. If your child is allergic to a sunscreen we recommend they carry their own in their bag at all times.

Sue Bogumil
Students are advised to be sun smart. At standards day and sports day the sunscreen bottles and extra water will be at the main tent and other stations for students and staff to utilise.

We actively encourage students to bring their own drink bottles for refilling water, wear sun smart tops with sleeves, hats and sunglasses. We also provide adequate shade at all our events/activities.

If you have any concerns please contact Heather Lee, Sports Office on 8329 7230.

STANDARDS DAY:
Thursday 26th February (Week 5)
All Year 8 students will be involved in STANDARDS DAY (a practice day) in preparation for Sports Day on 6th March. Standards Day is a full day activity. More information will be provided after students return from camp.

HOUSE CAPTAINS 2015
Sports House And Vice Captains for 2015
A very warm congratulations to the 2015 House Captains and Vice Captains who were nominated by their peers and then voted on by the Sports Committee panel to lead their teams for the whole year.

House Captains -
Osborne (Green) Michaela and Shaun Jonker (Red) Ashlee and Joshua Wheeler (Yellow) Cara and Jack

Vice Captains -
Osborne (Green) Paige and Angus Jonker (Red) Bailey and Kalem Wheeler (Yellow) Jacky and Zac

CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 10 STUDENT
Congratulations to our Year 10 Specialist Sports student Connor who proudly represented his Cricket Club, School and South Australia at the Cricket World Cup net practice against Afghanistan’s Cricket Team this month. Connor is a Medium-fast bowler and was selected from many local cricket clubs for this honor. He was presented with a black uniform with the Australian logo on it and then lined up against 5 batters- bowling 3 out. He said it was an awesome experience and one he won't forget in a hurry.

CRICKET
The Open boys’ team hosted their game against Tatachilla College on Monday 9 February at Wirreanda.

Tatachilla started their run chase very efficiently reaching 38 without loss before three wickets fell in three overs with Shaun taking two and Liam taking one. After 21 overs Tatachilla reached 3/75 needing 60 runs off 11 overs. Lachlan was brought on to bowl and in the space of four deliveries took three wickets to bring the momentum back to Wirreanda’s favour. He also picked up his fourth wicket in his second over with 50 required off 10. Jake chipped in for two wickets at the end to add to his two great catches. With the 9th Tatachilla wicket down, 29 runs were required off 6 overs. However the last two batsmen put up a solid resistance taking their score to 129 before Josh bowled the last batsman leaving Tatachilla six runs short. Lachlan was denied a fifth wicket with a dropped catch late in the innings. This was one of the most exciting finishes to a game in which the momentum shifted from one team to the other throughout the day. Thank you to Mohit who had his first stint at scoring.

On Friday 6 February the Year 10 Twenty/20 game was played against Reynella East College. Reynella won the game finishing with 7/101. Congratulations to our team for a great game especially in the field.

HOT WEATHER POLICY FOR PE AND SPORT EVENTS
Please note in regards to school sports events and our whole school sports day the following hot weather review policy will apply: Weather forecast on www.bom.sa.gov.au will be checked at 2pm, 3 days before the event. In the event that the forecast will be 38 degrees or over the game/activity will be rescheduled.

Nick Moschetta
“IN DEFENCE OF OUR HOMELAND”
A WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT
In 2015, Wirreanda Secondary School in association with The Army Museum of South Australia, will be running a War Memorial project. The joint project is to commemorate the service of men and women who served in all conflicts, at home and abroad in defence of Australia. In the program, students will learn about all conflicts in which Australian were involved from 1788 to 2014. Following this, students will research a person from within or outside their own family who served in the Australian forces.

This will include a photo shoot where they will replicate an original photo of their chosen military personnel, in time appropriate and accurate uniformed clothing.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
The school is pleased to welcome 4 new international students in 2015. Miku Oyamada and Nobuyuki Isaka are from Tokyo Japan and are in 10B. Luca Mairose is from Germany and Baiqiu Zhang is from China. Both of these students are in 11B.

Sue Bogumil
International Student Manager

IMMUNISATION DAY FOR YEAR 8 STUDENTS
The SA School Based Immunisation Program will be offered at your school by City of Onkaparinga. Immunisation consent cards will be sent home with students. It is important you read the information provided with the consent card before you provide consent, so that you understand the facts about the vaccines that will be offered and the diseases that these vaccines protect against. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the City of Onkaparinga on 8384 0666 or the Immunisation Section, SA Health Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 5pm phone 1300 232 272.

All Year 8 students will be offered:

- 1 dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. Please Note: A single dose of chickenpox vaccine is recommended for students less than 14 years of age. If the student is 14 years of age or older, a second dose is recommended 4 weeks after the first dose to receive adequate protection. This second dose is not free and is available at a cost from your Doctor or Council immunisation clinic.
- A full course (3 doses) of human papillomavirus vaccine Gardasil.
- These vaccines will be offered over 3 separate visits.
- 1 dose of Boostrix vaccine – diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) If you do not receive an immunisation Consent Card from your child by the end of week 3, please ask at the school office.

Parents / legal guardians should complete, sign and return the Consent Cards, even if the student will not be vaccinated at school. If your child is not vaccinated at school, please contact City of Onkaparinga on 8384 0666 and arrange for a free ‘catch-up’ dose. If you go to your doctor for the vaccination, they may not have the vaccine(s) in stock and there may be a consultation fee.

REMEMBER:
Keep School Immunisation Program records in a safe place as they may be required for future employment or travel.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Guidelines for Good Gaming
This is a seminar for parents and families being held at Mercedes College Springfield on Thursday 19 March from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. It will provide guidelines for parents on physical and electronic gaming. For more information or to book visit www.trybooking.com/GVCW

School Dental Service
All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. To locate your local clinic or for more information please visit: www.sadental.sa.gov.au

Road Safety

This newsletter is now published on the South Australia Police Internet page under Road Safety. The edition discusses:-

- Fatigue and Driving
- Back to School with Sergeant John and Humphrey B Bear
- Safer Driving Tips: Child Restraints
- Using other functions of a mobile phone
- What are the conditions for a learner motorcyclist
- Building Safer Roads
- Protective clothing for motorcycle riders

If you would like any further information about this newsletter please contact Senior Sergeant Paul Warren of the SAPOL Road Safety Section on telephone 82076587.

Keeping Teens and Pre-Teens Safe Online
Tuesday 17 March
7pm – 9pm, Panorama Room Convention Centre North Terrace Adelaide.
For more information or to register call 8303 1660 or email health.parentingsa@health.sa.gov.au