Welcome

On 20 July 2016, 38 students decided they wanted to try something different and they arrived on site filled with equal parts anxiety and excitement. 10 weeks later, we still have 38 students enrolled at the school and most of them have committed to making better life choices and reengaging with their education.

We are thrilled to have them as active participants in this journey with us. This first term may not have been easy, but, little by little we are seeing improvements. Every day we are surprised at the students’ resilience, adaptability and willingness to give things ‘a fair go’.

Highlights of this term included copious bush walks, trying out the new high ropes course, visits from dignitaries, visiting a film set and the now infamous ‘canteen protest’.

We are looking forward to sharing our adventures with you each term through our newsletter. We will also periodically update our Facebook page and post about what is happening in the school. Should you have any questions or want to know more about something, please don’t hesitate to contact us via phone or email.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 4 Starts  Monday 10th October 2016
Term 4 Ends    Thursday 15th December 2016

CHANGE TO DISMISSAL TIME

DISMISSAL EVERYDAY WILL BE:

1430

SEE PAGE 8 FOR NEW BUS TIMES
Meet the Staff

Paul

Lisa

Thor

Robbie

Bev

Michael

Mandy

Jen

Jess
News from the English Room

Time has skipped by since I first drove down the idyllic entrance to Fairbridge at the beginning of the term to begin my journey with the staff and students.

Coming from a public school teaching background the learning curve has been a steep one but one far from boring. The surroundings of Fairbridge and the drive from home have been a perfect way to start the days and the serene landscape have been a calming way to close the school day.

Literacy class has been energetic so far. Filled with spirited discussion and activities that the youth can relate to.

Riley did a fantastic job of preparing muffins while we were looking at procedures but we are yet to taste test them. The rumours suggest that Michael was too tempted by the morsels but no proof has been found.

We spent some time investigating the lyrics of popular RAP artists and the meaning behind their lyrics. It was discovered that Cody G has a hidden talent for writing lyrics so the hunt is on for band members to perhaps crank up our own garage band. Ebonie is emerging as our resident artist so she may well be called upon to paint our posters.

We have also started plans for our school Mural. The youth chose the theme of the elements so we have started drafts around Fire, Water, Air, Earth and Spirit. We are being guided in this venture by Jen Ruyter who was the Artist in Residence at Fairbridge for a number of years.

A science experiment on the oval gave us plenty to talk about in class as the youth explained in colourful detail how to make a rocket and the possible dangers of such an action. Faith carried out her own experiment by eating mentos and sipping a fizzy drink. Result was harmless but not favourable, that trial probably won’t be repeated.

We have been able to spend some time investigating the beautiful Fairbridge grounds including the landmarks on the property. Nature is a catalyst for discussion and inventive thinking it seems. Those walks have been a constant reminder to me of the depth of thought these youth experience and being surrounded by nature and walking energetically has proven to be very productive combination for literacy even though they don’t realise it. It is also a precious time of connection between the youth themselves, nature and us as significant adults in their lives.

Literacy, Literature and Language is embedded in everything so the opportunities to engage in this area are immeasurable. The youth are teaching me to look for opportunities where I think there is none and I am discovering more than I ever expected I could.

Lisa
STEM News

In Science we started way out at the reaches of the known universe and discovered ice planets constantly on fire, planets made entirely of diamond, and other potentially Earth-like inhabitable planets. Then we came in and explored our own solar system, Earth’s atmosphere, the tectonic plates, and the composition of the Earth, including its core. We started chemistry looking at atomic structure and the periodic table. We made diet coke and mentos rockets and discovered acid/base reactions. We looked at the acid/base balance in our bodies, and the effect of the foods we eat. We finished up looking at brain chemistry, the influence of dopamine and drugs, and the science of habits and change.

In Maths we have been covering the basics and exploring who knows what. We first looked at multiplication, addition, division and subtraction, then moved on to fractions, decimals and percentage. Our journey will next take us to measurement and area.

In Building some students have been making a 30x30cm wooden box. We are exploring the design and use of plans, materials selection, appropriate tool use, accuracy in marking, cutting and construction. There has also been some incidental renovations of door locks, and a table and chairs for use at the school.

In Fix-It we were kindly donated a dirt bike by the Turner family and a group of the boys have been slowly restoring the bike to working condition. We first pulled down some non-functioning stationary engines and discussed their inner workings. On the motorbike the boys have removed and cleaned many parts, restored the brake function and are now custom fitting a new chain.

Some students also recently started a new project called Media. The intention is to produce a motivational video of action sports with narration. It is hoped that the project will help to develop filming, editing and production skills, and social media promotion skills, with a positive message of skill, activity and passion.

Paul
The term started full on with goal setting and identifying learning styles in Leadership. Mapping the Village in CLS (Culture, Language and Society) we tried to master directions, legends, drawing to scale and build language around those topics. This led to more challenging Topographic Mapping skills which show heights and shapes of the landscape and reading position from Northings and Eastings: pretty useful for trail bike riding, BMX or planning a 4-wheel drive trip across country!

Friday afternoons are about bushwalking if the weather allows or even if it doesn’t really! We head up the back of Fairbridge climb on the stacked horse jumps like they’re giant play equipment and generally just have fun or head down to the river. Catching a rabbit was a highlight of one of these days...the boys were so gentle it was really amazing and nice to see them valuing wildlife.

In Leadership now we have started working on nationally accredited training doing the Certificate I in Leadership Development which we deliver through the Fairbridge RTO. The first unit is BSBCMM101A Apply basic communication skills and the students are motoring through the workbooks.

We hope to finish this qualification this year and present a Certificate to the students when it’s completed and this helps build employability and make the young people good candidates for work, TAFE and other tertiary study. We talk constantly about how to build our resilience along with our skills and knowledge so that at whatever point students exit from Fairbridge College it’s to a successful, sustainable life which they have chosen and worked to achieve.

Robbie
A Special Visitor

On 31st August, the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia, Patron of Fairbridge, visited the college for a brief tour and chat with Jen. Mr. John Alexander, Chair of the Fairbridge Board of Governors (right) and Mr. Mike Rumble, Chair of the Fairbridge College Council (left) were also on hand to talk about the school and its impact on the local community. Her Excellency had a peek into the classrooms and even stopped to speak with Ebonie and Dray! It truly was a special day and we all look forward to welcoming Her Excellency back next year to help formally open the school.

Top Attenders

The following students had the over 80% attendance this term:

Luis Gaebler  
Shannon Bader  
Andreas Paraskeva  
Jason Tucker  

Ryan Turner  
Lachlan Stocks  
Deakin Russell  
Ebonie Parnham

Keep up the good work!  
We are so proud of you!
**Uniforms**

Now that the weather is getting warmer, I want to remind students that they are required to wear a uniform shirt. We have plenty left in the office for sale ($30). Please note that payments can be taken over the phone and we can send the students home with the shirts. In term 4, we will be using positive reinforcement with students who wear their uniform shirts every day given a prize at the end of each week. Prizes could include movie tickets, food from the café, gift cards or a special excursion.

We also like to encourage our students to bring hats, sunscreen and water bottles to school each day. It can get very hot in the village!

**Bus Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>MORNING</th>
<th>AFTERNOON</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.35 am</td>
<td>3.05 pm</td>
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<td>Mandurah Train Station:</td>
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<td>Coach pick-up point</td>
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<td>8.40 am</td>
<td>3.00 pm</td>
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<td>Good Guys (Cnr. Lakes</td>
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<td>Road)</td>
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<td>9.00 am</td>
<td>2.40 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bendigo Bank, Pinjarra</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.10 am</td>
<td>2.30 pm</td>
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<td>Fairbridge College</td>
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**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Keep up to date will things around the school!