



Fairbridge College

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7

TERM 1 2018

From the Principal's Desk

Term 1 has gone by in a flash! We've been so busy fundraising, welcoming new students and planning the year ahead! Most of the students have returned to school with a renewed sense of purpose, getting stuck in to their work and really doing themselves proud!

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind students that our behaviour in the wider community, especially before and after school, still reflects on the College. I've received a number of complaints from various stakeholders regarding incidents that have involved College students. We provide a bus service because it is the only way that many students are able to attend. Therefore, students are asked to remember that the riding on the Fairbridge bus is a privilege and a not a 'right'. We work very hard to encourage College students to think beyond themselves and have a greater appreciation for the impact of their decisions on others. This skill is especially challenging for people in their teenage years!

On a positive note, I have observed a flurry of activity from all corners of the College in preparation for our upcoming trip to Canberra. I'd like to say a HUGE 'thank-you' to Mr. Ross Headley whose unwavering enthusiasm and dedication is really inspiring. The students are so lucky to have someone like Ross working with them and encouraging them to see and experience the wider world.

We've ended the term with Compass Testing, which assesses the students' levels in literacy and numeracy. This is not an easy or pleasurable experience for most and I would like to thank the students for taking the process seriously. The information we gather from these tests will allow us to better tailor our learning programs and also track student progress. A special 'thank-you' to Lisa and Paul for coordinating this.

Finally, I'd like to take the time to welcome the newest member of our team, Jayne Lavender, who works Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays providing mental health support to our students. She has been a brilliant addition to our crew and we really value what she has added to our program.

I'll close by saying to look out for a special 'Canberra Edition' of our newsletter in a first few weeks of next term. This one will be brought to you by the students and the brave staff who are accompanying them!

Jen



Lisa's World

Literacy and Art Attack

2018 started off fast and furious with fundraising in full flight for our Inaugural National Excursion to Canberra. The students have all been involved in many ways including advertising, collecting donations and creating crafts to sell at the Fairbridge Festival.

During our Art afternoons the students have been creating gorgeous tie-dye t-shirts. They researched different patterns and the techniques used for the patterns. They had to read the instructions and, in some cases, follow the video demonstrations to ensure that we had a variety of designs to suit all tastes. Come along to the Fairbridge Festival to see the end products. We are all very proud of our efforts.

As well as the t-shirts students worked together to create some amazing wood pieces and some really cute hanging pots made from string and balloons.... sounds weird? You'll love them when you see them.

So, the Literacy room has been transformed into an art and construction centre for the last few weeks. It has been hectic but really worthwhile. Jarrod Mallet has been fabulous with his 'can do' attitude and his common sense approach. He has managed to make my ideas work which has been no small feat. Abby and Keyara have been a driving force too, reminding me after every lunch that I need to open my room quickly to get on with the craft creations.

In Literacy we began the year investigating *Fantastic Beasts* by J K Rowling. We watched the movie, discussed creative techniques and had a look at the behind the scenes footage. When we came to creating our own fantastic beast the students came up with some awesome



creatures which now adorn the walls in the classroom. We also spent some time writing possible sequels which got the creative juices going. Jak Bentley was absolutely overflowing with ideas even to the point of missing part of his recess because he wanted to get his ideas down...proud moment!

Next came project work. After an excursion to the Zoo the students all chose an animal to research. They created huge projects presented on large card and including pictures, diagrams, maps and information on their chosen animal. These projects are exceptional and every student did such great work. They all had a rubric which gave them very clear guidelines on what they needed to include to get a 'C' grade, a 'B' grade or an 'A' grade. To their credit they all aimed for the 'A'. I am so proud of all of them for their commitment to the task and the amazing results that they have achieved. I really hope they are proud of themselves too.

To finish the term off we investigated Shakespeare in the guise of modern movies. We have been looking at *Taming the Shrew* through the modern version *10 Things I Hate About You* with the wonderful Heath Ledger. *Hamlet* is *The Lion King* and *Twelfth Night* is *She's the Man*. Who knew we could make it all relevant...certainly not the students in Literacy class but there you go.

Looking at Shakespeare has been a bit of a shock for them but they have all coped quite well so we will continue with a bit more of it in Term 2...something to look forward to. ☺

Happy Holidays y'all

Lisa



Paul's News

STEM Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

This term has been all about Maths. We have focussed on the curriculum basics for Years 7 and 8, and the Certificate of General Education for Adults (CGEA) for older students. Most students are making significant progress. Some of the older students have also taken the opportunity to participate in the remedial maths program to improve their basic maths skills and their capabilities when working on their CGEA. We have covered ratio, fraction, decimal, and percentage conversions, graphing, probabilities, mean, median, mode, ranges, and simple algebra. It hasn't all been hard slog though. The M&Ms science and mathematics challenge gave us a chance to put most of these maths principles into practice while collectively consuming thousands of M&Ms. We have been using the computer-based *MangaHigh* program to practice and reinforce the principles we learn each week.

Some students have continued to develop their robotics skills using the *EV3 Lego Mindstorm* kits. Programming skills are developing slowly but the robotics also provides an important circuit breaker for students who struggle on the day with the idea of doing the regular maths program. Next term we will build on our successes of this term and focus on more science activities.

Technology and engineering has revolved around mountain bikes this term. We have accumulated about 20 bike carcasses from which some students have been salvaging parts and building functional bikes. This activity culminated in four students going on an all-day mountain bike excursion in Lane-Poole Reserve in the final week of term. Students were also involved in the planning and logistics for this excursion, further extending their skills. We hope to do more of this next term.

Sustainability

The Waste Wise program has been repackaged into a broader sustainability program this term. A Level 1, 2 and 3 Sustainability Certificate is being offered to students to help them demonstrate leadership, organisation and employability skills to future employers. The current focus of the program has students engaged in a Global Sustainability Issues project, on a topic they choose, to be presented as a poster board, written report or video presentation. Some students have impressed with their research skills and grasp of their issue.

Paul



Life Skills House

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, works in 190 countries improving the lives of young people and their communities. After years of consultation the group identified the Life Skills they deem essential for young people to be happy and productive members of their current community as well as active, responsible global citizens.

These skills have been used as the basis for the program being delivered in the Life Skills house (Jenner Cottage). The aim is to have the students experience being in a house and then consider what makes a house become a home. Young people are encouraged to think what their future could be like and how they will control their transition to life outside of school.

The key element involves using factual information and knowledge as the basis for critical thinking, problem solving, decision making and evaluation of thought processes and actions. Young people practice things like mind mapping as a thinking framework, lateral thinking and thinking 'outside the box', and narrowing down how they can face a variety of possible future challenges and scenarios.

An array of topics is addressed, with everything from healthy eating to harm minimisation to coping with strong emotions through art. Possible scenarios like teen pregnancy, decision making about sexuality, along with defence mechanisms around anxiety are all dealt with in a variety of ways.

The students are to be commended for the way they get involved in working through heavy topics some of which hit close to home and may affect their own friends or families. Most of our work is done sitting in a group so people feel supported because everyone's opinion is important.

Phrases like 'ways to say no' and 'critical thinking for wisdom' which seem alien at first are suddenly part of the daily conversation. The aim is for each person to think about the question "how do I want my future life to look?" Things ranging from the type of relationships they may have to possible jobs, budgeting and even how to split up from a partner are all considered!

Ideas around personal, relationship and financial sustainability are teased out and whether future generations have to follow in the footsteps of older generations. A fair bit of lively discussion happens around world events and we watch *BTN* so students become familiar with a bit more formal language around news and issues.

I think the Life Skills program works because students show respect. Even though they may be afraid to dream or consider a good future, they all give it a go and really try to step out of old default positions into new possibilities.

Robbie



Hospitality Training creating opportunities for youth, thanks to Alcoa Pinjarra

Thanks to Alcoa Pinjarra, Fairbridge Village recently signed its second School-Based Hospitality Traineeship with Harmony Dunstan.

Harmony is currently completing her secondary education with Fairbridge College and was assisting in the coffee shop and the kitchen. Harmony showed an interest in the Hospitality industry, and after recommendation from her teachers, was offered a School-Based Traineeship.

Harmony becomes the fourth student currently undertaking an Alcoa-funded Traineeship, which is aimed to create employment pathways for youth. Alcoa have committed funding to Fairbridge until December 2019, to provide traineeship opportunities to up to 12 Fairbridge College and VET students.

Jade Creevey, Fairbridge Village



F A I R B R I D G E

Adventures with Ross

HASS and Leadership

HASS students as well as the students going to Canberra have been studying the Electoral System and Federal Government in Australia. In conjunction with this they have also looked at The ANZAC traditions.

The ANZAC traditions covered things such as ANZAC Day. A day in which the lives of all Australians lost in war time are remembered. They also learned about Australia's most publicly venerated and least decorated soldier and his companion, Simpson and his donkey. Simpson was never promoted and never received any war medals in either life or death. He embodied the ANZAC spirit of selflessness, larrikinism, determination, mateship, humanism, courage and improvisation.

The leadership students have surprised me, having completed quite a few Leadership booklets in the last 10 weeks, which will give them a good chance of receiving their Leadership certificates before the end of year.



Excursions

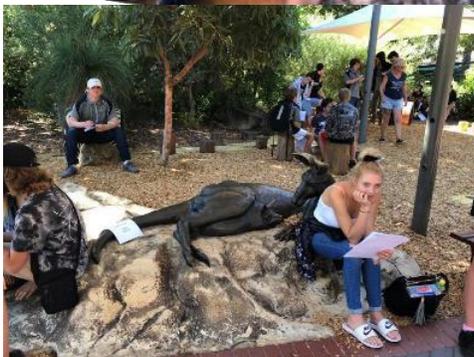
On Thursday of week 8 the students and staff took the train from Mandurah to Elizabeth Quay. They strolled through the Quay and caught the ferry to South Perth. From the ferry terminal they took the short walk to visit the Perth Zoo. Paul made and brought along a delicious picnic lunch that they ate sitting on the lawn at the zoo. The students had a fantastic day visiting all parts of the zoo looking at the animals before returning to school via the ferry and train.

In week 10 we boarded the bus for a reward day at Bounce in Cannington. The students enjoyed the many trampolines and other adventure activities at Bounce.

During the second week of the school holidays a group of 10 students and 4 staff will be embarking on an excursion that has been twelve months in the making. It has been achieved through generous donations from the community and fundraising activities. The group will leave Perth Airport early hours of Monday 23rd April, stopping in Melbourne then on to Canberra. They will leave Canberra late afternoon on Thursday 26th April, arriving in Perth at 9.30pm.

Whilst in Canberra the students and staff will visit The Australian War Memorial, Old Parliament House and the New Parliament House. We will also rise early on ANZAC Day to attend the ANZAC Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial. Attending the dawn service will be a moving experience for both students and staff. The students will also have some down time going to Delta Paintball, Flip Out, shopping in the city, touring Lake Burley Griffin and Black Mountain Telecom Tower.

Ross



BOUNCE
FREE SPIRITS UNLEASHED

Attendance Stars

The following students had the **at least** 80% attendance this term:

Jarrod Mallett
Toby Webb
Myles Gaebler
Taya Norton
Lily Bentley
Damien Johnson
Alister Freeman
Hannah Hopwood

Brandon Stocks
Luis Gaebler
Abby Mallett
Josh Lupton
Daniel Clark-Partington
Harmony Dunstan
Keyara Guthrie

THANK YOU!

Fundraising this term has included a sausage sizzle at Bunnings in Mandurah where students, parents and staff raised a considerable amount of money. Thanks to everyone who came out to support us!

A HUGE thanks to the Pinjarra RSL for hosting our Quiz Night on St Patrick's Day. A good time was had by all and a good some of money was raised for the Canberra adventure. We would also like to formally thank all of our donors for helping us with prizes and silent auction items:

- ★ Bunnings Warehouse - Mandurah
- ★ Watershed Wines
- ★ Mitre 10 – Northam
- ★ Oakford Equestrian Centre
- ★ Northam Natural Health Studio
- ★ Cheveux -N- Co Hair Salon
- ★ Margaret River Visitors Centre
- ★ Target – Pinjarra
- ★ Muffin Break – Pinjarra
- ★ Pinjarra Pharmacy
- ★ Fairbridge Village
- ★ Tree of Truth Healing



Jayne's Corner



Woof! I'm Dug the Dog and I joined the Fairbridge College community this term. I am Jayne's assistant, so I started a few weeks after she did. Jayne is a Provisional Psychologist which means, like me, she's still supervised in her role. Unlike me, Jayne has a Masters degree and has spent around 10 years at Uni!

I first met Jayne when I was a puppy with a broken foot. I'd been dumped in bushland near Lake Clifton. Jayne had a farm and worked with horses and people for decades, so I liked her herd and wanted to stay. She let me.



I REALLY love people, so my weekly visits to Fairbridge College are GRRreat! Jayne loves people too, and I know it was her hearts desire to join the Fairbridge College team. Both Jayne and I help everyone with their mental health. They may see Jayne in her office in the Life Skills

House or sit somewhere peaceful outside. Sometimes the Magpies join us, but like Jayne and myself, they keep everyone's secrets (unless safety is at risk – then Jayne must seek support to help the person in need!).

I have some anxieties, which everyone at Fairbridge gets to see, and they help me to cope, which in turn strengthens me. I hope that they are learning to be kinder to themselves and each other whilst at Fairbridge, because everyone is caring and understanding of me. Jayne thanks me for comforting troubled people and for drawing smiles out of everyone whenever I'm at school.

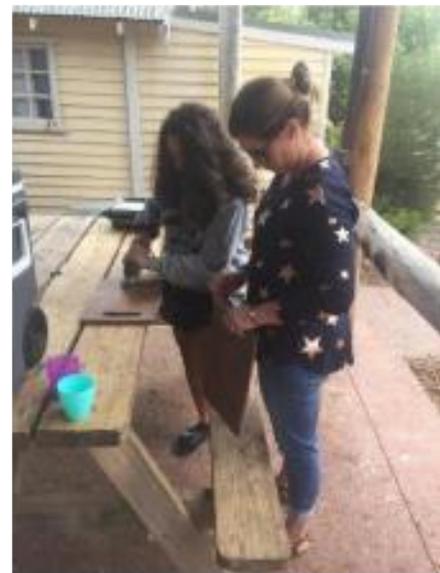


We've appreciated completing our first term at Fairbridge and being welcomed into an excellent pack! Next term we'd like to see more students who have been shy about learning a little more about mental wellbeing. We'll meditate, we'll practice all the skills that become resilience, and we'd like to bring Jayne's herd of horses to demonstrate what mental wellness looks and feels like. Next newsletter Jayne will share some of the best experiences with you!

Jayne (and Dug)



23 rd – 26 th April	Fairbridge College in Canberra
30 th April	Student Free Day – CARE School Conference for Staff
1 st May	First Day Term 2 for Students
Week 3 - TBD	Footy Clinic
4 th June	Public Holiday
29 th June	Last Day Term 2



SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date with things at Fairbridge College!

