



Fairbridge College

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 15

TERM 1 2020

## From the Principal's Desk

We are certainly living through an unprecedented time. This school year started with a new campus in Kalgoorlie and new staff members in Pinjarra and we are ending the term prepared for the possibility of distance/on-line learning. I think it's important to look for the 'silver-lining' in times like these and I can whole-heartedly say that shifting our program to an on-line platform, upskilling staff and implementing unique ways to connect with our students are all things that will move us forward long after this pandemic ends.

I urge all parents/carers to be patient with us and your children during this time. As a school, we will take on feedback about our programs and try to use it to improve the delivery of our services. I'd also like to take this time to remind parent/carers that we are working in partnership with you and I know that schooling at home will not be an easy task. The College will need your support in ensuring the on-going education of your child and we suggest following a few simple rules:

- Maintain school hours - i.e. 9.00 am to 2.30 am Monday to Friday
- Maintain healthy sleeping habits
- Ensure your child is home during school hours to accept calls from staff to assist with their work.

I'd like to close by thanking the dedicated, hard-working and resilient Fairbridge College staff for everything they have done to facilitate the best possible learning experience for our students. I know this hasn't been easy and I know that you have been asked to take on an enormous task. I feel confident that the education of Fairbridge College students will be the best it can possibly be thanks to your efforts.

*Jen*

Life is 10 per cent what happens and 90 per cent how you deal with it.

Jim Stynes

quotefancy

## From the Head of School

We have certainly had an unusual end to the term and our thoughts are for the safety and well-being of all our school community. While around the world we reorganise our lives based on an inexplicably small entity, a virus, we are reminded that nature is both a powerful and vulnerable host of our existence. Our usual routines and habits are upended and livelihoods endangered leaving some of us struggling to plan ahead in uncertain times. The anxiety for young people must be especially significant at this time having never seen the economy running in reverse, let alone a pandemic. I have seen in my own son the anger/frustration/grieving associated with withdrawal of his social life and retreat into our home. Our support for the well-being of our young people is especially crucial as we assist them to make the changes necessary to successfully adapt to home isolation, with the resilience to recognise opportunities so they can enjoy their time and use it well. As always, throughout the school term we continue to provide social and physiological support to our students, and link them with a range of external services.

Fairbridge College staff have made a truly incredible transition to working at distance and deserve our thanks and gratitude for their dedicated work. All families have been issued paper based work at home packs and teachers have begun daily contact with students to assist them. If necessary, new work from home packs will be issued at the beginning of term two if we are unable to return to school. For families with internet access and a home computer, teachers have also launched a Fairbridge College Google Classroom offering a live meeting space and a wide range of engaging activities. This is a constantly expanding space and even with tablet and phone access it is often possible to join this electronic classroom experience. Please contact us for assistance.

We congratulate the many students that made excellent gains in their education this term. We successfully operated 5 VET courses, and our new hospitality centre provided excellent sit down meals for the entire College every Friday afternoon. Our bee population has doubled and we have routinely collected and processed the honey. Students working with the bees have said it is one of the best things they have ever done. We also successfully trialled a program using wearable health trackers and, despite our regular health checks and Canberra trip being postponed, we will pick up where we left off as soon as we are able.

We look forward to continuing to provide excellent educational services whatever the circumstances as we begin term two. While the normal flow of society is disrupted we hope you all stay safe and find ways to make the best of challenging times.

*Paul*

## Sculptures by the Sea

The students went on a fantastic cultural excursion to Sculptures by the Sea in Cottesloe this month. Over 100 sculptures line the beach at Cottesloe in a marvellous setting. The students appreciated the quirkiness of some of the displays as well as enjoying the general ambience and environment at Cottesloe. The students all shared their personal favourites and there was no clear winner for the most popular sculpture. The day was made complete by a picnic at Coogee beach before returning to Fairbridge in the afternoon.

*Jane T*



## Lisa's World

As Term One draws to close we have time to reflect on the year so far, our achievements and our challenges.

The term began as any other with the introduction of new students and new topics.

With Biology being a favourite topic of mine, this term in Literacy we have been looking at the interesting world of Arthropods. Arthropoda is a phylum from the kingdom of Animalia and includes insects, arachnids (spiders) and crustaceans.

The classes looked at farming cockroaches which is a growing industry, although we all agreed we weren't keen to get involved just yet. Then the students branched out to study their choice of Arthropod. They were required to research information and present a report in an artistic way. The results were outstanding!

The students need to be commended in the way they have developed their research skills and their reporting skills. You can see some of the results in the attached photographs.

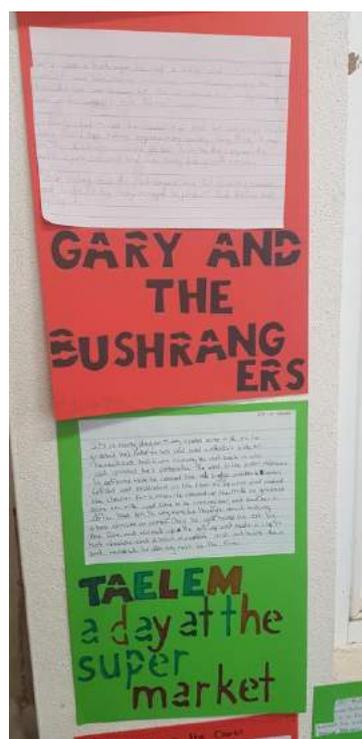
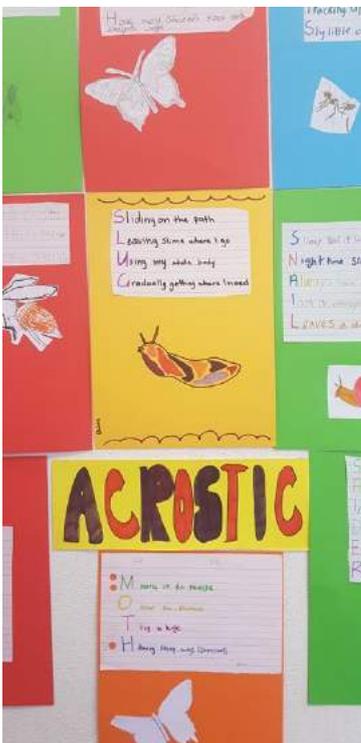
We had fun working on some acrostic poetry which are on display in the classroom and all the students extended themselves in writing Narratives which are also on display.

Many of the Yr10, 11 and 12 students sat OLNA this term which was confronting for some but again the students have to be commended for their mature approach. I am very proud of their efforts and look forward to the results in May.

Lastly, of course, we have had to deal with an unexpected visitor called COVID19. This has sent a ripple through the school but classes have been continuing and, to their credit, the students have continued to work on their projects and lessons with calmness and maturity.

We are all looking forward to the Easter break and hoping that everyone remains safe. See you all next term.

*Lisa*



## Beekeeping with Jon...

This year has 'bee'gun with the start of our new beekeeping program in the land of milk and honey (Fairbridge). Although there has been some buzz around the school, there are still many students that have not returned permission slips to participate. For those who have been able to get their hands dirty, we have been busy as bees with already over TEN kilos of honey harvested, and over thirty jars filled. While a few of the students have gotten to take a jar or two home, they have had to put in some hard work. No freebees around here!

With a hive of knowledge, this semester we are looking to explore deeper into the colony itself and discover everything from the history of beekeeping, to the roles of each bee and how we can learn from them. Hopefully the students are able to spread their wings and learn a few more skills to be used later on down the track. As for now, I'll quit droning on and bumbling over my words to let you get back to the newsletter! Huge thank you to Stanley Bawden. He is a breeder of queen bee nucs and a bee keeper. He gave us a hive as he thought our students would benefit in farming bees...and in memory of his granddaughter.

*Jon*



## STEM with Shane

This term has been eventful to say the least, it has been great to meet all new students and to welcome back students from last year. Over the course of the holidays I was being trained on a new Maths program called Maths Pathways. I was eager to implement it and see how the students took to it, but this required some working from a different angle to start the term off. Students were looking at ways to put their brain to the test and explore how different students get to the same conclusions. This involved breaking down different patterns and challenges to test each individual's creative thinking and problem solving strategies. This led into the start of Maths Pathways, which has been fully operational with loads of success from across the board. This program is currently operating within half of our groups for now as we see where it may take us moving forward. Aligning ourselves with the curriculum, students undertook studies in the areas of linear and non-linear equations, data representation and interpretation and geometric reasoning.

Within Science this year students explored the world of bacteria, looking into what it takes to grow it and what it can do for us. Students were able to gather samples from around the school in which we observed and recorded data from for multiple weeks. Safe to say students were eager to keep things cleaner and was a nice reminder for all to keep our hands clean.

A few students were working together creating a solar power car for a state-wide challenge. Students were hard at work optimising and learning how solar power operates and will hopefully be able to put this hard work into the competition when it opens back up in the near future.

This term has put hurdles in front of us and students are to be commended on their efforts throughout the period. I wish students, parents and guardians the safest of holidays and look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 2.

*Shane*



## Adventures with Ross

This term in HASS the students have been studying Geography, in particular, biomes and food security, landforms and landscapes and water in the world (The classification of environmental resources [renewable and non-renewable]).

In studying these areas in geography, the students learnt about how and where different fruits and vegetables grow, which countries grow the majority of certain fruits and vegetables and what fruits and vegetables grow in certain environments such as deserts, rainforests and tundras.

The students also learnt about natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, cyclones and volcanos, and how these natural disasters effect the environment and food production. Environmental resources included the study of renewable energy sources, such as; wind energy, solar energy and hydro energy.

The students learnt that coal, petroleum and other fossil fuels are only available in limited amounts, so once they are gone, they're gone. They found the search to find these resources comes with its own risks, particularly as some are buried deep underground or in the ocean, and it becomes more challenging and more expensive as time goes on and resources dwindle.

The students found that world food security can be at risk should there be catastrophic results if something goes wrong, such as an oil spill that renders soil useless for cropping and grazing. They students also found that renewable energy can always be relied upon as these sources are safe and easy to harness, naturally replenishable and do not harm the environment or effect food security.

Next term may be a challenge to us all as we launch into online learning. I have loaded on Google Classroom some Civics and Citizenship learning tasks. These tasks include: an introduction to democracy in Australia, the Australian constitution, the separation of powers, the divisions of powers and Australia's diversity and identity, including Australia as a secular and multi-faith society, stereotypes and cultural identities. They will also touch on the judicial system in Australia.

As the next school term starts directly after ANZAC Day, in the first week of term the students will study the experiences of Australians during WW II.

*Ross*



## Cooking with Dawn

*Mondays* saw the LED program prepare, cook and demonstrate their safe food handling procedures.

Each *Tuesday* afternoon the girls group organised by Jess made delicious snacks for all the college to eat. They also utilized the comfortable dining area for group discussions and journal writing. Jon Kroeck along with his eager helpers have been regularly processing, packaging and storing the lovely Fairbridge Honey throughout the term. *Wednesday, Thursday and Friday* has seen the Hospitality students developed their customer service, communication, cooking and presentation skills. Each *Friday* a hot lunch with a variety of choices to meet most dietary requirements was cooked and served in the dining area by the hospitality students. The social interaction and manners shown by all the students during the Friday lunches has been amazing.

The students have set some high standards, so let's see what we can cook up in Term II.

*Dawn*

## Community Services

Community Services  
New Year, new...course!

What a fun, exciting and, at times, crazy first term in the new Community Services VET class. Not only have we started a new VET course but we also have brand new students joining our small classroom community. We have achieved a lot this term and it makes me excited to see where the rest of the year will take us.

Students have had fun this term going out on weekly excursions and learning about all the different types of community services sectors that we have in the Peel region. We have visited the Jobs and Skills Centre, the Peel Health Hub and different charity organisations such as Salvos, Good Sammy and Vinnies. We looked into ways we can give back and ways we can personally receive help. We discussed our work options for when we finish the course and created resumes to further prepare us.

In Keeping Safe we have been working on ways we can raise and discuss issues that we have, in a professional safe manner and have been having friendly debates around topics such as; whether or not school should be open 6 days a week and whether the legal drinking age should be raised to 21. Students have also been working on completing their Certificate Two in General Education for Adults. This term they have been looking at ways we can make the school safer for staff and students, and ways we can update our emergency procedures, starting the course off with a 'mock' fire evacuation of the whole village showed the students why it is critical that we have these emergency procedure measures in place.

I look forward to seeing everyone bright and healthy in term 2!

*Maddy*



## Kristin's Corner

In Life Skills during Term 1, we have been exploring many different topics from sun safety to understanding how the body functions, also continuing our sport program and finally exploring mixed media in art.

The students have been learning how to identify and comprehend the risks associated with skin cancer and sun safety. Students learnt how to identify where different UV can come from in everyday life and the long-term effects it can have on your body.

Secondly, I am teaching students constantly about healthy eating, risky behaviour with drug taking and the importance of exercise, so I thought we could dive deeper into understanding the human body and how it all functions, so students can become aware of why living a healthy lifestyle is import.

Taking on the challenge of understanding all 11 systems in the body was a big one but I am so proud of the accomplishment and knowledge they gained in this unit. I am incredibly proud of the work they have produced from this unit.

Finally, the music program has begun to build at school and I am excited to see where the students and I can take this art. Guitars and piano can now be heard from the Life Skills classroom. Next term we will be focusing on learning a particular song with select students during period 5.

*Kristin*



## Jayne's World

The Wellbeing Team hope you are well, and we miss you, so here's a recent photo of Gal on her new bed, and Dug a few minutes later, having decided it was his...

Our biggest news for mental health this past term has been the involvement in our region and school of Heath Black. You may remember him as a professional in AFL. A former Dockers and St. Kilda star, Heath had a complicated childhood and adolescence, scarred by dysfunction, alcohol abuse and addiction. Heath works hard these days to share what he's learned during his difficult and painful experience, and the relief he gained from diagnosis of mental health challenges.

Our year 10 students were invited to hear him lecture in March, and he visited our school a few days later to speak with them one to one. Heath enjoyed the lively and insightful discussions with our kids, and commented they were the best he'd spoken with to date! He went on to ask for a photo with some of the students that day, which he later posted to his Facebook. Heath also offered our students to contact him directly as he'd be honoured to be a mentor to any of them.

We thank you Heath, for understanding what we, the team here Fairbridge recognise in our students. For appreciating that they deserve and should have extraordinary supports on their journey to success.

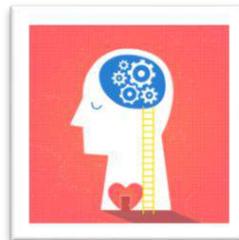
Speaking of extraordinary supports; we can't predict the challenges in coming weeks due to the global Coronavirus pandemic, but our care extends to our students and their families throughout. During school days and hours, contact us.

We also recommend KidsHelpline.com.au for "webchat" or simply Google online supports, and you will find much from the likes of Headspace or locally, GP Down South.

Dug, Gal and I are available via Messenger, phone or email during school hours.

Keep in touch if we can't actually touch. Remain strong. We love you.

*Jayne, Dug & Gal*



## Admin News

Immunisations: Year 7 (8) catch ups and Year 10 Meningococcal - July 21st (This is in term 3 but figure a reminder now is probably worth it) If you haven't already signed a Parent/Guardian Permission form and would like one please contact the office on 9531 7932.

Important Reminder: Please keep School Administration updated with any changes to your circumstances i.e. phone number, address, students' medical conditions or medications.

URGENT: Secondary Assistance Scheme (SAS) Applications: The Secondary Assistance Scheme enables those families who have a concession card to claim for Government funding, which would cover the cost of their child's school fees. A copy of the application form was emailed out to families who we believe are eligible. If you have not already returned this form, please do so URGENTLY with a copy of your concession card.



27 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Public Holiday – ANZAC Day Long Weekend
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	First Day Term 2 2020
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020	Last Day Term 2 2020

## Attendance Stars

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

Chloe Dunkley  
Ethan Shaw  
Riley Towns  
Reece Brierley  
Mischa Baff  
Reece Griffiths  
Matthew Rochester  
Toby Webb  
Mikayla Machin

Kasey Baines  
Joel Thorn  
Xander Trainer  
Steven Freeman  
Harriett Barton  
Declan Carnes  
Liam Cathro  
Kyle Wooldridge-  
Chilvers  
Blake Dearden

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date with things at Fairbridge College!

