PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2014 school year at Salisbury East High School. On behalf of our learning community I extend a very warm welcome to our Year 8 students, new enrolments and families.

Once again we have experienced an excellent start to the year with students quickly settling into the school routine and positively engaging in their learning. Much has happened in these busy first few weeks, despite the extreme weather, including:

- Year 8 and 12 Orientation days
- Year 8 Camp (with peer leaders)
- Meet the Year 8 and Year 12 Teachers Event
- School photographs
- Hosting students from our sister-school in Huangdao (formerly Jioanan), China.

Our school is always a hive of activity and this term will be no different. Later in the term (11/03 – 13/03) Salisbury East High School will be hosting special representatives of the Council of International Schools (CIS) to review all aspects of our school in relation to international standards and identify areas for improvement. Since proudly achieving the CIS Accreditation in 2007 our school has remained committed to continually reflecting our practices in the pursuit of excellence and internationalism. We will keep you informed of the outcome of this visit.

Student Numbers and Expectations

This year we began with a student population of approximately 680 students and with continual enrolment enquiries this number may well increase. We have reached a point where we have limited vacancies in some classes and year levels for new students. This is an outstanding community endorsement of our school and our quality learning programs, given the declining demographic in the area.

At Salisbury East High School we have high expectations of all members of our learning community and have continued to communicate this to students from the first day. This emphasis has included high expectations related to: Attending every day; Striving for one’s personal best; Using respectful language and Wearing our uniform with pride both at school and in our local community.

Our Governing Council and parent community as a whole strongly support these high expectations that reflect our values of: RESPECT INTEGRITY RESPONSIBILITY PRIDE and EXCELLENCE.

We look forward to your support in our work to fulfill our vision to inspire students to pursue personal excellence and become resilient global citizens through supportive and innovative learning experiences.
2014 Staffing
This year we have most staff continuing in their teaching and leadership roles and have welcomed the following new staff to our school community:

- Mr Paul Hudson – Assistant Principal, Curriculum & Senior School
- Mr Scott Dirix – Alternative Learning Coordinator
- Mr Michael Cowin – Mathematics and Science
- Ms Liza Vassos – Home Economics
- Mr Chris Filsell – Groundsman
- Mr Wayne Buckskin – Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer (ASETO)

We are fortunate to have these staff appointed to our school, as they will continue to add to the depth of knowledge, experience and commitment of our existing staff.

A photo list of all SEHS staff and their related positions is enclosed for your information.

Successful 2013 Year 12 results
Congratulations to our 2013 Year 12 students on their outstanding SACE results! We are very proud of the impressive 2013 results and the wonderful individual achievements of our students that reflect their hard work, energy and commitment. In fact 86% of our Year 12 students achieved their SACE certificate with over one third achieving very high ATAR scores in the 80s and 90s (without bonus points) thus allowing them to access most university courses of their choice. We would like to especially acknowledge Axl Galvez, who achieved our highest ATAR score with an impressive 97.90, along with Matthew Heath, Daniel Johnstone, Brodie O’Neill and Abigail Davey who also achieved scores above 95 (excluding bonus points). Congratulations!

Last week Jacob Howard (a current Year 12) and Axl Galvez attended Government House where they were each awarded a Merit Certificate for their respective outstanding results (20/20) in Music and Mathematical Studies.

These impressive results are a testimony to the fantastic opportunities and diverse learning programs available to our students and the commitment of our teachers. It is a priority for our school to continue to strive to improve student outcomes and strengthen learning programs to support individual pathways and SACE achievement.

We wish the Class of 2013 all the very best in their studies, training and employment!

Communication
We are seeking to improve our communication with families all the time and will be introducing a Parent Portal in the coming weeks. This facility will enable parents to monitor the attendance and homework of their children. Parents are invited to a Parent Portal Workshop on Wednesday 12 March at 6:00pm. In the meantime we are also developing a new, contemporary website that will be live in Term 2. All information will be available from this site including our interactive newsletter to replace our paper version.

We request that families ensure the school has your current email and mobile phone details to support our new modes of communication.

Jacqui van Ruiten
Principal
YEAR 8 CAMP

The Year 8 Transition Camp was held in week 2 of term 1 and focused on supporting the transition of our new students into the Salisbury East High School community. As the students have joined us from a large number of feeder primary schools, the Year 8 camp was a valuable opportunity for them to establish friends and support networks. The camp strived to develop and foster a sense of belonging, community, cooperation and leadership. The main emphasis though was on making friends and learning the skills to do so, whilst participating in a range of challenging and fun physical activities and living in close proximity with each other.

The camp was divided into two groups. Group one participated Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th with accommodation at Aldinga Beach Caravan Park. Group two participated Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th with accommodation at Douglas Scrub. Both groups participated in aquatic activities at Port Noarlunga Aquatics Centre, which focused on skill development and personal challenges. Students enjoyed participating in a range of aquatic activities including kayaking/canoeing, surfing, boogie boarding, snorkeling, sailboarding, sailing, wave skiing and fishing. On returning to camp, students together with their home group teacher and peer support leaders, were involved in team-building activities.

The camp was a great opportunity for us to get to know the students, and interact with them in a non-school environment. The students were fantastic at coping with the various challenges that we were presented with. The main one being the weather. Group one was faced with gale force winds that whipped the dirt around the camp, while group two endured a warm night. The resilience of the students was evident as they were able to adapt quickly to the environment that we were faced with. I personally had a wonderful experience with the students and by all accounts they did too.

Angela Moses (Yr 8 Coordinator)
What an amazing visit Salisbury East High School experienced with staff and students from Hungdao District No. 1 Middle School, China (formally Jiaonan No.1 Middle School)!

We were privileged to host 11 students and three teachers who experienced an incredible and memorable time being part of our school community and staying with wonderful family home stays. Salisbury East High School has hosted students from Hungdao District No. 1 Middle School for 12 years now through a reciprocal arrangement, and due to dedication and commitment from our International team members and host families; it was once again a huge success and one that we are extremely proud of.

Although a short visit, the students were able to participate in Technology where they had the experience of making a dice in pine wood and a sheet metal pencil sharpener. Students were taken on a field trip and experienced the sights of Adelaide including Rundle Mall and China Town.

Much appreciation goes to our staff for taking the time in teaching our international students; it is something that will remain with them.

Many thanks go to our school community families for hosting our Chinese students. Many friendships have been made with long lasting memories, and we look forward to the return of new students in 2015.

Paula Horskins (International & Humanities Coordinator)

PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Our school is committed to supporting each student to be the best that they can be! We believe that high expectations, pride in one’s school and strong partnerships with our families and community lead to success and excellence in learning. We also value parent/caregiver feedback and welcome your views on our school’s learning programs, leadership, organisation and other insights to assist us in future planning. Please consider completing the Parent Satisfaction Survey for 2013 at http://www.sehs.sa.edu.au/index.php/parent-survey before Friday 7th March 2014.

Why not complete the survey so that you enter the LUCKY Draw with these great prizes.....

1st Prize: $50 Uniform Voucher (at Totally Schoolwear)
2nd Prize: $30 Uniform Voucher (at Totally Schoolwear)
3rd Prize: $20 I-Tunes Voucher

Names of the lucky winners will feature in the next newsletter.

SA EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Nominations are now open for the 2014 SA Excellence in Public Education Awards.
Don’t miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional (ie teacher, leader and/or support staff officer) from Salisbury East High School to recognise and reward their dedicated and inspirational contribution to our students and school.
To nominate please go to www.decd.sa.gov.au/teachingawards before Thursday 10th April.