



**Athelstone  
School**

EXCELLENCE | RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | INTEGRITY

ISSUE 18 - 22nd November 2017

# Newsletter

## Diary Dates

### Year 7 Breakfast

Monday 27th November

### Reception Transition Visit 2

Wednesday 29th November  
9:00am - 11:00am

### Sports Presentation Night

Wednesday 29th November  
6:00pm

### AGM Governing Council

Tuesday 5th December  
6:30pm

### End of Year Concert

Thursday 7th December  
1:00pm

### Year 7 Graduation

Tuesday 12th December  
6:00pm

### Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 13th December

### 2018 Classroom Visit

Thursday 14th December  
10:45am - 11:15am

### Final Assembly and Year 7 Honour Guard

Friday 15th December  
1:30pm

### End of Term 4, early dismissal

Friday 15th December  
1:55pm

## Athelstone School

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### Principal

Juliette Cools

### Deputy Principal

Lorna Porter

### Governing Council

Chairperson

David Evans

## Staffing

I am very pleased to be able to confirm with the community that I will be returning to Athelstone in 2018 as the Deputy Principal, accepting the position for another five year tenure. I have had the opportunity recently to have a deep look at some other sites and sometimes it is not until you step outside that you realise just how fabulous things are on the inside. We are blessed with an amazing, peaceful and beautiful environment, fabulous children with a wonderful sense of energy, responsibility and enthusiasm for life, tremendous supportive parents and an incredibly dedicated staff team. I am delighted to be in a position to continue to build upon the momentum of the past few years and am very much looking forward to working in partnership with our incoming Principal to continue to support all the children, families and staff into the future as we realise our vision of being an exemplary, interdependent and compassionate learning community where expectations are high and achievements extraordinary.

We are still awaiting the outcome of the panel process for the incoming Principal and as soon as this is confirmed we will inform the community, we hope this will be before the end of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Lorna Porter for her dedication, support and good humour over the past two years whilst working in the role of Deputy Principal. Lorna has had an immense positive impact on the children, families and staff of Athelstone School and we have greatly appreciated her experience and wisdom. In 2018, Lorna will be taking up her previous position on the Year 6/7 teaching team.

## Reflection

Thank you to all parents who completed our on-line survey, sent to a random sample of the school population. We received 100 responses. We are very pleased to note that the survey once again reflects a very positive parent culture returning an average rating of between 4.0 and 5.0 for all aspects - responses can range from 1 (strongly disagree) and 5 (strongly agree).

The following strengths were highlighted:

- My child likes being at this school
- I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns
- My child feels safe at this school
- Teachers at this school expect my child to do his or her best

Our staff psychological health survey for 2017 also continues to provide a very positive reflection of the collegial and supportive staff culture at Athelstone School and continued commitment to school direction with 80% of staff responses to all aspects of the survey positive. Staff value the supportive leadership embedded within the school, they appreciate their role clarity, goal alignment, employee development and the high level of co-worker interaction they experience here.



**Room 15 Students at our  
ANZAC Memorial Garden**



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

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## 2017 Achievements

I would like to share with you a few key achievements for 2017. A more detailed summary will be provided in the annual report which will be available on the website early in 2018.

- Changes implemented from 2016 in the way we approach the teaching and learning of reading at Athelstone during the first half of reception are having a significant impact on student achievement. 2017 has seen an increase of 20% in the number of reception students at benchmark in reading by mid-year Reception and a drop from 21% to 5% of children at risk by mid-Year 1.
- Targeted intervention and quality differentiated guided reading instruction in all classrooms R-7 coupled with rigorous home reading, has resulted in 86% of all Year 3-7 students achieving the DECD Standard of Educational Achievement (SEA) in 2017 in PAT reading. This is a rise of 5% from 2016 and 10% from 2015.
- When examining cohort data, Year 7 PAT Reading results indicate that our current Year 7 cohort has demonstrated the most significant growth over the past 12 months with the number of students achieving the SEA increasing by 12% from their 2016 Year 6 results.
- We are very proud to report that 93% of our Year 5 students achieved the SEA in PAT-R in 2017 and 58% of our Year 3 students achieved the higher bands in NAPLAN reading.
- Our continued site focus on deep, quality professional learning in mathematics during the past 18 months combined with an embedded staff team culture of collaborative planning, assessment and moderation has resulted in tremendous improvement in mathematics outcomes for our children. In 2017 89% of all Year 3-7 students achieved the Standard of Educational Achievement (SEA) in PAT-M which is a rise of 14% from 2016, 26% from 2015 and 39% from 2013.
- We are very proud to note that 98% of our 2017 Year 5 students achieved the SEA in PAT Maths this year and NAPLAN numeracy data indicates that 49% of our Year 3 students and 44% of our Year 7 students attained the higher bands in 2017.
- In the Performing Arts arena this year, our School Choir again received an A grade and the band achieved a silver medal at the ABODA Music Festival 'Battle of Bands.' Over 100 students performed at our annual Gala Night with 25 students in the choir.
- Our student leaders have risen to the challenge of responsibility and have had a significant positive influence on student culture. These leaders make an enormous difference to the day to day running of our school and I would like to take this opportunity to say an enormous thank you to:
  - Oliver Burkin, Lachlan Roberts and the Media Team
  - Charlotte D'Ettorre, Tania Sudareva and the Sport & Healthy Lifestyles Team
  - Jaxson Cools, Tom Carroll and the Logistics Team
  - Cooper Mitchell, Sietske O'Connell and the Newspaper Team
  - Ilona Timko, Ayisha Salah and the Environment & Kitchen Garden Team
  - Jaime Woore, Alyssa Evans and the School Climate Team
  - Ollie Kamphuis, Aidan Keeble and the Young Scientists Team
- Our sporting achievements have been fabulous. Our students have had the opportunity to participate in the following SAPSASA events this year; Swimming, Touch Football, Cross Country, Athletics and Indoor and Outdoor Beach Volleyball. We were particularly successful in Beach volleyball where we entered 16 teams, in 9 Divisions. We competed in 9 Grand Finals, winning 9 Gold Medals and a Silver from an Athelstone v Athelstone Grand Final !! Congratulations to the following students who were selected for the SAPSASA Torrens River District &/or State Teams in 2017.
  - Oliver Burkin – Football, Cricket and Soccer
  - Ruby Willner – Netball
  - Charlotte D'Ettorre – Netball
  - Ayisha Salah – Cricket
  - James van Wyk – Touch Football
  - Tom Dell – Under 15 Volleyball SA Academy Team
  - Caitlin Patton - Under 15 Volleyball SA Academy Team

Achieve to the Best  
of Your Abilities



All the achievements listed above are outstanding – they would not be possible without three key ingredients:

- 1) Awesome kids
- 2) Supportive parents
- 3) Incredible teachers and support staff

Thank you to everyone in the community for your ongoing support of our children (Juliette Cools)

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## OSHC Vacation Care Program

The OSHC Program for the December / January school holidays is now available on our website or you can pick up a copy from the front office.

Our OSHC programme aims to provide fun, high quality care for children that complements the care provided within the family, and supports the values of the school and the community.

The program is available for children aged between 4 and 13 years of age. Friends from other schools can also attend.

OSHC is available Monday to Friday 7:15am to 6:15pm during the school holidays. The program is closed on public holidays. The cost for the day is \$50.50 for a home day and \$56.00 for days that include an excursion or incursion. Bookings for the up-coming school holiday program must be made by Monday 11th December.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Brooke Tran on 0437 521 251 or email [brooke.tran646@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:brooke.tran646@schools.sa.edu.au)

## Swimming Carnival

Our inaugural School Swimming Carnival will be held at Norwood Swimming Centre (Phillips Street, Kensington) on **Wednesday 13th December 2017**. This is a day of fun for our students in Years 3 to 7. All levels of swimming ability will be catered for with novelty races and competitive races. The cost for the event is \$20.00 which includes pool entry and transport by bus. We will leave the school at 8:30am SHARP and return to the school by 3:10pm.

Students should bring their recess, lunch and drink bottle. Sports team coloured clothing can be worn when students are not in the pool (please arrive at school wearing your bathers underneath). Please note hair colouring and face paints are **not** permitted to be worn due Norwood Swimming Centre Policy.

Suitable sun protection including hat, t-shirt and sunscreen are to be worn at all times when out of the pool.

Please bring a bag to carry everything in (plastic bags for wet gear), towel, goggles and swimming cap (if needed). Please label all belongings.

If you have not already done so, please return the permission form and payment of \$20.00 to the front office ASAP.



**You're invited!**  
**Athelstone School Sports Presentation Night**  
*Join us to celebrate the achievements of our basketball, cricket, football, soccer, netball and volleyball teams!*



**Date:** Wednesday, November 29th, 2017  
**Time:** 6pm for pizza and a drink\* with presentations starting at 6:30pm  
**Where:** John Poole Hall, Athelstone School

\*One slice of pizza and one Fruit Box will be supplied complimentary to each of our after-school sports players  
Please note: There *may* be a limited amount of pizza and drinks for purchase on the night for extra family members attending

**We welcome all our Athelstone and Paradise Primary players and hope to see you there!**



Athelstone School

Athelstone School Christmas Concert

**Christmas Around the World**



**Thursday 7th December at 1:00pm**

John Poole Hall

Gold Coin Donation Appreciated

Athelstone School

## Governing Council Report

The Governing Council's Assets & Policy Sub-Committee secured a \$10,000 grant through the Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI) Way2Go Wheels Hub Fund. The condition of the grant was that the funds were to be used to support active school travel.



It was decided to spend the grant on lining the existing bike shed, upgrading the roller door and purchasing fit for purpose bike and scooter racks.

On Sunday 12 November a group of Governing Council members and their partners assembled the racks and installed them into the upgraded shed adjacent the OSHC studio.

Students now have 28 bike racks and 21 scooter racks to store their wheels in a secure, weather proof area when riding to school, promoting a greener and more active form of travel. An outside lockable bike rack catering for another 12 bikes has also been installed adjacent the Torrens Building.

## Twilight Fete

Last month's Twilight Fete was a huge success, bringing the community together, showcasing the fantastic classroom stalls and raising \$7,570.

These funds will be used in 2018 to purchase essential educational resources and assets that are not funded by DECD. Months of hard work and planning went into the event to ensure its success and it would not have been possible without the support of the school community.



A big thank you to all involved



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

If you would like to be involved in the Governing Council or any of the Sub-committees please join us in the staff room for the Governing Council Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 5 December at 6:30pm.

There are 8 Governing Council positions available, including 6 re-nominations for a two year tenure starting Term 1 2018. Each Sub-committee is also looking for new members. Nominations close Friday 1 December; forms have been emailed to parents/caregivers and are also available from the front office.

## Movember

You may have noticed that November is a 'hairy' month for three teachers at Athelstone School.

Mr Farmer, Mr Wait and Mr Mitton have put the shaver aside and decided to 'grow the mo' for the month of Movember.

Men die on average six years earlier than women. You can be the difference, and help us change this startling stat.

By participating in Movember we are hoping to raise a little money but above all else raise awareness for men's health, as we all have or know very important men in our lives.

You can place a donation in the jar at the front office or by visiting the website;

<https://au.movember.com/team/2287110?mc=14>

"Let it grow!"



# MOVEMBER

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## Transition to High School

Transition to High School can be an incredibly exciting as well as scary time. Below are a few tips to help families who are in the process of transitioning their child to high school from Dr Justin Coulson.

*If you were like most parents, there were a few tears. You waved goodbye to your little one and wondered how it all happened so fast. At the school for that first day, you probably noticed how BIG the students in their final year of primary school were. Scary big!*

*Now your child is that big too. Primary school will wrap up with graduation ceremonies, dinners and parties. And the nervous anticipation will set in as summer holidays give way to your child's first day at high school. You never imagined that you would be old enough to have a high school-aged child. The 20 or so years since you were there have gone too fast for this to be real.*

*Now your child is feeling anxious. There may be many, many reasons for them to feel like this. They're going into a new environment with new students, new teachers, a new way of 'doing' school. High school is much bigger. They'll be smaller than everyone again. They may know a small handful of students going to the new school. They've heard stories about terrible things that happen to new, young, students at high school.*

*It is normal and natural for a child (and parents) to feel anxious about starting a new school, and particularly making the transition to high school.*

*Here's how you can work with your child to make the transition a successful one:*

### **Allow choice**

As much as possible, give your child a voice in selecting the school that will be most comfortable. Some families will have more choice than others due to financial, academic, sports or arts considerations, but when our children feel that they do have some say in what school they attend, they will feel more confident about the fresh start. Differing opinions offer opportunities to understand one another. Try to understand why your child may feel particularly strongly toward one school over another, and consider whether you should be flexible or firm on your particular stance.

### **Listen and understand**

Don't instruct. Have you ever been anxious about something and had someone look at you and tell you "Don't be worried about it"? How did it make you feel? Probably even more concerned. Regardless of the good intentions of the speaker, it probably felt like your emotions were unimportant, irrelevant and ought to be disregarded. You may have felt judged or foolish. If your child is concerned, reassuring them that, "You'll be right. There's nothing to be nervous about" will reduce their feelings to foolishness. Your child may feel judged, even questioning whether those feelings are right.

Instead, children need us to listen to them. Of course, not all kids want to talk. But spending time simply being available, going for walks (or ice-cream), and listening will make a far greater impact. Once you feel like you have listened and understood, you still don't need to tell them what to do. Instead it can be useful to ask, "What can we do about it?" This recognises your child as being capable of developing answers for himself. It helps him assert some independence and make his own decisions. It builds confidence and reduces anxiety.

### **Help your child find the adventure**

If the pending changes seem disconcerting to your child and spending time listening is going nowhere, it can be helpful to reframe the upcoming changes as an adventure. Asking your child about how he adapted to previous changes and emphasising what worked well in the past can be helpful. When your child sees high school as a new series of opportunities to make new friends, learn new skills (woodworking, computer programming), and utilise strengths in new ways, the possibility of adventure can soften the anxiety your child feels.

### **Get to know the high school**

Most high schools will welcome a call from a concerned parent of an anxious future student, and will encourage visits to become familiar with the school, the teachers, and even the way the school operates. Many schools take students from their final term of primary school and host an orientation day, giving them a taste of high school life. Attending school meetings and spending some time at the school can help your child develop a familiarity with the school, and relationships with students and teachers, that will reduce anxiety and be a benefit when high school starts.

Most children are excited "and just a little bit nervous" about making the transition from primary school to high school. They already have a reasonable idea of what to expect thanks to the hard work done by high schools, as well as the varied stories that filter down into the primary schools. As parents, it's our job to support, guide and understand our children as they make the transition. There will be butterflies in stomachs on Day One (your children might have them as well!). But with your support, most children will make the adjustment to the bigger environment, an expanded circle of friends, an enlarged and more independent workload, and new opportunities, in a relatively short period of time.

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**PLAYERS WANTED!**

**Tea Tree Gully City Soccer Club**

Registration Now Open – 2018

Female Soccer Players wanted

The TTGCSC are looking for players for our All Female teams in the age groups of – U/13, U/15 & U/17

We also have our mixed teams for the ages of U/4 – U/18

Player of all abilities are welcome to join, have fun and develop your skills.

If you are interested in playing soccer next season and would like to secure a spot please contact our registrars today.

**Kirsty Paull on [kirstypaull@outlook.com](mailto:kirstypaull@outlook.com)**

**Rach Robbins on [rachrobb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rachrobb@bigpond.net.au)**



**Rostrevor Tennis Club**

**School Holiday Tennis Clinic**

**Monday 18 to Thursday 21 December 2017**

Holiday clinics are suitable for all ages and skill levels, as kids are divided into groups according to age and ability level.

Participants will need to bring along a racquet, hat, snack and water bottle.

**This Holiday Clinic will run Monday 18 to Thursday 21 December from 9.30am until 12 noon daily at Rostrevor Tennis Club - 42 Jenkins Avenue, Rostrevor.**

**Cost of the clinic is \$125 - book your place today!**

**How to Book**

Contact Todd to book your place on 0414 014 566 or email [todd@toddperrytennisacademy.com.au](mailto:todd@toddperrytennisacademy.com.au)



**ROSTREVOR TENNIS CLUB**  
42 Jenkins Ave, Rostrevor



Athelstone School



**Food Drive**

27th Nov. to 11th Dec.



Bring along a non-perishable food item or gift to help those in need this Christmas.

All gifts will be donated to the Salvation Army.



**Karin's Corner**

Dear parents,

As Christmas approaches, it's always a great idea to think of those less fortunate, and to help out where we can.

As a school, we want to recognise the great work the Salvation Army does for those in the community. Once again we are thrilled to be able to help out with a Christmas Food drive. This will help make up hampers to be delivered to needy families in our area.

It's also a great way to show our children the importance of thinking of others. Perhaps include them in deciding what to bring along. A good way to is to think about what you would like to see on your table on Christmas Day. Make sure it's a non-perishable item and something that will be useful to a family in need and more importantly, something that will make them smile.

Each class will have a container for your child to place an item of food or a gift into. The food items will then be bought over to the front office to be displayed under the Christmas tree, so come along and check it out!

Food gifts can be donated from Monday 27th November until Monday 11th December.

All the best and thanks in advance for your donations.

Karin Williams (PCW)



# Room 1

At Athelstone School, the younger students build relationships early with the older students through 'buddy classes'. Each class has a 'buddy class' where the older students help the younger students in the classroom and out in the yard.

At the end of Term 3, Rooms 1 & 13 cooked pizzas together.

This term, Rooms 1 & 13 are working together to make Christmas tree decorations, Christmas Concert hanging displays and practising their Christmas Concert song together.

