PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Armadale SHS has two grand flag poles in the main quadrangle. They have been used on hundreds of occasions over our 53 year old history.

Due to funding provided by the Federal Government, the flagpoles have been restored to their pristine glory. They have a coating of glistening white paint & new stainless steel ropes have been installed. The school is deeply grateful for the assistance.

Scholarships for 2006

Armadale SHS traditionally offers four scholarships each year to Year 7 students who plan to enrol as year 8 students the following year. Because Information Communication Technology (computing) now sits beside Literacy as a school priority, the school has decided to offer an ICT Scholarship to Year 10 students who will enter year 11 the following year.

Each scholarship is worth $300.00. This amount remains with the school and is deducted from the cost of fees, charges, uniform and stationery of scholarship winners.

The scholarships are:
• Academic
• Art
• Citizenship
• Music
• ICT (for Year 10)

A brilliant idea

We all know of the importance of Science and we all want our children to have a first class Science education. This cannot happen unless you have high quality Science teachers who love their subject area and who are tuned in to the world of scientific research. But how can busy teachers keep in touch with research?

By engaging in SPICE – the word chosen for a secondary teachers’ enrichment program formed between the Department of Education and Training and the University of WA.

ASHS proudly identifies with SPICE, because it was Bob Fitzpatrick, our Head of the Science Learning Area, who was chosen to set up SPICE this year. Because of Bob’s drive and enthusiasm for Science Education, the program is now operating.

SPICE will provide the unprecedented professional ‘spark’ that all good teachers need, because they will be able to take part in a one-school-term Teacher in Residence (TIR) at UWA. The idea is to allow them to work beside UWA scientists and explore the vast world of scientific research and see how it can be applied to our modern classrooms.

These teachers will also work with professional multi media designers to produce ‘state of the art’ learning resources for all Science teachers to share.

As the program evolves, Science teachers will be offered an expanding range of opportunities to engage in workshops, seminars and university campus events. All of these experiences are intended to stimulate teachers and strengthen the communication and collaboration between teachers, students and UWA scientists.

Scholarships are intended to attract talented students to a school. Our 2006 year 8 winners are a fine reflection upon their primary schools and their families. They are shown above (L-R) Rachel Foucar (Music), Scott Barker (Art), Blake Smith (Academic) and Heidi Blundy (Citizenship).

Information and application forms have been forwarded to Year 7 teachers for distribution to interested students. The forms are also available at the school Reception Desk. We are happy to forward copies in the mail.

The closing date for applications is Friday 3 November.
OUR PUBLIC IMAGE

During week 5 of third term, about 300 Year 7 students from our 10 feeder primary schools, spent a few hours with us. Some of these Year 7’s will enrol at Armadale SHS, and others will enter private schools - or public schools offering special programs. We expect to enrol about 160 of them. This is 40 – 50 students less than this great old school deserves.

Choosing a school can be difficult for some parents. For others, it is a very straightforward decision. So often, it is perceptions which tips the balance in favour of one school over another. The sorts of perceptions held by members of the community towards Armadale SHS, have been revealed over a number of years by our year 10 Student Action Research for University Access (SARUA) students. For example, in one survey, parents were asked, “What is your opinion of ASHS?”

About 50% of responses were very positive eg. “There is a positive atmosphere at the school”. However, about 30% of responses were negative eg. “Students dress slovenly” and, “It’s a good school, but needs work on image”.

When ‘good news’ stories are taken home by students, our public image grows. Parents feel increasingly confident about the school and they speak supportively about it. The word spreads.

ASHS works hard to build its public image. This is why the subject of school uniform appears so often in ‘ASHES’. We know that the perception people hold for a school is deeply influenced by the extent to which students wear a uniform. We may agree or disagree with school uniform, but the fact remains that it is very much part of how people view a school.

But a sound public image does not only influence enrolments. It has a direct influence upon people associated with the school. Genuine pride blossoms. Students participate enthusiastically. They endear themselves to their school. Members of staff are much more willing to ‘put in the extra yard’. Many more parents believe that it is their responsibility to get involved.

Public image is very important. It can take many years to develop and can be lost quickly. For this reason, we are quite intolerant of anyone who would damage our image.

Best wishes
Joe Kalajzich
Principal

This has been an exciting year for teachers and students of Home Economics, because the department has begun delivering ‘competency’ based training. As the term suggests, students are required to demonstrate that they are competent over a wide range of knowledge and skill areas.

Early Childhood students are working towards their Certificate 2 in Community Service with teacher Ms Shabana Tagore. Shabana has joined with teaching colleagues John Brett, Neville Bettridge and Wade Norman to achieve their Certificate 4 in Workplace Training and Assessment. They hope to achieve this important qualification by the conclusion of this year.

In 2007, Home Economics will offer Certificate 2 in Community Service and Certificate 1 in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations).

Because of the exciting initiatives in Home Economics, we were recently visited by representatives of National Corporate Training. This is a Nationally Registered Training Organisation which oversees and validates our delivery of Competencies & Certificates in Community Service, Hospitality & Information Technology.

ASHS students benefited from the visit because they were briefed on how competencies are gained and the requirements needed to do so. It’s all ‘full steam ahead’ – and our students are the winners.

Structured Work Place Learning

Year twelve student, Jaimi-Lee Smithers, assists Tanya Kirby, Manager of Byford Unisex Hair Company, during one of her twelve days of work placement within the ASHS Structured Work-place Learning Program. Jaimi is hoping to gain an apprenticeship in hairdressing or to continue her studies at TAFE next year.

Byford Unisex Hair Company is one of many employers who support our students in the workplace and this support is greatly appreciated.

John Brett
SWL Coordinator

Students in the Real World

Early Childcare Students
(L) Melinda Edenburg & Caitlin Turner applying CPR to a virtual baby

Chloe Riches pictured here putting her childcare skills into practise

Daniel Axford (L), Joshua Matheson and Daniel Green thoroughly enjoy the musical experience they have at school. ASHS is an important part of their life and we are confident they speak well of it.
IN BRIEF

- New whiteboards and pin up boards are being fitted throughout the school. This is possible because of the federally funded ‘Investing in Our Schools’ program.
- We are very concerned about the state of our ovals. The rough surfaces are unsafe to play such games as hockey, where a ball can be deflected and cause injury. The matter is before the School Council. The safety of staff and students cannot be compromised. This is why the school chose to spend over $20,000 of the $150,000 to be allocated by the ‘investing in Our Schools program’ to upgrading our four large stairwells. They are now safe (and attractive).
- You may have heard our new ‘on hold’ telephone message. Music has been removed and replaced by a professionally produced, informative 6 minute presentation about the many features of ASHS.
- ASHS is deeply concerned about dwindling revenue through Voluntary Contributions and Charges. It is this funding that is used to sustain our teaching and learning program. Some metropolitan secondary schools receive around 95% of their entitlement. The figure received by ASHS is well short of this.
- The school will present three programs to District office in an endeavour to win awards to be announced at the annual ‘Celebrating Canning Breakfast’. All are high quality initiatives of real value to our students. We are confident of success!
- ASHS is an ‘Asthma Friendly’ school. We have held this status for a number of years. For this reason, propellant deodorisers are strictly banned in the school, because of the extreme discomfort they cause asthma sufferers. The deodorisers will be confiscated if brought to school.
- Enrolment patterns in Senior School courses throughout WA have changed for 2007. There is a trend away from LOTE & Social Sciences, Media, Computing, Engineering & P.E. Studies are popular.
- A survey conducted at ASHS by Joan Adderley, the Convenor of the Curriculum Implementation Committee, showed that most teachers feel confident about making judgements on student outcomes.
- A large brick reinforcing wall at ASHS has been deemed potentially dangerous, due to cracking. Deep holes have been drilled at the base to release any accumulated ground water. A major reconstruction will take place.
- Although we no longer have a large school band, our music program continues to operate well. Each school assembly features student performances. For example, our recent assembly involved Josh Matheson (solo drums) and Marie Johnson (solo flute).
- The school is clearly focussed on maximising the performance of our senior students and we anticipate a graduation rate of about 95%. Our work with DET’s Senior Schooling Academic Standards (SSAS) unit is intended to give our students the best chances of success.

A PROUD MOMENT - 100 Club

Thirty family members joined with us to witness the induction of 20 students into the 2006 100 Club for second term.

Membership of the club is reserved for students who teachers believe give 100% effort in a specific area eg. Math, English, Student Services. Once a student has been inducted into the club, they cannot be nominated again in any one year. Twenty members are inducted each term.

Deputy Principal Michael White was our guest speaker. Mr White replaced Senior Sergeant Warwick Lipscombe, officer in charge of the Armadale Police Station who had to respond to an emergency and could not be with us. The school community warmly congratulates the new 100 Club Members.

Deputy Principal Michael White with new members of the 100 Club

100 CLUB: SECOND TERM, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Ashton</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Languages other than English (Japanese)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Ashton</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Languages other than English (Japanese)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Mackenzie</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Student Services</td>
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<td>Melissa Mullins</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Student Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Ingram</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Taitiarna Brown</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Miller</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlin Spowart</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsty Duncan</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Armadale Education Support Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Peake</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Armadale Education Support Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Murphy</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Briggs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Johnson</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Society and Environment (SWL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Johnson</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Society and Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Cottrell</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Bennett</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chloe Smith</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Technology and Enterprise (Home Ec')</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chloe Desmond</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Technology and Enterprise (Home Ec')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Barker</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>The Arts (Visual Arts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Jeffries</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>The Arts (Media)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
English

A major aspect of English that is covered during class is speaking and listening skills. One way of displaying these skills is by participating in debates. In class, we discussed possible controversial topics, before deciding which ones would be used. We decided on these four topics: whaling should be banned, euthanasia should be legalized, Australian scientists should be better known than our sports stars, and solar power should be our main source of energy.

Once we chose what debate we were going to take part in and which we were going to argue for, we started researching. Through both library and computer resources, our speeches began to take form. Mr Kalajzich was an adjudicator for us, so everyone made sure they were ready. One by one throughout that week, each debate was presented. Mrs Jury, our English teacher, has assessed us on our debating skills. I took part in the debate topic ‘Whaling Should Be Banned’ and was on the positive team. Since I had previously done debating at primary school, this wasn’t a difficult task.

By Marie Johnson

Science

In science we are currently learning about geology. We have learnt that there are three different types of rocks, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.

Our class conducted an investigation into the formation of igneous rocks on Earth. We mixed a solution of saturated potassium nitrate and potassium nitrate and left for a few days. We conducted three tests of this investigation and came up with three different results.

The second investigation we conducted concerned weathering and breaking down of sedimentary rocks. The first test was ‘which rock weathered the easiest’, next was ‘which solution weathers rock the fastest’ and finally ‘which rock breaks down fastest when subjected to heat and cold’.

These investigation are carried out by the students with minimal help from the teacher. We write our own investigations down which included an aim, hypothesis, equipment, method, results and discussion.

By Jordan Green

Maths

As part of our Maths class we have been studying angles and measurement. Once we have mastered the theory we have been looking at the practical use of the maths. We have put into practice by measuring and relating the maths to a basketball court, and other aspects of everyday life.

By Seth Woolley

Society and Environment

We have been looking at law in our S & E class. As part of this we have been doing a report on juvenile crime, its causes and what can be done to reduce it. We will be surveying people to gather information and then use this data to develop our solutions. We will also be visiting Fremantle Gaol next term and conducting a mock political election.

By Amanda Kow
As our Year 12 students enter the final phase of their secondary schooling, Mr Ken Cook, a long standing Mathematics teacher at ASHS and currently, year 12 Coordinator, has introduced some information sessions which look beyond school and concern the safety of our fledgling graduates.

One such session focussed on the RAC. Susan De Francesco spoke to our 12’s about ‘Free 2 Go’ – a three year membership package which targets 17 year old Year 12 students. The first year of membership is free – and students receive the normal benefits that we associate with the RAC. They are offered half price membership for years two and three. Membership was automatically activated for those of our students who had gained ‘P’ Plates and who filled out membership forms on the day. Those of our Year 12’s who were already members, were not denied. They could credit membership for years two and three of the deal.

While one could simply regard this initiative as ‘hard’ sell by the RAC, it must be recognised that many Year 12 students will take to the roads before the conclusion of the year. So often, they drive cars which have seen better days. It is reassuring for parents to know that road side assistance will be available, should a mechanical problem develop.

‘Leavers Week’ is also approaching fast. Mr Cook has planned to invite representatives from the Ambulance Service and Police Service to speak to students about how they can have fun – and return home safe and sound.

Forgiveness is not about justice. It is not fair to forgive someone who has not treated you with Respect. Forgiveness is not about feelings. Most times you do not feel like forgiving someone who has hurt you. Forgiveness is an act of your will. Forgiveness is a choice.... I choose to forgive. To forgive is to let go of your feelings of anger and desire for revenge towards those who have hurt you (physical or emotional) and not treated you with Respect. We are often encouraged to ‘forgive and forget’, but it is impossible to forget. Therefore, it would be better to say; ‘choose to forgive and let go’. Why should we choose to forgive someone and let go of the feelings of bitterness and resentment. Forgiveness is an act of your will for your own well being and peace of mind. Forgiveness allows us to let go of the past, so our past doesn't have to influence our present and our future. To ‘choose to forgive and let go’ is crucial to managing and controlling anger.
SPORT SNIPPETS

HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Wednesday, September 6th, ASHS held its annual House Athletic Carnival. A perfect sunny day ensured great participation and plenty of spirit. Congratulations to Aaron Oliver (Yr 10) in setting a new record in the boys 15yrs 200m sprint – 23.97secs.

Well done to our captain and vice captains who arrived early and assisted in setting up. Also, our Hospitality students did a fantastic job in keeping staff well nourished.

Results are as follows:

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

LEO: 2963 1ST
AQUARIUS: 2755 2ND
GEMINI: 2415 3RD
TAURUS: 2060 4TH

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL—200—Individual Champions

13 yrs Boy Champion: Luke Depiazzi LEO 126pts
Runner-up: Jesse Whittaker TAURUS 102pts
13 yrs Girls Champion: Samantha Higgin AQUARIUS 140pts
Runner-up: Tameka Perkins GEMINI 134pts
14yrs Boys Champion: Daniel Axford LEO 116pts
Runner-up: Krys Clarke LEO 109pts
14yrs Girls Champion: Amy Spark TAURUS 147pts
Runner-up: Tareha Lake GEMINI 146pts
15yrs Boys Champion: Michael Coleman LEO 148pts
Runner-up: Clinton Keeley AQUARIUS 132pts
15yrs Girls Champion: Rebecca Jones AQUARIUS 143pts
Runner-up: Belinda Edwards LEO 133pts
16yrs Boys Champion: Joshua Thatcher TAURUS 119pts
Runner-up: Mark Haynes AQUARIUS 118pts
16yrs Girls Champion: Emily Sharp TAURUS 161pts
Runner-up: Brooke Dobson LEO 87pts
17yrs Boys Champion: Alex Finch AQUARIUS 120pts
Runner-up: Chris Capao LEO 117pts
17yrs Girls Champion: Nicky Hall AQUARIUS 148pts
Runner-up: Ashlea Young TAURUS 145pts

Students received raffle tickets for participating in each event. Luke Rogers carried off the major prize - a dart board. Plenty of other prizes carrying the ‘Smarter Than Smoking’ message were given out to excited students.

The Interschool Athletics Team will now be selected and represent Armadale at the Divisional Carnival to be held at Perry Lakes Stadium on Monday, October 23.

Gary Seers
Head of Health and Physical Education
The Armadale Senior High School Industry program (IP) is growing from strength to strength. Participating Year 11 students are enjoying considerable success. As the year rolls out, these industry bound students have acquired invaluable skills in our ‘state of the art’ workshops and computing area.

This innovative and largely school based program was formally presented to a large group of educators at Notre Dame University conference. IP has enormous potential for retaining senior students of both genders at school, while motivating them to roll up their sleeves and be skilled up in a way that industry values very highly. Schools recognize this and those with workshop facilities are keen to ‘get on board’.

IP has been presented and applauded at a Community Forum in the City of Armadale. Visiting dignitaries such as Alanah MacTiernan MLA and Don Randall MHR have voiced strong approval for the program. We have been offered support in the form of traineeships and apprenticeships by industry.

The few students who left the program in 2006 have slipped into traineeships and apprenticeships.

We will soon begin the review process of the Industry Program for 2007. During this process we will use information gained during 2006 from participating students, teachers, industry and our Registered Training Organisation to further improve our delivery, assessment and outcomes so that the program continues to lead in providing the best and most appropriate industry training.

Garry Mayfield
Head of Technology & Enterprise and VET Coordinator

Mr Ken Cook (L), ASHS Year 12 Coordinator and Mathematics teacher, for being awarded life membership of the Perth District Development Council (Australian Rules Football). Ken earned this prestigious award because he gave 20 years to the administration of our great Australian game for over 20 years.

Joshua Spowart (C) of Year 8. Joshua was a member of a gold medal winning Armadale PCYC Air Rifle team which competed recently in the State Championships. Joshua has been shooting for about two years. Proud Coach Colin Parker said that his team used 0.177 mm rifles over a 10 metre distance. He added that Joshua and his team mates thoroughly deserved their success.

Ashlea Young (R) of Year 12. Ashlea studies TEE Art through the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE), because ASHS did not have the required number of TEE Art students to form a class. She was one of three Year 12 SIDE students whose work has been selected for entry into the Quest for Excellence Young Originals Exhibition. Her successful abstract painting is entitled Autumn. Ashlea has a deep love of Art and has plans to be an Art teacher.
Ros Avery, our Teacher Librarian and Neil Greeve, the Head of the English Learning Area, organised a visit to ASHS by noted author of children’s books, Justin D’Arth. Justin grew up in New Zealand and wrote his first book (about his pet turtle) when he was eleven! His first published work was a monthly cartoon strip. He worked at a variety of jobs, including car building, fruit picking and in a sugar mill and iron ore mine. He also studied to be a priest. Justin has written many books for children and has taught Professional Writing and Editing at TAFE in Victoria.

During his time with us, Justin spoke of and read some of the many books he had written — books such as ‘The Upside Down Girl’, ‘Echidna Mania’, ‘Why did Chykkan Cross the Galaxy?’, ‘Crocodile Attack’, ‘Sniwt (twins)’ and ‘Shark Bait’. He also gave tips on writing. For example, he told us that if a book is to be action packed, it must lots of minor problems which need sorting out. But it must also have a major problem to deal with.

Justin is a very clever and entertaining writer and good humoured and very entertaining speaker. Our Library is well stocked with his books. All students were most attentive and those who love reading will remember his visit for many years.

(Above) Justin told students that his grandfather’s name was Mr Death. However, this was an unfortunate name, because he was also a doctor. Dr Death was not a very reassuring name for his patients. So the ‘e’ was removed and the surname ‘D’Arth’ came to be.

SARUA / Perth Children Court Visit

On the 8th of September, ten students from the Student Action Research University Access (SARUA) Project were invited by Dr Sue Gordon to visit the Perth Children Court, and undertake an interview with her regarding her university experiences.

During the visit Dr Gordon gave the students a guided tour of the building and its facilities, and after the tour, Stacey Eddington then conducted a videotaped interview with Dr Gordon in one of the court rooms. The interview was designed to elicit information from Dr Gordon about her schooling at Armadale District High; her university studies and how her studies at university have changed her life and career path. i.e. Magistrate at the Perth Children Court.

All the SARUA students agreed that the visit was very educational and they all gained a good insight into how university studies can assisted the development of a person’s life and career.

The ten students who attended the visit were:
Troy Davies; Renee Chiera; Stephanie Hislop; Stacey Eddington; Lev Vdovin; Jacqueline Briggs; Taleah Radcliff; Kerrie Christian; Emma Yandle; and Justine Thomas.

Dr Sue Gordon (L-R), Stacey Eddington, Kerrie Christian

An ongoing Japanese presence

ASHS was home to Isa Nishiguchi during the final four weeks of third term. Isa is 20 year old Momoyama University student who is studying to be a teacher of Japanese Language when she graduates. Isa works as a part time receptionist at her local aquatic centre and is a great movie goer and sports fan.

Kurt Regan, teacher of Japanese at ASHS, welcomed Isa as a voluntary Teaching Assistant. She taught the wonderful art of origami to our students and helped them with written and conversational Japanese.

Isa’s presence at ASHS came shortly after our visit by students from Minato Sohgo High School. Our students have now become accustomed to a Japanese presence at school. We believe that this has been one of a number of factors which encouraged 59 Year 8 students who saw the value in choosing Japanese Language as an elective in 2007.

Isa loved the experience & spoke of the very friendly students and staff who she met during her brief stay. She has also found living in an Australian cultural environment to be fascinating. We now await the arrival of another Japanese person to work in our classrooms and in doing so, deepen the close relationship which has now been forged between ASHS and Japan.