29 May 2012

Principals Report

As usual the second term has started with a flurry of activity. The School Development Day on Monday 23rd April was held at Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Unit in Fremantle where a team of academic experts and others worked with all of our staff, teachers, education assistants, gardeners and cleaners on issues of Sustainability and the Carbon Neutral Project.

The opening address by Professor Peter Newman presented an interesting overview on how cities and countries around the world are working to minimise their carbon foot-print. Two of the CUSP PhD students, Sam Hall and Vanessa Rauland outlined how they measured our carbon output and local South Freo identity Sharni Graham looked at ways of living a sustainable life. Ingrid Jansen Neeling from HotRock worked with the staff on curriculum ideas for students. It was a great day and we are appreciative of the time and expertise that all of these people kindly provided to the school.

On the 8th May we held the Reporting to Parents forum. This was the most successful parent/teacher session I have seen at South Fremantle SHS. The response from parents was outstanding with all of my teachers reporting a significantly increased turn-out of parents. Many teachers were still meeting with parents at 6.30 that evening. Thankyou to all parents and guardians who attended.

I have included information about the Beacon Foundation in previous newsletters. This group assists Year 10 students to clearly focus on career options and the education pathways required, giving students great hands on experiences to build their skills and confidence. Some of the activities this term have included a Speed Careering workshop (like speed dating!), Polish (a grooming and confidence building program for girls and boys) and visits to business and industry. There will be more detailed report in the next newsletter.

We are about to embark upon Semester 1 exams for Year 11 & 12 students. This is a vital time for students as the report that goes home at the end of term is the last school report Year 12 students receive. Students will receive a Statement of Results from the Curriculum Council at the end of the year and this lists all subjects and grades and any other vocational achievements during their time at school.

The focus for Year 11 students after these exams will be to reflect on how well they are going. We will work with students to identify if they have achieved their potential in the courses they are currently studying and review whether they need to change their course of study for Year 12.

The goal is to have all students achieving a level of success that enables them to confidently pursue further education or training at the end of Year 12.

Year 10 students will also be undertaking exams shortly. It is extremely important that students prepare themselves well for these exams as they will contribute to the course marks that a student will receive at the end of Semester 1.

The report that goes home with the Year 10 students forms the basis for subject selection for Year 11 in 2012. Students need to achieve prerequisite grades to be accepted into the various Courses of Study.

I wish all students success during this period.

Kind Regards

Geri Hardy
Principal

Your Child Needs to Have an Attendance Rate of 90% or Better

A child is considered to be “at education risk” if their attendance is less than 90%.

If a child has one day off school a week, over 5 years they will have missed a whole year of school.
Having an attendance rate of 90% or below seriously affects a child’s chances of being successful at school and impacts their chances of having a successful life.

I would appreciate families working with us to ensure that their child’s attendance is treated seriously; that absences are only for genuine reasons of ill health and that if families need assistance from us in this matter that our staff are contacted early.

I understand that at times students may need to be absent from school for other reasons and this should be discussed with the school in order to support students while absent.

The Director General, Department of Education issued a statement to school principals that parents should be informed that attendance of children at school is a priority and must be improved overall. It is not acceptable for students to be taken out of school to be taken on holiday.

Please contact the Manager Student Services Ms Sue Haskett, Deputy Principal Mr Neil Freckelton (Years 8, 9) or Deputy Principal Mr Chris Fraser (Year 10-12) if you require support or need to discuss your child’s attendance at school.

Parent Evening

The first parent evening was held on Tuesday 8th May. We are pleased to say that we had an excellent turn out of parent with most staff fully booked for the evening. For those parents unable to attend on the evening and still wish to meet with teachers please contact the school to arrange a phone interview with the teachers required. On behalf of the South Fremantle SHS staff I would like to thank all of the parents who attended the evening and pass on our appreciation of their support for the school.

The next Parent Evening will be held 31st July 2012 after the mid-year reports have been issued. These will be posted home during the last week of this term.

Respectful Relationships Workshops

All students in the school will have the opportunity to attend the Respectful Relationships Workshops being run through Student Services. Information and permission slips have already gone home to Lower School students and Upper School students and parents will be receiving this shortly.

The workshops that have occurred so far have so far have been well received by the students and the presenters have congratulated our students as being one of the best behaved schools they have presented to

Senior School Examinations

The semester 1 senior school examinations for year 11 and 12 students studying stage 2 or 3 courses commence on Tuesday May 29th. The examinations continue each day through to Friday June 8th.

All examinations will be held in the School Hall, unless the students are studying a course at a partnership school, where their examination will occur.

The examination results all carry weight toward students’ first semester marks and it is essential that students are prepared to perform at their best in these assessments.

Senior School semester 1 reports will be sent home in the week of June 18, and semester 2 Units commence from June 11.

Marine Studies

The Marine and Maritime programme, has again had a bust start to the term with our Yr 8’s and 9’s getting into some open water snorkelling and have been blessed with some fantastic winter weather. The Yr 10’s have been doing their Level One Canoeing Award, down at Bicton Baths, and have braved some very tough weather!

After completing some great SCUBA dives in term one, the Yr 11’s are now completing their National Powerboat Handling Scheme Certification. This term will culminate with the Yr 10 and 11 groups doing a week long expedition to Coral Bay – how exciting!

“Year 9’s snorkelling Sue’s Groin at Coogee.”

“Year 11’s preparing to dive the ‘Robb’s Jetty Dive Site’ (lots of stingers that day!)”

Marine Debris Surveys

South Fremantle Senior High School’s Marine Studies teacher Julie Miller, was one of a group of teachers involved in a research project to better understand marine debris and protect Australia’s marine wildlife.

The project involved teachers joining scientists from the CSIRO and the University of Queensland on a number of surveys including beach cleans, trawl and snorkel surveys, turtle necropsies and laboratory work.

Ms Miller will take this opportunity to pass on her knowledge to the students, involving them in the conducting of surveys on our local beaches and recording the information directly back into the marine debris data base.

Marine Studies at SFSHS: A recent student’s perspective

I was involved in the Marine Studies course at South Fremantle Senior High School, from year eight through to year twelve. This course has inspired me to continue studying the marine environment outside of school. I was amazed by the amount of information I learned from this course. We studied the limestone and coral reefs and learnt all about them, then being able to actually go and SCUBA dive at Rottnest and Exmouth to see all of these amazing reefs, really encouraged me to continue my involvement in the conservation of our marine environment.

Through the turtle work we did while visiting Exmouth, we learned all about these amazing creatures and their endangerment, and we were lucky enough to dive with turtles while doing a SCUBA course on the Ningaloo Reef. We studied those strange creatures called Whalesharks – actually the largest FISH in the ocean.

The marine program offers the students to complete their Open Water SCUBA certificate, and I was so excited to complete this. However, unfortunately my lungs were not yet developed enough to dive with turtles. I was so devastated by this and could not believe that I was going to be unable to SCUBA dive with my classmates. I was so determined to get my certification I worked on expanding my lungs, and 6 months later I went for a second medical to find...
out I could finally SCUBA dive. I was determined to catch up with my class, I went in my own time and completed the course. I was so proud of myself at this time, and could not believe it.

This course has a lot of theory, tests and assignments, however, actually being able to do practical work such as diving, boating and archaeology really made the experience fun whilst we learnt.

In year 12 we also completed our ADVANCED SCUBA course.

After completing the Marine Maritime course at South Fremantle High School I was determined to continue on. One of my best friends and I decided to apply for a marine conservation expedition in the Seychelles with a company called Global Vision International.

The Seychelles is a tiny island of the east coast of Africa, it is surrounded by coral reefs and full of amazing marine life. After all our efforts in applying and responding to enquiries, we were both accepted into the two-month program.

The Seychelles component of Global Visions Program allows us to contribute towards various conservation-related surveys aimed at providing data to the local government on coral reef research, invertebrate surveys, whale shark migration observations, in-water turtle surveys and turtle nesting research.

If I did not complete the Marine program I truly feel I would not have come so far in my life, and I would never have dreamed of doing something so amazing. I’d like to thank Ms Brady for all her work with us in lower school and to Ms Miller for the incredible upper school program with the amazing opportunities she provided by taking us to Albany and diving the HMS Perth, doing the whaling industry study and inspiring us to work as a team to fundraise for Exmouth and complete the ADVANCED course.

Cody Thomason – (year 12 in class of 2011)

Beacon Foundation

Last year we at South Fremantle Senior High School established a relationship with the Beacon Foundation who broker opportunities for schools and businesses to develop better relationships focussed on supporting students toward better choice in their futures.

May has been a particularly busy time for our Year 10 students on Beacon activities.

On May 15 and 22 two groups of 12 Year 10 students attended an excursion coordinated by IHG group. In these excursions the students were provided great insights into the Hospitality Industry, especially as it operates in large hotels. The highlight of each day was the lunch provided by each hotel for the students.

On May 17 25 Year 10 students participated in an activity entitled “POLISH”. In this activity students were shown the importance of presentation as they go forward to future employment and attempt to get a job. During the day they were taught how to tie a tie (boys), apply appropriate makeup (girls), and how to eat at a formal dinner.

This last activity, eating a formal meal, all students was able to practice with a three course lunch. This lunch was provided by the Year 11/12 Food Technology students under the guidance of Mrs Galas. Several guests also attended the lunch with our students. Visitors from Newmont Mining, our business partner with Beacon; from the Defence Industries School Pathway program; and, the school Principal, Mrs Hardy and Deputy Principals, also attended this wonderful event.

All Year 10 parents are asked to keep the date of June 26th free for the Year 10 Charter Signing event for 2012. Invitations and information on this important BEACON sponsored date will be coming home in the next couple of weeks.

Breakfast with Angry Anderson

On the cool morning of May 22, before the sun rose 7 Year 11 and 12 students travelled into Perth with Mr Fraser and Mrs Galas to a breakfast event with a special guest speaker of Angry Anderson.

Angry Anderson is famous as the lead singer of Rose Tattoo one of the most influential bands of the 70s and 80s in Australia. A self confessed "bad boy" who identifies as one of the “baddest” Anderson spoke of the lessons learnt from a life that was marked by violence, abuse and addiction.

Clearly not advocating this life, he made it clear that we all have the capacity to learn from trauma to grow into lives of contributing to society and positiveness.

Not only was the food outstanding but the talk was worth all the efforts made by these students to attend.

IT around South

All Year 11 and 12 ATAR students have been supplied with Macbooks to assist them with their upper school studies. Whilst the initial
rollout went very well there were some teething problems with the wireless network but the IT team are very happy (and relieved) to say that the wireless is now working around the whole school and students are able to have full connectivity with the school network. We will also be moving to a centralised platform at the end of August which will allow students better access to their work out of school hours - we will keep you up-to-date as progression occurs.

IT tip for term two - one strategy to assist your child with completing their research at home, without them getting distracted by other websites, is getting them to download some apps on to their smartphones. The NSW Government has released a free app called School A to Z (there is also a website www.schoolatoz.com.au) which is useful as there are lists of useful websites listed by subject which have already been checked by teachers and applicable to our curriculum. Another app that may be useful if your child has to do an oral presentation in front of a class is the Wikilips app. This app gives the correct pronunciation for difficult or subject specific words.

Julie Duthie
IT Coordinator

Follow the Dream success
The Follow the Dream programme has been working with Aboriginal students around WA for a number of years, assisting with the completion of high school and successful transition onto further studies. Students have to apply for a place in the programme and be identified as positive and successful role models within their school community. This year five students were successful in receiving a place in the Follow the Dream programme. Congratulations to Cheyenne Chadderton, Sharona Kitto, Jayde Chadderton, Losa Salu, Pressila Salu and Becky-Lee Abraham - the school is very proud of all of you.

Julie Duthie and Sam Mourish

Upper School Ball
May 4th arrived with many excited students ready to Rock and Roll at the Senior School Ball at the East Fremantle Yacht Club. What a night it was had by all who attended.

The venue was beautifully decked out in silver with flower arrangements done by Mrs James and candelabra organised by Year Coordinator, Helen Galas. It may have been cool and wet outside but inside it was shining smiles and great enjoyment from all.

In the next newsletter a range of photos will be printed and the list of award winners from the night highlighted.

Now it is time to thank Mrs Galas and her team of students who planned the night. To thank Mrs Galas, Mrs James and the many staff who worked so hard at setting up the venue and arranging prizes and all those extra little things that make the evening so wonderful.

Students who want to view and order photographs the links are listed below.

The major social event for 2012 for our senior school students was a huge success.

Congratulations to all upper school students who attended the school ball. Everyone looked FABULOUS and your behaviour was exceptional. Well Done.

To preview your ball photos and to order them on Line, you require the following.

www.maverickphoto.com.au
Login ID: sfshs
Password: sfshs4512

2013 Enrolments
If you have a child who wishes to enrol at South for year 8 in 2013 then please contact Julie Duthie to arrange for an interview. If you would like your child to be involved in one of our three specialist programmes (Marine, Music or Baseball) in 2013 or 2014 then please contact Julie Duthie to arrange for testing.

Julie Duthie
Transition Coordinator

Carbon Neutral Program
Carbon Neutral Project Update.
For those who are new to the school the Carbon Neutral Project began in July 2007. The aim was to reduce our carbon footprint to zero. To achieve this we had an audit done of our greenhouse emissions created from water, gas, electricity and waste from this we learnt that we emitted 567 tonnes of greenhouse gas.

Over the last 4½ years we have 22 implemented actions to reduce, such as switching to waterless urinals saving 1.6 tonnes, paper and cardboard recycling - 11 tonnes saved. We have put timers on 4 storage hot water systems saving 6.8 tonnes, 5 storage hot water systems have been removed and replaced with solar hot water systems saving 16.6 tonnes.

At the same time students began to work with the Carbon Neutral Project, the first thing we did was to arrange for all Y10 to plant trees in the Wheatbelt and now the school has planted an amazing 27,827 trees. Each year new areas of curriculum include carbon neutral aspects. The new national curriculum includes sustainability, SFSHS is ahead of many schools as we began including sustainability via carbon neutral 4½ years ago. These are some of the areas which include carbon neutral concepts:

- S&E - Yr 8 Sustainable Living
- S&E - Yr 10 Earth and Environment
- Food production and sustainability issues
- Science - Renewable Energy Studies
- Art - panels for Green Room Outdoor Classroom
- Art – seasons tiles for the Kali Garden
- Science - Y 12 Ocean Studies
- Science - Y 10 8 Permaculture – Life and Living

Passionate People to Change the World
The Carbon Neutral Working Group is full of interesting people with great ideas and enthusiasm to assist our school to become Carbon Neutral. We are keen to welcome new people to our group, if you would like to come along please call Kathy Anketell 9336 2131 for details. Currently we have parents, business people, staff and community members, if you share our vision to change the world come along.

Carbon Neutral P&C Activities
The P&C have also been active tree planting at the school and have planted in several areas, hopefully this will continue again this year.

In June 2010 the Growers Green Farmers Market began, every Sunday from 8.00 am to midday a stunning community market
springs to life at the front of the school, parents and students assist with packing up and parking duty. If you would like to help contact Kathy Anketell 9336 2131 Growers Green Committee

**P&C planting food trees for black cockatoos 2008**

*All you could want – produce, coffee, food & friends at the Growers Green Farmers Market.*

**Uniform Shop**

- The uniform shop has current stock of Track Jackets and Trackpants
- Keep nice and warm this winter with a school scarf available in red and black in store now.
- Cardigans and White undershirts are available to order come in and be sized.
- Girl’s upper school white blouse is available to order

**University 2013**

Prospectuses from all the universities will be distributed to Year 12 students in the next few weeks. Students need to be reading this material NOW to get an overview of what is available to them. Once students have narrowed down their options, they should have a look at the university handbooks to get a more complete picture of what the various courses involve, and perhaps to compare similar courses at different universities. Unfortunately, handbooks are no longer readily available, but can be found in public libraries. If not, they are all available on the web at the addresses below.

**CURTIN**

www.handbook.curtain.edu.au/

**ECU**

www.handbook.ecu.edu.au

**MURDOCH**

www.handbook.murdoch.edu.au

**NDA**

www.nd.edu.au

**UWA**

www.handbooks.uwa.edu.au

University Open Days 2012

- Sunday 29th July: ECU Joondalup
- Sunday 5th August: Curtin University
- Sunday 12th August: ECU Mt Lawley
- Sunday 12th August: UWA
- Sunday 19th August: Murdoch University
- Sunday 19th August: Notre Dame
SAVERPLUS - A FINANCIAL EDUCATION AND SAVINGS PROGRAM FOR PARENTS

Anglicare WA and The Smith Family are offering parents the opportunity to join Saver Plus, a free matched savings and financial education program. Saver Plus assists people to strengthen their financial skills and develop a savings habit, through financial education workshops and support from their local Saver Plus Worker.

As an incentive, parents can receive up to $500 in dollar-for-dollar matched savings, to spend on education costs for their children such as laptops, uniforms and excursions. Parents must hold a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession card, have a child at school or starting next year, have some regular income from work and a connection to a local Saver Plus site. To get in touch with your nearest Saver Plus worker, please call or sms your name and postcode to: 1300 610 355.

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

Fremantle Heritage Festival

25 May – 4 June

Over 50 events that share the stories of people, places, cultures and eras that have shaped the Fremantle we live in today.

Program includes theatre, singing, walking tours, vintage shopping and lectures. Look out for the program around Fremantle or visit www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/festivals

“Talk soon, talk often”

WA Health has produced two free resources to assist parents to share their values and educate their children about sexuality. To order or download a copy of 'talk soon, talk often. A guide for parents talking to their kids about sex.’ Go to www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/1276/2/parentcaregiver.pm