



Student Absences

If your child will be absent from school for any reason, please let Student Services know.

You can call Student Services from 8:40am to 3:15pm on (08) 7505 4027 and selecting 'Student Services' on extension 1.



Please note the Front Office is closed from 3:30pm. Please leave a message using the voicemail service.

Contact Us

(08) 7505 4027

dl.1915.info@schools.sa.edu.au

2-30 Glendale Grove,
Goolwa, South Australia, 5214



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Welcome to the week 4 newsletter.

It's hard to believe that we are already nearly half way through the last school term of the year, and that the holiday season is fast approaching...but here we are, about to dive into week 5, and already in November!

Over the last few weeks, the staff and students have been busy teaching and learning - working on their final units of work and assignments for each of their subjects for the year. They have also done the important work of reflecting on their achievements so far in 2023 and setting goals for this fast final term either individually or as a Connect class.

In writing goals, our students are also supported to develop an understanding of their learning data and most importantly how to recognise what growth looks like for them. They look at growth a a number of levels including growth by grade point average (GPA) movement across all subjects, GPA movement at an individual subject level, and even at an assignment level. Other data sets are also shared with students, such as PAT mathematics and English data, to give students a broad picture.

Further to this, subject teachers work with students unpacking task requirements and developing a shared understanding of what the assessment rubrics mean so that all students know what they are striving towards. Our resident speech pathologist this year, Joe Langfield, has supported teachers in modifying written language on task sheets and rubrics to ensure that it is accessible for all students.

I wonder what goal your young person has set for themselves? This could be a great conversation starter and a conversation that you can come back to across the remainder of the term, checking in to see how they are progressing.

This week the school materials and services poll was emailed to all families. I would like to provide you with additional information to support the poll.



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In conducting the poll, the Governing Council is seeking your support for our school's 2024 Materials and Services (school fees) charge of \$515 to be compulsory, and therefore recoverable. This means if the charge is not paid, we can legally recover the debt from families. As always, families who receive 'school card' will continue to have their school fees paid by the government.

In 2023 the government provided a \$100 rebate to families who did pay school fees. In the 2023-2024 State Budget, the government has committed to continuing the \$100 subsidy for next year.

Our school has determined that a Materials and Services Charges of \$515 will allow us to offer the resources, technology and programs that we would like for our students to complete their curriculum. Our school fees are considerably less than that of our closest public high school, in the middle school (years 7 – 9) by approximately \$150 and by nearly \$200 in year 10.

As students move from middle to senior school they may choose elective subjects which have high material costs, and for these additional subject levies apply. This is consistent practice in high schools Additional costs have been shared with families during subject counselling.

Examples of what we will offer within the Materials and Services Charge include:

- access to electronic and printed materials in relation to the educational program (such as electronic textbooks)
- access to student information technology (such as licenses and applications)
- access to some materials, machinery and equipment that students will consume or use in the process of their learning program (such as those related to hospitality, design and technology and digital technology classes)
- access to library resources (including digital subscriptions)

In providing these resources, students will benefit through engagement in a full and broad range of learning experiences, providing them with the opportunity for learning outcomes across all curriculum areas. Your support of the poll will help see the realisation of this.

As the term fast disappears there are a number of exciting upcoming events, including Awards Night, a colour run, and activities week in the last week of the term. Our students have been instrumental in planning most of these activities and they look forward to sharing information with you as we get closer to the time.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to the College if you have any feedback, questions or concerns. Feel free to email your child's Connect or subject teacher directly, or contact the front office if you are not sure who to talk to. We love to hear from you.

Enjoy the weekend ahead.

Rebecca Moore
Principal



STUDENT SERVICES REMINDER

Parents, caregivers and students are reminded that Student Services is **open from 8:40am to 3:15pm** every school day. If calling Student Services (08 7505 4027 and extension 1) outside of these hours, you can leave a **voice message** with your enquiry or details of an absent student.

As we approach halfway through the last term of the year, it's well worth encouraging your young person to visit Student Services to see if anything belonging to them has found its way to the lost property box throughout the year. Please note that anything left in the lost property box at the end of the year will be either donated or discarded.

KNOWLEDGE HUB NEWS!

It's been a fun and busy time in the Knowledge Hub this term!

The College was fortunate to have had a special, personalised visit with Thelma from Alexandrina Council. Thelma met with some of our year 9 students to talk about their reading preferences and involved them in selecting new resources for their Goolwa Public Library collection. What a terrific opportunity for our students to secure their favourite new titles in the local library for everyone to borrow.

The annual **Premier's Reading Challenge** results are in! Students were awarded their certificates last week. Congratulations to the twelve dedicated Goolwa Secondary students who kept their bookmarks at the ready, and completed the 2023 Challenge by reading an amazing collective total of 144 books! Each of these students read four books from the 2023 Challenge Booklist and then continued to read eight books of their own choice. All this fabulous reading was completed between the beginning of the school year and the end of term 3.

So many of our students came very close to completing the challenge, with focused class reading time supporting their recreational, at-home reading. It is extremely encouraging to see our students investing in their futures by immersing themselves in a diverse range of literature and engaging in reading.

We wish to congratulate the following students who blitzed the 2023 Premier's Reading Challenge:

- **Hamish Baxter** - *Hall of Fame, Reader for Life* - 10 years completed.
- **Alyshia Foster** - *Hall of Fame, Reader for Life* - 9 years completed.
- **Max Williams** - *Hall of Fame, Reader for Life* - 8 years completed.
- **Mackenzie Cogan** - *Hall of Fame, Reader for Life* - 8 years completed.
- **Jack Mitchell** - *Hall of Fame, Reader for Life* - 8 years completed.
- **Ruby Weatherill** - *Legend Medal* - 6 years completed.
- **Lucas Date** - *Legend Medal* - 6 years completed.
- **Holly Lines** - *Legend Medal* - 6 years completed.
- **Pearl Lukey** - *Champion Medal* - 5 years completed.
- **Cooper Spencer** - *Champion Medal* - 5 years completed.
- **Janae Mason** - *Gold Medal* - 4 years completed.
- **Ella Gibbons** - *Silver Medal* - 3 years completed.

The end of the Premier's Reading Challenge doesn't mean students should cease turning pages of books, we encourage them to continue devouring books right through the year. Our librarian, Kathy is always available for book-chat and helps our students choose a captivating read!

Kathy Smith
College Librarian



A 'GREENER' VISION FOR GOOLWA SECONDARY COLLEGE

THINK GREEN! Earlier this term the College held a sustainability visioning workshop with the school and wider Goolwa community.

The purpose of this workshop was to bring together passionate individuals and organisations to help shape a Greening Goolwa Secondary College vision and consider structures, frameworks and actions to bring the vision to life.

The morning kicked off with an inspirational talk from Cedric Varcoe, followed by presentations from the leadership team and Dr Kenn Fisher, a leading researcher and consultant in this field.

We're so proud of how our students articulated their opinions and ideas, as well as how well they worked with staff, governing councillors, parents, Alexandrina council representatives and community organisations, such as Lions and GWLAP.

The workshop proved to be a successful and motivating morning for all who attended. We look forward to sharing this exciting work with you as it evolves over the next 12-18 months.



CARTER'S CORNER

This week the Healthy Habit we will be looking at is **friendship** and in particular, what it means to **be a great mate!**



Research has shown that the better the quality of your relationships, the more likely you are to be happy. So, being a great mate to someone and ensuring that you and your friends are supporting one another is an easy way to improve your overall wellbeing!

But what makes a healthy friendship or a good mate? Well, they may demonstrate some of the following traits:

- show kindness and compassion
- be someone you can trust and is truthful
- respect your wishes
- be someone to laugh with and have fun!
- support you when things get tough

Through their words and actions, both big and small a good friend can make you smile at any time - so reach out to the people around you and be kind to all. By doing so, you are helping to make our community one great big happy place.

This year at the College our work on *The Resilience Project* taught us that the word **EMPATHY** refers to our ability to understand and share the feelings of another person. So next time you are sitting with your young person try asking these few questions to support their empath muscles:

- *How can being empathetic make you a friend to someone who may need it?*
- *What qualities does one of their good friends have that makes them a great mate?*
- *How can they show others that they can be a great mate?!*

Some other ways to teach empathy and kindness as a parent:

Model empathy yourself - this is the easiest way for your young person to understand what empathy looks and sounds like. It's especially important to remember to model empathy even when your feelings might be hurt. This teaches young people that empathy can and should be used even when you're feeling upset, disappointed or angry.

Discuss emotions - talk about emotions with your young person and why they feel the way they do. All emotions are welcome, but it's important for us at any age to learn to manage and understand them.

Praise empathetic behaviour - when you see your young person showing empathy and kindness, praise them for it. A simple "It was so awesome of you to offer to help our neighbour bring her groceries in when you saw her having a hard time", encourages more empathetic behaviour in the future. It feels good to do good! .



Andrew Carter
Assistant Principal
Inclusion, Engagement & Wellbeing

STUDIO SPOTLIGHT: JOINING THE WORKFORCE- VIRTUAL REALITY STYLE!

In the Summer Work studio, a group of year 8 and 9 students have commenced their efforts to gain holiday employment.

In this studio, students are exploring what local businesses exist and building their skills to hopefully get a summer job themselves.

Last week the students jumped into virtual reality to explore different careers and pathways available to them through software called 'Work Window'. The students will use this same technology, with the addition of Augmented Reality, later in the term to complete some job interviews.

This week the students hopped onto our commercial coffee machines to begin our Barista course! Be sure to stay tuned for updates on their coffee-making skills on our socials!



GOOLWA SECONDARY COLLEGE PARTICIPATES IN RESEARCH STUDY

Goolwa Secondary College is participating in a research study undertaken by Flinders University student, Sherylee Dawe. The research aims to understand how Goolwa Secondary College puts government policy into practice to suit the needs of its students in the unique context of Goolwa and its broader community.

The research will help policymakers to understand how their requirements affect school communities, including students' learning. The school will also have an opportunity to reflect on the way it works – what it does well and if any changes might be beneficial for its students.

Sherylee is gathering information mostly by talking to people in the school community: staff, parents/caregivers and students who all experience the government's priorities for school in their different roles.

Sherylee has talked with staff and is now keen to talk with a group of parents to gain their perspectives. Please email Sherylee at dawe0011@flinders.edu.au to let her know if you are interested. She will email you an information sheet and consent form and negotiate a convenient date and time with you.

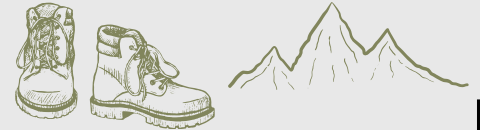
Thank you,
Sherylee and the GSC leadership team.

OPERATION FLINDERS CAMP GALLERY...

Take a look at some of the awesome activities and fun the girls got up to while on Operation Flinders!



OUR OPERATION FLINDERS TEAM IS BACK!



Our Operation Flinders team have worked so very hard this year to make their trip a reality. Before they even left, the team undertook substantial planning and fundraising as well as team building and some mental preparation... and we couldn't be prouder of them. The girls set off for quite a long bus trip on Tuesday 24th of October, knowing they were heading towards an amazing opportunity - but perhaps not knowing just how tough the conditions (hot, cold, carrying everything on their backs, no phones and no wi-fi!) would be.

We'd like to say a special thanks to Kristin and Amy who led the troops through a huge eight days of brilliantly fun and challenging activities such as hiking and abseiling, building self-discovery, resilience and emotional and physical growth. Operation Flinders was a camp that no doubt left the whole group with memories to last a lifetime and their commitment and grit is to be commended.

A special thanks must go to our volunteer bus drivers - the local businesses - and to the wider community for their continual support of the College - we really wouldn't be able to do it all without you!

When asked to reflect back on the camp, Kristin wrote of her experience:

The inaugural Goolwa Operation Flinders group – Tango 4 Wahoo!

Firstly, thank you to Amy for her drive and vision in making Operation Flinders happen. Amy launched the idea at the start of the year and has continued to prepare the group, fundraise and coordinate the logistics. Her efforts made this trip successful with 10/10 students attending, 10/10 participating in the challenges in the field (e.g. abseiling) and 10/10 students returning safe, but a bit scratched! I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside Amy and her energy and passion is contagious.

The experience is life-changing - the space to reflect, to be without technology, to get completely back to basics and trust yourself and the group, to be safe and get through whatever challenges arise. We travelled through Adnyamathanha country and it was a tough but beautiful 8 days. With the guidance from our amazing team leader Paul, assistant team leader Niki, and peer group leader Shanae, our team navigated the terrain. There were obstacles; sometimes we followed windy, rocky creek beds, other times straight through the scrub, shale under foot and prickles... prickles it seemed everywhere. And we climbed summits!

We worked out the rhythm and routine for the day. Wake, pack up, organize your gear, check in with each other and have breakfast, have a laugh and be prepared. We carried all we needed, we slept with basic equipment and we cooked over fire. We were challenged to rise early, to overcome fears of height, strength and ability, to share camp roles to get all the jobs done, and so relied on the whole team to pull their weight. At the end of the day, we dropped packs, made camp, helped each other through the routine and ate dinner. We debriefed every night and checked in before making our way to our hoochies. The stars and moon were amazing.

We required GRIT. I had the words my dad would say to me as a teenager... you just need a PMA (positive mental attitude) and some G&D (guts and determination). This is definitely what the team brought.

The emotions you feel when you are exhausted, when you just have to keep going, when you are in pain, injured, when everything you do takes time, when you haven't slept comfortably, when you see the beauty in the environment and each other, things you hadn't noticed before, when you meet strangers and learn from their experiences and begin to question your purpose and strengths and future. These emotions are raw and real and genuine. This experience is unique for each person involved, and for each team so finding the words to share are hard because unless you were there you can not compare.

It is a privilege to continue to walk with this group of young women and witness the growth in strength and determination and to hear their goals. I hope they continue to walk with strength and courage and approach life like they approached the Operation Flinders experience. Every day we are unsure where the experience would take us, what obstacles would be encountered, but knowing we had the skills, the guts and determination to conquer it all.

And what did the students think of the experience? Read on to find out...

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One of the girls wrote of her time on Operation Flinders:

“For me, the Operation Flinders experience was really good. At the start, I was nervous because I wasn’t sure what I was in for! When we got off the bus we had to pack our backpacks and the first walk was challenging because it was hot. The walking was mostly okay except for when we had to wake up early and summit Mandarin Caps and get almost blown off the top!”



The part I liked the most was bonding with people I don’t normally bond with, reflecting on everything and seeing the pretty views.

Being on Op Flinders made me realise that I am proud of who I am and that the more effort helps to achieve more things.

Now that I am back at school I hope that I remember that I can push through things and that I am a leader.”

GOOLWA SECONDARY COLLEGE NOTICE BOARD...

GOOLWA COMMUNITY DEADLY FUN RUN & WALK

November
Saturday 18th

Starts
9.30am

Goolwa
Richard Ballard Park,
Liverpool Road

2KM & 5KM
Run or Walk
Welcome to Country
Free BBQ
Finisher Medals
Get Active

EVERYONE WELCOME!

MORE INFO
David at Goolwa Childrens Centre
Phone: 0408 795 335
Email: David.hammond2@sa.gov.au

Finance and School Payments

Goolwa Secondary College offers various payment options for payment of school fees, student device (Lenovo Laptop), device insurance, camps and excursions.

QkrApp

Click [here](#) for instructions.

Direct bank transfer to the school's bank account

BSB: 065-511

Account: 10222764

Please use the invoice number and surname as a reference.

Direct Debit

Parents/caregivers are able to authorise our school to process ongoing payments to pay for school fees, invoices and other payments as agreed under a signed payment plan. These payment plans may be scheduled weekly, fortnightly, monthly or per term depending on the payment type and circumstance.

To arrange a Direct Debit, please download the form (located at Goolwa Secondary College website) and return it to the front office or email it to dl.1915.finance@schools.sa.edu.au

Cash, EFTPOS, credit card (Visa or Mastercard)

The front office is open between 8:30-9:30am for payments via cash, EFTPOS, or credit card (Visa or Mastercard) in person or over the phone.



Connect With Us

www.goolwasecondarycollege.sa.edu.au



Facebook

@GoolwaSecondaryCollege



Instagram

@goolwasecondarycollege

Dates to remember....

- Monday, 20th November - Student Free Day
- Tuesday, 28th November - Awards Night 5:30 - 6:30PM
- Monday, 4th December - Transition: A Day In The Life....
- Monday, 4th to 8th December - Activities Week
- Tuesday, 5th December - Governing Council Meeting
- Tuesday, 15th December - Last day of Term 4 (early dismissal 2:10PM)