

# OAC newsletter

May 2010

No. 1, Term 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Welcome to term 2.

We welcome a number of new staff to the College as our student enrolments continue to grow and with some staff on leave: David Carpenter, Kay Daniel, Jerry Elder, David Ellis, Tony Ey, Rajni Madan, Nikki Nardelli, Helen Pedler, Ela Pickering, Vandana Sharma, John Sweeney, Raye Whittington, Greg Wright and Cathryn Wylde.

At the beginning of this term students in years 11 and 12 would have received their first written report for the year and parents of students in years R-10 were invited to attend an interview with teachers about their student's progress. Teachers are very keen to support all students in their learning and if you have any concerns that you would like to discuss about learning progress please contact the college.

We are conducting a review of the procedures for reporting student

achievement across the College and will be seeking community input into the review. If you specifically would like to be part of this process contact Sue Crook in the College office to register your interest.

NAPLAN tests have been sent to all students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN information provides parents, students and schools with specific information about student literacy and numeracy thus enabling us to plan specific learning programs to develop all aspects of literacy and numeracy at an appropriate level. Refer to the NAPLAN article in this newsletter for more information.

Stage 1 of the new SACE has three compulsory components that students must pass to successfully achieve their SACE. Moderation for the PLP occurred in term 1 and was a confirming process for both students learning and teachers teaching.

Mathematics and English will be moderated in term 2. Planning for the introduction of Stage 2 subjects for the new SACE is underway.

The AGM of the Governing Council was held at the College late in term 1. Bronwyn Palmer has accepted the role of chairperson. The Governing Council has an important role in supporting the work of the school and our students and we thank Bronwyn for taking on this position. Thad Taylor is the outgoing chairperson who worked conscientiously for our students. We wish Thad and his family all the best for their future.

Building works continue to progress with the activity hall almost completed and the new Client Services area will be operational at the start of term 3.

Jeane Schocroft, Acting Principal  
(Julie Taylor, College Principal is currently on leave)

### ARE YOU SHARING YOUR COMPUTER ACCESS WITH THE REST OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

OAC has a number of computers available for borrowing by home-based students who meet certain criteria.

For a small postage and handling cost you can have a separate computer just for your studies.

If you would like some more information please contact us for an application form on 8309 3500.

Please ask for the Student computer loan scheme information sheets.

### Be Active in your school community

Consider joining the Senior Secondary Student Voice

- Meet other students
- Suggest activities
- Bring student insight and ideas
- Help organise events

For more information contact  
Elena Sorgini on 8309 3519 or  
[elena.sorgini@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:elena.sorgini@openaccess.edu.au)

### DIARY DATES

**May 11-13**

NAPLAN tests

**May 10-14**

SOTA JP School Experience week

**May 12-16**

Stage 2 Ab Studies Camp

**May 19**

Governing Council 8pm

**May 27**

Student free day - Marden Campus

**June 14**

Queens Birthday public holiday

**June 16**

Governing Council 8pm

**June 18**

End of Semester 1

**June 21-25**

SOTA UP School experience week

**June 24-25**

Stage 2 Aust History Field Trip

**June 30**

Come in Day

**July 2**

Last Day Term 2



Stage 2 OAC student Rebecca Savage is the SA/NT state finalist in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest.

The Quest is designed to encourage student interest in leadership and the qualities required to take an active and constructive role in the community. It does this by selecting an outstanding young person from candidates throughout Australia to travel overseas

and act as an ambassador for Lions Clubs International Multiple District 201. The Quest seeks a high level of academic, leadership, sporting, public speaking and citizenship achievement in its potential winners. By emphasising these qualities it hopes to provide outstanding role models for the youth of Australia and an overall increase in the confidence of young men and women.

### MOVING HOUSE OR CHANGING CONTACT DETAILS?

If you change your residential or mailing address or contact details including home, lesson or mobile phone number, please let us know by contacting student services on 8309 3680 or email [info@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:info@openaccess.edu.au)



## COME IN DAY TERM 1

On Tuesday 30th March, it was Come In day at Open Access College. We did some robotics and we had a science show. Frank, the presenter, made balloons melt, blow up and he also made fire. We also made some robots and made them dance. It was lots of fun.

By Ryan and Josh



Come In Day at OAC, 30th March 2010, was well supported by many students who came to enjoy the CSIRO science program for schools. This included robotics and a science show. The students were able to program their own robots to dance and then test them. The audience enjoyed watching each group whose robots performed with varying degrees of success! During the science show the students were shown the properties of hydrogen, carbon dioxide and oxygen and how they functioned in the atmosphere in lots of fun and at times scary experiments! We had a very enjoyable recess and lunch break where the students and staff were able to meet and chat together. One of the additional highlights was a baby ringtail possum who came to enjoy the day!



Helen Seamark

## SACE STAGE 1

### End of semester information

This semester will end on Friday 25 June, week 10 of Term 2.

Week 11 of the current term will be used as a changeover to confirm arrangements for semester 2 lessons.

Semester 2 will commence on 19 July, week 1 of term 3.

Most students selected their full study program on enrolment and were issued with a SACE Curriculum pattern to confirm their subject selections.

Should you wish to change your semester 2 subjects, or add further subjects, please contact Client Services 8309 3680 to arrange a conversation with your enrolling counsellor.

## PRIMARY AND MIDDLE YEARS NEWS

### Primary Years Science/ Maths Strategy

As part of a government initiative our school is involved in a Science and Maths initiative aimed at improving teaching and learning in this area. Marden and School of the Air staff are working together. Families with students in Years 4,5,6 and 7 in Years have received a link to an on line survey which focuses on student attitudes to Science and Maths. I encourage families to complete the survey as it will provide us with valuable data to improve teaching in these two key learning areas.

Staff from both schools will be attending a professional learning day in Port Augusta on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to commend the Early/

Primary Years team on their commitment to this project. We look forward to some excellent initiatives as a result of our involvement in this project.

### Middle Years Teams

2010 has seen the beginning of our students in Year 8 and 9 being members of teaching teams. Having a small number of teachers and not having to change teachers (as has happened in the past) has meant that our students and staff are developing closer relationships. This change in philosophy has also meant that we are changing our approach to delivery of our curriculum. Staff are currently developing integrated units of work based on student interests. These integrated units of learning include all key learning

areas and aim to allow students to draw connections in their learning.

I would like to thank all staff for their efforts and commitment in supporting this innovation. Middle Years Teams will continue to develop this concept.

### Come In Day

At the end of each term students, parents and carers from Reception to Year 10 are invited to attend Come In Day. It is a great opportunity for our students to get together and parents to meet. This is an advanced notice. More details will follow. Please put Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June into your diary.

Tim McLeod  
Head of Primary/Middle Years

## NAPLAN TESTS

Since 2008 the NAPLAN assessments are conducted nationally rather than at a State level. They will be conducted with Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in all schools across Australia in Week 4 of Term 2 with the OAC students completing theirs in week 5 as soon as students have the material.

These assessments support parents to see how their child is achieving in comparison to other students the same age across Australia and they give teachers additional information about a learner.

All students are expected to attempt and return the NAPLAN assessments. Occasionally there might be a reason that prevents a student from completing the NAPLAN. In this situation parents may ask for their child to be withdrawn and not

complete the NAPLAN. Forms for withdrawal or exemption can be obtained from the Daniel Bayer, Assistant Principal Middle School. If there is any reason your child may not be able to attempt and return the NAPLAN test please speak with Daniel directly on (08) 8309 3642.

It is important to keep in mind that the NAPLAN assess a narrow aspect of learning in Literacy and Numeracy and provides you, the school and governments with a snapshot of how students are performing against the norm for other students of the same age and in similar schools.

Colleen, Polly, Tim, Daniel, Cheryl

## IMPROVE YOUR LEARNING AND ACHIEVE HIGHER GRADES

*Improving your learning has a lot to do with how you approach studying. The twelve most powerful ways don't involve you working harder but they do involve you working smarter.*

### 1. Study in silence.

This is the single most powerful way to improve your learning. Spend at least 20 minutes of your study time in silence. No texting, music or computer screens. Outcomes improve when you practice in the same conditions you want to perform in. In the exam room there won't be music, mobile phones or computer screens.

### 2. Organise and transform the information you want to learn.

Just reading your notes over and over again doesn't really work. Your memory stores information best when you organise or transform it. This means organising your notes so that the main idea is highlighted on each page. Then take your notes and turn them into a flow chart or a mind map or see if you can fit them to a song you know well or make it into a sound recording. The more times you can transform and reorganise the information the more firmly it is remembered.

### 3. Put off pleasurable activities until work is done.

This is a painful one but if you play computer games before you get down to studying, the levels of dopamine in your brain lessen and you will lose the drive and motivation you need to study effectively. Work first, play later.

### 4. Talk yourself through the steps involved.

One of the things that highly successful students do is to explain out loud to



themselves the steps involved in completing a task. This applies to every subject area. By saying out loud, "First I have to do.... Then I have to do...." and so on, any part that you are uncertain about becomes clear and you can then use this to guide where you need to do more.

### 5. Ask for help.

Teachers want their students to be interested and to do well. You will be amazed if you ask a question how many other people don't understand it either. If you are really scared about asking questions in class, have a private talk to your teacher about this.

### 6. Take notes.

Just writing down the ideas that you have makes a powerful contribution to your marks. Don't just write down what the teacher writes. Make notes of any ideas you have as well. Never rely only on the worksheets given out by teachers or your own capacity to remember information later (use your diary!).

### 7. Write and re-write key points.

Writing the main points of the area you are learning helps you to remember them. If you can add in re-organising and transforming them into different formats (drawings, flow charts, podcasts etc.) that

makes it even more powerful.

### 8. Make lists and set priorities.

Make a "to-do" list each week. Write down in your diary the most important things to be done in each subject each week. High scoring students do a little bit on each subject, a lot rather than doing a lot of work on one subject every so often. If you are doing subjects that involve presenting a folio or preparing a presentation, it is still important to do work on the other subject areas.

### 9. Prepare for class.

Become knowledgeable about the area you are learning about by doing your own research. If you can learn about the area before you start not only will you have an advantage, it will also make more sense to you as you begin classes on it. Take notes on your own research. If you can, read over your notes before class to refresh your memory.

### 10. Keep a record of how much study you have done.

It increases motivation when we can tick things off lists and when we can see how much we have done.

### 11. Use memory aides.

These are tools that help you to remember information. For example, "Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit" help people remember that EGBDF are the lines of the music staff. The rhyme, "thirty days have September, April, June and November" helps us to remember the calendar. School requires more memory skills than any job you can think of. The best way to remember something is to transform it. If it's visual put it into words, if it's verbal, create a picture or graph of it, use lists, acronyms,

tables, graphics, and link new information to things you already know. Long-term filing works best if you go right to sleep – the minutes before bedtime are crucial.

### 12. Set study times

The last method is to decide when you are most alert and to set aside some time at that time of day to study. If you wait until you are in the right mood before beginning to study, you may wait forever.

*This information is from Andrew Fuller who is a clinical psychologist who works with many schools around Australia.*  
[www.andrewfuller.com.au](http://www.andrewfuller.com.au)

**Kristin Smith**  
Learning Support  
Coordinator

## REMINDER

### Return of books

If you are completing your course at the end of this semester or have finished using a book, please return all books to the College.

Simply place the book/s in a reply paid envelope, or in a box with an envelope attached as a label.

Or address an envelope to

**Reply Paid 62156**  
**Marden SA 5070**

## UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARY

During this term the library has been busy with events to promote reading, literacy, learning, as well as community events.

May will see the library celebrating. We have Library and Information Week with a highlight being the annual National Simultaneous Storytime event when we will be reading the book chosen for this year which is *Little White Dogs Can't Jump*, written by: Bruce Whatley and Rosie Smith. NSS will be on Wednesday 26 May at 11am. We will run the event from the SOTA Assembly event on Centra – so check with your teacher that you are enrolled to join in!

Premier's Reading Challenge. Keep reading and fill in the form for your 12 books and return it to the library by 1 September to be

in the running for certificates and medals this year.

Many students are undertaking large research and other assignments as part of their courses at this time of the year. The library staff have been joining in lessons to talk to students about the library resources and how we can assist them. Information about the library is also on subject Moodle sites

If you would like to organise resources or become involved in one of the library events, please contact us. Our phone number is (08) 8309 3620 or use the 1800 882 328 number and ask for the library. You can also email us at [library@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:library@openaccess.edu.au)

Sue Johnston  
Library Manager

## CAREERS AND PATHWAYS

### Trade Schools for the Future (TSftF)

TSftF enables secondary students from year 10 onwards to undertake an Apprenticeship while continuing with secondary education. Students are able to achieve their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) while learning skills and working towards an industry accredited qualification. Students engage in a Training Contract as an Australian School Based Apprentice (ASBA) which sets out their conditions of employment and training while involved in the TSftF program. School Based Apprentices spend their weekdays involved in a combination of school, paid work and skills training. A School Based Apprenticeship gives students a head start towards their chosen career. There are many various trades and vocations that can be undertaken this way.



The Trade Schools for the Future, School to Work Apprenticeship Broker in our region is Sam Ricci. For further information and assistance with

School Based Apprenticeships contact Sam on 0488 045 325 or [sam.ricci@sa.gov.au](mailto:sam.ricci@sa.gov.au)

### Mid Year Entry 2010 – TAFE and University

Many courses beginning Semester 2 are available at both TAFE and the universities. For details of courses and information about the process visit [www.satac.edu.au](http://www.satac.edu.au). To access the Semester 2 details, click on the red button for TAFEWeb or the blue button for UniWeb. Take particular note of the important dates. University: Friday 11 June 2010 - closing date for mid year admission. TAFE: Friday 28 May 2010 - "on time" applications close. After this date applications are not guaranteed equal consideration. Friday 25 June 2010: Applications close. If you are a home-based student, contact your counsellor for assistance with applications.

## New Pathway to Medicine

Do you have a rural background?  
Would you like to become a doctor?

If you've lived for 5 years or more in a rural or remote location you can apply to study medicine at the University of Adelaide in 2011 under a new **Rural Background Entry** pathway.

Up to **25 places** will be available.



### TERTIARY STUDIES & CAREERS EXPO ADELAIDE

Free Admission

**Date:** Sunday 30 and Monday 31 May 2010

**Opening Times:** Sunday from 10am - 4pm and Monday from 9.30am - 1pm

**Venue:** Adelaide Entertainment Centre

#### You can find...

• Universities and faculty reps from SA and interstate • National, local and government employers and agencies • Higher Education Colleges • VET Training • Defence Forces • TAFE SA • Pathways and info for career seekers of all ages • Seminar Presentations

AND MORE!

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### UMAT – Medicine, Dentistry, Health Sciences

The UMAT - Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test - is a prerequisite if you are considering entry to medicine, dentistry, and health sciences at universities Australia wide. The deadline for registration is 5pm AEST on Friday 4 June 2010. UMAT will be held on Wednesday 28 July 2010.

Late registrations will be accepted until 5.00 pm AEST on Friday 18 June 2010, on payment of an additional fee. No further registrations will be accepted after this deadline.

You can register and download the UMAT information booklet from: [www.umatweb.acer.edu.au](http://www.umatweb.acer.edu.au)

### 2011 Entry to Medicine – Rural Students

If you have lived for 5 years or more in a rural or remote location you can apply to study medicine at the University of Adelaide in 2011 under the new Rural Background Entry pathway. Up to 25 places will be available.

For South Australia, the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency runs workshops to help you apply: [www.ruraldoc.com.au](http://www.ruraldoc.com.au) For information about rural scholarships: [www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships) University of Adelaide Rural Health Alliance – student club website: [www.aurha.org.au](http://www.aurha.org.au)

There are 3 Steps

1. Sit for UMAT – see information above.
2. Oral Assessment (OA) – offered based on UMAT score.
3. Apply to SATAC by 31 August 2010.

Minimum adjusted TER of 90.0 applies (after 6 Fairway bonus points for rural students added to university aggregate.)

Interested in further information? Email [admissions.health@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:admissions.health@adelaide.edu.au) or phone (08) 8303 5336.

*For further information about any of the above items please contact:*

**Darren Jones**

**Student Counsellor: Pathways and Transition**

**8309 3500/1800 882 328**

[darren.jones@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:darren.jones@openaccess.edu.au)