Dear Parents, Caregivers and Community Members

It is really nice to have been appointed to John Pirie Secondary School, and I am thoroughly enjoying working once again in a large secondary school. You may like to know a little of my experience in education.

I have had a total of 38 years experience as a teacher, senior master, assistant principal, deputy principal and principal, and this is my 15th year as a secondary and area school principal.

Prior to becoming a principal I taught in various city and country locations including Whyalla. In 1996 I was appointed as Principal of Murray Bridge High School for 5 years, during which time I was seconded to the Partnerships 21 Local Management Taskforce to implement local management in state schools. From late 2000 to 2006 I was Principal of Para Hills High. In late 2006 I went overseas to the United Arab Emirates and worked as Deputy Director in an international school of 3000 students, in Sharjah, an Emirate next to Dubai. I was there for 6 months before returning to Adelaide and accepting the principal position at Maitland Area School where I served for nearly three years.

Towards the end of 2009 I was offered the principal’s position here at JPSS, and so here I am.

COMING EVENTS

Friday 5 February
Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 16 February
Governing Council Meeting

School Photographs

Thursday 18 February
and
Friday 19 February
Year 12 Camp

Wednesday 24 February
Year 8 Parent BBQ

TERM DATES 2010

Term 1
27 January to 1 April

Term 2
19 April to 2 July

Term 3
19 July to 24 September

Term 4
11 October to 10 December
As an advisory teacher in the 80’s I visited Pt Pirie High and Risdon Park High quite often to work with the teachers.

I am very keen to work with the Port Pirie community to continue the work that has been in place to ensure success for our students as they move through high school to further education, training or employment.

I have worked with the staff to establish the new priorities for the school, and we are now doing our strategic planning in each of the following areas:

- Student Management
- Teaching and Learning
- The New SACE
- Aboriginal Education
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Vocational Education

To support three of these areas we are currently making coordinator appointments in three areas: Literacy; Vocational Education and Vocational Learning; and upgrading to coordinator level the leadership of our Aboriginal Sports Academy.

At the same time, we are receiving excellent feedback from the community regarding our efforts to improve student uniform, attendance and reduce the problems of students leaving the school without permission.

All of our parents and caregivers last week received a letter from me regarding the school’s expectations in these areas.

I look forward to meeting and working with as many members of our community as possible.

_Trevor Rogers_
Principal

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**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Our annual School Swimming Carnival is being held this Friday 5 February at the newly upgraded town Swimming Pool. This is a compulsory school day for all students so it is expected that your child will attend and/or contact is made with the school to explain your child’s absence.

The day commences at 8:45am, with the Swimming Pool gates being opened at 8:30am for students to arrive (do not go to school first). Bus students will be dropped at the bus bay where a supervising teacher will be waiting to move them down to the Swimming Pool. The day will then conclude at approximately 2:30pm. Bus students will be brought back to the school and supervised until 3:30pm unless other arrangements are made by parents/caregivers.

This is a great day out and a chance for students to interact with each other and their teacher on a more casual and enjoyable level. Even if your child is not participating in any events it is still expected that they come along and cheer their team on as each student earns a point for their team just by being ticked off on their caregroup roll!
If you have any other questions about our School Swimming Carnival please contact me at school.

Carly Pavy  
(HPD Coordinator)

2009 YEAR 12 RESULTS

The 2009 school year has seen some extremely pleasing results for many of our students, and it is fantastic to see their hard work and efforts rewarded.

16 students achieved a Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER). Our top TER was 91.05% followed by 85.70%. Of these students 7 out of 11 received placements in their first choice for Tertiary courses. A further 10 out of 11 students got into TAFE courses of their choice. We acknowledge that not all students are bound for Tertiary Education and congratulate the many students who successfully completed Year 12 and have moved into employment and/or apprenticeships. We are very proud of all of your efforts.

Among 11 of our students, 20 A’s were recorded, with one student achieving an A grade in four out of five subjects and a further two students achieving A grades in three out of five subjects.

We wish to congratulate all of our Year 12 students from 2009 and wish them well in their endeavours.

Sam Schultz  
Assistant Principal

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR BEHAVIOUR

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We are approaching week three of the school year and teachers and students have had time to get to know each other and to settle into school routines. Teaching programmes have included relationship building activities with the aim of developing responsible learners in positive learning environments.

There are times however when students make poor behaviour choices and disrupt teaching and learning in their classrooms. We have a responsibility to ensure that the rights of others to learn and the teacher to teach are protected from these students who disrupt. Teachers are equipped with many strategies to deal with poor behaviour in their classroom and this year we are continuing with a support system for those students who continue to misbehave.

The school has a room called the Restart Room. The Restart Room is a place where students can have some time out of their normal classroom, reflect on their poor behaviour and make plans to restart in class.

If your child is referred to the Restart Room a letter will be sent home explaining what must be done before being able to restart in class. More specific details about the Restart Room procedures are available on request from the school.

Yours faithfully
Mr. A. Flynn  
Restart Manager

NEW ABORIGINAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT JOHN PIRIE

My name is Nathan Agius. I am the Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET) at John Pirie Secondary School. I will be working between 8:30am - 3:30pm on Monday to Friday.

I will endeavour to establish working relationships with teaching staff to support our Aboriginal students’ social wellbeing and learning needs. This will involve introducing them to some of the major concepts and theories in dealing with Indigenous/Non Indigenous shared history and contemporary issues.

I will work to provide students the opportunity to control their emotions, see how they influence others, develop their ability to lead and develop a form of
trustworthiness between themselves, their peers and their teachers, whilst becoming accountable and being responsible for their own conduct.

I am currently planning for Harmony Day to be held in March 2010, and National Reconciliation Week: 27 May - 3 June 2010. Your input and support would be invaluable to me, the school and your child/children. For them to see you here sharing your stories; sharing your proud culture, will truly give them a sense of pride and belonging. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Kind regards
Nathan Agius

SCHOOL CARD

The School Card Allowance for Secondary School students for 2010 is $263. Eligibility for School Card assistance is dependent upon the combined family gross income for 2008/2009 financial year being within the School Card income limits as shown in the table below.

If you are within the limits please apply now. Forms are available from the school.

<table>
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<th>No. of dependent children.</th>
<th>2008/9 Annual School Card Income Limits</th>
<th>2008/9 Average Weekly Income Limit</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional child</td>
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<td>$17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lynne Madigan
School Finance Officer

NEWSLETTERS IN 2010

Again the newsletter will be printed fortnightly and the aim is to have it distributed to students on the Thursday.

If you wish to have the newsletter emailed or posted to you please send your details to Gordon Hallett at the school.

NEW TEACHING STAFF AT JOHN PIRIE

The new staff are, from left to right, Kristen Tunbridge, Nathan Agius, Rod Ladgrove and Kalpesh Shah.

Kristen is teaching Year 8 and 9 English and Studies of Society and Environment. Nathan is the Aboriginal Education teacher, as mentioned earlier in the newsletter, and will teach Year 9 Health and Personal Development. Rod will be teaching Music throughout the school. Kalpesh is teaching Year 8, 9 and 10 Mathematics and Year 11 Business Studies.

JOHN PIRIE SECONDARY SCHOOL CANTEEN

Last year the John Pirie Secondary School Governing Council let the operation of the Canteen to “Metropolitan Canteens” who appointed Jane James as the Manager.

There are many changes to the menu as well as a “Rewards Program” for specials which will be advertised in the morning bulletin each day. A copy of the menu will be sent home with this newsletter. Students can order their lunch before the end of recess to avoid lining up at the start of lunch.
SCHOOL REPORTS

The 2009 School Reports have been either given to the students through caregroup or have been mailed home to parents. If any parent has not yet received a report please contact Gordon Hallett at the school.

For the 2010 School Year if there are any parents who are separated and need copies of reports sent to the partner, could you again contact Gordon Hallett at the school?

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographers will be in the school on Tuesday 16 February.

At this moment we have not received any details on packs and prices. As there is not another newsletter before this date, we will send out a special flyer giving these details when we receive them.  

Sonya Bennett  
School Administration Officer

UNIFORM SHOP

A reminder that the Uniform Shop will be open 12.00 – 2.00p.m on Tuesday and Friday.

Anne Barker

SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE HOURS

John Pirie Secondary School’s Front Office will be open from 8.30am to 5pm each school day. If you ring outside of these hours you will hear a recorded message detailing office hours and you will be asked to call back during these times.

Sonya Bennett  
School Administration Officer

QUIZ NIGHT

Come along on Saturday 27 February 2010, to the Pirie Sporting and Community Club on Broadway Road to support this fundraiser for John Pirie Secondary School student Wade Stringer. Wade is going to Germany in November 2010 as an exchange student.

Starting time is 7.30pm and cost is $5.00 per person. There will be tables of 10 with a BYO supper, lots of prizes and full bar facilities will be available.

Bookings are essential by phoning 8633 1586.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Equestrian Park in Port Pirie?

There is a Community Meeting at the Port Football and Community Club on Esmond Road Port Pirie on 9 February 2010 at 7.30pm to show support for an Equestrian Park.

For more information, visit us on Facebook or phone Sonia (0418 897 072) or Camille (0422 263 190)
THE FIRST DAY

ALL EAGER FOR THE 2010 SCHOOL YEAR

AND OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THEIR IMPORTANT YEAR!