

John Pirie Secondary School

striving for excellence



Newsletter 17 May 2018

A 40 Mary Elie Street Port Pirie SA 5540 P (08) 8632 0400 F (08) 8632 3195 W www.jpss.sa.edu.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

SACE completion provides students with an internationally recognized educational achievement, which opens many doors for future education or employment. We strive to offer a wide range of programs at Stage 1 and 2, with all of our sciences and psychology being delivered face to face.

At JPSS we have had a strong focus on increasing the number of SACE completers every year, with some positive results. In 2012 we had 35 students achieve their SACE, with 53 achieving it in 2017. Having said that, there were 117 students enrolled in year 12 at the start of 2017, meaning that only 45% were successful. This is an alarming statistic and one that we are committed to improving.

We have put in a number of strategies to address this issue and work towards supporting our students in successfully completing year 12. Here are some of our strategies:

Research project is one of the non-negotiable courses, and is the only one that must be included in SACE points. With this in mind, last year we focused on catching up a number of year 12s who should have completed their research project in year 11, as well as posting the highest percentage of year 11s completing the course in the history of the school.

We have recognized that a number of our students use TAFE as a way to complete their SACE and have set up a special VET class to cater schedules and classes around their timetables.

We have developed a comprehensive "traffic lights" system which allows us to track every year 12 student's subjects down to individual assignments and their progress. This allows us to have informed and outcomes focused meetings with the students and their families, to get them back on track.

We have brought in some of our top students from last year, to help year 12s as mentors, being able to relate to the challenges young people face.

We also recognize that our high achieving students deserve support, and we offer funding for holidays seminars held in Adelaide. These are open to anyone wishing to undertake further study in a specific subject.

With regards to ATAR, we are also an eligible school for Bonus Points, which offer an advantage in getting into highly sought after courses.

As much as students have to take responsibility for their learning, we recognize that our staff are fundamental to supporting them. Our staff are next to none, with many going above and beyond in an effort to help our students succeed. Last holidays there were a number of staff who volunteered their time to help year 12s catch up or complete various assignments.

We also encourage our staff to continue to undertake professional development in their subjects, undertake exam writing and assessing roles with the SACE board, and give them opportunities to hone their understanding using moderation. This allows them to be very clear as to what is required to achieve each grade.

It is with great confidence that we look towards the end of 2018, and we trust that the many strategies we have put in place will support our year 12s on their journey to successfully achieving their SACE.

On behalf of the entire Senior school team

Maciej Jankowski



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Coming Events

May

30 Theatre Restaurant

June

11 Public Holiday

18 Governing Council

July

6 End Term 2

Leadership Team

Principal:	Roger Nottage
Deputy Principal:	Maciej Jankowski
Assistant Principals:	Cara Fiebig Rachel Gray Graham Hoile Lisa Key

School Links



UniSA



tafeSA

Nathan Maynard Visit



On Tuesday 8 May we were lucky enough to have Nathan Maynard, an Aboriginal film writer from Tasmania, visit JPSS. He was in Port Pirie to promote his play *'The Season'*, which will be showing at the Keith Michell Theatre in August/September this year through Country Arts SA.

While at the school, Nathan conducted sessions with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, focusing on growing up in Trawlwoolway country in North East Tasmania and his family tradition of 'mutton birding' on which his play is based. He also taught the power of writing, especially in theatre, giving all students effective writing techniques that they can take back to their classes or use in their own time.

We thank Nathan and Country Arts SA for spending time with us and passing on his stories and writing abilities. Keep an eye out for *'The Season'* when it shows locally later this year!

Chris Flavel – SAASTA Coordinator

Tracey Crisp – Author Visit

Last week our year 10 students were given the opportunity to speak to a visiting author. This author was definitely not unfamiliar to Port Pirie and felt right at home. Our students welcomed back Tracey Crisp, a former student of Risdon Park High School, and daughter of former Mayor Denis Crisp. Tracey recounted her life story, her childhood in Pirie, transition to an adult, love and loss, leaving school, travelling and living in Abu Dhabi with her husband and children, her writing and publishing of two novels, *Black Dust Dancing* and *Surrogate*, and now her life as a comedienne and funeral celebrant.

Leaving school with no plans in place, Tracy struggled at University but always remembered her mother's words

" You can always come home" and to this day Port Pirie remains a very special part of her life and definitely her hometown. She instilled in our students the importance of making the most of every opportunity presented to them, that life always takes its twists and turns and you never know where it will take you. Her message was both motivational and inspirational.

She finished with a visualization activity where students needed to see themselves at their 30th birthday party and answer a series of questions. They then had to write. Time was later given to a whole group Q and A and our students showed confidence to ask some interesting and insightful questions. Tracy showed the comedienne in her with her quick quip as a would be heckler who commented on her soupy outfit much to the audience's amusement!

Tracy's latest book is *Blackout* based on the recent electricity blackouts across South Australia. Thanks must go to Margie Arnold from Meg's bookshop for helping to facilitate this valuable opportunity for our students. Thanks Tracy it was lovely to welcome you home.

Karen Rohde – Literacy Coordinator



Congratulations Brody Maywald

Brody competed in the Junior Heavy class at the SA DIRT KART TITLES held in Pt Pirie on 4, 5 and 6 May. There were 23 other competitors in his class. He had an amazing weekend with a heat 1 placing of 1st; heat 2 he finished 6th from his start position of 12th; heat 3 finished 2nd from 6th position start and heat 4 was a nail biter!

These results placed Brody on equal points with 1st placement. He finished the final race placing second, and took home 2nd placing overall for the weekend! Racing was very competitive throughout the weekend and only 3 points separated 1st and 2nd placings. Brody competed against drivers from as far as Western Australia and Northern Territory.

Brody has been racing dirt Karts since he was 7 years old.

He is to be congratulated on his outstanding results.

