



NEWSLETTER

ADELAIDE
NORTH
SPECIAL
SCHOOL

135 Douglas Drive, Munno Para West, SA 5115

PH (08) 8254 2625

Term 4, Issue 1—December 2020

From the Principal

From a world COVID-19 perspective, 2020 was a year we won't forget for all the wrong reasons. The world has changed so much so quickly. From an ANSS perspective, 2020 is a year I'll remember for the following reasons...

Resilience: Everyone dug deep and got on with amazing teaching and learning. Student data shows a great improvement across the school in reading and writing and communication. Independence: The COVID-19 restrictions demonstrated how much our students can do. Teamwork: People coming together to make the work we do more enjoyable and meaningful. I thank the ANSS team for the work they do. They are a dedicated and highly professional group.

Congratulations to our Year 7 and Year 12 graduates. Our end of year graduation ceremonies were another success. This year due to the huge number of graduates, we held a Year 7 Disco and Dance Party and a separate Year 12 Graduation Dinner; both well attended by proud family members. Two wonderful nights for our community, families, students and staff. Another graduation tree was recently planted in honour of the graduates of 2020.

Thank you to all who made the evenings truly memorable occasions. I'd like to pay special tribute to Leona Cox and her team for staging such an inspiring event. Acknowledgement is also extended to the Senior Unit staff and students for their amazing fundraising efforts, to enable the purchase of personalised jumpers for our 2021 Year 12s.

A few new faces will be joining us in 2021 and we look forward to a growing staff list of incredibly dedicated and talented staff. Welcome to Alice Carter who comes to us as a permanent teacher from Roxby Downs. Alice joins the Primary Unit in a team-teaching role with Rebecca Bowne. We also extend our best wishes to Kirsty Brown and Chloe Supple who will be taking Maternity leave. HR processes are underway for appointing other teaching and SSO staff, which should be sorted through the holiday period. Congratulations to Danica Wuttke and Kylie Scott, who will be assisting me in leadership.

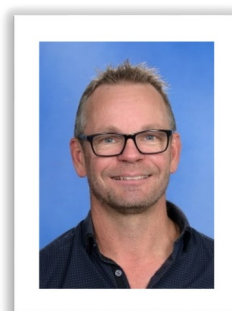
The landscaping works undertaken earlier in the year look amazing! With our trees finally maturing, the school is looking as pretty as ever!

My role at ANSS has been extended a year, with a process to occur for the school to consider the next leader. ANSS is in good shape. Stay the course. Let's be world class.

A big thank you to our ANSS Governing Council and the numerous volunteers who give of their time and ongoing commitment to our school. I'd particularly like to thank Michael Loeser, Kimberley Robinson and Jo Miller for their work on Governing Council. Due to various commitments, they will no longer be Governing Council members. I acknowledge the contributions of support staff, teachers, leaders, students and families throughout the year. May you all have a wonderful holiday. See you in 2021.

Best wishes,

Byron



*"ANSS is in
good shape.
Stay the course.
Let's be
world class."*



*"It's impossible,"
said pride.
"It's risky!"
said experience.
"It's pointless!"
said reason.
"Give it a try!"
whispered the heart.*

Author Unknown

Junior Primary

Maddy Williams

In the Junior Primary Unit this year, Classes B1 and B2 have tried something new—an open classroom environment. We have opened our middle doors to offer our 16 students an effective, fun and flexible team-teaching program.

Our students now have the opportunity to interact with a wider range of peers, with some lovely friendships developing. There are also some wonderful peer role-modelling opportunities, particularly

valuable for our new Receptions this year.

Additionally we have more customised spaces for students to engage in group work and to provide 1:1 support and encourage student self-regulation, including relaxing in the sensory room, retreating to the reading corner or releasing some energy outside in the courtyard.

After an exuberant start, our group times have shown a huge improvement! We can now all sit together and have become familiar with routines, focusing on greeting each other, discussing our daily schedule and joining in shared reading.



Primary

Rebecca Bowne

Throughout the year students in C1 have participated in buddy class with classes in the Primary, Sensory, and Senior Units. We have enjoyed engaging in a variety of curriculum areas and topics including literacy, numeracy, art, cooking, and Outdoor Education, and have built positive connections with staff and peers across the school.

Students have practised important social skills such as greeting peers, turn-taking, and following directions, demonstrating behaviours that are safe, kind and responsible. They have also benefited greatly from peer modelling. By interacting with, and observing peers, as well as playing and learning alongside peer models, students have improved their social skills, behaviour and confidence in new environments.

It has been wonderful to see a connectedness between classes that has supported students to build friendships, and develop a greater sense of wellbeing at school. Buddy class collaboration has made positive impacts on student learning and social development.



*Not only is example
the best way to teach,
it is the only way.*

Albert Schweitzer



Senior

Darren Bradshaw

This term we had our annual UniSA Fun Day. An action-packed day for all of our students, involving a disco in the gym, a bouncy castle, a BBQ, a range of physical activities to get everyone up and moving and a whole school walk!

We started in the gym for our disco and it was great to see everyone dancing along to the music. Next we went out to the bouncy castle where everyone loved the slide, and even students who didn't want to go inside still enjoyed bouncing on the castle steps.

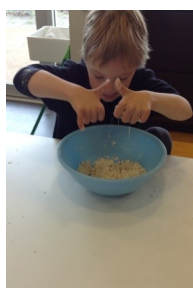
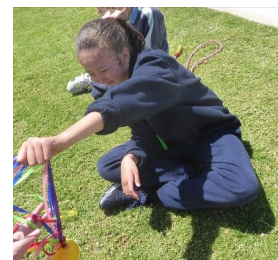
After a break for recess, we moved to the Active Yard to participate in a range of ball activities involving throwing, kicking and pushing. We all enjoyed trying to knock as many things over as possible!

After a BBQ lunch we joined the whole school to all walk together. A day full of fun, action, smiles and laughter. The best day possible!



We didn't realise we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun.

Winnie the Pooh



...and at the end of the day, your feet should be dirty, your hair messy and your eyes sparkling.

Shanti

Primary

Melissa Ernesti

Sensory Fridays have been a big hit with the students in Primary C4, when we join together to engage in sensory-based activities. Students have had opportunities to make their own cloud dough, moon dough, playdough and their favourite... slime. Lots and lots of slime!

Each week the students use AAC to predict and describe what their creation may feel like before getting hands-on with making and playing with their masterpieces. They have revelled in the process of making their creations from scratch and have enjoyed taking turns in pouring, mixing and rolling out the material.

Whilst it's a lot of fun it also provides a range of social development opportunities. Students are supported to practise working together, take turns, share resources and have also developed an awareness of safe and unsafe behaviours.

Sensory Fridays are always messy and students and staff wouldn't want it any other way!



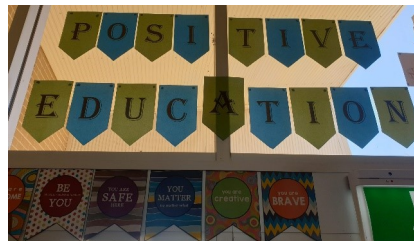
Senior

Nathan Lowe

This term E4 has had a focus on Positive Education in the classroom. Positive Education is an approach that focuses on emphasising the individual strengths and personal attributes of each student. It is a growth mindset that builds resilience, optimism, engagement and mindfulness.

School is a significant organisation in a student's life, and can play an effective role in supporting psychological health, especially in adolescence. It's also about creating an environment for building good health and wellbeing.

The students in E4 have been looking at what makes them special, unique and stand out for all the right reasons.



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela



R-12

Simon Fuller and Jacky Young

Simon's class has been engaged in a music focus throughout the year, supporting students to gain awareness of themselves and others. It has improved communication, relationships and literacy skills, and perception of number and distribution, with movement and time activities.

Students are becoming more tactile and interactive with each other, reaching out and working beyond their personal space. In fact the R-12 theme days were such a highlight, that we had our own Halloween party in our classroom. Classes were invited to join us to interact and sing songs. We've even written one of our own. Simon wrote the music too!

Music has been important in helping to energise us for activities throughout the day, and to de-stress and relax near the end of the day.

Jacky's class has been busy revisiting all the wonderful things we did this year. Recently everyone was asked about their favourite things.

Jake's favourite activity was swimming, Mujeeb's was Farm Day, Kacy and Harry liked music, and Kumail loved experimenting with umbrellas. We chose photos from these moments to share.

Though 2020 has been a strange year, we have made many amazing memories and grown so much. Have a great holiday everyone and bring on 2021!



Every time I look at the keyboard I see that U and I are always together.

Author Unknown

