It was a glorious start to the new school year: fine, pleasant weather, teachers energised by 2 days of professional development focused on high expectations and students excited about new possibilities.

Welcome to our new teachers: Elyse Edwards (Year 3), Gordon Heitmann (Geography, Aboriginal Education Teacher), Robin Parsons (Maths/Science), Sandy Alston (PE), Daryl Hubbard (Technology), Sonja Strbic (English, Art, HaSS), Aleksandra White (Pre school), Annie Stephenson (AIP), Clare Thompson (AIP). We are fortunate to have many of our contract teachers continuing in 2015.

These teachers are ably supported by Leo Azzopardi (AIP), and Maria Harkotsikas (Executive Officer)

Student Services has been streamlined to ensure even greater efficiency and all day continuous service for Middle and Senior School students. Student Services is now located in a newly built extension between the Front Office and Finance Office staffed by the efficient and friendly Michelle Crush and Julie Williams.

There are a number of new faces and positions in leadership all focused on high expectations, high levels of achievement, quality teaching and ensuring that every student is supported to do even more than their best.

Sharon Tibbits – P-12 Student Achievement and Accountability, Ignite
Sam King – P-12 Teaching and Learning, English & Languages
Paul Vanner – P-12 ICT, Maths
Kylie Turton – Defence Industry Program Manager

Future newsletters will outline their work and the improvements that you can expect to see in your child’s learning.

Leah Overstreet has taken on the role of Junior School Sub School Leader while Neil Piggott is on leave in term 1.

Anne Ryan continues in the role of Middle School Sub School Leader.

A complete list of all staff and responsibilities can be found on the website.

PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE
We are absolutely thrilled by the results of our 2014 Year 12 students and delighted to see them achieve so much and enter strong future pathways to University, TAFE or employment.

11% of our students achieved an ATAR of >90%
SACE completion increased by 13% to 91.5%
56% of grades were B or above

Congratulations to Shannon Chamberlain who achieved a Merit in Creative Arts (20/20). She enters a Bachelor of Journalism and Professional Writing degree.

Congratulations to Dylan Storti, recipient of the Adelaide University Principals’ Scholarship. Dylan will study Mechanical Engineering.

Both Shannon and Dylan will receive their awards at ceremonies at Government House and Bonython Hall in the coming weeks. It is always a proud occasion as principal of the school that supported them to attain these outstanding results. Congratulations to the Year 12 teachers who worked tirelessly to ensure every student had the opportunity and support to do their best.
We were delighted to meet a record number of families at Middle School Acquaintance Evening. Getting to know each other over a sausage and chat was an excellent way to start what we hope will be a very productive partnership in 2015. Our emphasis will be on high expectations – of everyone, by everyone and all the time. How will we achieve this? Stay tuned for the next newsletters.

PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THE GROUP THAT DETERMINES THE DIRECTION OF THE SCHOOL?
ARE YOU KEEN TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL?
ARE YOU ABLE TO ATTEND 2 MEETINGS PER TERM?

IF THE ANSWER IS YES
THEN GOVERNING COUNCIL IS THE GROUP FOR YOU
VACANCIES EXIST FOR PARENT MEMBERS OF GOVERNING COUNCIL
Complete the nomination form on the website and forward to the Principal

THE HEIGHTS NEEDS YOU

Research has consistently shown that parental involvement in children’s education does make a positive difference to students’ achievement.

AN INVITATION
TO
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2014
6:30pm
MIDDLE SCHOOL
MULTI SPACE
Refreshments

Be a part of this important governance group, nominate to become a member of Governing Council, the parent group that ensures that the voice of parents is listened to and shapes the future of our school. Be involved, be effective in helping your children to be successful.

Homework Group

On Thursdays (Week 2 onwards), I will be running a ‘Homework Group’ for Year 6/7s who would like to attend. It will be held in the upstairs Middle School learning area (just outside MF5) and runs from the end of the school day until 4pm.

I will be there to support year 6/7 students with their homework. Students who do not need help, but need time to catch up on any outstanding work are also most welcome.

If you would like any more information, don’t hesitate to come and see me, or email me at Cherie.rothery898@schools.sa.edu.au. Students who wish to attend meet in the upstairs Middle School learning area straight after class. They will need to be collected at 4pm.

Regards, Cherie Rothery
Host Families Needed

20 Year 8 boys will be visiting The Heights from Vajiravudh College in Bangkok at the end of Term 1. Vajiravudh College is regarded as one of the best schools in Thailand, and this will be the school’s first visit to Australia. The students will be at The Heights from 22\textsuperscript{nd} March to 11\textsuperscript{th} April (Week 9 – Week 11, Term 1).

If you are interested in hosting one or two students on this program, please contact Bob Powell at bob.powell491@schools.sa.edu.au, or pop into the Resource Centre after school. As a reminder, families will be paid for hosting.

Hosting a student is an outstanding opportunity to bring another culture into your home, and to teach your children the value of cross-cultural understanding.  

Bob Powell – Internationalism Manager

Congratulations........

Congratulations to both Paul and Shannon Blyth. They have been involved in archery for the past two years and this year have earned themselves a spot in the South Australian team to compete in the National Youth Archery Championships in Penrith in April. They have worked very hard to achieve this level and continue to work hard to ensure they compete to the highest standard.

Their parents are very proud and would like to share this with the school as it is a great reflection on The Heights to have two of its students competing at such a high level.

Thank you, Katie Blyth

Paul and Shannon’s achievement is a strong connection to our School Values

HAVE A GO
GO HARD
KEEP GOING
- doing your best, hard work, persistence, confidence

Is your child interested in learning Afrikaans, Chinese, French, Italian or Punjabi?

In 2015 SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES will be offering classes for students R-10 at Torrens Valley Christian School lessons will be held on Tuesday afternoons

R-7 classes: 3.45pm - 5.15pm
Year 8-9 classes: 3.45pm - 6.15pm
Year 10 classes: 3.45pm - 6.45pm

For more information contact the School of Languages on 8301 4800

Traffic Reminder
For our students’ safety, please be reminded that the speed limit around the school during school hours is 25kph.

Girl soccer players wanted

‘Girl soccer players wanted Para Hills United Soccer Club No experience necessary Ph: Wendy 8262 4233’
Welcome to our first issue of Parents & Friends news for 2015. Firstly we would like to welcome new and existing volunteers to our group for 2015.

**President:** Maria Parry  
**Minute Takers:** Pauline Rusby/Amanda Sommers  
**Vice President:** Julie Bleakley  
**Public Relations:** Sophie Angelaras/Mandy Leventis  
**Treasurer:** Karen Lynch

Other Volunteer Members are: Noelle Wallis, Eve Adcock, Cathy Johnson, Julie and Ian Bleakley, Michelle Beck, Patricia Hooft, Amanda Sommers, Gashaw Zhalaye, Tanya Jennings, Iona Angely and Bec Embury.

We would like to congratulate Jacqui Grivell and wish her well with her new job. Thank you Jacqui for all your efforts and support over the years, you have been very generous with your time and you are always a wealth of information, we will miss you.

We would also like to thank Ms Tilley and her Year 6/7 Art Students for the wonderful leadlight fish on display on the Community Room windows. Also thank you to Ms Davies and her Reception students for their beautiful paintings on display on the walls, they all look fantastic.

**WHAT WE DO:**
Parents and Friends meet once a month for a meeting and we volunteer our time to help fundraise and organise special events that occur at our school.

For example: We help organise catering and coordinate volunteers for Sports Day for Junior, Middle & Senior Years, Year 12 Graduation, Year 7 Graduation, Celebration in the Courtyard Bake Sale. We support Middle School student immunisation days by supplying cordial and biscuits for students.

We also have a social luncheon together once a term. Anyone is welcome to come to lunch. Please contact Noelle Wallis at the school for further information.

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS/EVENTS**

**March**  Middle School/Senior School Sports Day – we will be selling Hamburgers, Bacon & Egg Sandwiches, Soft Drinks and Iceblocks from the Sports Kiosk adjacent to the oval.

**April**  Junior School Sports Day – we will be selling Pizza (students will have the opportunity to pre-order pizza and a drink to be delivered to classrooms at lunch time), Indian Potato Cakes, Fruit Boxes, Water, Iceblocks, Tea and Coffee from the Sports Kiosk adjacent to the oval.

**May**  Mother’s Day Gift Stall – Junior School classes will be allocated a timeslot to visit the stall with their teacher on the day. Middle and Senior School Students are welcome to visit at Recess and Lunch breaks.

**Please try and support our upcoming food stalls at Sports Day. All profits will be going back to the school and will benefit our children.**

**NEXT MEETING**
Our first meeting is next Wednesday, 11th February at 9am in the Community Room. New members are always welcome.

For further information about Parents and Friends please contact:

Maria Parry 0417 879 497, or email: steria@internode.on.net  
Noelle Wallis 82636244,  
or email: Noelle.Wallis558@schools.sa.edu.au
Junior School News

We hope everyone had a wonderful festive season and holiday with your families. We would like to extend a warm welcome to new families to our school this year and welcome back those who are returning. The school year has commenced very smoothly with students negotiating learning expectations in their classes. We would like to say “Thank you” to all the staff for the time and effort they have put into making sure programmes and resources are in place for the start of the year. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers for your cooperation in ensuring students arrived punctually and in school uniform ready for the new school year.
Junior School News

In CF10 with Mrs Goerner and Mrs Golotta we use the ‘Daily 5’ and CAFE literacy programme. Each day children are involved in:

1. Read to Self (silent or whispered reading).
2. Listen to Reading (audio books on the CD player or computer).
3. Read to Someone (buddy reading with a class mate).
4. Work on Writing (free choice writing to practise skills taught in writing workshops with the teacher).
5. Word Work (practise spelling sight/sound pattern words or expanding vocabulary).

CAFE is an acronym for the four major components of reading. They are:

- C for Comprehension
- A for Accuracy
- F for Fluency
- E for Expanding Vocabulary

Children are taught skills in each area through lessons with the teacher. They then practise these skills during the Daily 5.

We have already started learning how to be successful in Read to Someone. We have discussed finding a good spot to sit and how to share a book. Here are some photos of us!
The new Student Services has arrived. This improvement was established over the Christmas break and looks remarkable. The Student Services office is now located between the Front Office and the Finance Office and it is the area to locate Michelle Crush (Middle School) and Julie Williams (Senior School). The contactors “MYKRA” were a little pushed for time during the break but managed to have it completed in time for the new school year and the Grounds and Facilities Committee are very happy to present this new development. We look forward to hearing the feedback from the students and families of the school.

The hard courts are finally starting to take shape with the bitumen having been laid on the 21st January. The bottom courts are to be marked out with two tennis courts, two netball courts and two basketball courts and will be available for use by the students of The Heights School by the end of next week. The top courts will take a little longer with the completion date to be in week 7. The Grounds and Facilities Committee are very pleased to announce that they will be fitted with artificial turf and be marked as three tennis courts and one multi-purpose court.

Thank you for your support and patience with this improvement, we look forward to being able to see the students and the wider community make good use of this very exciting development.

Renae Lambden on behalf the Grounds and Facilities Committee
Junior School Staff

Neil Piggott is taking Long Service Leave for Term 1 and Leah Overstreet will be backfilling his position. Angel Golotta will be backfilling Leah in CF9.

We would like to welcome back the following teachers, Angel Golotta (CF9/CF10) and Catherine Di Troia (CF2) and a warm welcome also to Elyse Edwards who has moved over from the Middle School to join our team.

Junior School Acquaintance Night/Reverse Interviews

The Junior School will be holding an Acquaintance Night/Reverse Interview evening on Wednesday, February 11th. A note was sent home earlier this week with information about this evening. Please see your child’s classroom teacher if you require any more information. We have decided to have 3 timeslots this year so that parents can attend different classes as needed.

We urge parents/caregivers to attend this night with their child to meet the classroom teacher(s) and to develop a strong partnership between home and school which is vital for success. Importantly it will allow you to increase your knowledge of the practices that teachers employ, expectations for the year and to see first-hand what children are learning.

ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT

6.00pm to 6.40pm Teachers will present 6.00-6.20pm
   CG4 (Leanne Davies), CF11(Trent Feil)

6.20pm to 7.00pm Teachers will present 6.30-6.50pm
   CF9 (Marnie Max, Angel Golotta, Leah Overstreet),
   CF10 (Colleen Goerner, Angel Golotta), CF1(Elyse Edwards)

6.50pm to 7.30pm Teachers will present 7.00-7.20
   CF3 (Kym Gray), CF4 (Jemma Plaisted),
   CF6 (Maureen London, Kathy Lyon)

REVERSE INTERVIEWS 3.15 to 6.45pm

CG6 (Ros Harrison);
CG7 (Ingrid Simmons);
CF2 (Catherine Di Troia);
CF5 (Pam Weniton)