

From our Principal, Mr David Harriss

Welcome to our August newsletter...

...we certainly have experienced a wet start to the 2021 winter!

I would firstly like to thank and acknowledge the wonderful support from the community during our recent state-wide lockdown. There were numerous challenges presented to our families, students, and teachers, and I am proud of the way they were all able to meet those challenges with courage. With the current COVID conditions facing our friends in the Eastern states, it would be foolish to think we are not going to be impacted again. As a school, we learnt a lot from the last lockdown and will be better prepared should we need to again. If you have any feedback around how we could operate more effectively to support our students learning and wellbeing, please forward your ideas to me. I have been particularly impressed with the way the vast majority of our staff, students and visitors have respected the mask wearing requirements. I am not able to give any indication about when these requirements may be eased.

Your child's future subject selection and pathways process has begun. You should have received an invitation to register for our course confirmation interviews. Please start (or continue) discussions with your child about their future planning, and visit our website for details of our 2022 curriculum. This is one of the most important processes each year, as it helps set up the future direction and success of each of our students. Preparations for our 2022 double intake of students are continuing, which incorporates both their educational, wellbeing and physical needs. We are looking forward with great enthusiasm to extending our family next year!

Our current year 12 cohort are halfway through what most consider the most demanding term for students. It is important that students are present as much as possible, use the study time available, and take advantage of the support provided by all staff here at school. It is also important that they are supported from the home front as well. At times they may see the hill they are climbing is too high, but I have faith in the knowledge that they will get to that summit by taking one quality step at a time. I wish them all the best in their short journey to the completion of their secondary schooling.

Building works are nearing their final completion, with the Resilience corridor (first floor west) and staff carpark due for completion at the end of this month. We should have full use of these areas before the end of the term. Again, I would like to acknowledge the resilience and flexibility exhibited by our staff, students, and community in meeting the challenges the building program has presented.

If you are considering replacing your child's laptop, I would like to remind you of the expectation that these are purchased through the portal on our website. There are a range of options, all set up and designed specifically to meet the demands of using this as an educational tool and will assist in their future education.

Stay dry and warm and I look forward to the rest of the year with much optimism.

Warmest regards,

David Harriss



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Calendar Dates TERM 3

Week 6

- Wednesday 25th August
- Course Confirmation Day Years 8 to 11
- Excursion Senior Mixed Volleyball
- Excursion Year 8/9 Basketball

Week 7

- Wednesday 1st September
- Senior Mixed Volleyball
- Excursion Year 8/9 Basketball

Week 8

- Monday 6th September
- School Closure Day
- Tuesday 7th September
- School Dental Visits
- Wednesday 8th September
- School Dental Visits
- Excursion Senior Mixed Volleyball
- Excursion Year 8/9 Basketball

- Friday 10th September
- School Dental Visits

Week 9

- Wednesday 15th September
- Excursion Senior Mixed Volleyball
- Excursion Year 8/9 Basketball

Week 10

- Friday 24th September
- Pupil Free Day
- Last Day of Term 3

Week 1 Term 4

- Monday 11th October
- First Day of Term 4

IMPORTANT NOTICES

COURSE COUNSELLING

Wednesday 25th August

11:00am to 6:45pm

Years 8 to 11

All students are now working with their home group teachers on selecting courses for 2022.

You will have received an email with further information about this process. Our Curriculum guide can be accessed on our website under the curriculum menu or via this [link](#).

On Wednesday 25th August you will be asked to accompany your student to a course counselling appointment to discuss their choices for 2022 and pathways beyond this.

There will be **no classes for students in Years 8 to 11 on this day**, as they will be attending an appointment with their parent/carer.

Year 12 students will continue classes as normal on this day as they do not have appointments.

Please book a time with your child's home group teacher (you can find the home group teacher name on Daymap – Social Education class) via this link www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the code **j3abf**.

Students in Years 10 and 11 who wish to undertake a VET course in 2022 should also see Jillian Gulliver VET Leader after their interview to ensure parent signatures are on the required paperwork. Please allow an extra 30 min for this to occur.

All Covid physical distancing and health requirements will be in place however, if you prefer not to, or cannot come onsite, you can be phoned at the set interview time- please let the HG teacher know via an email that you would like a phone call.

Please call and speak to your child home group teacher if you have any questions.

Lee Knight

Deputy Principal



FUNDRAISING

 **Entertainment**

**The savvy
way to save!**

Buy an Entertainment Membership today and get a BONUS \$40 eGift Card when you buy Multi City or a \$20 eGift Card when you buy Single City

(offer expires 1/9/2021)

PLUS you will receive one extra month FREE and you will automatically go in the draw to WIN incredible prizes!

(one month free offer

expires 15/9/2021)

To JOIN simply [click this link](#), hit the "Buy Now" button and follow the prompts.



HIGHLIGHTS - FROM WEEKS ONE TO FIVE

NAIDOC Week

4 to 11 July

NAIDOC week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

NAIDOC stands for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'.

Each year, a theme is chosen to reflect the important issues and events for NAIDOC Week. This year's theme is "Heal Country" which calls for all Australians to seek greater protection from exploitation and destruction of land, water sacred sites and cultural heritage.

This year to celebrate NAIDOC week an award-winning artist, Kurna Elder, Mrs Elaine Magais was going to be teaching our aboriginal students the history of Paperbark, and the importance it plays in Aboriginal culture. Mrs Magais was also running a workshop to show our students how to make a Paperbark Kokedama.

Due to COVID restrictions this event has been postponed and we will attempt to reschedule later this year.

Winner of the Prestigious 2021 Naidoc Poster



"Heal Country" Award winning artist Maggie-Jean Douglas.

"The first thing I thought about (when creating the work) is how Australia has a lot of natural medicines, and ways of healing. I thought about... how people have used that to heal ourselves spiritually, physically, emotionally, all those things."

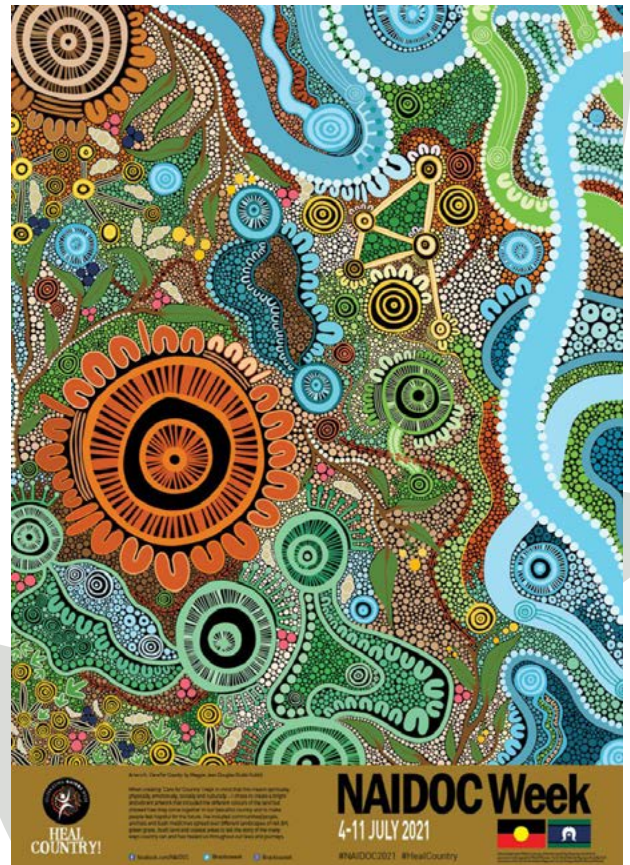
"(That was) my first thought, and I resonate with that because that's the way I feel: out of sorts when I haven't had enough connection to Country. The work is incredibly detailed. On closer inspection, you can find many elements: bush resources, like wattle, eucalyptus, witchetty grubs and Lilly Pilly berries; the tracks of animals like emus and kangaroos, "part of the ecosystem," says Douglas; and all throughout, the circles of people gathering. That is the healing that takes place when family and community gather on country."

There is a NAIDOC celebration board in our Resource Centre showing examples of our Culture, Art, Dance and Food. An image of this can be seen in the Library section of our Newsletter.



Debbie Scholfield
Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer

To all our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families we at Underdale High school wish you a joyous week of celebration.



Care
Create
Innovate

Resilience
Optimism
Courage
Knowledge

HIGHLIGHTS - FROM WEEKS FIVE TO TEN

Performing Arts - Year 8

In week 9 last term the year 8 Performing Arts class successfully put on a performance for a small audience. The play 'The Marvellous Mellow Melodrama of a Mislaid Minor' was a melodramatic play that required students to over-exaggerate their facial expressions and physical acting. The students had spent the whole term learning lines, rehearsing scenes, and organising props and costumes. On the day a few lines were forgotten but everyone did so well to improvise and continue with the scene – the students should be very proud of their efforts.

It was such a pleasure to host parents and staff in the theatre, in the brand-new Creative Arts building. Some of the new technology we were able to utilise included wireless microphones, lighting, sound effects, headsets to communicate backstage, and live footage casted on two televisions so we could view the stage from backstage as well as outside the theatre. We look forward to putting on more performances in future and encourage families to come and support their students in the Arts.

Alora Cursaro – Drama Teacher



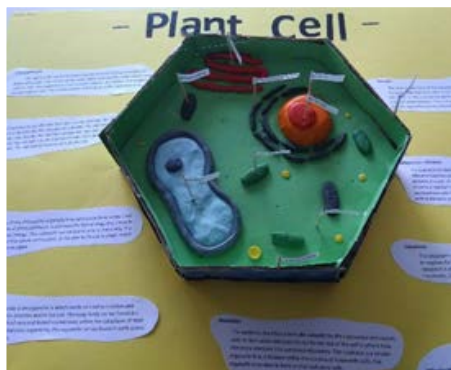
Science - Year 8



During term two, some year 8 science classes had the opportunity to showcase their artistic and creative talents in their science classes. Students were given the task of creating a representation of an animal and a plant cell to learn about the differences and similarities between the two types of cells and to find out about the structure and function of the different organelles that the cells contain. They were given a variety of resources to complete their construction, but many opted to put their modelling skills to the test and used plasticine as a basis for their models.

Students worked in small groups and demonstrated their collaboration and communication skills by allocating tasks to each member of the group. Many decisions had to be made as well as effective use of time management to complete the task. All groups worked well to produce some impressive cell models.

Michelle Harrop - Science Teacher



HIGHLIGHTS - FROM WEEKS ONE TO FIVE



Poem Forest - English - Year 9

Write a poem – plant a tree!

POEM FOREST is a free nature writing prize that literally breathes life back into the natural world that sustains us.

Created by Red Room Poetry, in partnership with The Australian Botanic Garden, POEM FOREST deepens our connection with nature by inviting students and communities to use their words to make positive climate action. For every nature poem received a tree is planted to help heal habitats and create a POEM FOREST for future generations.

All POEM FOREST Prize entries will be published and in the running for \$5,000 worth of prizes, including \$500 cash for each category, book packs from Copyright Agency and Magabala Books, as well as Garden tours, trees and publication opportunities.

Mrs Reveruzzi's Year 9 English Class had the opportunity to submit poems they created to support the environment and be in the draw for this excellent prize. Have a read of these examples!

Competition closes 17 September 2021

Open to all students and teachers at

<https://redroompoetry.org/projects/poem-forest/entries/>

Warm Summer Day

by Olivia Brownlow-Loechel

*A warm summer breeze from sunset to sunrise,
As we lay on our towels drying in the warmth,
Feeling sleepy after swimming all day,
Listening to the water crashing against the rocks,
The waves getting bigger as the sun goes down,
The sand is still warm from the hot day before,
Covering our bodies from head to toe,
Getting ready to leave but not wanting to depart from the
salty smells,
Excited to be back the next day to do it all again.*

The Last of Us

By Aryan Gupta

*There it was a big red tree
Standing with others, in the wind it was free
For hundreds and thousands, it stayed afloat
Like a small rowboat
Like leaves on water, providing a home
For insects and bugs that lived alone
but as per our selfish desire, we began to slaughter
and in a just blink of an eye, there was left a quarter*

*and then there was one
a lonely tree that had no one
being filled with smoke it began to choke
its leaves all fell, as winter had come
it was a challenge it could no longer overcome
who once stood high
had finally said goodbye*

The Dying Earth

By Ashton Busuttil

*As the sky fades, to the dimmest of day
Clouds of smog and smoke, present an array
The scene of factories polluting the pristine air
I shall put an end to this, I humbly swear*

*As the clouds of smoke flew across the sky
The sentiment of death would slowly arise
Oh, this fate we have brought upon ourselves
All that remains of us is dust on unclean shelves*

*A memory is what we will be
And for an eternity we will not be free
Our souls, cursed by the will of mother earth
Stuck in an endless void with no chance of rebirth*

*For we who have destroyed this enchanted land
It was a punishment we could not understand
And as I sit here willingly writing this poem
I pray to dear God that we can prevent this problem*

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HIGHLIGHTS - FROM WEEKS ONE TO FIVE

ADF Inaugural female leadership training day

June 30 - Students from Underdale High School attended the inaugural female leadership training session hosted by the Australian Defence Forces. Students worked alongside female leaders, of various ranks, within the ADF and other female students from multiple schools of which some had prior training within the cadets.

Students spent the day identifying and developing attributes of good leadership - poor and good. The majority of the day was used to develop the following aspects of leadership:

- Values → Identification and discussion
- Attributes → Identification of suitable leadership roles suitable to themselves
- Communication → Developing confidence, competence, and concise speaking.
- Thinking and teamwork → identification of roles and implementation.

Throughout the day, multiple female ADF members came in to discuss their own personal experiences, roles e.g. missile maintenance, and the community bonds that they had developed while serving. Students were encouraged to pursue careers in leadership as it need not be at the expense of having a normal family life.

The day was thoroughly enjoyable and encouraged our students to consider senior roles in their future career paths.

Mr. Gavini - Science, STEM and Design Technology Leader



SPORT UPDATE

Senior Girls Knockout Football v Nazareth College

12 August - Our seniors went down in a tight contest but played their hearts out!

We bid farewell to seniors Aaliyah Falco, Sini Panagiotidis and Alice Sua who have represented the school with pride from 2017 to 2021.

The future remains bright for our girls with four debutants in the round 1 encounter.



Year 8/9 Boys Knockout Football Round 2 v Nazareth College

12 August - It was a heartbreaking day across the river as our juniors were knocked out on penalties.

Despite growing more dominant as the game progressed, it ended 0-0 at FT and remained so after ET.

In the penalty shootout, goalie Alex Rusmir tried his best to keep us alive but it was not be.

Heads up young men! We learn from it and go again.



SPORTS NEWS

Mountain Bike Team's Championship

Mountain Bikers! Your day has arrived!

If you're interested in hitting the slopes at O'Halloran Hill to represent the school in the State Mountain bike carnival, register your interest by TUESDAY 31ST AUGUST with Stana or Mr Hilditch.

Riders of all abilities can join - you don't have to be a pro!

Event Date: Friday 15th October

Location: O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park



LIBRARY NEWS

NAIDOC Week



NAIDOC week was due to take place while we were in lockdown. Deb Schofield has prepared a beautiful celebration display on the back wall of the resource centre. Our NAIDOC celebrations will continue later in the term.

New Books

Recent additions to the library shelves include the Wizards of Once series by Cressida Cowell and The way of the warrior : Marvel's mightiest martial artists.



So you think you don't have time to read...

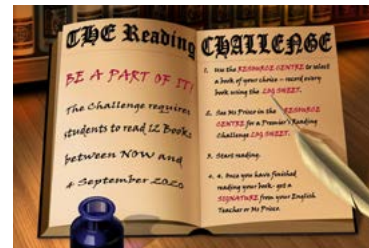
Reading helps your literacy, builds your general knowledge and your empathy with others and is also a great way to relax. The resource centre staff can help you find the ideal book or magazine to chill with and if we can't, we'll do our best to buy it in, ready for next time.

Remember... any reading is good reading



Library Quiz

Don't forget to submit an answer to the weekly quiz question. Entry forms are located at the library desk.



The Premier's Reading Challenge

Entry forms available from the library. Challenge forms need to be returned by August 31. Read ANY book suitable for your age, record it on your form and get a parent or teacher to sign it off. Resource centre staff are happy to help you choose a book.

BOOK CLUB



Join us for our UHS
Book Club
Online Forum
Accessible via Teams
See Ms Prisco for details

UHS Book Club Forum

All students are invited to join the UHS Book Club online to discuss the books you are currently reading. See Ms Prisco for details.

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