

A message from Ian Kent, Principal



The COVID-19 Pandemic has presented many challenges to all of us and I congratulate everyone for being supportive of the school and our students in the face of adversity. Education is the fundamental pillar to the growth of every society, and it was very pleasing to see from the Prime Minister all the way down to individual families and teachers that the education of our children has continued no matter what.

Fortunately, in today's society we have the internet and most students, teachers and families were able to engage in online learning during South Australia's peak time. For those students and families who couldn't engage using technology we found other means to provide a teaching and learning program to ensure continuity of learning for all. However, face-to-face teaching where a teacher provides explicit instructions, formative assessment and feedback to students in a classroom is still the most effective forum for enabling students to achieve their best. Complementing this is the social interactions students have with their peers and teachers. You cannot do one without the other, and if you ask students the latter is the one that matters most to them.

This year through newsletters, Facebook and Instagram you will have seen the wonderful achievements of our students R-12, and there are many despite the COVID-19 restrictions. In this Magazine you will see many of the highlights for you to keep as a memento of your child's/children's wonderful year at Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School but more importantly they

will have this to reflect on as they continue to go through school or into the world of work.

We are incredibly proud of our thriving multi-campus community at Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School, where students explore, learn, create and grow together. From Reception to Year 12 they enjoy the ideal preparation for life beyond the school gates.

Together the students play sport, create music and stage ambitious productions. They explore the great outdoors and take on physical challenges. They plan social events, run assemblies, raise farm animals, conduct Science experiments and solve complex Mathematical problems. Students read, research and write amazing reports, poetry, short stories and essays demonstrating their understanding of a complex world based on History, Geography and Literature. They learn about sustainability and the environment, and how it all connects to their future through Deep Learning, Multi-disciplinary approaches and Bush School.

Students engage in Technology right across all curriculum areas and learn how to maintain, design, build and create cities, towns, machinery, furniture, cars and games at all levels. They express themselves through the Arts (music, dance and drama) and, visual arts where there are outstanding individual pieces of work produced R-12.

A strong **work ethic** is an important part of being successful in life. Building a strong work ethic is what we all need to focus on in the coming years so that our students embrace the notion that hard work is almost automatic and a default action. Forming good habits such as focusing, staying motivated, finishing tasks immediately, and more helps to create a good work ethic that will always be the pathway to success and what every employer wants in the workforce.

We need to build **resilience** in our young people. It is an attitude that can be learnt, and it involves choosing to capitalise on any situation, regardless of how it affects our plans and dreams. The Rite Journey Program, Youth Opportunities and year level Camps are extra-curricular activities where much of this is developed. Students need to know that life doesn't always go as we planned it, and we are not actually entitled to have every dream for the future fulfilled. There will be hard times,

and we need to learn the skill of deciding to go on, even if that is simply about getting out of bed each day.

World class research and study over time has shown that parents who work with their children's teachers and vice versa produce outstanding results. This is an area where we have grown and need to look at opportunities to continuously improve if we are to sustain a culture based on producing skilled, independent, responsible learners and citizens. We have a great school in our community which is the envy of many. We will continue to set our goals on achieving at the highest level possible through clear communication and collaboration. All our students will be the beneficiaries of strong parent/school partnerships and this was very evident this year in the face of adversity.

Teachers and support staff work with students building on and understanding their own individual strengths and abilities using a team approach on programs that build character, competencies and life-skills in our students. Therefore, the quality and nature of the relationships staff have with students is paramount in their success.

When you have a good relationship with your students, they are more likely to feel positive about class and about school in general. They are also more willing to have a go at hard work, to risk making mistakes, and to ask for help when they need it.

Therefore, it is not surprising that research shows constructive teacher-student relationships have a large and positive impact on students' academic results.

Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School staff are outstanding in this domain and is one of the main reasons we have worked positively and constructively through all the challenges COVID-19 has presented.

To our Year 6 Students,
At around the age of 4 young people take the first steps in going from dependent to independent. This is about the same time that most young people start Kindergarten or Pre-school in South Australia and transition from the home environment to a formal educational environment.
Most of you have come through that process and taken the next major step from Kindergarten or Pre-school to a Reception class at a Primary School. The majority of

you have gone through that process in Strathalbyn, Langhorne Creek, Milang and Ashbourne, the four R-6 Campuses of Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School.

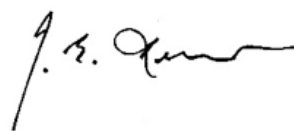
Many of you have joined us at various stage in your R-6 journey from a variety of schools across South Australia and some from interstate or other parts of the world.

This next big step is going into a secondary schooling environment. These steps in your young lives and transition from one learning journey to the next takes you out of your comfort zone. Each step brings challenges as you have made many good friends and formed positive working relationships with staff, and then all of a sudden you find yourself in an unknown learning environment, having to potentially make new friends and develop relationships with teachers and SSOs you have never met before.

Within each new learning environment there are structures in place to support your learning and wellbeing, and to continue your journey from dependence to independence. At the end of the day these structures only guide and coach you on how to interact and communicate with others. The fascinating thing about life and individuals is that we are all different but in order to survive as a species we must be able to work together as well as be independent and that is take responsibility for our own actions, to give back and make a difference to the world we live in.
Your parents and staff have prepared you well for this next big journey through high school.

Regardless of the high school you have chosen to go to the environment will be different but the intention will be the same and that is to prepare you for the world beyond school.

I congratulate you on reaching the half way mark of your learning journey and wish you all the best in the exciting second half of the journey. Remember, that you only get out of life what you put into it, and from what I have seen there is a lot of success coming your way.



Ian Kent
Principal
Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School

