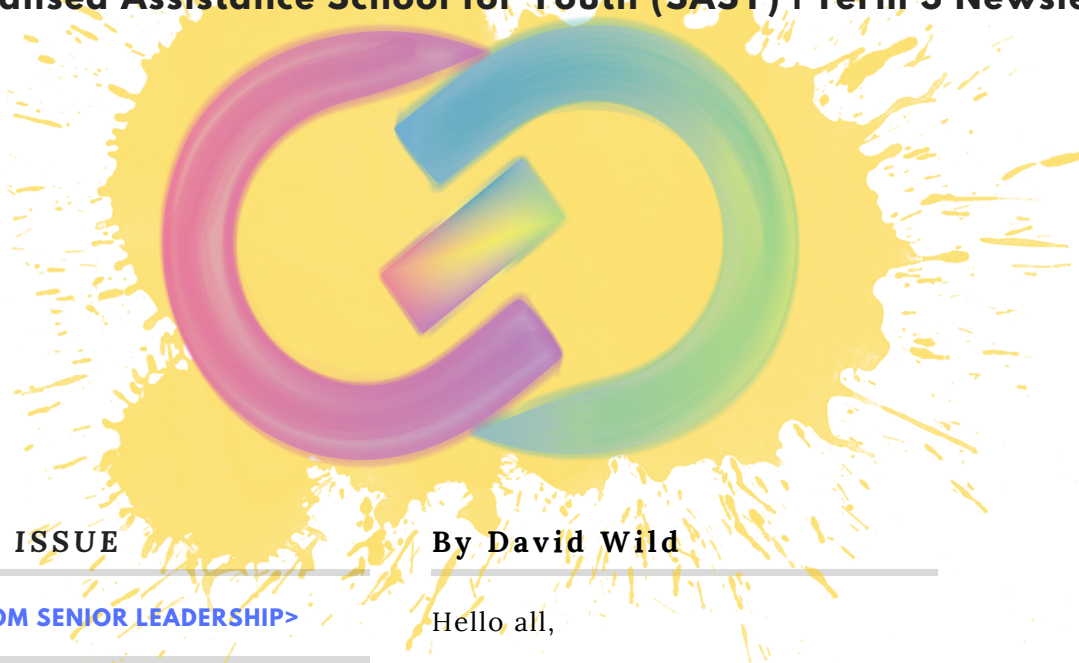


# THE SASY SCOOP

Specialised Assistance School for Youth (SASY) | Term 3 Newsletter



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**By David Wild**

Hello all,

Just like that, another School Term has finished! We endured challenges this term with ongoing COVID related restrictions and a lockdown in Week 1, but our staff and students held their heads high and adapted to the changes thrown their way. SASY staff have continued to support and check in with students throughout this uncertain period, and it has been very inspiring to see such a strong sense of community in the school.

SASY's enrolment growth has continued this term, with four new students starting in Term 3. We are excited to see our middle school intake grow over the past year and we welcome these students to the school. In addition to our new students, SASY also welcomed two new staff members this Term; Brittany, a Teacher and Julia, a Youth Worker. By the end of the year, we will also be hiring seven new staff to join the SASY community.

Aligning with the growth of student numbers is the refurbishment of our newest building, 29 Chesser Street, which is set to be complete by mid-Term 4 of this year.

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This refurbishment will see the relocation of the Connect Hub from 30 Chesser St to their new purpose-built area in 29 Chesser, as well as housing the school's Wellbeing Centre, breakout areas for student classes, a quiet study area, and a commercial-grade kitchen.

SASY has continued to form meaningful partnerships with industry leaders. One such example of this is with Operations Flinders for SASY's Outdoor Adventure Programs. Collaborating with instructors from Operation Flinders, our students have had the opportunity to undertake physically and mentally demanding activities and build their skills in sports such as abseiling, rock climbing and kayaking. This has been a fantastic partnership and will expand our offerings to students this year and for years to come.

We are continuing to support students towards their learning goals for 2021, and particularly those in our senior school who are currently completing their Stage 1 and 2 SACE. We know however that the end of the year brings with it mixed feelings, for which our staff will continue to be there to support students during this time, assisting young people in both wellbeing and learning needs.

I am looking forward the rest of this year and what it holds for our community. Wishing you a safe and restful school holidays.

Kind regards, David.

## A week of politics

*by 2020 SASY graduate, Drew*

I had a great experience at YMCA SA Youth Parliament this year, meeting so many passionate, intelligent and inspiring young people representing a broad range of views and cultures.

As SASY staff know, I've struggled with anxiety, particularly around social settings such as

public speaking. I decided to throw myself in the deep end and I really smashed it. I spoke 7 times in parliament (in front of crowds of 60 to 130 people) on a range of different bills as well as an adjournment speech. The topic I chose for the latter was the philosophy of justice.

It was possibly one of the best weeks of my life, with many friends made, many late nights and a lot of fun had.



DREW SPEAKING AT YOUTH PARLIAMENT

## Hot off the press

***Our new website goes live!***

SASY is very excited to announce that our new website has been published and is now available at [www.sasy.sa.edu.au](http://www.sasy.sa.edu.au). The site features information on our education and wellbeing ethos, staffing, career opportunities and more. We encourage you to check it out!

## Are you ok?

***SASY's annual wellbeing excursion***

Thursday 9th September was our 2nd annual wellbeing excursion to celebrate R U OK? Day. All staff and students travelled to Morialta Reserve for the day and were lucky enough to experience one of the first sunny days of Spring! It was a great opportunity for our community to connect and recharge in nature.

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We played sport and went hiking, did some crafts, played cards and listened to music, had a BBQ lunch and just hung out as a community in the beautiful weather. It was the perfect environment to check in with one another and show our support, but it's important to keep the conversation going.

Make sure you check in with your friends and family and ask are you ok? A conversation could save a life.



STUDENT ARTWORK AT MORIALTA RESERVE

## Student news

### Sharing alumni and current student successes

2020 graduate Kellcie has just got a job as a disability and mental health support worker, pursuing her passion for helping others and giving back to the community. She said of her new role, "I have a job in the field I was hoping for and all the hard work has finally paid off! I'm feeling proud of myself."

A previous student of ours, Ebony, who left school to pursue employment has shared with us that not only has she recently got a job as a Disability Worker, but she got engaged too!

Congratulations Ebony and Kellcie, we are so proud of you both. And Ebony, we want to see the wedding photos!

We love putting a spotlight on student achievements and encourage our students past and present to share them with us.

## Giving back

### Fundraising for our community

Our staff are passionate about giving back to not only the students at SASY, but to our community as a whole, and many of the issues experienced at school stem from issues experienced outside of the classroom.

During October, a group of SASY staff are participating in the Reach Out Australia 'Make A Move For Mental Health' challenge to raise money and help prevent youth suicide. Staff have committed to exercising every day during the month for at least 30 minutes and are documenting their journeys. If you'd like to donate, please search for SASY at [www.makeamove.com.au](http://www.makeamove.com.au)

## A hub of activity

### An overview of Term 3 in our four Hubs

Term 3 has been jam packed with activities and exciting news! Some of the highlights include:

- Two new staff and four students who joined the SASY community
- Our ice hockey team 'The SASY Assassins' WINNING their first match!
- Student podcast 'Puff n Pass' approaching a public launch date
- 'SASY Seniors' jumpers available for our Year 12s - our first ever senior jumper!
- Science Week Virtual Reality (VR) games
- University Social Work student Lauren 'Lozz' joining the SASY team for 1.5 terms
- SASY's first industry training event 'Creating connections: relationships with vulnerable young people' selling 70% of tickets in less than 2 months
- Forming a Reconciliation Action Plan committee and formalising SASY's commitment to reconciliation

And of course, this wasn't even everything our staff and students got up to!







# Skating through school

by Teacher, Grace

SASY students started in the Ice Factor program in Term 3 this year. This program builds students confidence, resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills through ice hockey. South Australian secondary schools can then opt to compete against each other in the annual ice hockey tournament. Have you seen The Mighty Ducks? If so you have a great idea about the Ice Factor.

Students have been attending weekly trainings at the Ice Arena, first learning to skate, and now building their puck handling skills. The school then voted on a team name and logo. On Wednesday, Week 9 the newly formed 'SASY Assassins' ice hockey team played in its first tournament, winning one of their four games. An excellent effort for their first ever go at ice hockey!

Due to illness we were not able to field a full side, so we joined with the 'Wirreanda Wolfpack' who were also low on members. They were warm and welcoming, and we thank them for being so supportive of our team. We are so proud of all students involved in the program, which will be continuing into Term 4 and beyond. Special mention to students Alia, Bianca and Saxon. Go Assassins!

# Market on your calendar

by Teacher, Harvey

'Make It Sell It' is an entrepreneurial program where SASY's young people develop, pitch, and actualise a small, arts-based business to take to market. This year's pilot program has

seen an evolving group of SASY students develop a brand and identity named 'Surreal Harmony,' which will be open for business this December at the Ebenezer Night Markets. The students are producing a variety of handmade items such as jewellery, screen-printed clothing, stationery and pottery.

Surreal Harmony artist in residence Emma Lines reflected that the year-long journey has been "challenging and rewarding, it has let me see the behind-the-scenes process of how a business is run, especially the more technical things such as setting up social media platforms and considering what a good brand looks like."

An important part of the program was securing funding from SASY which involved the development of a one-page business plan and an informal pitch to some of SASY's Senior Leadership Team. Emma stated that "nerves were definitely high," during this time, but that the "process was great and could not have gone better."



SOME OF THE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT SURREAL HARMONY

As the initial market stall nears completion, Emma indicated that she would "love to see the program grow in the future and for more of SASY's young people take it forward, learn from our mistakes and improve on the blueprint that we have laid down, perhaps even with a permanent home base on Chesser Street."

Keep an eye out on SASY's social media for updates as to when and where Surreal Harmony will be open for business.



# Student placement

by **Social Work student, Lauren**

For the past 8 weeks I have been doing a social work placement at SASY through Charles Darwin University. I am a fourth year Social Work student and have to complete 500 hours of placement as part of my degree, so I thought it would be a good idea to try a different region in South Australia and get out of my comfort zone.

I have previously worked with vulnerable youth in a variety of organisations such as Metropolitan Aboriginal Youth and Family Services, the City of Onkaparinga Council, Junction Australia, and as a Case Manager at Flexible Learning Options (FLO). Currently I am employed at FAME Flexible Learning Centre in South Australia.

FAME is a Catholic specialised assistance school and I work there as the Career Education Coordinator and a Youth Worker. This experience has helped me understand how alternative schools can support students better to heal their past, model positive relationships, teach self-regulation and provide a future for students to look forward to.

Since being at SASY I've had the opportunity to get to know all the young people and learn about their lives, passions and their 'why' in life. These young people have been so welcoming and open in letting me assist with community supports, mental health barriers and interpersonal issues.

**"SASY students show so much empathy, love and respect for each other."**

It has been especially inspiring to help source work experience options for young people as part of their VET pathways, including witnessing their motivation to seek apprenticeships and applying for University pathways.

I've also been able to witness the various job outcomes that these individuals have gained in retail, hospitality and the trade industries. At SASY there are a lot of talented young people and seeing the facilities at SASY and what the staff and students have been able to achieve is incredible.

**"SASY has created an all-inclusive environment, one in which everyone accepts one another."**

I've had the opportunity to engage in outings and programs such as a beach walk at Henley Beach, exploring the Mount Lofty Botanical Gardens, the Ice Factor ice skating program at Thebarton, Labs 'n Life and more recently the whole school excursion to Morialta Reserve for R U OK? Day.

On this particular excursion, I was asked by many young people, "Lozz are you ok today?" It astonished me that these wonderful souls were reaching out and truly seeking if other adults were ok. SASY students show so much empathy, love and respect for each other.

It has been a truly wonderful experience to see how strong these young people are. No matter what barriers they have been faced with they always bounce back and remain resilient. The fact that all staff and young people have welcomed me in their school whole heartedly without any judgement shows me that SASY have created an all-inclusive environment, one in which everyone accepts one another. I would like to thank the students and staff team at SASY for accepting me as one of their own.



LAUREN 'LOZZ' ON R U OK? DAY