The first term is almost complete and it has been pleasing to see the many successes achieved by the students throughout the term. Highlights have occurred in all subject areas and below is a summary of them. We will be making a slight alteration to the program next term so we can have a greater focus on Relationship and Sexual Health Education. Participation in the lessons will aim to improve students’ ability to develop healthy relationships, be confident and happy within themselves and their bodies, and make well-informed and safe decisions in their relationships and sexual health.

In Mathematics, we are presently doing a unit of work on consumer spending. The unit has started with a focus on unit pricing, using the internet to complete an assignment on how to buy the best value goods, when available in different sizes. We have also noted that cheapest is not always the best if the product, because of its size, is unlikely to be fully used before the use by date expires. The students have been able to transfer these skills to their shopping for the Food Preparation lessons.

English has seen the students undertaking and completing a documentary review on gaming addiction and they are now starting a group assignment based around the reading and use of newspapers.

During Art lessons, the students have completed a pixel artwork and collage each which are proudly displayed in the classroom. They are starting to use clay to construct some cartoon character faces.

As the photos show, Physical Education has centred around developing skills in playing the game of Table Tennis with the students hoping to beat Mr Rabanus-Wallace in a game soon.

Lifeskills excursions continue to various places around the Adelaide Metropolitan Area. The recent trip to Belair National Park was a highlight for the students which was a technology free event and where the students had to problem solve a number of group tasks. These tasks focused on trust, collaboration, team building, communication, leadership, initiative and listening to others.

In Home Economics, students are learning about eating healthy food by discussing macro and micro nutrients. They have cooked Chicken Schnitzel with Fried Rice and Penne Bolognaise, among other foods. Simultaneously, they have been developing knife skills and using the kitchen safely.

Science lessons have found students eagerly studying and following the progress of the Mars rover Curiosity and the flyby of Asteroid 2012 DA14 whilst studying outer space and the universe. Recently, students have done practicals which highlight Science as an investigative process and have learned about fair testing techniques, controlling variables and making predictions. Highlights included rocket propulsion using water rockets, pendulums, leaking tin cans and the size of soil particles. Students have hand drawn graphs and learnt to utilise Excel spreadsheets and graphing tools to present visual results.

It has been excellent to see the students venturing out more into the greater school community and friendships starting to form. The students organisation skills are getting better with desks and lockers looking cleaner and students being able to locate the equipment needed for a lesson more quickly.

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