We have reached the middle of Term 3. A productive time has been occurring with the many exciting activities we have been undertaking. Both William and Riley have been attending classes within Blackwood High School and are making good progress in their respective studies. Their attendance in these lessons is an important step in equipping the students with the skills and knowledge to assist them cope when they return to their home school. Contact is also being made with the home schools to develop transition plans so the return of our students to their home school will be a positive experience. Can we please remind you that the school day starts at 8.40am and students should be ready and seated in class at this time.

Various stimulating undertakings occur each week and these are summarised below for each subject. The students have completed a successful gymnastics unit in **Physical Education** with all students being engaged in the activities. The students are now undertaking a 5 week basketball unit. They are working on developing basic skills for dribbling, passing and shooting the ball. Mini games are being used to improve engagement and to develop game sense.

The students are working on a film study in **English** where they are analysing the cinematic techniques used in the film. The use of music, camera angles and duration of shots are all techniques used to enhance a movie’s engagement. The students are participating well with their research into the techniques used in film making.

The students have visited a number of locations that relate to the legal system in **Life Skills**. They have visited Parliament House and were able to sit in the various seats inside the houses including the Speaker’s chair. Also there were trips to the Old Adelaide Gaol and the Magistrates Court. The rail line is now up and running again. This gives the students another avenue of travel into the city which they are enjoying. The students have also recently visited the Aviation Museum and Railway Museum in Port Adelaide. A bike ride around Belair National Park at the end of Term 2 was also a highlight for the students.

The students are continuing to develop their cooking skills in **Home Economics**. The caramel slice was delicious and enjoyed by all. The students are working on a theory topic to do with sensible weight control. They are examining diets including fad diets, body shape, energy balance, basal metabolic rate, body mass index and eating disorders.

While the students have completed the unit of work on fractions in **Mathematics**, the unit will be revisited later in the year to re-examine and re-enforce the processes of addition,
subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions. The students have just completed work on decimals and percentages. They used some statistics from the 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census to help understand percentages. They are currently doing work on geometry, exploring coordinates and graphs.

In **Health Education**, the students are currently learning about the physical and emotional changes the body goes through at puberty. The students have found some of our discussions a little uncomfortable but they are to be congratulated for the way they are approaching the topic.

Students are continuing to enjoy **Science classes** and look forward to practical sessions in the laboratory. They have investigated and experimented with dry ice, diffusion, expansion/contraction and conduction of heat. Students took risks and stepped from their comfort zones by successfully designing and then demonstrating their own experiment showing their knowledge of surface tension. They learned about atoms, elements, molecules, subatomic particles and compounds. The boys’ intense interest in chemistry enabled us to provide extension work. They drew specific atoms, predicted basic compounds and determined metal salts by analysis tests looking for colours.

In **Essential Learnings** lessons, students have explored ideas relating to actions and consequences, holding conversations and empathy. In particular, they have practiced the art of holding a conversation and the important skill of being able to actively listen. They learnt that they need to use both verbal and nonverbal communication, open questions and questions to clarify what they heard the other person say. They explored the importance of waiting turns to speak and to consider others, not just think of themselves and their own situation! Their conversations were video taped, replayed back to them to give feedback and used for role plays. They watched human rights videos which aimed to help students perceive, describe and name certain feelings and to consider the feelings of others.

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