

Semester 1 | 2021



Newsletter

An Overview of Arethusa College Activities in Semester 1.



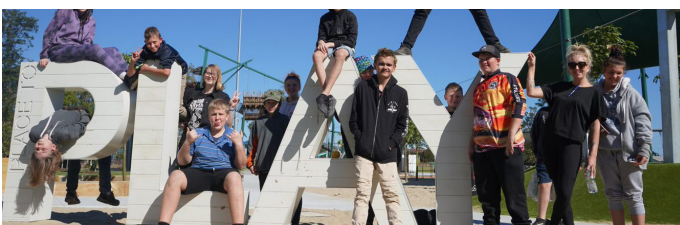
OVERVIEW:

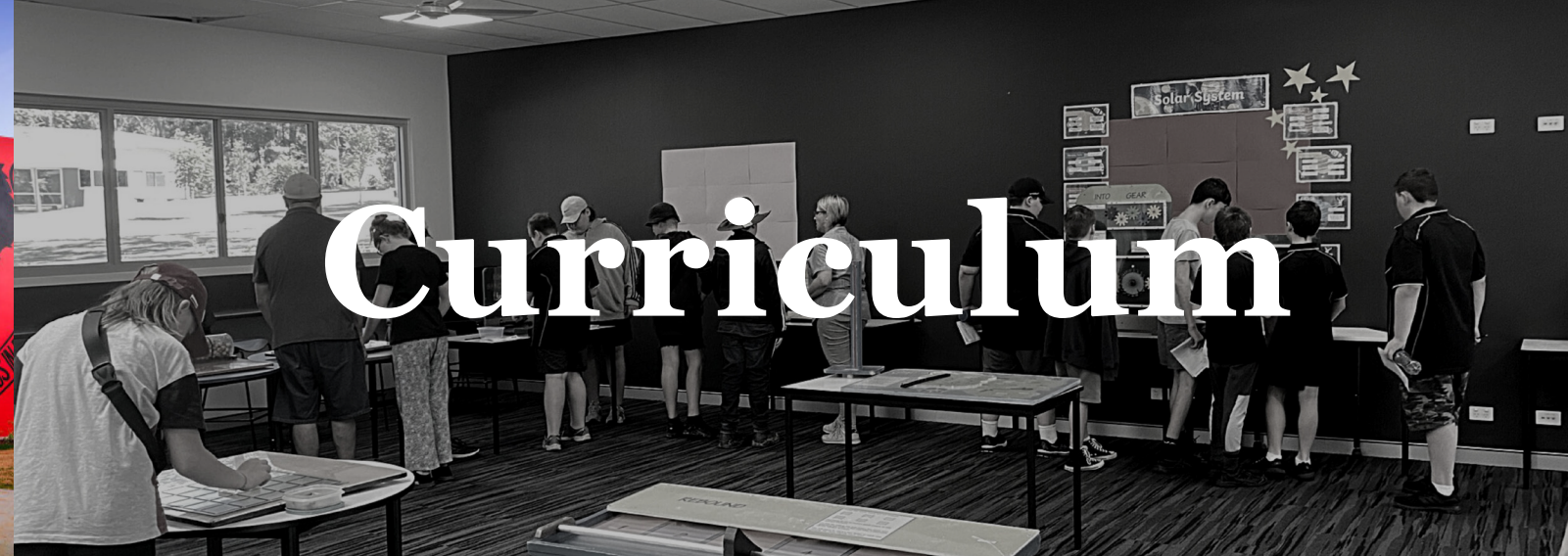
Believe, Expect, Celebrate

As a student at Arethusa College you will find it is more than just a school, you will find a community that supports each young person to dream, investigate, explore and reach their potential. Arethusa College respects and encourages difference. We know and understand that all of our students are unique, they have different backgrounds, ways of learning, goals for the future, skills and strengths. That is why we meet you where you are at, help you to achieve your goals, find strengths you didn't even know you had and value all that makes you unique.

Welcome to the first edition of the whole college newsletter. Our campuses are rich with stories and wonderful ways our students have been engaging, learning, believing in themselves, and achieving great things within our community, which we would love you to hear about. These newsletters aim to highlight some key College moments of the previous semester and give you an insight into what happens.

Semester 2 has already begin but we would like to reflect on all the good stuff in Semester 1.





Curriculum

Executive Principal Address



Welcome to our first whole College newsletter! We hope to use these regular newsletters to keep you up to date with individual campus information, and future developments and news for Arethusa College.

Firstly, I would like to express how proud I am of the hard work and determination displayed by every student over this past semester. It has been a pleasure to see our students learn and continue growing into who they were created to be. This time last year Arethusa College was home to 533 students, spread over three campuses. Since then, we have expanded to six locations across South-East Queensland, and are supporting 779 students in unlocking their potential.

A warm welcome to our new students and families; the Arethusa team is excited for you to join our College. At Arethusa College, we believe in our students every day, expect the best for and of them, and celebrate their many successes and achievements as they grow into who they are designed to be. Now that we have concluded Semester 1, it is time to honour the accomplishments of our students, and the staff and families who support them. In Semester 1, we have been given many things to celebrate:

- We have our largest ever cohort of Seniors, across campuses, participating in Vocational Training (VET)
- Arethusa College has hosted its first conference, For the Students (FTS), for educators who desire to do education differently
- The opening of Arethusa Adventure Academy (AAA) at the beginning of 2021, and preparation for the opening of two new campuses at Forest Lake and Maroochydore for Term 3, 2021
- Numerous students achieving results and awards that they never dreamed possible
- Engaging with the VTQ program to assist in meeting the needs of our students

I would like to personally thank all the staff, students and families that have worked hard to make this semester such a success. It has been a privilege to both watch and be a part of your journey at Arethusa College.

Lisa Coles
Executive Principal

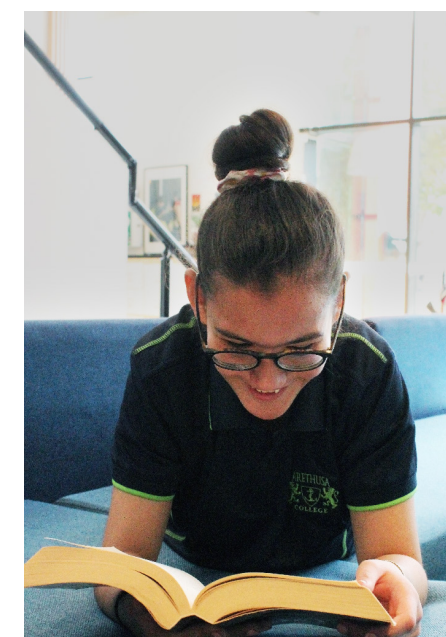
Semester 1 Learning

Arethusa College has had an exciting Semester 1, with much growth in learning, participation, friendships, memories, and individualism. The students practiced mutual respect and kindness towards others. The term was filled with excursions, bush walks, activities, art, sport, music, the outdoor classroom, kangaroos, cooking, Gala Day, Maths incursions, gardening, fort building, and the aviary.

The students embarked on the integrated subject of the solar system and persuasive language. Each student created a new product and pitched it to the class. The students also researched biomes and the impact of alcohol and drugs on health. As the students enter into Term 3, we look forward to seeing how each student's positivity and confidence continue to grow.

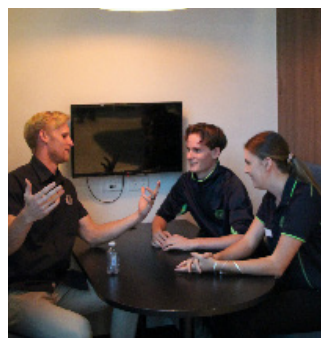
Leath Ramsay

Head of Teaching and Learning



Pathways

Semester One was extremely busy in Pathways this year, with increased enrolment numbers, and many students eager to experience a real-world work environment in their industry area of choice. Over 40 young people have either commenced or completed placement already, and done themselves and the College proud by how they conducted themselves in their respective workplaces. One host employer commented that, "it was a pleasure to have the student with us; they became part of our team!"



KEY EVENTS

Thomas Schodel Fitness traineeship sign up.

Moreton Bay Jobs Expo.

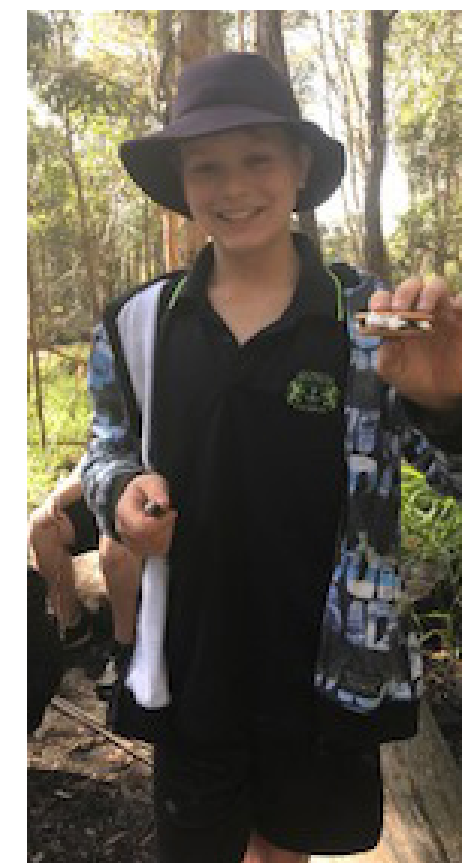
QAT training students in their Cert III Business traineeship 22-06-21.

Suited to Success program Interview skills training and provided free interview clothing.

Deception Bay

Our beautiful Deception Bay campus started with 360 students at the beginning of this semester, and we started term 3 with 420 students enrolled. The word is out that we do indeed 'do school differently', and many families are giving us their precious children to care for, support and believe in. Students at Deception Bay are safe to explore, experiment and escape into a world of learning that brings joy and achievement like never before in their school life.

Whether students are enrolled in the Adventure Academy, the Sports Academy or the 'regular' Deception Bay campus, learning is a rich intertwining of student led learning, involving inclusion, mystery, discovery, and risk-taking excitement.





Adventure Academy

“ At Deception Bay everyone belongs. There is no judgement, condescension, or bigotry. Students feel safe and they have a voice. In this environment students relax, enjoy being themselves and learn. Semester 1 2021 has been a time of growth and success for all our students. There is so much to celebrate! ”

Marian Revermann
Principal of Deception Bay Campus

KEY EVENTS:

Adventure Academy Opening

Three adventure camps have been run including a 4-Day, 3-Night trek through NSW.

Arethusa Community Garden

An interview with the garden creators and maintenance crew will be aired on the ABC in July.

Wellbeing Programs

Including Rules in Relationships, Leading the Bay and Chappy Barista Coffee were established.

Senior Business Class Gala

The Senior Business class planned and executed a Sports Gala Day. Money raised by selling food and drink went to Pawsome. This is a charity that trains and supplies therapy dogs.

COMING UP:

Annual Inaugural Handball Competition

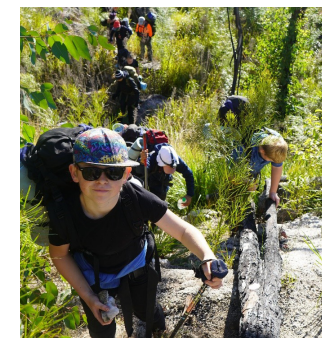
LIVIN Workshop for Students

End of Term Community Fete

Building Completion and Furnishing of Two Learning Hubs

Term 3 Wellbeing Programs

More Excursions and Camps



This semester began with students exploring some of the historical and social aspects of Australians during the First World War. They investigated life in the trenches, and some took on the challenge of building and defending a bunker during a one night camp. Term 2 saw students investigate different aspects of “Exploration”. Students planned to undertake an exploration of their own, ranging from short local hikes into the bush around Arethusa, to the Glass House Mountains and even into NSW. To prepare, they underwent physical training, became familiar with topographic maps and navigation using a compass and GPS.

KEY EVENTS

- Camp at the ‘Outlook’ high ropes challenge and Military Vehicle Museum
- Visit to Fort Lytton and Victoria Barracks
- Survival swimming training
- Students designed and built bunkers
- Four day exploration bushwalk in NSW

COMING UP

- All Girls Camp
- Three day canoe expedition down the upper Brisbane River
- Visit to an Environmental Center
- Survival training



Sports Academy

Spring Hill

In Term 1, students learned about the importance of values and culture and how different sports demonstrated them. They researched and investigated the function of uniform and the importance of identity. The outcome of this research was a class shirt design that the students will be receiving. In Term 2, the students learned about fitness, health and personal goals through authentic learning opportunities, in ASA, the World Gym and the Indoor Sports Centre. Students explored and developed their understanding of “Fitter, Faster, Stronger” and how this relates to their own abilities and personal growth.



KEY EVENTS

- Excursions to World Gym, Caboolture Indoor Sports Centre and the Urban Extreme Adventure Park.
- Incursions with the Rugby Clinics from NRL Representatives, Athletics Day, and Senior students sports competitions.

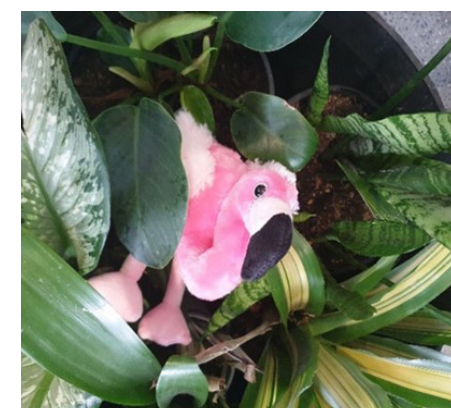
COMING UP

- Excursions to Ten Pin Bowling, Rock Climbing and Laser Tag.
- Incursions with Sports Clinics, ASA Sports Gala and Fete Day and the Sporting Wheelies Inclusive Sports Program.

At Spring Hill, we have had a busy semester and have been slowly introducing some new initiatives designed to create a FUN and engaging learning environment. Fridays have become known as ‘Flamingo Friday’, and staff can regularly be found wearing items of clothing with flamingos on them. The highlight of every Friday is ‘Find the Flamingo’, where a flamingo is hidden somewhere on school grounds and a prize is given to the first student to find it.

This term has seen all year levels engage in some excursions, with the Junior School heading to the Brisbane Planetarium. In class, students have been engaging with some hands-on learning across the Junior and Middle Schools, including designing and constructing sustainable housing in mathematics, and learning about the relationship between the Earth, Sun, and Moon. In co-curricular activities, our young people have been engaging well with boxing, cooking, chess, sewing and woodwork. Our karaoke program is so popular we are looking at adding a second session each week. We are also looking forward to introducing some exciting new changes to the Middle School and Junior School timetables in Term 3 with the introduction of electives where students can select from either Art, Cooking, Science or Music.

On Friday 11 June, the Year 11 and 12 students went to New Farm Bowls Club for their final assessment activity for Sport and Recreation. Our Seniors had been working on developing an understanding of leisure and recreation; its roots, purpose, and history in the sport of Lawn Bowls. Each student had been working on a written component and a practical assessment in their ability to play bowls. Our visit to New Farm was a fitting end to the unit, with students able to bring both the practical and theoretical aspects together on not only what recreation is, but also in demonstrating their progress in learning how to play.





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“LIFE is about taking chances, trying new things, having FUN, making MISTAKES and learning from it.”

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Kerry McFarlane

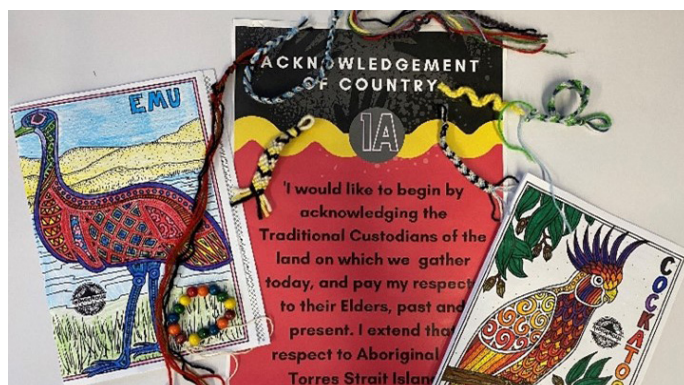
Principal of Spring Hill Campus

SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

When the Carnival came to Spring Hill, the students were excited. Events from musical chairs to celebrity heads were run by the Year 11 Business students as part of their assessment.

During the last week of term, we acknowledged NAIDOC week with a range of activities including artwork, jewellery making, cookie decorating, and general lessons aimed at raising students understanding. An Indigenous turtle was created with 32 separate student's works.

During the last week of term, the Middle School took an excursion to Nudgee Beach studying mangroves as part of their integrated studies looking at the importance of mangroves to fish stocks and local ecosystems.



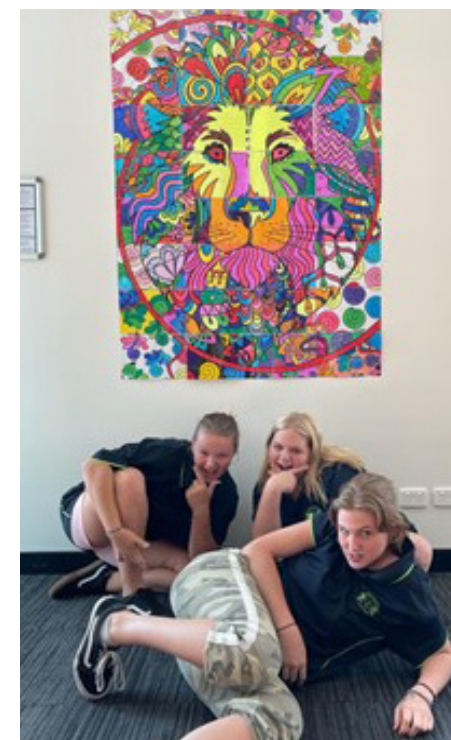
Montague Road opened in January of this year with only 18 students and has since increased to 67 at the close of Semester 1. The campus is integrated into the local community, with students participating in fitness sessions at Dundee's Boxing Gym and playing futsal at Brisbane Indoor Soccer just down the road.

The Montague Road Warehouse Café was officially opened in Week 7 of Term 2. This fantastic space opened a myriad of opportunities for students. In the mornings, the space is open for students to play sport or have breakfast and ease into the day. Students self-regulate with basketball or art activities, as well as learn life skills in the Café space by serving their school community, in preparing morning tea and lunch for each other.

“I love being in control of my own academic work. I can pace myself how I want and get my assessments done.”

Senior Student

Montague Road





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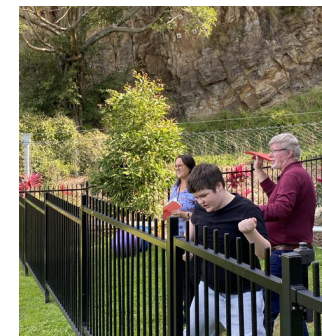
“I love coming to school because it's such a family environment. The friends I have here are great.”

”

Senior Student
Montague Road



This semester, our Windsor Campus trialled Alternative Learning with a small number of Arethusa students who were not regularly attending school. By the end of the semester, several Alternative Learning students had re-engaged with their originating Arethusa campus.



We are incredibly proud of our Alternative Learning team and every one of our Windsor students.

SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

A highlight in Week 7 was our student Makena being awarded the Vocational Training Queensland (VTQ) National Student Award. We are so proud of her! Many of our students feel empowered by the progress they are making and are making good connections with each other and staff.

Our brilliant Jack has spent the first half of the year working on a horror movie. He has scripted, produced, and directed the entire production.

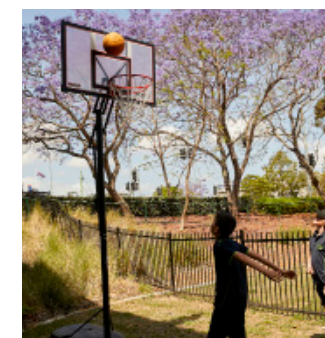
Illustrated, is his amazing monster costume build (see photo to the right)! And yet another intrepid pair are writing a play so keep an eye out for updates!



KEY EVENTS

Our students went on several excursions as a part of our weekly Fun Friday program. These included visiting the Planitarium and going Bowling.

Windsor held a Community Day on the last week of Term 2 to celebrate our students and staff's hard work. We built paper airplanes and played basketball.



New Campuses

New Campuses

Forest Lake

We are excited to have Forest Lake open in Semester 2, 2021. The Forest Lake Campus will focus on relationships and connection and will host a community garden as well as promote rapport with the local neighbourhood. The diverse team of attentive and compassionate staff, smaller class sizes, and higher staff ratios, will pave the way for empowering students to connect with their previously untapped potential.

Students who require a fresh start and assistance to re-engage with their educational journey will find the Forest Lake campus an exciting and supportive place to learn.

Every students' learning program will be uniquely tailored to meet their needs and set them up for success. Catering for students from Years 7 to 10 for 2021, and moving into Years 11 and 12 in 2022, we are excited to be able to offer this more personalized, bespoke learning option.



Maroochydore

This new Sunshine Coast campus will focus on community engagement and using the local area as an extension of the physical school building. With a team of inclusive and diverse educators, who are highly knowledgeable and caring, this campus will provide steppingstones for empowering our students to bond and connect with themselves and their unexposed potential that makes them beautifully unique.

The Maroochydore campus is a place where students who are in need of a fresh start and support to re-engage with their educational journey can find the assistance and encouragement they require, in an exciting and compassionate environment. Each students' learning program will be uniquely individualised to meet them where they are at and, thereby, set them up for success. We are thrilled to be able to provide a more personalised, bespoke learning option at Maroochydore, catering for students from Years 7 through to Year 10 for 2021 and moving into Years 11 and 12 in 2022.

