Semester 2 Programs at the ASMS

Students in years 10 & 11 are starting their semester 2 program this week (24 June). The semester promises to be a very exciting time for the students with many special features to the Central Studies program and a range of other activities occurring.

**SUSTAINABLE FUTURES** explores the sustainability of the Earth through a focus on the impact of human systems and human behaviour on the natural and the built environment. This program has previously been a finalist in the United Nations (Australia) World Environment Day education projects awards.

**COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS** explores how humans interpret, change, adapt, transform and control communication systems such as electronic, biochemical, digital, visual and performance communication. This program is recognised by the Australian Academy of Science through the “Status and Quality of Year 11 and 12 Science in Australian Schools” report as a model for best practice in science based interdisciplinary curriculum.

**REASONING & RELATIONSHIPS** develops students’ mathematical reasoning and logic with a focus on the fields of statistics and probability, coordinate geometry and trigonometry, exponential and logarithmic functions, analysis of polynomials with an emphasis on quadratics, and the opportunity to engage with extension topics based around Stage 2 outcomes. The approaches used to promote student higher order thinking in mathematics are promoted as best practice by the Teaching for Effective Learning program of DECD.

The **STUDENT INQUIRY PROJECT** gives students the opportunity to conduct in-depth research into an area of particular interest to them. This year we will be focussing on providing high quality mentoring support for students to work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) related research. Year 10 students will undertake their work based on the new Research Practices subject framework of the SACE and year 11 students will complete their work for the SACE Stage 2 Research Project.

The annual **INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR** will be held in week 7 of term 3 (2 – 5 September). This year there will be a total of 73 international and Australian visitors coming to the ASMS for the week to participate in the ISF. We are pleased to welcome a new partner school, the Philippine Science High School, to participate in ISF for the first time.

**FIELD STUDY CAMPS** will be conducted during the same week as the ISF. There will be four different camps for the students to choose to go on: Kangaroo Island (focus eco-tourism), Eyre Peninsula (focus sustainable farming), Flinders...
Ranges (Quorn area, focus environmental science), Flinders Ranges (Arkaroola area, focus geology and earth science). Each field study camp will run for 4 days (Monday 2 to Thursday 4 September).

For students not participating in the field study camps there will be a special program of activities conducted at the ASMS during this week using the Challenge Based Learning approach developed at the school for ISF 2012.

The EARTH SUMMIT is the culminating performance activity for students at the end of the Sustainable Futures course. The Earth Summit is a highly engaging activity challenging the students to present their knowledge and understandings developed during the course in a public forum. The Earth Summit will be a showcase event for the Innovative Learning Environments project. The ASMS has gained recognition by the OECD as a global case study school through the ILE project.

If you would like to find out more about these programs and activities at the ASMS explore the Learning Management System portal of the ASMS website through the log-on that you have.