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Term 4— Issue 14

Thursday, 16 October 2014

Term 4

Week 2

Monday 13 Oct- 5 Nov HSC Exams

Week 3

Wednesday 22 October Yr 7 Balloons Day,
Crescent Head

Thursday 23 October Yr 7 Cultural Day,
Crescent Head

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

HSC Begins!

The HSC has begun this week, kicking off with the first of the Compulsory English Exams on Monday. All students have undertaken appropriate preparation for this, the biggest and most important set of exams yet faced by our Year 12 students.

All our students are reminded that your teachers are still here to assist with any last minute concerns or problems, so please, feel free to ask for assistance if you believe you need it.

Finally, good luck with your exams and make the most of the opportunity the exams can provide you. We have faith in you and wish you every success.

Have faith in yourselves.

Links to Learning

The Links program that addresses several areas related to workplace and employment skills continue to go from strength to strength. Our Year 10 students who are involved are gaining valuable skills in a variety of areas. Below you can see Sherri with what the program coordinator

described as a “spectacularly constructed chicken sub” contributed as part of the “how to make sandwiches” unit of competency. Also pictured is Caitlyn demonstrating skills in hairdressing.

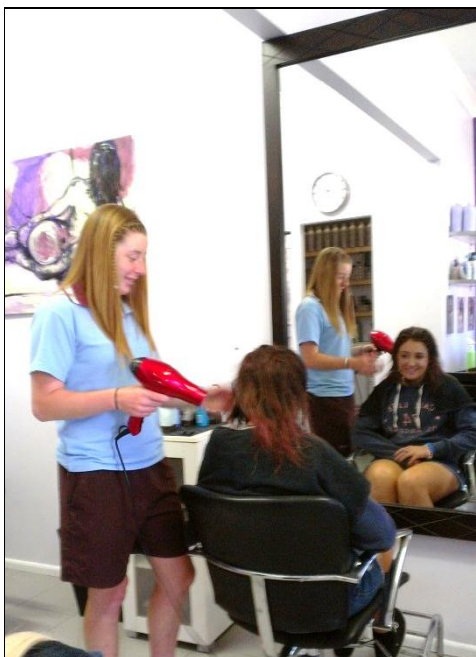
Below is a description of this set of skills as described by the course coordinator. “As well as a great talk from Hairdresser Kelly Speechley on the general skills required to work in the industry, the girls had their hair washed and blow dried accompanied by a consultation on what hair styles would suit their face shape.”

The photos tell the story of an excellent experience. Kelly provides a wig service to “Look Good Feel Great” and handed around wigs to the girls while she explained the difference it makes to help cancer patients.

As you can see there are many educational pathways available to students at Melville High School. Again we urge our students to make the most of them.



Sherri and that “spectacular chicken sub”



Caitlyn demonstrating skills in hairdressing

Evacuation Drill

On Thursday 9 October Melville High School conducted a practice evacuation drill as per DEC requirements. These drills are extremely important to ensure the safety of all our students. The drill was very successful. Congratulations to all who participated.

Troy Stewart
Deputy Principal

WHATS ON IN PDHPE

The Gold Books

In PDHPE theory classes Year 7 – 10 students have been looking at the “the Gold Books.” These books are written by Dr Guy Hingston, a leading cancer surgeon, and aim at giving people an insight into health issues for their age group and what they can do to prevent health problems in the future. Students have studied health issues for themselves, as well as, their parents, grandparents or other loved ones.

Fitness Testing

Every year Year 7 – 10 PDHPE class undergoes a series of fitness tests. These tests aim at measuring fitness levels through a range of fitness components. When the testing is completed

students record their results, which are then kept at school so students can track their progress every year. Fitness includes: 50m sprint, 600m run, standing long jump, push ups, sit ups, sit and reach and % body fat. Height and weight are also recorded so students see their physical growth over the years.

2014 Snow Trip

43 students and 5 staff (& parents) set off to the snow on Sunday, August 17. We arrived at the motel with Col the bus driver at 8 pm and were fitted with our equipment. The staff got us out of bed at 5:30 the next morning for breakfast and the trip up the mountain. Each morning we arrived for the 8:05 train from Perisher to Blue Cow. We arrived to find extremely windy conditions with almost all of the lifts on hold for the day. When we got to the top of Brumbies T-bar the wind blew us backwards making it hard to push over to the run. However, the second day, the skiing /riding was some of the best seen at Perisher Blue Cow in many a year. But the 3rd day brought up icy conditions until it softened up to result in some glorious spring skiing. The annual trivia contest was held on the final evening with the Year 9 Boys cleaning up. We visited the AIS in Canberra on the way home. Thank you to our bus driver Col from Cavanaghs who drove us home safely. Everyone had a really good time and was well behaved. We can't wait till next year!

Courage to Care

On the 8th and 10th of August Year 10 had the privilege of attending an exhibition at the Glasshouse, Port Macquarie. The exhibition was entitled Courage to Care and the theme was bullying.

The exhibition focused on DISCRIMINATION, INTIMIDATION, DEFIANCE and ultimate EMPOWERMENT. The lenses used to view these forms of human behaviour was the Holocaust.

Via film, exhibits and personal recounts Year 10 were confronted and challenged. Their ultimate realisation was:

“What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander”

Elie Wiesel

Mrs Byrnes, History Teacher

Scientific Literacy (or Why do I have to do science?)

Many people in the community are well aware of the importance of literacy and numeracy skills in today's society and the subsequent need for diagnostic testing such as NAPLAN. In international studies there is often a third component, scientific literacy. This is about how we understand the world around us and make decisions based on scientific knowledge, questioning and drawing evidence-based conclusions.

In everyday life we are bombarded by advertising claims about the capabilities and supposed benefits of products. There are stories of miracle cures and breakthroughs in scientific understanding, new theories about possible dangers to our health. There are reports of proposals with many claims for and against, such as where our radioactive waste is to be stored, or what to do with sediment dredged up in the vicinity of the Great Barrier Reef. We are told to believe these claims, we are told not to believe these claims. What we really need to do is critically evaluate what we are told and make informed decisions and choices. This is why we all need to be scientifically literate, but more importantly why we need to ensure that we develop scientifically literate students. It is the key to ensure they can see through a lot of the spin and hype of the information world we live in!

This is what we aim to achieve in science. There is knowledge to learn and understanding to develop. More importantly there are skills students need to learn and improve. The key focus is understanding how to investigate scientifically. To observe, ask questions, wonder why, propose ideas, test those ideas in a valid and reliable manner, collect evidence and to critically evaluate the evidence. We aim to empower students to be informed and able to make informed decisions and choices.

As part of the assessment of this learning, each year students from Year 8 in all NSW government schools (and many non-government schools) participate in the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA). This tests students' knowledge, skills and understanding that contribute to their scientific literacy. It is based on the curriculum content of science covered in years 7 and 8. This is an interactive, multimedia test using contemporary examples and is completed

entirely on a computer. It has proved to be a much more interesting and engaging task than some of the other more traditional assessments.

Students will be tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas.

Year 8 students are currently participating in the ESSA readiness to give them some hands-on experience about what to expect in the test and ensure that they all have the necessary access to the internet. The ESSA online test will be conducted on Wednesday, 12 November 2014. Further details will be provided to year 8 parents in an information letter.

Animal Handling Team

Animal handling is offered at Melville High as an option in the sport program. The students involved learn how to prepare and show animals for agricultural shows and markets, and also how to judge them. It has been a very popular elective with students showing a very high degree of participation and engagement. For some of the students involved it has become a lot more.

A core group of students from this program have developed the skills, confidence and positive attitude to volunteer on a regular basis to represent Melville High at a number of local shows, including Taree last week. The core members of the animal handling team this year are Corey, Alison, Sierra, Jamie, Dan, Hope, Dancia and Alana. These students spend a lot of their free time preparing for shows, polishing up their equipment and getting the animals looking their best. They have participated in the Macksville, Kempsey, Camden Haven, Taree and Nabcac shows as well as Wingham Beef Week.

In addition to these activities, members of the team have also supported a number of community events such as primary school fetes and a day at the Macleay Valley House nursing home. They always behave in a very mature and respectful manner and represent the core values of Melville High: Being a member of a Respectful, Industrious, Growing, Healthy, Team. Well done guys!

Wingham Beef Week



Melville High 'judges' stand proud in their Animal Handling team uniform at Wingham Beef Week.



Macksville show



The team displaying their awards and prizes from the Macksville show.

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TUESDAY'S- JNR SOCCER (MIXED, 5 a-side)

AGE- 5-8 & 9-12

Cost- \$15 rego, game fee's \$5.00

TIME- FROM 3:45, games are scheduled by a draw

THURSDAY- Multi sports

AGE- Primary ages

Cost- Rego \$15.00, attendance fee \$5.00

Time- 4:00-5:30

JNR Netball

AGES- U/11's & U/13's (7 a-side)

Cost- \$15 rego, \$5.00 game fee

TIME- From 3:45, games are scheduled by a draw

FRIDAY – Teen Soccer (8 a-side)

AGES- High School age(Yr 7&8's, yr 9 & up)

COST- \$15 Rego, \$5 game fee

TIME-From 4:00, games scheduled by a draw



Do you have a spare bed?

Can you welcome an exchange student into your home as a volunteer host family with AFS?



Can you host Airi from Japan?

Age: 16
English: Fair
Interests: Tennis, Playing the piano, skiing and playing the flute

"I decided to study abroad in Australia because living in different cultures makes me broaden my horizon. I will be able to solve a lot of problems from various perspectives by myself."



Can you host Rafael from Brazil?

Age: 15
English: Good
Interests: Traveling, photography, trekking, swimming, walking

"I'm very curious, I enjoy making new friends and learning about different cultures. I really admire the potential and the life quality of the developed countries, and want to be a part of it."



Can you host Hanna from Germany?

Age: 17
English: Good
Interests: Music, dragon boating, swimming, Zumba and cooking

"I applied because I want to learn about different cultures, meet people from all around the world, make experiences that will stay with me forever, and of course get much better with my English."



Somewhere in another country a young person has the opportunity of a lifetime to come to Australia. Imagine that student becoming part of your family.

Each year hundreds of Australian families volunteer to open their home and hearts to an AFS participant. They are rewarded with precious long-lasting friendships.

On February 6 2015 AFS will be welcoming over 70 students and volunteers from across the globe to experience the Australian way of life and either attend a local high school or volunteer at a local community organisation.

Can your family host one of the above students? If so, we'd love to hear from you!

For more information on how you can become an AFS Volunteer Host Family please contact the AFS Hosting Team:

Phone: 1800 023 982 **Email:** aus.hosting@afs.org

Website: www.afs.org.au/host