

Melville Matters



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Term 4 – Issue 15

Thursday, 6 November 2014

Term 4

Week 5

Monday, 3 Nov Yr 11 Parent/Teacher Night

Tuesday, 4 Nov- 7 Nov Year 8 Camp

Wednesday, 5 Nov HSC Finishes

Thursday, 6 Nov Year 12 Formal

Week 6

Tuesday, 11 Nov Remembrance Day

Wednesday, 12 Nov ESSA online Yr 8

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The term and year are moving rapidly and November marks 7 weeks of school remaining for 2014. Many important things are happening around school and all students should be fully engaged on final exams and assessments.

The big news this week is the announcement that Rowan, our 2014 School Captain has been selected from the 70,000 HSC students across NSW, to receive a Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. There are only a maximum of 40 of these awards across the school system and for Rowan to be selected is a highlight of the year for the school and for Rowan. The award recognises students who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence and community or performing arts involvement at the highest level. Rowan has been invited to the NSW Parliament to receive his award directly from the Minister of Education the Honourable Adrian Piccoli MP. This recognition once again shows that Melville High school has students of the highest standard across many areas and should encourage other students to follow in Rowan's path and reach for the highest possible future outcomes.

A couple of further recent highlights include the Year 7 Aboriginal studies cultural day at Crescent

Head last week. This was an outstanding success for all involved, and I must give my congratulations to the whole team who worked together to make it a very worthwhile experience. Members of the Greater Kempsey community came along on the day and shared their wisdom and talent with the students in a variety of experiences including Art work, gumleaf whistling, pippie and worm gathering and boomerang throwing. Our thanks are extended to those who were able to share their knowledge and time with our students.

The HSC exams have been progressing and reach the finalisation on Wednesday 5th November and the Graduation dinner will be held on Thursday. I have met several students who have already finished their exams and they were very happy to have finished what some describe as the hardest exam series they will ever take. Congratulations and best wishes to all our graduates and please be safe as you unwind from the very hard work you have completed this year whether you are at "schoolies" or just relaxing, look out for your friends and remember the days of the old school yard.

Regards

Mr Jeff Hollingsworth
Principal



(L-R: Michael, Max, Jack, Blair)

EXCURSION TO A WINERY

Year 12 Geography recently visited Bago Winery near Wauchope. This vineyard and winery is a case study we investigate as part of our HSC course. We all found the tour very interesting and we gained valuable knowledge about this topic which will help us greatly in the HSC. Our class would like to thank Jim Mobbs for his time and effort in showing us around and explaining how wine grapes are grown and how they are turned into all different types of wines. Most of us thought that white grapes produce white wines and red grapes red. However, Jim explained to us that this isn't the case. Red wines get their colour from the red grape skins being left in the juice for a period of time while they ferment. For white wines, the red skins are removed before fermentation. We were really impressed with the beautiful location and facilities of the winery and what it has to offer, including the largest hedge maze in NSW. We were looking forward to having a go and seeing if we could find our way out. Mr Smith though, in all his wisdom, didn't trust our navigational skills and thought we would run out of time. It doesn't matter for many of us have decided to meet up and give this big puzzle a crack in the future. If you are interested in finding more out about Bago Winery, their maze or the many other events they have you can look them up on the internet.

CULTURAL EXCURSION

Year 7 have just returned from a fun filled and informative cultural excursion to Crescent Head where they learned how to find pippies and beach worms, throw a boomerang and blow leaves. This event also gave us the opportunity to hone our painting skills with the very talented local artist Richard Campbell. We were very lucky to taste the delights of damper and we also sampled crocodile and kangaroo sausages which were so tasty. I do not know why they are not on the canteen menu! We loved all the many interesting stories we heard from all the elders who attended and were amazed at how well baskets can be weaved from local reeds and grasses. We would all like to send a very big thank you to the Aboriginal Elders and assistants consisting of Massy Smith, Lisa Davis, Ethel Smith, Richard Campbell, Aleana Shennan, James (Goori) Dungay, Greg Douglas, Leeton Smith and hope this becomes an annual event for Melville High School Year 7 students. Thank you to the Support, Aboriginal Education and Social Science Faculties for organising the excursion and all other

staff who assisted to make it a fantastic day enjoyed by all.

Khianii: "I like talking with Aunty. It was inspirational. I also like the boomerang activity".

Hannah: "I liked pipping, worming and the food".

Sam: "I like how we tried crocodile and kangaroo as I have never tried this before." "The Damper was good".

Jewel: "I like the excursion because we learned how to get pippies and worms, we learned how to blow leaves and make straw balls."

Josh: "The most fun was when we went down to the beach to learn how to find worms with a piece of stingray".

Jack: "I liked seeing the Kookaburra's nests and when they called the birds"

Jamie Lee: "I liked the stories and I am looking forward to seeing our paintings when they are finished".



(L-R: Mr Bob Smith, Jarrah, Campbell, Massy Smith)

YR 9 COMMERCE

To reinforce and enhance the valuable lessons taught in Commerce, our class ran stalls in the playground at recess recently. There was a lot of preparation that went into developing our businesses including creating an idea, undertaking research, developing a business plan, marketing, budgeting, the development of work schedules just to name a few. Our class created many great business ideas and sold interesting items we created ourselves such as hot chips, sausages sangas, cupcakes and lollies, also yummy ice creams where you could add all sorts of interesting toppings. We learnt a lot about business on this day. One of these lessons was to do with location. Both Ms Sherriff and Mr Smith said that The Cup Cake stall was one of the best prepared and presented they have seen in the last few years, however, the sales at this stall were below expectations and this was attributed to their poor location choice. We discovered that it is

beneficial to locate near other similar businesses. This week our class is going on an excursion to Port Macquarie so that we can investigate tourism, shopping and finance as part of the topics we have studied this semester. We would like to thank Ms Sherriff for organising these events.

Koorie Goorie Corner comes to MHS

From Thursday 30 October, Week 4, MHS Library will be the venue for Koorie Goorie Corner. This is an opportunity for ATSI students in Years 7 to 11 to seek homework, class work and assessment support. The program is supported by teaching staff from various KLAS and our Aboriginal Education Officers.

WHERE: MHS Library from 3.30 to 4.30

WHEN: Each Thursday afternoon from October 30th to December 2nd.

How can a homework centre help you?

- Study skills
- Exam preparation
- Assessment planning
- Research and computer access
- Literacy support
- Numeracy support

We look forward to seeing you there! Afternoon tea will be provided!

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ISLAND OF DR MORON TRIP TO SYDNEY

I am looking for students (including families) and staff interested in doing a one day trip to Sydney on Sunday, November 23 to see the new theatre production of the "Island of Dr Moron" written and produced by Chris Dockrill, ex-Kempsey High Head teacher from Crescent Head.

The cost of the trip will be \$130 for the bus and ticket to the show. The bus will leave at 6 am and return late in the evening that day. It is a matinee performance, so there will probably be time to catch the markets beforehand. This is a great opportunity, not to be missed. See Mrs Jacobs if you are keen.

Mrs E Jacobs
PE Teacher

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SKATE BOWL OPENING DAY

Sunday 9 Nov 11am

Stalls
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ALL Wheels WELCOME

EXHIBITION RIDES
KIERAN REILLY
BRYN FAIRHURST

Melville High School Support Unit

Look at us doing it R.I.G.H.T

Students from room 25 enjoyed their excursion to Hogs Breath Port Macquarie at the end of term 3.



We enjoy participating in the cooking programs offered across the support unit. This year, students have made pizzas, pastas, cakes, pancakes and much, much more.

Students from the support unit had a great day at Coffs Harbour participating in a multi sports day. Students loved learning new skills and games!



On Tuesdays, our students attend Riding for the Disabled. Some of our students have even gone on to representative levels.

Sailability - This is a relatively new program that we have participated in over the last two years. It is an International sailing program run by Rotary and is based at Port Macquarie.



STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Students at Melville High School, who do not comply with our values and expectations of good behaviour will need to take responsibility for their actions and will have their behaviour monitored under the school's discipline policy. Executive from Melville High School are required to implement the "Suspension and Expulsion of School Students Procedures Policy" in instances of serious or persistent misbehaviour.

DISCIPLINE LEVELS

A stage system is designed to modify unacceptable behaviour and to encourage students to improve their behaviour. Once placed on a level, a student is provided with the opportunity to examine their behaviour and is supported to achieve identified targets. When a student's behaviour is unacceptable his/her name will be recorded on the school's data base.

STAGE 1

The student is causing problems in the classroom or other settings and staff have expressed concern for his/her welfare. The student may be placed on stage by a staff member in that setting, e.g. classroom, playground or bus lines. A letter will be sent home and the student will be required to successfully complete a Stage 1 monitoring sheet for one fortnight cycle. Parents/caregivers are expected to support the school in its endeavours, by signing and returning the notification letter.

The student is required to have the stage sheet signed by the supervising teacher in the appropriate setting and signed by the caregiver at home each day. A student who receives all "A's" will skip a day. A student may complete restitution activities to advance a day on their stage. They can only complete one restitution activity per day.

Failure to achieve a target will result in a 'U', being placed on the stage. The student will have a consequence such as detention and an additional day on stage.

STAGE 2

The student has not responded to the support of staff and parents and even greater concern is being expressed for his/her welfare or has been automatically placed on this Stage because of the level of misbehaviour. The student is placed on stage by a Head Teacher. This stage results in the loss of some student privileges at school.

A letter will be sent home and the student will be required to satisfactorily complete a stage 2 monitoring sheet for 10 days. Parents/caregivers are expected to support the school in its endeavours, by signing and returning the notification letter.

The Stage sheet has to be signed by the Head Teacher each morning, completed by their class teacher depending on the setting of concern and signed by the caregiver at home.

A student who receives all A's will be allowed to skip a day.

A student may complete restitution activities to advance a day on their stage. They can only complete one restitution activity per day.

Failure to achieve a target will result in a 'U', being placed on the stage. The student will have a consequence such as detention and an additional day on stage.

A student who can successfully complete a stage with all "A's" on their stage and has made reparations for their behaviour will not have the negative effect of the stage registered against the merit system. This may not preclude the student from receiving a merit level that term.

STAGE 3

The student who engages in continued misbehaviour or is involved in a serious incident will be placed on stage three and will be monitored by a Deputy Principal. This stage results in the loss of some student privileges at school.

A letter warning of suspension will be sent home and the student may be required to complete a Stage 3 Monitoring Sheet for 10 days. Parents/caregivers are expected to support the school in its endeavours, by signing the notification letter and then the stage sheet every night. The student may also be placed on Time Out with a senior or executive teacher to undertake a program to assist in the development of more appropriate behaviour and to continue with their class work.

The Stage sheet has to be signed by the Deputy Principal each morning, completed by their class teacher each period and signed by the caregiver at home.

A student who receives all A's will be allowed to skip a day.

A student may complete restitution activities to advance a day on their stage. Students may only complete one restitution activity per day.

Failure to achieve a target will result in a "U" being placed on the stage. The student will have a consequence such as a detention and an additional day on the stage.

A student who can successfully complete a stage with all "A's" on their stage and has made reparations for their behaviour will not have the negative effect of the stage registered against the merit system. This may not preclude the student from receiving a merit level that term.

STAGE 4

The student's behaviour has placed the safety, care and welfare of other students and staff at risk. Under the "Suspension and Expulsion of School Students Policy" the Principal must immediately suspend students who are:

- Physically violent
- In possession of a firearm, prohibited weapon or knife
- Using, or is in possession of, a suspected illegal substance or supplies a restricted substance.

The Principal may also place a student on suspension for:

- Continued or persistent disobedience
- Aggressive behaviour

The student will spend the determined number of days at home or at the Suspension Centre and then return with parents/caregivers to be interviewed by the Principal or a Deputy Principal. At this meeting condition of return will be negotiated and the student may or may not be required to carry a stage monitoring sheet.

Students who are suspended will lose some student privileges.

The Stage sheet has to be signed by the Deputy Principal each morning, completed by their class teacher every period and signed by the caregiver at home.

A student who receives all A's will be allowed to skip a day.

A student may complete restitution activities to advance a day on their stage. Students may only complete one restitution activity per day.

Failure to achieve a target will result in a 'U', being placed on the stage. The student will have a consequence such as detention and an additional day on stage.

Students who do not satisfactorily complete a stage monitoring sheet within 20 school days will be required to attend a meeting with parents/carers and the monitoring teacher to establish a behaviour action plan. It is expected that members of staff will apply other consequences for inappropriate behaviour in addition to completing a monitoring stage sheet. Other options to manage unacceptable behaviour may include:

- detention
- in-class isolation
- restitution
- counselling
- individual behaviour plans or case management.