

Melville Matters



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Term 4 – Issue 18

Thursday, 11 December 2014

Term 4

Week 11

Wednesday, 17 Dec *Students Last Day of School*

Thursday/Friday 18/19 Dec *Staff Development Days*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I have reproduced my speech to the Presentation night for the remainder of the community to see. In my first year as Principal of Melville High I have observed many outstanding things which contribute to the wonderful range of opportunities available to the students of this school, one highlight among the many would be the school musical production "A little shop of Horrors" – Which was an outstanding success and involved staff and students working in conjunction with Parents and Community members to achieve a highly acclaimed show which was widely applauded for the quality of the production. Also in the performing arts area was the ongoing success of the Dance groups and the opportunities available to students for participation and leadership. With involvement in the Dance festival and other performances these culminated with the Schools spectacular in Sydney recently and shown on TV last weekend. The continued achievements of the sporting teams and individuals is also an example of the talents and opportunities available. In 2015 the girls will be taking the challenge in Rugby league and League tag competitions. The cultural programs running at Melville High are also well regarded, from the Indigenous girls group and Brospeak program for boys to the ongoing contribution to Cultural heritage supported by staff and students working with local community members.

Next week the HSC results will be released and by some groups this is seen as the ultimate success

of a High School. Last year, Darcy Small achieved the highest ATAR of any student in a Public or Private school in the whole North East of NSW, from Newcastle to the border. His rank was 99.7. We look forward to further results of the highest standard and to supporting those students as they progress to the next stages of their life journey.

To support all these areas we have developed a new school plan for 2015 & onwards, and as part of the new school plan, targets will come from the vision – *that the Students, Staff and Community of Melville High School will create a learning environment in all classrooms and in the broader school where all students are encouraged and supported in working to achieve their full potential.* The key focus areas will be 1. Students and learning, 2. Teaching Quality and 3. Leading and Professional expertise. The new plan will be published early next year and has come together after considerable consultation with all members of the school community. Your feedback is welcome at any time.

Today, I ask you to think about the factors contributing to Success, which is why we are recognising so many of our wonderful students on an occasion like this. Recently I was challenged by a comment I made that Melville High school has SOME excellent students. On reflection, I agreed with that objection. ALL of the students at Melville high are excellent students and it is our challenge to bring forward their skills and talents to allow them to achieve excellence.

This school has been implementing the Positive Behaviour for Learning or PBL program for many years now. We have seen an increasing trend in students doing as expected and committing themselves to good work and achievement.

Firstly, congratulations on being selected to attend today and receive your award/s. To earn this you must have been successful at some stage in doing the RIGHT thing, which will be the reason listed on your award. If this is your first award assembly, then keep on doing what you have been doing, and further success will follow. If, on the other hand, you have been to a previous award

assembly, then you have demonstrated a consistency in your ability to do what is expected of you. Both of these are key characteristics of a successful student. From paying attention in class and doing your work, further success will follow as the things being recognised today will translate into positives for the benefit of your education.

Most of you will be familiar with the term "Tall Poppy Syndrome". Too many young people are embarrassed to succeed. Why? What is it they fear? Ridicule from Peers? Feeling different from the crowd? Compare that with the feeling of success, standing on the platform receiving the gold medal or holding up the winner's trophy and receiving the cheers of the crowd. Only a small percentage of competitors can be successful, a healthy competition results in many unsuccessful attempts, but if they have tried their best and the better person on the day wins, then they should be proud of their efforts and at the same time should be happy to acknowledge the winner as being better on this day.

All the students here today should be proud that they also have been recognised for their success.

A Chinese proverb says "Failure is not falling down; failure is not getting back up again." Also from Malcolm Forbes "failure is success, if we learn from it".

We must try again and success will come eventually - if we don't keep trying we won't ever succeed. This is summed up by Phillip Adams who said "Unless you're willing to have a go, fail miserably, and have another go, success won't happen".

A well-known and very successful American Football coach, Vince Lombardi, was also famous for pointing out that "the only place where Success comes before Work is in the dictionary". So how are you working to achieve your own success? You may have failed at some stage, but by your very presence here today you have bounced back and have gone on to be recognised for your efforts and your success. Once again – well done! When you receive your award, hold your head up proudly and remember those things which you have been doing to receive this.

So where does the "Tall poppy syndrome" come in to all of this? Well, I will finish with this from Author Mark Caine "The first step towards success is taken when you refuse to be a captive of the environment in which you find yourself". So, don't worry about the fear of failure, go out and try your best no matter what your circumstance, background or disadvantage. Despite what others say or do, you choose your own future and you make your own success, celebrate your success

when you achieve it, like today. Congratulations to all of you. Well done.

My best wishes of the Season to all the families and the entire Melville High Community.

Jeff Hollingsworth
Principal



Bailey Winner of North Coast School Sports
Association Sports Award 2014

SPORTS AWARD

Bailey, a student at Melville High School in Kempsey is a quiet achiever who is dedicated to his chosen sports of Baseball and Softball.

Bailey has represented the North Coast in both sports since Year 8. He has become a senior leader in both teams mentoring younger players at the NSW championships each year.

Bailey's consistent safe hitting and alert base running has provided the attack for the North Coast teams. His technical knowledge and fielding skills have greatly contributed to each team.

Bailey was captain/coach and mentor of the Melville High School's boys' softball team involving six unskilled year 7 boys. He gave up every lunch time for weeks to train the team who reached the State Knock-out final series of both sports. Credit goes to Bailey for their success. This is an excellent example of his mature leadership in sport.

Bailey's dedication to Softball and Baseball makes him a commendable recipient of a North Coast School Sports Recognition Award.

**Watch this space: Opening Soon!!
The New CAFÉ**

READY TO LEARN MATHS

Maths is a subject that most people feel very strongly about. Love it or hate it, maths is one of the first things an employer looks for on a report. Good maths students think logically, estimate accurately and can handle money. They are good problem solvers, recognise patterns and have a lot more career options available to them.

Success in maths is due to a number of factors:

1. Knowledge of basic number facts:
These facts, like single digit addition and times tables should be automatic. At Melville we run the QuickSmart programme which helps targeted students to improve their basic arithmetic skills.
2. Confidence:
If a boy fails a test he is more likely to attribute it to a difficult test whereas a girl will assume a poor test result is because she is dumb - or worse - that girls can't do maths. This lack of confidence often comes from Primary School and can be difficult to overcome. Parents can help by not sharing negative attitudes about maths and taking an interest in what their child is studying.
3. Persistence:
Not everyone "gets it" right away. Often students who have found Primary school easy are frustrated when suddenly they can't answer questions easily. Students need to learn that harder problems take longer to solve and require more thought. Giving up in frustration is not a good solution. Students need to ask for help, from a fellow student or the teacher.
4. Showing working:
In high school mathematics the process by which an answer is obtained often has several steps. Students need to document (write down) the steps they have taken to obtain a solution. Many students are reluctant to write more than a "bald" answer. Marks are often awarded for "working out" and a wrong answer with correct working can gain valuable marks in assessments, including the HSC.

5. Reading the problem:

Even experienced mathematicians are sometimes tricked into answering the question they think is being asked, rather than the one that has been asked. Reading a question carefully means that your answer is more likely to get you full marks.

6. Practice

Maths teaches skills that will get better and faster with practice. It is important that students attempt all work and homework that is set by the teacher.

7. Having the right equipment:

Some students, particularly in the latter part of the year, come to school unprepared for lessons. Parents, ask your child if they bring the following equipment to class for every maths lesson.

- a. Maths book
- b. Pens
- c. Pencil, eraser, sharpener
- d. Ruler
- e. Calculator – the school sells Sharp scientific calculators at cost price to students for \$18. A good calculator will last a student for their entire school career and possibly beyond. A calculator that I bought in 1988 finally failed in 2008, after 20 years of constant use.

AGRICULTURE

The Melville High Ag Farm had an excellent year again with its participation at shows, community events and student participation and results.

Melville again won honey exhibit at Sydney Royal Show and this year won with commercial poultry.

We exhibited poultry, farm produce and cattle at the local show and again we were the most successful exhibitor in horticulture. The show team took the little Lowline cattle to several district shows and returned with many ribbons and the students gained community acceptance and knowledge from experienced farmers.

The Agriculture team also ran the animal nursery at Kempsey show, helped out at community events and took the animals to a nursing home which was very rewarding for the students and residents.

The Ag farm has supported a variety of animals and commercial crops for student education and activities. We have improved the use of the farm by the construction of an outside learning area built by the talented farm assistant Michael Doevendans.

The outside learning area



Melville High School Lowline cattle.



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Bus for Sale

1995 Toyota Coaster 21 seater with disability hydraulic lift, TTH 349, VIN JT743PB5108001529, good condition but unregistered, 316000kms, no commercial use as bus is now surplus to Melville HS and Kempsey West PS Support Units. Would suit conversion to a camper.

Offers above \$15,000 will be considered. Excellent value. Contact Kempsey West Public School phone 65627044 in school hours.



School Commencement

2015

Staff commence duty
Years 7, 11 and 12 commence
Years 8, 9 and 10 commence

Tuesday 27 January 2015
Wednesday 28 January 2015
Thursday 29 January 2015

School Terms & Vacations 2015

Term 1: Tuesday 27 January to Thursday 2 April 2015

Tuesday 27 January 2015 - Staff commences duty
Wednesday 28 January 2015 - Years 7, 11 & 12 commence
Thursday 29 January 2015 - Years 8, 9 & 10 commence
Autumn Vacation: Friday 3 April to Friday 17 April 2015

Term 2: Tuesday 21 April to Friday 26 June 2015

ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 21 April 2015
Winter Vacation: Monday 29 June to Friday 10 July 2015

Term 3: Tuesday 14 July to Friday 18 September 2015

ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 14 July 2015
Spring Vacation: Monday 21 September to Monday 5 October 2015

Term 4: Tuesday 6 October to Wednesday 16 December 2015

Summer Vacation: Thursday 18 December 2015 to Wednesday 27 January 2016

Please note: School Development days occur on the first day of Terms 1, 2 and 3 and the last two days of the school year. Students do not attend on these days.