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Term 4 – Issue 14

Monday, 19 October 2015

Term 4

Week 4

Tuesday 27 October Yr11 Parent/Teach Eve

Week 5 5 November Yr 12 Formal

YMCA NSW Junior Parliament 2015

By Honey

On Monday the 21 of September during the school holidays I arrived at YMCA NSW Junior Parliament 2015. There were 106 other young people from across the state coming together for this camp and being from a rural area, I knew no one. But I did not need to worry because I soon realised that I was able to communicate and fit in with the like-minded young people I met there, who shared my interest in politics.

We were soon thrown straight into the main activity of the week: writing a Bill with our Committees. I was part of the Environment Committee, and our Bill was a proposed Act to prohibit all hunting in NSW National Parks.

By the Wednesday our Bill was completed, our speeches were written, and we were travelling to the oldest parliamentary chamber in Australia. We debated our Bills in the NSW Legislative Assembly for two days.

I nominated for a leadership role and was voted by the other participants as Government Whip, and was put in charge of all party organisation.

Overall I had an amazing experience at the YMCA NSW Junior Parliament 2015. I learnt a lot about the political process and I spoke to young people from all over the state who share my political awareness.

I'd like to thank the organisers of Junior Parliament, especially Ruby-Lyn Ward the coordinator, Mr Hollingsworth who supported my

application and Melinda Pavey who nominated me as Junior Member for Oxley.



Honey at the YMCA NSW Junior Parliament

Year 11/12 Aboriginal Studies

Year 11 Aboriginal studies will be beginning their major research project over the next few weeks. The project involves interviewing members of the local community on this topic. The students can present their work in any format they would like including film, performance, artwork, photographic essay or a written report. The students were all involved in doing a mini project this year. Some of the students completed interviews with family members about the stolen generation while others completed a documentary film on a number of topics. I am really looking forward to working with the students over the next few months on this as they all have enormous potential to do well if they put in some effort. We are also interested in members of the community presenting their experiences and local knowledge about aboriginal issues to the class. Anyone interested in helping out can contact me, Liz Heath, or Aunty Jacqui at Melville High School.

Liz Heath

Sensational Social Science student!

This semester, one particular student has proven that by being focused and diligent in class as well as by putting thought and effort into assessment tasks, outstanding results can be achieved. Presently, Year 10 student, Jayden is studying two Social Science subjects being Commerce and Geography. His achievements have recently included:

- 1) Commerce- receiving 40/40 for an E-Commerce test;
- 2) Geography- receiving 24/24 for a Coastal Management model and -receiving 36/36 for a Coastal Management test.

Well done Jayden! Congratulations on your fabulous efforts!



Mr Stewart awarding Jayden a Deputy's Award for excellence!

MECS Leadership Day

On Wednesday our wonderful senior student leadership team, comprised of Ben, Louis, Kelly, Connor, Zeb, Keely, Shianna and Siobhan worked with the leaders from Kempsey High to coordinate and manage a MECS leadership day for student leaders from the local primary schools. It was a very productive and enjoyable day, filled with learning activities, challenges and games. It was also a great opportunity for these leaders to develop positive relationships with students that are transitioning to high school. Our leaders were outstanding ambassadors for our school, were instrumental in providing a fun and inspiring experience for these young students, were

excellent role models and mentors, and overall they made us proud by Doing It R.I.G.H.T.



Year 10 Coastal Management Assignments

Year 10 Geography classes have just completed their Coastal Management assessment tasks. One of these tasks was to complete a model, or an animation, to show some of the physical features found on the coast and explain the coastal processes that formed them.



The quality of presentation was outstanding this year, many students put in a tremendous amount of effort and time to produce excellent models to go with their written explanations.



Two of the assignments that received top marks, by Jayden and Annabel are shown here. Later on this term, Year 10 Geography students will go on a field trip to Crescent Head where they will

complete a work booklet and observe some of the coastal processes first hand.

David Barry
Social Science

Focus 10

It is that time of year again when year 10 students are busily preparing for their focus 10 interviews after completing lessons in readiness for this event.

Focus 10 is an authentic assessment program where each Year 10 student is interviewed by a panel consisting of a community member, a teacher and a Year 9 student. They are asked ten questions, which require them to reflect on their learning. Students have to present a different assignment for eight of the ten questions asked and discuss an aspect of it. Examples of the questions asked include 'Select an assignment and describe the steps you took to complete it'. 'Show us an assignment you found difficult and outline how you overcome these difficulties.'

The purpose of this program is to help prepare students for interviews and to encourage them to reflect on their learning. It also encourages students to develop strategies which will facilitate improvements in their achievement.

Initially many students find the interviews challenging but at the end the vast majority are left with a great sense of achievement and pride in what they have achieved.

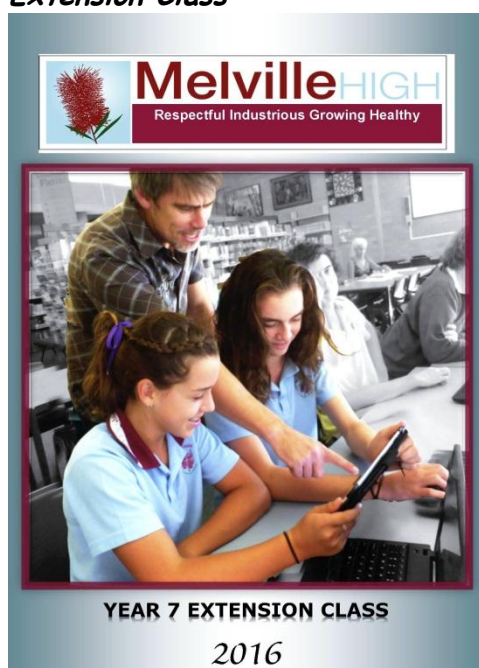
Students are provided with positive feedback on their performance and are allocated a grade, both of which appear on their school report.

If you are a parent of a year 10 student and are wondering how you could help them prepare for their interviews you could read their covering letter to ensure that there are no mistakes, help them develop prepared answers for each of the interview questions they will be asked or undertake a mock interview with them.

Also any parent or community member who would like to be part of a panel is welcome to ring the school for more information



Extension Class



The selection process for the year 7 Extension class for 2016 is being finalized. This will be the second time Melville High School has run an extension class and the first time it has fully implemented the selection process.

The selection process involves prospective students completing an application form, which requires them to provide copies of their school reports, NAPLAN results and comments from teachers and parents on their characteristics and achievement.

Year 6 students who have applied to be part of the class then sit a test and undertake an interview.

A panel then looks at the results and information collected and makes offers to 30 students.

Acceptance letters are in the process of being mailed out.

Many parents ask what is the difference between the extension class and our top classes. Teachers of the extension class will deliver some of the content in a way that encourages students to be more independent, creative and critical learners. They may, after assessing students abilities, provide content which is a little more challenging or delve into areas in more detail.

The extension class also participates in a unique subject called Integrated Studies where they work on projects which match any interest of theirs and develop their creative, analytical and critical thinking skills.

School Report Analysis

At the end of semester one reports were issued during roll call. Students were given time to read through their reports and were then required to complete an exercise sheet which required them to identify areas of strengths and weakness and develop strategies for improving their progress. These sheets were collected and stored. In the next few weeks each student will be given the sheets back during roll call where they will read through their answers. The aim of this is for all students to have evaluated the strategies they put in place to improve. To remind them of the goals that they set themselves at the end of term 2 with the hope in mind that this will foster improvements in their achievement as we approach the end of year assessment and reporting period.

Matt Smith
HT Social Science

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Term 4, possibly the busiest and most important term of the year, has finally come around. Obviously the main item on the school's agenda is the commencement of the HSC exams on Monday 12 October for our Year 12 students. It was most pleasing during the first week of forth term to see a great deal of our Year 12 taking advantage of some time and expertise of their teachers in last minute preparation for their exams. With English exams complete, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage our students to continue their hard work and offer any support we can along with our best wishes for success in their remaining exams. Good luck to all.

Another major event that will be occurring in Week 5 of Term 4 is the Year 8 camp to Pindari Outdoor

Education Centre. A great deal of information has been circulated about this camp to Year 8 Parents and Carers. Students in older years continue to make comments about how much they enjoyed the camp when they were in Year 8. Many students have learned a great deal about survival and teamwork skills at this very professionally run and enjoyable camp. However, even more students say that the main reasons they enjoyed this camp so much are because of the increased number of friendships they formed as a result of the camp, the closer bond formed with other students and staff and the many things they learned about themselves, discovering they had qualities of which they were not aware.

Mr Singleman has been working tirelessly to provide this opportunity for Year 8 and I thank him for all his efforts. It is not too late to see myself or Mr Singleman if you are interested in attending the camp. I encourage all parents to support your child in participating in this great experience.

A reminder to parents of Year 7 students that on the 22 October vaccinations will take place at school. Please ensure that your child has the necessary paperwork completed.

In addition Year 11 parents are reminded that Year 11 reports will be distributed this term and that Parent Teacher Evening will be held on Tuesday 27th October. This will consist of interviews from 4pm – 6pm with a short informative session between 5pm and 5.30pm. This communication between Parents and Staff is vital to maximise your child's performance at school. I encourage all parents to attend in support of your child.

Mr Troy Stewart
Deputy Principal

Melville High School P&C Meeting

**The next Melville High School P&C meeting
will be held on Monday 9th November at
6.30pm in School Library.**

**Macleay Valley
Local Aboriginal
Education Consultative Group
Notice of AGM**

20th October 2015

Please be advised that the

AGM for the MVLAECG

Will be held at the Dunghutti Elders
Corporation

At 1.00pm

17-23 South Street South Kempsey

All enquiries to Melanie Kennedy 6563 6211

Come and join a great local group

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council election is being held on Saturday 31 October 2015 and the *Expression of Interest* to work at this election is now live.

The NSW Electoral Commission is targeting Aboriginal people to work at this election. However, we will be considering all applicants and encourage anyone who is interested to apply. Working at this election is a great way to earn some money, learn new skills and help your community have their say. How do you apply?

Applicants need to complete an online expression of interest form. They can do this a number of ways:

1. From the NSW Electoral Commission Homepage using the existing button "work at this election" [top right hand corner] <http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/>
2. Via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NSWElections>

Fact sheets

There are a number of fact sheets that have been developed to assist in the application process: http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/alc_election/fact_sheets

More information

Information about this election can be found at the following link:

http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/alc_election

Please circulate this information amongst your networks.

Tanya Lee

Project Officer

NSW Electoral Commission

Level 25, 201 Kent Street

Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers

A free 2 hour workshop provided by NSW Roads and Maritime Services.

The workshops provide practical advice about:

- ☐ The new changes to the Learner Driver Permit,
- ☐ The new Safer Drivers Course,
- ☐ How to use the Learner Driver Log Book,
- ☐ How to plan driving sessions,
- ☐ How to deal with difficulties that may arise during driving practice,
- ☐ The importance of giving the learner constructive feedback.

The workshops are designed to help learner driver supervisors plan the best on-road experience for learner drivers and include information about the current licence conditions for learner and provisional drivers, young driver safety issues and low risk driving.

Who should attend:

- ☐ Parents, friends or relatives who are/will be supervising drivers
- ☐ Learner drivers are welcome to attend if accompanied by their supervisor

The workshop will be presented by the Enterprise and Training Company (ETC) in partnership with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

Teaching someone to drive can be a **happy** experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a **FREE** two hour workshop.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

Kempsey Macleay RSL

1 York Lane

Kempsey

Tuesday 10th November 2015

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers

www.etcltd.com.au/rms

1300 359 968