

Melville Matters



Principal: Mr J Hollingsworth B.Ed, Dip. Teach (P.E.)
Deputy Principal: Mr T Stewart B.A. (Hons), Dip. Ed. M.Ed.
Deputy Principal: Mrs V Staunton B.Sc, Dip. Ed.
T 6562 7511 F 6562 7405 E melville-h.School@det.nsw.edu.au

Term 4 – Issue 15

Monday, 2 November 2015

Term 4

Week 5

Thursday 5th November Yr 12 Formal

Week 6

Monday 9th November P&C Meeting

From the Support Unit

It is most satisfying to see the smiles and concentrated looks as we launch into the final weeks of the year in the support unit. It has been a huge year of upheaval and we are most grateful for the support provided by the local community in getting us back on our feet. Students are settled back into the unit and are enjoying the equipment that has been purchased with fundraising money. Our thanks to all those who have contributed to the rebirth of our facilities.

Kaylea working industriously in her new light and airy classroom.



James missed the class tricycle after the fire but is now zooming along on this fancy new model courtesy of Freedom Riders.



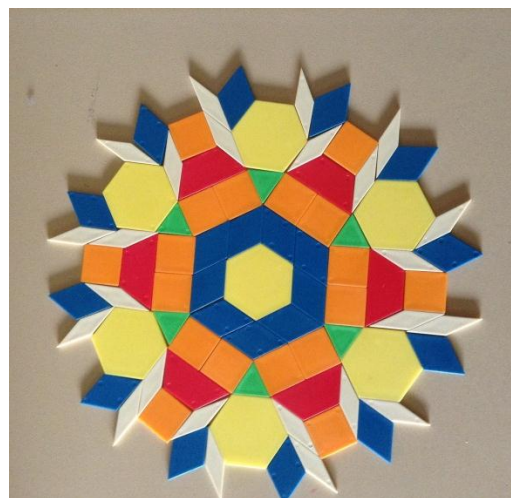
Ethan is sitting well on the horse at RDA thanks to some Posi Med pillows.





Jake and Josh are cooking up a storm and making great use of the new convection microwave purchased with fund raising money.

Year 7 students have been experimenting with symmetry in maths and have especially enjoyed the hands-on lessons. These are just some of their wonderful designs.



German at Melville **The Last Year in Review**

In the 2014 September/October school holidays after a year of preparation, 6 Year 10 students and Frau Lee travelled to Germany. Photos and some comments about this trip were posted on our school's Facebook page if you would like to see more of our experiences. The girls were billeted in families in Wetzlar for one week and went to school, as well as having daytrips to some local attractions. Of course, being in Germany meant speaking, reading, and listening to German were unavoidable, in fact, necessary!

From Wetzlar we travelled by train to stay in Cologne for two nights, Nuremburg for one night, Berlin for four nights and then back to Frankfurt for one night before flying back to Australia. There were many impressive sights to see, people to experience and German language! Some previous visitors to Melville were happy to be our guides in Wetzlar, Cologne, Berlin and Frankfurt. There had been an exchange student here about six years ago for 10 months. Wiebke had only visited our classes last year for one day and offered to make an itinerary for our interesting day in Cologne! We visited the chocolate museum, the cathedral, walked across the bridge with its heavy load of love message padlocks, and had typical local food at a Tavern.

In Berlin we were joined by Nicole for our three days of sightseeing, including the zoo, Anne Frank museum, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial, Brandenburg Gate, wax museum, Checkpoint Charlie and the Berlin Wall.

The day after our Year 10s arrived back in Australia, Nicole arrived in order to volunteer as a German Language Assistant in all the German classes for 6 months. She already loved Australia and Melville so much after two months she asked to stay longer! All of Year 8 last year, this year's Year 8 and all elective classes have experienced her helpfulness over the 9 months she ended up staying in Australia. Who can forget her singing Pharrell Williams "Happy" with a team of teachers as backing vocals and silly dancers at Melville's Most Marvellous last year? With her native German speaking and Hannoverian accent, Nicole contributed significantly to enriching our understanding of German, and fostering international friendship.

Concluding our happy times together were food events like the Stehcafe (standing café), our elective German Christmas excursion to Netherby House where we ordered our food in German from Jasmin (who is Swiss/Australian). Even doing (speaking) assessment tasks like the Year 9 Kaffee Klatsch, were part of the fun times experienced in German over the last year at Melville!

Frau Lee und Frau Briggs



Portrait of the Germany travellers in the local shopping centre in Wetzlar



Year 10 girls and their billets at school in Wetzlar Germany.



At Braunfels Castle near Wetzlar



Hamming it up at Checkpoint Charlie.... those guards get a lot of tourists!!!



All of Year 8,9,10 German plus Year 11 ex-German students, and other staff at the Stehcafe for Nicole.



Stehcafe Farewell for Nicole with Frau Lee and Frau Briggs.



Student prepared German cakes and food ready for the Stehcafe.



Year 9 and 10 German 2014 at Netherby House.



Year 9 and 10 German 2014 at Netherby House.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

On Friday 30th October, we celebrated World Teachers day. A day set aside to reflect on all the positive outcomes that come from the work of our dedicated teachers. At Melville High there are 62 teaching staff and close to 40 support staff working for the benefit of the students and community of the Southern Macleay. On most occasions the work of our teachers goes unrecognised and with little obvious reward. Many of the positives which come from teaching are the little things we see our students achieve after working in our classes. Sometimes just the fact that a student is willing to persevere at a task is encouragement to the teacher. So please take a moment and think about the important work of our teachers in shaping the future of our students and perhaps, consider how you might be able to show your appreciation for their valuable work.

Last week also saw the acknowledgement of National "Gonski" week. This has been a time for us to highlight the valuable contribution the "Gonski" funding is making to students at Melville High. The increased level of funding to schools aimed at equity in the education of all groups within our system is being used to great success. At Melville High School the "Gonski" funds are used to support Literacy and Numeracy Quicksmart programs for students who have been identified by testing and from staff recommendation. Funds allow the employment of extra staff to act as tutors of students in smaller groups and we have seen improved results from this intervention. Other areas where this funding has been successful is in support of students from low socio-economic backgrounds and Aboriginal students whose results are below the National averages. This funding is critical to increasing any improvements which we may normally see and

without the additional funds many of our students will not catch-up to their peers.

On Tuesday 27th October, we held a Parent teacher evening for Year 11 students as they commence their HSC year. This was a very well attended evening and included a presentation on ways to succeed as a student, how attendance affects results and how parents can support their student. Students received their end of Year 11 reports and the HSC assessment schedule. If you were unable to attend, links to the documents and presentations will be placed on the school website.

This week will see the final HSC exams held for 2015. I am sure there will be a collective sigh of relief from all households with HSC students. I must again congratulate the Year 12 class of 2015 for their diligence and hard work through the year. I look forward to the release of HSC results on December 16th, and I am confident that all students will be rewarded for their efforts. Please remember that the HSC is only a small step in your path through life, and should you need to discuss your options after the release of the results, please do not hesitate to contact the staff at school.

Once a again a reminder that everyone is welcome to participate in the P & C. Meetings which are held in the Library on the Second Monday of the Month at 6.30pm (next meeting is Week 6, on 9th November).

Mr Jeff Hollingsworth
Principal

Award success for Staff and students

On Wednesday 28th October, the Macleay Educational Community awards evening was held in conjunction with the opening of the Spring into Art exhibition at Gladstone regional gallery. Awards were presented to staff from across all schools in this area and Melville High was able to recognise the work of Iven Denyer and Jenny Thomas. Below is a brief excerpt from their citations,

Iven Denyer is well respected in the school by all students, staff and Community, and he is always willing to support students initiatives. He has also taken his involvement beyond the classroom and has been Melville High Anti Racism Contact Officer for the past 7 years and also held the position of President of the AECG. Iven has

established and coordinated Brospeak in Melville High and has recently trained staff from other schools to support the expansion of this program. Iven and his wife have also been Foster carers for many years, Thank you Iven.



Jenny Thomas is a positive and enthusiastic teacher who has made a significant contribution to Melville High School in the 26 years that she has been here. In that time:

- Jenny has run the school dance program, with up to 100 students involved each year in 5 – 6 separate items at the southern cross dance festival, at annual dance festivals and in school shows and functions. Her role included managing the program, teaching choreography, running rehearsals, planning excursions, organising parents and sewing. Lots and lots of sewing!
Jenny says that “everyone wants to dance” and her inclusive approach has allowed any student who wanted to be a performer to get up on stage and have a go.
- Jenny was our laptop fairy, playing a major role in up-skilling students and staff in the use of laptops and ICT. She was our go-to person for anything we needed to know about computers.
- Jenny coordinated the school Presentation Nights for 10 years, A huge and often thankless job, but a very important one in celebrating student achievements.

Jenny is a strong believer in accentuating the positive and encouraging the staff and students to have fun. Her bubbly personality always lifted the spirits of those she worked with.



Mid North Coast Aboriginal Student and Staff awards

On Friday 6th November, 4 Students and 1 staff member will be recognised at the Mid North Coast Aboriginal Education awards ceremony in Port Macquarie. The awards winners are Leroy Year 10, Kris Year 12, Patricia Year 12, Bindii Year 10. The awards are for categories including, Student Participation and Encouragement, Academic Excellence and Student Leadership. Emily King will receive an award for her ongoing work across the Macleay schools on the Painting Country - Dunghutti stories project. We are very proud of these achievements and encourage all students and staff to follow in the footsteps of these wonderful representatives of the Melville High community.

“P&C Federation Mid North Coast electorate Forum – Taree

When: Saturday 7th November 2015

Time: 2.00pm -4.00PM Registration from 1.30pm

Where: Chatham High School
Davis St,
Taree NSW 2430

Topics Covered:

- New programs and initiatives- Department of Education
- Grants, Scholarships and donations – Local member of Parliament
- Ask questions, gather information and meet staff from P&C Federation

But most of all join in the discussions with speakers as well as other P&C members.

This is a free event for P&C Members, parents and community members, so come along and join us for a “chat”.

**Regards,
Debbie Clifford**

Macleay Educational Community of Schools K-12 ART EXHIBITION

Featuring outstanding artworks from the talented students of the Macleay Public Schools.

Celebrating excellence in the Creative Arts:

Thursday 22nd October – Sunday 25th October

Thursday 29th October – Sunday 1st November
10am – 4pm

**Macleay Valley Community Art
Gallery @ Gladstone**



PORT MACQUARIE TRIATHLON CLUB

Enriched Health Care-

CAMDEN HAVEN TRIATHLON FESTIVAL

21st and 22nd of November 2015

For entry forms and fees visits

www.portmactriclub.com.au

or contact Nathan Pensini on 0402068186

Saturday 21st of November

1km ocean swim --12pm(15 y/o and over)

LUSC junior aquathlon (6-10 yr olds) and triathlon (11- 15 yr old)- From 1pm

A bike to be won as a random prize

Sunday 22nd of November- 7am start

Enriched Health Care
senior triathlon – 600m swim/28 bike/6.5km run

Over \$3000 combined in prize money and random draw prizes

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