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Term 3 – Issue 13

Thursday, 10 September 2015

## Term 3

### Week 9

Thursday 10 Sept Koori Yr 12 Dinne

### Week 10

Friday 18 September Yr 12 Assembly

Term 4 Week 5 5<sup>th</sup> Nov Year 12 Formal

**MHS P&C Meeting Monday 14th September at 5.30pm in MHS library.**

## **FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### ***The Tall Build***

The tallest building in the world is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai at 828metres high. The tallest building in Australia is Q1 on the Gold Coast at 323metres high. These are really lame compared to the staggeringly acrophobic heights achieved by 7M last week. The brief was to construct the tallest structure possible using 25 drinking straws that could only be connected with sticky tape. The structure had to support a cardboard platform that could hold a 100g mass and Jett, Billy and Flynn came out on top with a nose-bleedingly high 38centimetres. Here are some of the designers and their creations.



Jett, Jasmine, Lacey and Flynn

## **VALID – The latest in assessment of learning in Science**

For a long period of time Melville High has been participating in an assessment program called ESSA (Essential Secondary Science Assessment) which provides feedback about student achievement in Stage 4 (Years 7 & 8) Science. This year the test has had its name changed and has been widened to cover from Years 5 to 10. The *Validation of Assessment 4 Learning & Individual Development* (VALID) test will be conducted for all Year 8 students in Public Schools in the state and for Year 6 and Year 10 students in participating pilot schools, including Melville High.

The *VALID Science* test is unlike any other assessment the students have done before. It is an interactive, multimedia test completed entirely on a computer. It contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks that are grouped around real-world issues, including scientific investigations. This is a diagnostic test, with tasks framed on Stage 4 (Year 8) and Stage 5 (Year 10) outcomes and essential content in the *NSW Science Years K–10 Syllabus*. 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.

Students also complete a survey about their opinions, attitudes and values. The test takes approximately 80 minutes.

Since students complete *VALID Science 10* on a computer, each student needs to bring **headphones or earbuds** that plug into a school computer. Earbuds for an iPod or portable player are suitable.

**Year 10** will be doing *VALID Science 10 Monday 7 September* with catch-up for absent students through to **Friday 11 September 2015**.

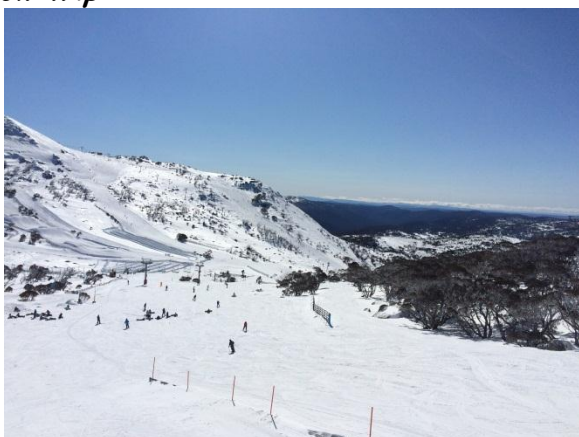
**Year 8** will have to wait until week 6 next term (9-13 November 2015) for their turn.

Information about each student is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that the right to privacy of all students is maintained. A personal report for each student will be sent to parents/carers to describe the science knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student in the test. There will also be information about how your child's results compare with overall performance of all students in the test.

**If you require additional information about the *VALID Science* program please contact Mick Eichler Head Teacher Science via the school office.**

## ***FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT***

### ***Snow trip***



In week 6 the PDHPE snow excursion took place at snowy mountains. On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of August Mrs Jacobs, Mr Myyrylainen, Mr Singleman and Mrs Munday (CH primary) took 40 students on the 13 hr bus trip to Berridale. Aside from a small group of students who were overwhelmed by the size and complexity of Tuggerah Westfields the bus trip down was very smooth. We arrived at our accommodation at Southern Cross Inn in Berridale ready for three days on the snow.

The first day at Perisher was a difficult one. High winds, blinding snow and freezing weather made it a very unwelcoming start for all the new skiers and snowboarders. To their credit, the Melville students endured the tough weather and began the first steps in learning how to ski and snowboard. The second day was completely different, with perfect, warm, sunny weather and a good cover of deep snow. The students continued with their progress and by the end of day almost every student was able to slide down the hills and really enjoy what the snow has to offer. Day three was another "blue bird" day with perfect weather. Our students were now all able to navigate the snowfields and began exploring new and more difficult areas of the resort. By the end of the day 40 very tired, happy students had learned a new skill and experienced something that many people never do.

Everyone arrived back in Kempsey at 9pm, safe and sound on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August. The staff on the trip would like to congratulate all the students who attended for their exceptional behaviour and commitment to doing it RIGHT. We look forward to seeing everyone again on next year's trip.



### ***What's on in PDHPE?***

In the coming weeks year 7- 10 students will be fitness testing in PDHPE practical lessons. Students complete fitness test each year and are able to keep track of their changing fitness levels as they progress through their high school years. Students are encouraged to try their best each year so they can see how they improve as they grow.

In PDHPE theory 7 – 10 students will be looking at the “gold book.” These books are health manuals which aim to help people take preventative action and maximise their health in each stage of their life. Students not only study their own age group but those of their family and carers.

### ***Year 10 Sport Science***

Year 10 Sport Science have spent the last 9 weeks learning to coach and using those skills at South Kempsey Primary school. Students have taught K-2 and 4-6 classes' soccer, netball and touch football. All the students in Year 10 Sport Science have been excellent ambassadors for Melville High and should be congratulated on their efforts.

## ***PRINCIPAL'S REPORT***

Recently there has been a great deal of publicity around the level of funding to schools. This is related to an investigation undertaken to assess funding levels in Public, Private and Independent schools across the country. This was known as the “Gonski” review after the author of the report. One of the main recommendations of the review is to raise the level of funding to schools to allow improvements in support of all students and particularly funding to support students who are not achieving National benchmarks. At Melville High School the “Gonski” funds are used to support Literacy and Numeracy programs for students who have been identified by testing and 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 Disadvantaged 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.

As we approach the last few weeks of Term 3, the planning and organisation cycle within the school

is moving rapidly. Students in Years 10 and 8 are currently finalising subject selections for 2016, 21 Year 11 students have nominated to be Melville High School Captains and interviews and elections will be completed by the end of Term. The HSC students are in the final phase of preparations for Exams and major projects and performances have already been marked in areas including Art, Music, Drama and Industrial Technology Timber. Works also have been submitted for HSC marking in Society and Culture and Extension English.

To help produce the best possible results for students, the staff are continuing the great work in all classes and it is important that attendance is maintained to the end of each course. Tutorials to support students will be held in the last week of term and staff will be available for last minute assistance in the first week of term 4, before the HSC Exams commence. I would like to wish all our students the best in the exams and with achieving their goals and aspirations for the future.

I must also take this opportunity to remind all students at Melville High School that under no circumstances are students to be involved in any anti-social activities. It would be considered a serious discipline issue and may place students and staff at risk. Please act responsibly and safely at all times.

One of the greatest concerns in high school, is the reduction in parent involvement compared to our partner primaries. We would welcome greater engagement with our community, and one way to participate is through the “Tell them from me” survey, where we encourage parents and carers to answer a short online survey to assist the school in modifying programs and supporting the needs of our community. Details of how you can participate are listed later in this newsletter. On September 15, we will be hosting parents and Community members for our “Melville Cares” initiative to support Aboriginal Education, please come along, details on the flyer later in the newsletter.

I would like to acknowledge two significant achievements in recent weeks. Mr Alan Guihot

(Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts) was invited to NSW Parliament house on August 29 to receive a Premiers Scholarship. Mr Guihot was one of only 25 staff from across all schools in the state to be awarded a scholarship, this will allow him to travel to Asia and study Art teaching and styles of work which will assist all teachers across the state on his return. Secondly, Honey Kassel from Year 8, was recently successful in gaining a position to the 2015 Junior Parliament program, she is looking forward to representing Oxley electorate and working with other SRC representatives from across the state.

Once 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 5.30pm (next meeting is Week 10, on 14<sup>th</sup> September).

Mr Jeff Hollingsworth  
Principal



Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre have a number of Holiday Programs for children aged 7-15 these school holidays.

Programs include a Residential Camp, Kids Club, Sailing, Surfing and Laser Skirmish.

For further information please visit our website  
[www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au)

or contact **13 13 02**



## SPRING HOLIDAY CAMPS DON'T MISS OUT

**New friendships Fun**

**Great value Safe**

Our popular Spring Kids' and Family Holiday Camps are filling fast. Find out what's on including our popular Cooking 4 Kids, Adventurer, Kids' Club and Duke of Edinburgh camps plus lots more.

Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands. Our Kids' Camps are suitable for kids aged 7 and over and range from 1 to 5 days.

### **Residential Kids' Camps include:**

- 24 hour supervision
- Instructor led activities
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Supervised transport

### **Family Camps include:**

- Instructor led activities
- Meals
- Accommodation
- Use of all facilities i.e. BBQ area, pool, tennis courts etc.

Eddie Blake  
(02) 8754 7958

[sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au](http://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au)  
[sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps](http://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps)  
[fb.com/nswsportandrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/nswsportandrecreation) 13 13 02



# Melville High School

## **“MELVILLE CARES”** Supporting Aboriginal Education

**Come and have a yarn about Melville HS see what Melville is doing for Aboriginal Education.**

**FREE Lunch after the event.**

**9.30am – Start**

**Venue: Melville High School,**

**Staff common Room**

**Date: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of September**

**Details:**

- Aboriginal Education in the Macleay
- School Attendance
- Centrelink
- AECG Education Summit
- Our Beautiful school

**“Don’t let your experience at school be the same for your child, come along and make it better”**

**RSVP Aunty Jacqui: 0265627511, 8<sup>th</sup> September**



You're invited to participate in the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey designed for parents and carers. This survey complements the TTFM student and teacher surveys, which focus on student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices. All Department of Education schools have the opportunity to participate if they choose.

**Article I. Why should I participate?**

Parents and carers are an important and valued part of the school community. Schools can use survey feedback to make practical improvements and inform school planning.

**Article II. What does it involve?**

This online survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. It is anonymous and voluntary.

If you have more than one child at this school, and feel that your children's experiences differ, you can complete the survey more than once.

**Article III. How can I participate?**

You can access the survey in your own time, between 17 August and 16 October 2015.

Follow the link below on your computer or tablet:

We can also offer Parents the opportunity to access the survey using school based computers. Please contact Mr Hollingsworth for more information.

More information on the Partners in Learning survey can be found on the NSW Department of Education's TTFM website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>



### **The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey**

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>  
The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by [insert date]. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

### **The *Partners in Learning* parent feedback survey**

Our school will also be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>