



Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 2

31st March 2011



Principal Report

Thank you to students, teachers and parents for a great start to the school year. The students look impressive in their uniform and black, leather shoes, teachers are delivering quality lessons in the classroom and the school is undergoing some exciting changes.

Trade Training Centre

We are now four weeks into the construction of our new Trade Training Centre facilities. Students and staff alike are to be commended on their positive and cooperative attitude in dealing with the associated daily disruptions such as classroom changes, power outages, reduced parking and demolition and drilling noise. The end result will certainly be worth it! Photographs of the three facilities will be added each week to our website to enable you to track the progress during the construction period.

School Improvement Project

Students, staff and even some ex-students chipped in to give our school driveway entrance a much needed upgrade. Turf was cut from our agriculture farm facility and transported to the school where a team of helpers prepared the soil and laid out the turf over three days. Once completed, the sprinklers were then turned on and a flock of hungry magpies descended to pick worms from the new turf. Thank you to Mr O'Connor, Mr O'Hara, Mrs Bailey, Mr Christian, Mr Brands and all of the students who helped for your hard work, energy and enthusiasm in the completion of this project. We have a large number of other school improvement projects planned for this year. Our next project is the construction of a



memorial wall and gardens and the erection of the old school bell as a showpiece. Other projects taking place later in the year will include the fencing of the south hill to enable us to bring livestock back to the school, planting a bush tucker garden and painting Aboriginal murals on K block. If you are keen to be involved please give me a call.

Doyle's Creek Mining Community Grant



Congratulations to Head Teacher Technology and Applied Science (TAS), Bryce O'Connor, who successfully applied on behalf of Muswellbrook High School for a \$10 000 grant from Doyle's Creek Mine. The money will be used to install air filtration ducting and a slide saw in the timber workshop. News of the grants were recently featured in the Hunter Valley News.

Read the complete story here: <http://huntervalleynews.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/woodwork-class-boost/2104010.aspx>

On behalf of the school I would like to thank Doyle's Creek Mine for their generosity in this contribution to the school.

School History and Alumni

We are currently in the process of putting together feature pages on the Muswellbrook High School website for our school history and biographies of famous ex-students of the school. An early contribution for the history section will be from Keith Crossley, a member of the successful University Shield team of 1953 who will provide a report on that significant achievement.

Contributions of reports, items, documents or photographs relating in the school's history would be very much appreciated.

Mr Gareth Erskine
Principal

Deputy Principal

As an important and positive beginning to the school year there has been a strong focus on students complying with the school's uniform policy. Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000, The Department of Education and Training must ensure that students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety while they are on Departmental premises. To meet these requirements, it is essential that all students wear fully enclosed leather shoes. As a uniform school, the colour of this footwear must be black and the Department supports our school in implementing this policy.

I would like to thank all parents and caregivers who have assisted the school in this endeavour. Your positive response and understanding that this is a requirement which is now accepted in all current work contexts has been very much appreciated. The wearing of the school uniform has significantly improved the perception and practice of the school as an ordered and safe environment. We wish to build on what has been achieved in Term 1 by signalling that only school jumpers, tracksuits, sloppy joes, blue slacks and grey trousers will be permitted as the weather becomes colder. Again, the continued support of parents and caregivers is sought in this area as we continue to promote a positive community perception of Muswellbrook High School and develop students' sense of belonging to it.

Miss C. Walsh
Deputy Principal Organization

Portal Information for Parents



Do you want more details on your child's progress at school?

Go to the Parent Portal for Student Timetables, Attendance summary, School reports, Behaviour summary

If you have an email address registered, you will have been sent a message with log-in details for our Millennium Parent Portal

So Register TODAY !!

6543 1033 or send in the reply



Please Call Mr Drewe if you have any questions

CHOIR

Lent starts next week and Easter is just around the corner. Traditionally - the Good Friday service (April 22nd) at St James Muswellbrook is looked after by the teenagers and the Antioch youth group. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who enjoys singing (especially in harmony) to be a part of this special day. Rehearsals will be held at St James Church each Monday 5:30 - 6:30. For more information contact Sue Davis 6542 5793 or 0423 946 530.

Sue Davis

Encourage your child to be a good digital citizen

Life online works better when people maintain good manners and treat each other as they'd like to be treated. Talk about this with your child and it may lead to a decline in bullying behaviour and disagreements that children have.

More safety tips can be found at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/technology/cybersafety/yr2008/staysafe.php

TAS Report

Food Technology Year 9

Food Technology students have been exploring the realms of basic nutrition and the guidelines to healthy eating. They have been learning how to make meals that are both delicious and low in fat, and high in fibre. (thus preventing obesity and its associated lifestyle diseases) They are becoming aware of terms such as BMI (Body Mass Index) and Low G.I foods. (Glycaemic Index)



Whilst doing this, they have managed to successfully work in very limited physical conditions in our one available Food technology Room - all due to the renovations and building works occurring as a result of the new kitchen being built for the Trades Training Centre.



Year 9 Food Technology Line A are a very enthusiastic class who have shown that they are very interested and willing to work hard – no matter the circumstances!

Mrs A Thornton

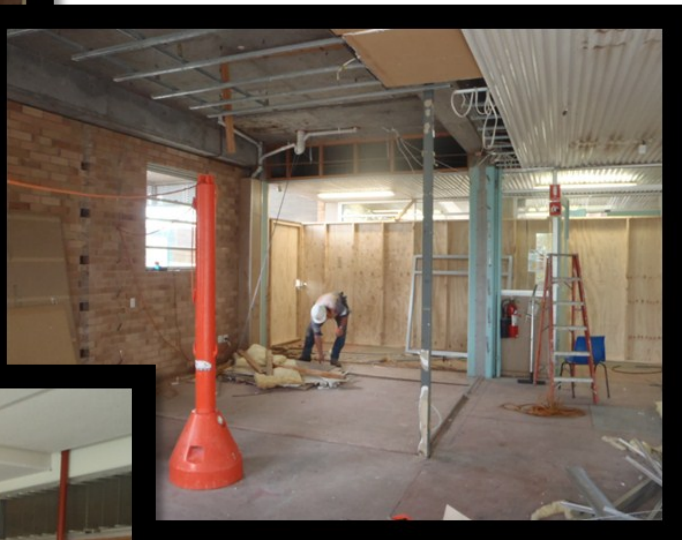
TAS Report

2011 is set to be a fantastic year for the TAS Department at Muswellbrook High School. This term marks the much awaited commencement on the Trade Training Centre. The Trade Training Centre is part of the 'Australian Government's Education Revolution'. It will involve a significant upgrading of the Hospitality, Metals and Engineering and Agriculture facilities at the school. Whilst this does mean there will be limited use of practical facilities for the duration of construction, the final outcome will be well worth the wait. We will have industry standard facilities that will provide students with the opportunity to develop new skills we would otherwise be unable to achieve.

In addition to the Trade Training Centre we have recently secured a \$10,000 grant courtesy of Doyles Creek Mining Community Trust. This funding will be used to purchase some much needed equipment for the Timber area of TAS, with the biggest purchases set to include a sliding table saw and air filtration for our rooms. Along with the P&C funding we have been given this year, we will be able to fully cater for students enrolled in our VET Construction course that was established in 2010. We hope these initiatives assist in achieving the overall goal of improving the number of students completing their HSC and addressing skills shortages. We look forward to being able to share the progress of these projects with you in the coming months.

Next term will see the return of Mrs Flood and Mrs Parker as well as the arrival of Mr McLaren who will be filling the vacancy available due to the departure of Mrs Gal. Mr McLaren comes to Muswellbrook from Dubbo and brings with him 17 years of experience as a chef and has been teaching in Dubbo for the last 2 years.

Mr Bryce O'Connor
Head Teacher TAS



Photos:

*Cooking class room C15
under construction.*

PE Report

It has been a busy start to the Semester in PDHPE. We have a new face in the faculty with Mr Mulvihill continuing his permanent position as Head Teacher Administration and picking up his PDHPE classes for the year.

We recently held the Muswellbrook High School Swimming Carnival with considerable success and excellent participation rates. Overall, the battle for the Wilkinson Trophy was not as fierce as anticipated with Page the clear leaders throughout the day. The final point scores are as follows:

1st Page:	446 points
2nd Paterson:	349 points
3rd Goulburn:	311 points
4th Hunter:	260 points

There were some standout performers on the day with **John Langley** breaking a 24 year old record in the Boys 15 years 50m Butterfly. There were a number of students representing Muswellbrook High School at the zone carnival with John Langley, Anaru Komene, Jake Parker, Mikaela Callinan making it through to the Regional Carnival held at Maitland. From this carnival, John Langley will represent the Hunter Region at the State Championships. Both James Medhurst and Justin Carter also qualified for the State Championships in their selected events.

Girls

12 Years Girls: Katie Mann

13 Years Girls: Caitlin Daniel

14 Years Girls: Emma Wilkins

15 Years Girls: Emma Thompson

16 Years Girls: Taya Elphinstone

17+ Years Girls: Mikaela Callinan

Boys

12 Years Boys: Brock Farrell

13 Years Boys: Anaru Komene

14 Years Boys: Shawn Honeysett

15 Years Boys: John Langley

16 Years Boys: Jayden McCarthy

17+ Years Boys: James Medhurst

Thanks must go to the teachers and volunteers who assisted so well before, during and after the carnival with special mention to Sarah Hope for her assistance on the day.

With Swimming almost over, the Cross Country and Athletics carnivals are quickly approaching and the Cross Country carnival will be held on Wednesday 30th March at Weeraman Field. All students from years 7-12 will be involved on the day from 1:00pm until 3:30pm.

Our sporting teams have begun their quest for Hunter Region honours with Open Boys Cricket, Boys Touch, Boys Volleyball, and Girls Touch all taking part in their respective competitions and making it through to the next rounds. Junior Boys cricket were unlucky in their defeat to Maitland in their first round match up.

At school, our year 10 PASS elective classes will soon take part in the Arrive Alive Wheelchair Roadshow. This is an event the PDHPE faculty runs annually which is designed to educate students about road safety, with guests who have been involved in road accidents speaking to the students before taking them through a coaching session and game of wheelchair basketball. Pending the confirmation of dates, this should occur in June 2011.

Year 10 PDHPE students will shortly begin constructing their dance routines for the annual year 10 dance assessment. We are looking forward to late Term 2 when students will present their compositions in front of Years 9 and 10, parents and teachers. All Year 10 parents will be invited to attend this event and details will be provided in the future.

Outward Bound will also occur in Term 2 and preparations have started for this already. The venue is to be confirmed shortly and students are sure to have an exciting adventure.

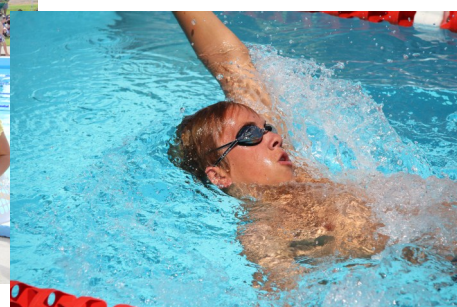
Our Year 7 Thursday sporting competitions are in full swing with participation and enthusiasm improving each week. A score update will be provided at the end of the Semester and all house groups are battling to earn the title of Semester 1 champions. So far, the Boys groups have competed in a Soccer tournament and have just started their Oztag sport, whilst the Girls groups have competed in Basketball and are now constructing Dances during their sport afternoons.

A reminder to parents and students that all students are expected to bring and change into their full sports uniform consisting of **yellow polo shirt, navy shorts/track pants and appropriate joggers** for both PDHPE practical classes as well as sport afternoons. Students are allowed to drop off their shoes in the morning at the PDHPE staffroom until they have sport/practical classes and may pick up their shoes at the end of the day.

Grant Herbert
Head Teacher PDHPE



Muswellbrook High School Swimming Carnival 2011



Expression of Interest

Muswellbrook High School are seeking a Photographer for this years 2011 Year 12 Formal, the Formal will be held on Thursday 22nd September at the Muswellbrook RSL Club. This year we have approximately 70 year 12 students. For More information please contact us on the details below.

Please Enquire to Tanya Clifford

Phone: 65431033

Email: Tanya.Clifford1@det.nsw.edu.au.

Mail: PO Box 198, Muswellbrook 2333



P & C Committee Report

The P&C would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year, which is well and truly underway. A special welcome to all new students and staff and their families. Also congratulations to Mr Gareth Erskine for his appointment as Principal and congratulations to Year 12, 2010 for fantastic HSC results.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 10th March and the Office Bearers for 2011 include: President - Jenni Bullivant, Vice President – Graham Whitehead, Secretary - Sandra Langley, Treasurer – Vanessa Smith, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Kay Curran. Our Budget Committee Representative is Pam King and we welcome Megan Whitehead and Kathy Jones.

The P&C will continue to make sure funds are available to purchase valuable teaching and learning resources for our students and staff during 2011. Our Canteen is the major source of this funding and you can help if you volunteer any part of a day to help prepare and/or serve food. Just contact Maree or Stasia through the front office. Also this year we would like to boost our funds with some fundraising events –any exciting ideas will be greatly appreciated.

The P&C was informed about some of the actions being taken to change and improve the culture of our school. The P&C also recognizes the importance of both student and staff welfare and encourages parents and guardians to support the school as it targets uniform and behaviour to reflect the beginning of a change in culture. Changing students attitudes to dress regulations and improving students behaviour will help to instill pride in our school and create a hard working learning environment accessible to all students. This will prepare our students to take their place in any workplace where rules, regulations, dress codes and acceptable behaviour come with the job!

Our next P&C Meeting is Thursday 12th May, 2011 at 7pm in the school library. (There will be no meeting in April because of the school holidays)

All are welcome

Uniform Shop Report



While the shop is currently well stocked with winter clothing, I recommend new students purchase before the rush as supplies are ordered well in advance. We have trackpants, jackets, knitted jumpers, fleecy jumpers and scarves. I recommend students come in and try on for sizing as not all items in the shop are made by Daylight. All these items can be worn everyday and are unisex.

'MBK' footy shorts and socks are also available.

Hours

Tuesday 7.30 – 11.30am

Thursday 12 – 4pm

Cash, EFT-POS or Cheques (made out to Daylight Sportswear welcome.)

Mobile Phone: 0439 118 033 Vanessa

Price List	
Junior or Senior Blouse	\$27.00
Junior or Senior Polo	\$27.00
Tartan Skirt	\$48.50
Girls Stretch Slacks	\$39.00
Girls Dress Shorts	\$35.00
Boys Shorts	\$35.00
Wool Jumper	\$69.00
Fleecy Jumper	\$36.00
School Jacket	\$65.00
Track Pants	\$35.00
Sport Shorts	\$24.00
Sports Polo	\$33.00
Navy Scarf	\$12.00
Football Shorts	\$18.00
Football Socks	\$ 8.50