



Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 5

8th August 2011



Principal Report

Welcome to Term 3! This is a very important time of year with students in Years 8 and 10 selecting electives for 2012, parent/teacher interviews and Years 11 and 12 completing their Preliminary and Higher School Certificate studies.

We concluded Term 2 in a very positive way with our Back to the Brook Assembly and NAIDOC Week Celebrations. It is great to see how these two events have grown over the last few years to be major events on our school calendar and the tremendous value that the students gain from these experiences. I would like to particularly thank Mr Borg, Mrs Douglass, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Powell for their time, enthusiasm and effort in planning these two showcase events.

In the last month we have had some excellent sporting achievements with our Open Boys' Volleyball team finishing 10th in the State and the 13's and 14's Rugby League teams winning the B competition at the Peel Carnival in Tamworth. The trophy cabinet is starting to fill up quite nicely!

Year 10-12 Parent/Teacher Interviews

I enjoyed speaking with a large number of parents and students at our Year 10-12 Parent/Teacher Interviews held on Tuesday 26 July. These events are a great opportunity for parents to meet with their children's teachers to discuss their recent Semester reports and help support students in their learning. In consultation with our P&C and school staff we have endeavoured to continually refine and improve this event and any further feedback to facilitate this process is always welcome.

Merit System Levels

Congratulations to all students who have now attained the Platinum or Diamond Level in our School Merit System. Merit points are awarded by teachers to students for academic performance, sporting participation, school service or representation and leadership. For example, a student who placed first in a Mathematics test or Geography assignment may receive three merit points, second place two points and third one. Other examples of how students may earn points include becoming a sports age champion, significant academic improvement, participating in a public speaking competition or fundraising for a charity. A summary of the Merit System Levels is listed below:

Emerald Level – 25 merit points

Sapphire Level – 75 merit points

Diamond Level – 150 merit points

Platinum Level – 300 merit points

Principal's Medallion – 450 merit points

Platinum Awards

Year 12



Sam Hume



Ali Ward



Sarah Rodham



Cassandra Pickham

Year 11



Nicholas Logan



Petra Franks



Amy Pickersgill



John Davis

Year 10



Caitlin Henry



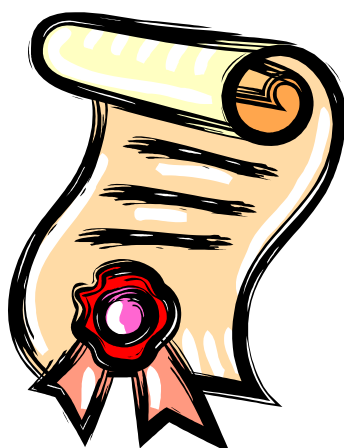
Sarah Gurr



Kimberley Douglas



Taya Elphinstone



Diamond Level

Year 12

John Llewelyn
Naomi-Leigh Marskell
Jessica Robb
Zac Bradbury
Ra-ule Standing
Ashleigh Sawyer
Brittany Baker
Anne Clendinning
Rebecca Tuckey
Sarah Shorter
Nicole Bagley
Arli Bruns
Ebony Finch
William Moore
Kiera Leigh Elphinstone
Tyson Morgan
Daniel Rivers
Gabriell Fitzgerald
Erin Thomson
Thomas Marshall
Coedie Clark
Jack Mitchell
Kelsey Moffitt
Alison Cooke
Amber Gorton
Liam Oakes
Kaylie Edwards
Beau McFarlane
Lindsey Smith
Matthew Alexander
Eila Mills
Fiona Winsor

Year 11

Tamara Peterson
Emily Connor
Cohen Whyburn
Josh Whyburn
Logan Clark
Ainsley Ball
Hannah Risby
James Medhurst
Jennifer Houlahan
Jessica Nolan
Casey Owen-Wilson
Megan Ebzery
Jessica Sparre
Ellie Thomson
Kasey Wilson
Anthony Nougher
Aaron Bullivant
Matthew Melia
Lucinda Hermon
Mikaela Callinan
Laura Eade
Kasey Miller
Callan Sneddon
Jeenie Fuiono
Belinda Coster
Dale Honneysett
Cecilia Love
Joshua Upton
Jesse Legge
Kimberlee Claydon
Sam Wilder

Year 10

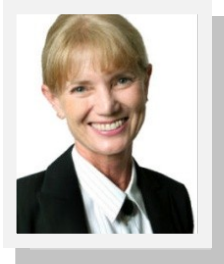
Brenna Crozier
Grace Rodham
Mathew Merrett
Jason Elphick
Cody Scholes
Morgan Page
Crystal Woods
Jamie Parker
Courtney McIntosh
Andrew Anderson
Caitlin Bray
Zaskia Lategan
Kira Watters
Sara Egan
Emma Thompson
Larissa Hall
Joshua Davis

Year 9

Jonathon Logan
John Langley
Grace Capitaine
James Bagley
Shelby Medhurst
Jordi-Kiannah Adam-Smith
Georgia Douglas
Luke Wilson
Laura Pickersgill
Shaniikah Stair
Lachlan Watts



Christine Richmond



On Thursday 28 July 2011 Muswellbrook High School hosted a presentation by Dr Christine Richmond for the leadership staff from the Muswellbrook Local Management Group (LMG). The LMG comprises our school as well as our four feeder Primary Schools, Denman, Martindale, Muswellbrook Public and Muswellbrook South Public. Dr Richmond 's presentation, *Behaviour management for school leaders* was highly entertaining and engaging and covered areas including assisting colleagues with their behaviour management styles and strategies for dealing with disengaged and disruptive students. Due to the success of this event we are looking to host Dr Richmond again later this year for all of the teaching staff from our five schools.

School Buses

A message from Osborn's Bus Service: Students travelling on a bus that stops at the railway station are not permitted to leave the bus (usually to purchase food and drinks at the nearby shops). In addition, any student travelling to a destination that is different from the one that they normally travel to must have a signed note from a parent explaining the change.

Trades Training Centre Update

We now have a finish date for our new facilities. The Commercial Kitchen and Metal workshop will be completed by 22nd August with the Primary Industries facility finished two weeks later. Despite a number of delays and inconveniences, the work has progressed well and the staff and students have been very understanding and accommodating. Students and staff alike are keen to make use of these facilities in the near future. There will be a major event later this year for the 'official' opening of the Upper Hunter Trades Training Centre which we look forward to celebrating with you. The latest photos can be viewed by following this link:

<http://www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/sws/view/1670738.node>



Education Week Assembly

The annual Education Week Assembly is an important occasion where we recognise outstanding student achievement across a range of academic, sporting and extra-curricular areas. There were some very notable group and individual achievements and the assembly culminated in the presentation of Platinum Certificates (see feature on page 2).

Representatives from the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, along with Mrs Margaret Matthews, presented students and staff with certificates of appreciation for their support of the 2011 Black Coal Ball and Jenny Webster from the Upper Hunter Show Society presented awards for students who had participated as Junior Stewards.

Mrs Henderson presented the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition awards to the category winners and Talisa Henderson delivered her winning speech 'fashion changes lives'. Petra Franks and Kaylie Edwards received certificates for their involvement in the University of NSW Indigenous Winter School.

Matilda Miller also received a certificate of recognition for her support of Belltrees Public School at Wingham Beef Week, including a special message from the Principal of the school. There were also some fine musical performances, in particular Cassandra Pickham's rendition of the late Amy Winehouse's 'Valerie', William Moore on guitar playing 'Glasgow Kiss' and John Llewelyn playing 'The Mist' by John Butler on Piano.

Benefactors' Morning Tea

Following on from the Education Week Assembly we held our Benefactor's Morning Tea, recognising the enormous contribution that our school community, local organisations, businesses and industry play in supporting Muswellbrook High School. Mr Glase's Hospitality class provided a fantastic morning tea and guests were treated to a range of musical and vocal performances organised by Mrs Martin. Thank to all of the benefactors that attended (and those who were apologies), your support is very much appreciated by all of the students and staff at the school.



Upper Hunter Education Week Awards

Muswellbrook High School also played host to the Upper Hunter Education Week Awards on Wednesday 3 August 2011. These awards bring together all Primary and High Schools from the Merriwa, Scone and Muswellbrook Local Management Groups. Our school captains, Sam Hume and Cassandra Pickham were extremely professional in their formal duties for the evening, including the presentation of a number of awards and the dance group, Diversity, comprising Bethold Makina, Percival Suey and Tane Johnson, wowed the audience with their high-energy performance.

Year 12 students Ali Ward and Sam Hume received awards for *Excellence in Student Achievement*. Our careers teacher, Tony Borg, received a *School Achievement Award* for his innovation in careers programming and teaching and Sharon Kirkwood received an *Excellence in Teaching* award for her dedication to student leadership and welfare, school transition programs, sport and student achievement. Hard working office staff member, Sandra Greenham, received her *Outstanding Contribution by a Non-Teaching Member of Staff* award for dedication and commitment to school administration and support of staff and students. And the amazing contribution made to the school by P&C President, Jenni Bullivant was recognised in the School Community Member award.

Mr Erskine
Principal

Deputy Principal Report

Year 12 students have been working towards their goal of excellent HSC results throughout the last 3 Terms and recently completed their HSC Trial Examinations. Well done to them for being able to show their best in these examinations.

3.30pm Pickup

Please be aware that student safety after school is one of our major priorities and that those parents who choose to collect their children from school need to assist us in this. Please collect your children from Clendinning Street, as King Street is a very dangerous option. Students are at risk by walking between the buses.

There have also been some cases of cars parking on the footpath or grass at this time. Not only is this illegal, with a substantial fine, but it is also extremely dangerous.

**Deputy Principal
Mr Brian Drewe**

Science Report

ZooSnooz and much more!

The much anticipated and highly charged mega Senior Science and Biology excursion to Sydney was again a very rewarding and completely exhausting experience!

The students and their teachers, Mrs Moore, Ms Wales and Mr Hile, (wearing the Macquarie Generation bus drivers hat), were not entirely washed away by the rain on the mangrove guided walk at Gibberong Wetland Centre, Bobbin Head National Park. Fighting crabs were the highlight, unfortunately, the expected salt on the mangrove leaves was all washed off!

We must admit to being glad to flee the natural environment for the heated buildings of the Museum of Human Disease at the University of New South Wales. The one hour lecture was really interesting and the time to explore was appreciated, by most. In situ bullets and limbs with bolts, screws and knife wounds, along with preserved and removed body parts is not for everyone! We also thought it pretty amazing to see that the 1950's cigarette advertising was targeting expectant mothers.

Arriving at the zoo in the dark, with the wintry wind and rain didn't dampen anybody's spirits. The night walk was a VIP tour. We had two excellent guides who provided "hands on" lectures. The animals were either asleep or active! We loved the lions all sleeping as a family group and the male sprawled across the others. The morning (after the night spent sleeping on the floor with various animals roaming around, some in and some out of cages) included a behind the scenes tour, an in depth explanation of the Tasmanian Devil exhibit and opportunities to go and watch the seal show. While the morning lecture was probably one too many, we had a great zoo experience!

Back on the bus and off to the Australian Museum where fatigue definitely hit. The Biology workshop on human evolution was well designed and useful in that it helped us look at how evidence is pieced together and theories refined as new discoveries are made. Senior Science enjoyed the freedom of the museum and the excellent cafe. Then it was time to head home with no regrets. Everybody was keen to enjoy the comfort of home and their own bed! As usual, our students were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Finally, a huge thank you to Mr Hile, for our safe and comfortable bus travel and to the staff at Muswellbrook High School for voluntarily covering our classes while we were away.

**Mrs Bailey
Head Teacher Science**

Welcome to GATS 2011

The Gifted and Talented Program at Muswellbrook High School has moved from strength to strength in previous years. Students from the High School and feeder primary schools have challenged themselves by attempting a project that tests their research, time management and perseverance. The 2011 GATS Program is in full swing this year with 16 keen primary students from Denman Public, Muswellbrook Public and Muswellbrook South Public School all extending themselves to learn a skill or develop an idea. After an intensive development day and some excellent advice from our student and teacher mentors all students are making fantastic progress. Some of the project ideas include jewellery making, leather stock whip production and making designer wedding cakes.

Not to be outdone, the High School GATS students have been developing their project ideas and researching topics that interest them. Many students in Years 7 and 8 are excited about the challenges ahead and are using the opportunity to explore topics outside of the curriculum. These range from interior design to the construction of a motor bike and dirt bike track. The students are excited about seeing these projects grow and teachers here at Muswellbrook High School are eagerly awaiting the final products.

Mr Duncan McKinlay
GATS co-ordinator

Silver Class Report

The Silver Class is participating in an enjoyable and varied program once again in 2011. There are a number of new Teachers in the room, who have utilised their strengths and skills to introduce the students to a wide range of activities. These include making a plane in Mr Faunt's Woodwork lessons and Science experiments and trips to the Agriculture Farm with Ms Appleby. Mrs Flood has been working on paper mache money boxes and Ms Mistry has joined us recently for Music lessons and the students can't wait to learn new instruments and musical skills.

As always, the Silver class continues to develop literacy and numeracy skills relevant to daily life and all students are doing a great job! Group work and hands on activities give the students a chance to cooperate with others and develop their social skills. These skills play an important role in helping the students to build positive relationships at school and in the wider community.

Pauline Middleton (Silver Class Teacher)



Gold Class Report

The Gold Class worked fantastically last Semester across a range of subject areas and activities. Within the classroom, the students studied Australia's War History, learnt about natural disasters with Mrs Middleton, got jiggy in Mrs Martin's music lessons and were turned into movie stars by Mrs Hogan's creative film and drama activities.

Last term also saw the introduction of the Gold Class' car washing program. The program is designed to provide the students with work experience whilst teaching them vital life skills such as money handling, budgeting, time management and the importance of possessing a positive work ethic. Money raised is used to subsidise our very important Community Access and cooking programs. The cooking program allows students to refine skills in the kitchen and develop the necessary basics to make nutritious meals independently. Students can now cook a variety of delicious dishes!

The Class would like to thank the team at AUTO ONE Muswellbrook for their kindness and generosity in providing us with our car washing equipment and products. The program would not have been able to get off the ground without their help.

Mr Michael Sneesby (Gold Class Teacher)



Bronze Class Report

Semester 1 2011 was a very busy time for the Bronze class. Inside the classroom the students have been working diligently on consolidating their literacy and numeracy skills whilst focusing on basic operations, time and reading comprehension in Maths and English.

The students have also been extremely busy in Science studying the Human Body Systems and carrying out some amazing experiments for the topic 'Light and Electricity'.

The class has also been studying History and Geography with Miss Smith and Miss Robertson, and have created some amazing Aboriginal artworks and discovered some very interesting things about Africa. The students have also been enjoying Technology lessons with Mr Sneesby and are gaining confidence in using their laptops in the classroom.

The highlight of Semester 1 was our Community Access program, which saw us visit local restaurants to sample different food from around the world. The students tried some Tofu at the Tea Shrine, and tried some Asian dishes from the Chinese and Thai restaurants in town. We also cooked ourselves a very 'Aussie' BBQ at one of the local parks.

Our cooking program has continued to produce several 'Masterchefs' and we have enjoyed two end of term Reward days to the Movies in Singleton.

Our students continue to perform quite well in Mainstream classes with the support of our SLSO's Mandii Durham and Toni Boney. We have also had students participating in whole school activities including the Gardening team.

The students look forward to a busy Semester 2 with Work Experience, AWD Futsal Championships, RFS Cadets and other excursions coming up.

Miss Rachel Murphy (Bronze Classroom Teacher)



Outward Bound Hunter Regional Community Program

The Outward Bound program is offered to all Year 9 students in the Hunter region. This year 16 students from Muswellbrook High School completed the application process and were successful in receiving a \$450 scholarship from Coal and Allied and the Australian Outward Bound Development Fund to participate. The week long program was run at Toonumbar National Park, near Kyogle in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

Outward Bound is designed to provide students with a sense of self-reliance and adventure. This independence encourages students to use initiative, resourcefulness and the group's diverse skills to complete the program.



While Outward Bound is not for everyone, given that there are no showers or mobile phones all students had a challenging and exciting experience. Throughout the week students were divided into small groups and completed an expedition where they undertook a variety of outdoor activities including kayaking, a high ropes course, abseiling, team building games, navigating, preparing and cooking meals as well as hiking from one camp site to the next.



Mrs Withers

Aboriginal Education



Muswellbrook High School celebrated NAIDOC the last week of Term 2. Our formal assembly focussed on this year's theme 'Change: the next step is ours' and looked at change across the generations and the passing on of the responsibility to make positive change happen.

Along with our guest speaker, Ms Kristy Pascoe, other highlights included the traditional and modern dance performances, poetry readings and the stirring performances by the Muswellbrook High School Performing Arts Ensemble.

We were also very fortunate to have Casey Natty, a former student of Muswellbrook High School now studying at NAISDA Dance College, return and perform a very moving and thoughtful dance piece.

The assembly was followed by a morning tea and sausage sizzle where community, family and friends helped us celebrate. Some of our Aboriginal students then attended Muswellbrook South Public and Muswellbrook Public Primary Schools to do activities with the younger students.

Additional activities included the preparation for the Aboriginal Mural to be painted on the outside wall of K Block and the forming and planting of our Bush Tucker Garden.

Mel Powell and Debbie Douglass



HSIE Report

First semester was exciting and exceptionally busy across all three stages in the HSIE faculty. To compliment various courses, the following incursions and excursions were organised for students:-

All of Year 7, Year 9 Aboriginal Studies and many Aboriginal students attended a performance by Sean Dewar. Sean comes from the Yindinji Kimoy clan of Northern Queensland and shared many aspects of his culture through demonstration, explanation and participation. His performance struck a balance between entertainment, humour and information, ultimately providing a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture for students.

“100 Not Out” was a historical performance provided by Geoffrey Graham and attended by all Year 9 students. Geoffrey used verse, song and drama to highlight events which have helped shape Australia’s identity during the 20th century. The students were taken on a journey through the notable points and concepts in history including Federation, war, the Great Depression, immigration and multiculturalism.

The majority of Year 10 students participated in an excursion to Nobbys Beach, Newcastle. Pupils undertook geographical fieldwork activities in a coastal environment and an historical site study at Fort Scratchley. Both these activities are a mandatory requirement of the Stage 5 Geography and Stage 5 History Syllabi. To meet this requirement, any student who was unable to attend the excursion in Week 10, Term 2, has been issued with an alternative fieldwork and site study task to be conducted in Muswellbrook.

A combined Year 11 and Year 12 Ancient History excursion was organised by Ms Kempton to the NSW Art Gallery in Sydney. Students viewed the notable Terracotta Warriors exhibition. Interested Stage 6 Visual Art students were also able to view the 2010 HSC ArtExpress displays. Mr Nougher organised for his Year 12 Business Studies students to attend the HSC Conference Day at Callaghan College, Newcastle. This event was highly important in ensuring that students receive varied and relevant content material and HSC examination tips and techniques.

Upcoming extra curricular activities for HSIE classes that are planned for second semester include the following:

All of Year 7 will undertake a visit to the Muswellbrook Cemetery as part of their Historical Investigation topic. This activity is expected to occur during the second half of Term 3 during timetabled HSIE classes. Permission slips will be issued prior to Week 5, Term 3. Classes will be taken to the cemetery individually, once respective Year 7 teachers have received back all permission requests.

To compliment the topics of operations and marketing, Mrs Farrell has organised for her Year 11 Business Studies students to conduct various activities at the Muswellbrook Marketplace. Again, this excursion will occur during a double timetabled lesson sequence to minimise disruption for students in their other key learning areas.

Year 12 Legal Studies students will be attending the HSC Study Seminars at Maitland on 31st August. Mrs Duck has coordinated this event which are presented by the NSW Legal Studies Association. From previous seminars, students can be guaranteed to receive invaluable content information and study ideas.

In an effort to assist students with both their time management techniques and preparation ability, all assessment tasks for the second half of the year were issued following the Half Yearly Examinations back in Term 2. For all students in Years 7 -10, assessment events occur on the following dates:

Tuesday 2nd August – Assessment Task 1

Tuesday 6th September – Assessment Task 2

The nature and topic of each task are as follows:

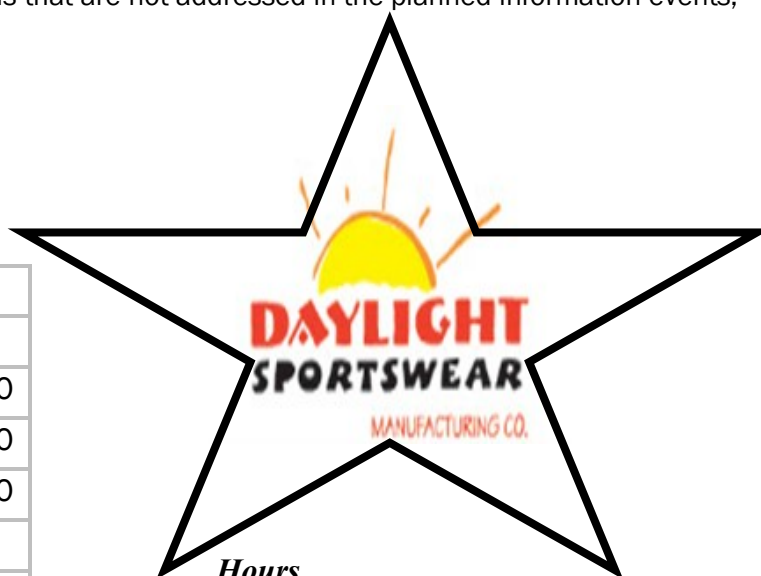
	Tuesday 2 nd August	Tuesday 6 th September
<u>Year 7</u>	History In Class Task Basic Historical Skills Test	History Research Task Ancient Personality
<u>Year 8</u>	Geography Research Task Non Government Organisation (NGO)	Geography In Class Task Key Geographical Skills Test
<u>Year 9</u>	History In Class Task Source Analysis – WWI	History Research Task Newspaper Report- Kokoda
<u>Year 10</u>	Geography Research Task Research Action Plan (RAP)	Geography In Class Task Essays on Foreign Aid

Subject selection for 2012 is currently occurring for Year 8 and Year 10 students. The HSIE faculty has a number of subjects on offer that cover a variety of pupil interests and abilities. If students, parents or caregivers have additional questions or concerns that are not addressed in the planned information events, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kylie Kelly
Head Teacher HSIE

Uniform Shop

Price List	
Girls	
Junior or Senior Blouse	\$27.00
Tartan Skirt	\$48.50
Navy Stretch Slacks	\$39.00
Boys	
Grey Shorts	\$35.00
Unisex	
Knit Jumper	\$69.00
Jacket	\$65.00
Navy Scarf	\$12.00
Junior or Senior Polo	\$27.00
Sport/PE	
Microfibre Trackpants	\$35.00
Sports Polo	\$33.00
Sport Shorts	\$24.00
Footy Shorts	\$18.00
Footy Socks	\$8.50



Hours

Tuesday 7.30 – 11.30am

Thursday 12 - 4pm

Cash, EFT-POS or cheques made out to Daylight Sportswear welcome.

Phone: 0439 118 033 (during opening hours)

Clothing Pool :Do you have any unwanted uniforms?

Items in good condition can be left at the Shop or Office.

Your donation will be gratefully received!

Open Boys Volleyball, 10th in State!

During the last week of Term 2, seven students from Muswellbrook High School travelled to Sydney to compete in the CHS State Volleyball knockout for the top 16 teams in the State.

They had qualified for this two day tournament by finishing 2nd in the Hunter area. They defeated three schools before being defeated by Great Lakes College in the Hunter Final.

Our school finished 15th in the State at last year's tournament and with five students from that team in the team again this year, they were looking to improve on this result. They began the tournament against Pennant Hills High School and it was a rusty start, with the boys convincingly beaten 18-25, 13-25, 8-25. This then put them in the back draw meaning the highest they could finish was 9th. They then played Richmond River High School in a very close and tense game and recorded a good come back from behind, 18-25, 27-25, 17-15 win. A recovery session was then held at the Olympic Park Aquatic Centre that afternoon before a night at the movies.

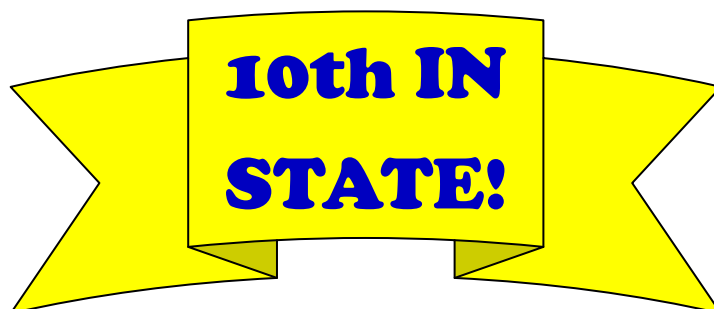
They arrived at the Olympic Park Sport Halls the next morning to face Glen Innes High School who had defeated them last year. Our team had gained a lot of experience since then though and were able to post a good 25-20, 25-20 win.

This saw them then face Northern Beaches Secondary College in the playoff for 9th/10th place. Despite putting up a good fight the College were too strong and experienced for our boys, defeating us 19-25, 22-25.

The team finished 10th in the State, which is a great achievement considering their lack of experience in the sport. A number of the boys had been working on improving their basic skills by participating in the local volleyball competition at the Muswellbrook Sports Centre on Monday nights.

They are to be congratulated on being excellent ambassadors for our school throughout the two day competition.

The team members were Jesse Mepham, Hayden Dolgan Fox, Lindsey Smith, Leonard Craft, Anthony Nougher, Jake Barner and Callum Strachan. Thomas Marshall had also been a member of the team for the first three games but unfortunately was unavailable for the Hunter Final and State knockout tournament.



Regional Athletics

On Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th July, approximately 25 students from our school travelled to Hunter Sports Centre, Glendale for the Regional Athletics Carnival. These students had qualified by finishing in the top 2 in their event/s at our Zone Athletics Carnival in June.

All students were excellent representatives of our school and competed to the best of their ability.

Our most successful student was James Neverov of Year 10 who has qualified for the State CHS Athletics Championships at Homebush in September. He qualified in both the 16 Years Boys 200m and 400m, finishing second in both events. He also finished 3rd in the Long Jump and 5th in the 100m. This was an amazing achievement from James who was competing against boys from all public schools in the Hunter Region.

Other notable achievements from the carnival were;

Emily Huggins, Kylie Saunders, Blessing Sithole, Jamie Parker- 3rd in 17+ Years Girls Relay

Brad Collett, Jake Parker, Ethan Philp and William Picton- 4th in 13 Years Boys Relay

Jordon Curan-4th in 14 Years Boys High Jump

Jake Parker- 4th in 13 Years Boys 100m and 5th in the 200m

Larissa Murray-Mell- 4th in 15 Years Girls Discus

Lauren Beatty- 4th in 14 Years Girls Shot Put

Kylie Saunders- 4th in 17+ Years Girls Long Jump

Congratulations to all of these students.

Mrs Kirkwood
Teacher PDHPE



13 Years Boys Relay Team



James Neverov-State Representative

English Report

Recent weeks have been a busy time in terms of extra curricular activities for students in the English Faculty.

Bell Shakespeare Actors at Work

The school was again fortunate to receive a visit from the Bell Shakespeare “Actors at Work.” This talented group of performers treated Year 9 and 10 English classes to a highly entertaining reworking of Shakespeare’s famous comedy ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream.’ Also organised, was an intensive workshop for Year 11 and 12 Advanced English students on the Bard’s tragedy ‘Hamlet.’ We gratefully acknowledge the continuing sponsorship of BHP Billiton without whom such wonderful cultural experiences would not be available quite so freely, nor conveniently, to our students.



Shakespeare

Bell Shakespeare “Actors at Work”



**“To be or not to be” Year 12
students at their ‘Hamlet’
workshop**

Muswellbrook High School Public Speaking Competition

Public speaking has also been to the forefront with Ms Henderson initiating the return of the Muswellbrook High School Public Speaking Competition after nearly two years absence. It is pleasing to note the high standard that was achieved by the students whose topics covered a diverse range from the carbon tax to Justin Bieber. All deserve commendation, but the following were awarded: 1st Prize to Talisa Henderson (Year 9); 2nd Prize to Emma Sampson (Year 9); Highly Commended (Year 7) to Riley Collins; Highly Commended (Year 8) to Tyrell Roadley; Highly Commended (Year 9) to James Bagley.

Legacy Junior Public Speaking Awards

Talisa Henderson and Emma Sampson went on to represent our school in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Awards in Newcastle on Thursday 28th July. At this competition they again presented their five minute prepared speech. Talisa's topic was "Fashion changes lives" and Emma's was "IVF Lottery: Is it unethical?". Both girls also excelled at the impromptu component of the competition, delivering competently structured and interesting interpretations of the topic: Royalty.



**Talisa Henderson and
Emma Sampson**



**Mr Erskine, Ms Henderson
and the Public Speaking
Award winners**

Spoken Text Assessment Task

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be expected to give an in-class speech or monologue for their assessment this term. So it is good to know we can expect such high quality performances in what is a very important life skill – one cannot underestimate the significance of the art of communication.

HSC Trial Examinations

Of course, this term is also of vital importance to all our Year 12 students as they approach their HSC Trial Examinations. Now is the time to revise and consolidate through consistent study patterns and re-reading of texts. The English staff are readily available for assistance at any time and wish all candidates the very best.

Model United Nations Assembly

The Model United Nations (MUNA) is an annual assembly sponsored by the Rotary Club of NSW whose aim is to promote international understanding and goodwill. In addition, the MUNA gives high school students from Years 10 to 12 the opportunity to enhance debating skills, appreciate another culture, improve higher order thinking, hear inspiring speakers and enjoy the company of other students in the district.

Our school was represented by two highly capable and enthusiastic Year 10 students: Cody Scholes and Ashley Kermond, with Ms Henderson acting as their Counsellor. The students chose to become the United States of America, as representing an important world power would give them extensive opportunities to fully participate in the event. Ashley and Cody played the role of American delegates to great effect, both in their dress and demeanor.

Throughout the day, Cody and Ashley were involved in debating the proposed resolutions, sometimes working as a bloc with other member nations to ensure their desired outcome. The resolutions this year covered diverse and topical issues like security, human rights, economic development and the environment. They even proposed an amendment to one of the resolutions, which was passed by a majority of the other delegates, and then became the resolution which was debated by the Assembly, something that has only been achieved a few times at past events.

Ashley and Cody are keen to participate again in next year's Assembly, where they will be able to use their knowledge and understanding of MUNA to further influence international relations!

Mrs Kay Sokulsky
Relieving Head Teacher English



MUNA 2011

Japan Trip 2012



I am beginning to organise our trip to Japan and our sister school in the April school holidays next year. The cost will be approximately \$3000.

There will be an information night about the trip on Thursday 25th August at 5.30pm for all interested students, parents and teachers. We will have to confirm numbers by Tuesday 30th August and there will be a deposit of \$500 required by then.

You may contact me at school on 6543 1033 for further details.

Fiona Bailey
Head Teacher Science and LOTE

Canteen Report

URGENTLY NEEDED!

Volunteers are urgently needed to keep our canteen running.

Help is especially needed on Mondays & Fridays but you are welcome on any day, even if you could only spare a couple of hours your help will be most appreciated.

Please Contact: Stasia & Maree 02 65432699

Peel Schools Rugby League Carnival – Under 14 Years Boys

Wednesday 22nd June saw boys' teams from the Under 13, 14 and 16 year groups represent Muswellbrook High School in one of the premier Rugby League competitions in NSW. With over a dozen teams in both junior divisions the structure of the competitions ensures all teams have a minimum of two games with an A and B draw.

In the Under 14s year group the boys met a courageous team, and eventual finalists, from Farrer Agricultural School following a very cold and long early morning journey from Muswellbrook. Our opponents own a rich history of success in Rugby League and a reputation that intimidates most competitors before they run onto the field, however, our boys put on a strong performance and were narrowly defeated by just a couple of tries. This put us into the B side of the draw.

The second round matched us with the old enemies from Scone and reunited some fierce rivalry. We started rapidly with four tries in the first half on the back of strong hit-ups from forwards Jacob Marshall and Mitchell Taylor. A nervous lapse in defense in the second stanza saw Scone hit back and narrow their deficit, but some committed tackling from Bailey Dixon minimised their scoring opportunities and eventualised our victory.

In the semi-final we met McCarthy Catholic College from Tamworth. Some bullocking runs from Jacob again put the boys in good position for many attacking plays, but a delay due to injury reduced the match time significantly. McCarthy opened the scoring and put pressure on our team following some impressive goal line attack. In the second half we hit back and scores were levelled ensuring a tight finish to qualify for the B final. McCarthy were offered a cheap attempt at penalty to break the dead lock but were unsuccessful and when Mitchell Paine was able to capitalise with a run from dummy-half, Jacob sealed the victory with some excellent individual brilliance.

The final pitted Muswellbrook against St. Catherine's College Singleton, who we beat comprehensively a couple of weeks earlier in the Knights Knockout. This built the confidence of the Muswellbrook boys and they were hungry to score many points. In the best team effort they displayed all day the boys from the 'Brook' kept their opponents to nil and scored 32 points of their own. This was a great result for Muswellbrook High School as they brought home the trophy and Country Rugby League for best team in the B division of the competition.

Mr N Mulvihill
Coach



Wednesday Partial

Following the Executive Meeting on 27th July it has been decided that **ALL STUDENTS** will be dismissed from sport at 3:30pm. For sports that conclude prior to this time students **MUST** return to school. Legitimate reasons, including doctor or dentist appointments will still be permitted, however, students **MUST** be collected by parents for suitable duty of care to be upheld.

Mr N Mulvihill
Head Teacher Administration





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"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SMS text messaging – Daily attendance of your child is sent to your family mobile number. If only one adult has a mobile then this will be used. This can also be used for important information regarding parent teacher meetings, issue of reports etc. The school SMS number is: **19910010**. Please add this as a contact in your mobile phone. You CANNOT phone this number, please phone using 65431033. You may send a text message at any time to this number to explain your child's absences. Please let us know if you have any problems with this texting service.

Email – We are now sending the school newsletter to as many people as possible via email. If you have an email in the family that you use regularly, please contact the school.

Websites – The school website holds a great deal of information and is a useful place for you to find out what is happening at school.

Millennium - We also have started using a website that contains all of your child's school information. This includes attendance, school reports, assessment tasks, timetables, behaviour information.

Students have a separate login to this site and they will be sent an email to their portal email address outlining how to access this site.

Families are able to see the whole family at a glance and need a family login. This will be sent to you via an email if you have one already and in several weeks if you have just added one.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Muswellbrook Junior Touch

The 2011/2012 Muswellbrook Junior Touch competition commences on Monday 5th September 2011. Registrations will be held at Olympic Park on the following days: Wednesdays 17th & 24th August between 4pm-6pm. Saturday 27th August between 10am-1pm. Players who need to be placed into teams should register on the first day 17th August.

Junior State Cup

Players who are interested in representing Muswellbrook at the Junior State Cup in Wollongong next February 2012 are reminded they must register their names on the appropriate form available on registration days or on the first day of competition, 5th September. No names taken after this date.

Ladies/Mixed Competition

This also commences on Monday 5th September 2011. Nominations close on 27th August. New teams and players welcome.

Mens Competition

The Competition commences on Wednesday 7th September 2011. Nominations close on 27th August.

Team Nominations forms for all divisions/competitions are available from Fine N Dandy & sportspower. For further information on Junior/Ladies/Mixed competitions, please phone 65432477.

For Mens 65425071 or 65432617.