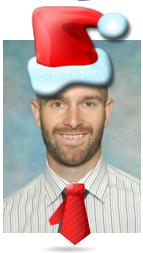


Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 8
12th December 2011





Principal Report

We are rapidly coming to the end of another successful year at Muswellbrook High School. As we review our student performances in preparation for the Annual Presentation Evening it provides a great opportunity to reflect on some amazing achievements throughout the year. One of the most difficult decisions for our Annual Presentation Evening awards panel was the winner of the Sports Team of the Year Award, choosing between the U13's Rugby League Team who won the NSW Captain's Cup 7's Tournament, the Open Boys' Volleyball Team who finished 9th in the State and the Futsal team who finished 3rd in the State. Sometimes it is good to be in a position to have to make difficult decisions.

We will be celebrating all student academic, cultural, extracurricular and sporting achievement for 2011 at the Muswellbrook High School Annual Presentation Evening which will be held on Tuesday, 6 December, 2011 at 7:00pm. This will be followed by the Year 10 Farewell Assembly on Wednesday, 7 December at 11:30am. Both of these events will be held in the Multi-purpose Centre.

We are also hopeful that in the coming weeks our 2011 HSC and School Certificate candidates are able to emulate the fantastic performance of the 2010 cohort. No doubt, staff and students alike will be up at 6:00am on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 to check out the HSC results online.

Careers Adviser of the Year Award

Congratulations to our Careers Teacher, Tony Borg, who made the top four in this years Careers Adviser of the Year Award for NSW and the ACT. Whilst the staff and students at Muswellbrook High School wholeheartedly believe that Mr Borg should have been the overall winner, his place in the top four is an outstanding and well deserved achievement. Mr Borg was the recipient of an Education Week Award earlier this year acknowledging his initiative and innovation in careers programming. Mr Borg is also undertaking a research study in 2012 as part of his University PhD studies involving students from Muswellbrook and Scone High Schools.



Uniform Survey

Thank you to the many parents who took the time to complete our online uniform survey, which was an initiative of the school uniform committee. It is now three years since we introduced our new uniform at Muswellbrook High School and we were keen to get parent feedback on a range of issues relating to uniform. Overall, the message from parents was a positive one, in particular, regarding the improvements in appearance and image. Issues, however, were raised with the quality and durability and length of the tracksuit pants and the fit of the polo shirts, which were identified as too short for many of our taller students.

We have met directly with a representative from the company that manufactures and supplies our school uniform, Daylight Sportswear, to voice the concerns of the school community. They have agreed to enhance and augment the stitching on the tracksuit pants. In addition, they will also supply two types of polo shirts, the current standard fit and another option that will be longer with a narrow fit. Other results from the survey included:

- 87% of parents would support the establishment of a used uniform pool
- 68.2% of parents wanted the school to introduce a non-compulsory school cap
- 67.4% of parents were unaware that the school receives a 10% commission for the sale of uniform at the uniform shop
- 56.3% of parents were happy with the current operating days and hours of the uniform shop
- 58.6% of parents described the pricing of the uniform as either good or excellent

Year 6 Final Orientation

Thank you to the parents of our new Year 7, 2012 students who joined us for our Final Orientation on Monday, 28 November, 2012. It was another great opportunity to provide information about Year 7 and the school in general. Along with our school staff and students, I enjoyed the opportunity to answer many questions that parents fielded in a very engaging question and answer session.

I would like to thank Transition Co-ordinator, Sharon Kirkwood, and Year 7 Advisor 2012, Amber Dean for their outstanding management of all facets of the transition program this year. The feedback from parents and teachers from our feeder schools was extremely positive and many commented on how the program continues to improve each and every year.

Farewell to staff

We have a number of permanent staff who will be moving on at the end of the year to be closer to family and loved ones and to seek out new teaching experiences:

Bryce O'Connor -Dapto High School

Sharon Kirkwood - Karabar High School

Ken Mills - Moving to Orange

Pauline Middleton - Hunter River High School

Jamie Sturtridge - Killarney Heights High School

Roy Lawson - Wewak School Albury

I would like to take this opportunity to thank these members of staff for their enormous contributions during their tenure of their positions at Muswellbrook High School. Whilst no one is irreplaceable, some of these teachers certainly go close. Good luck and all the best for your new positions.

Arrangements for 2012

Many parents have been have been enquiring about the start dates for the school year in 2012. All staff will be returning on Friday 27th January for a Staff Development Day. Students will then join us the following week:

Monday 30th January - Year 7 and Year 12 only

Tuesday 31st January - All students Year 7-12

Interviews for new students will be held between 23rd – 26th January and appointments can be made by calling the school on 6543 1033 on these days.

There will be a back-to-school newsletter emailed out to parents by the 23rd January outlining arrangements for the new school year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you to all parents, staff and students for your support for Muswellbrook High School in 2011. I would like to wish everyone a productive and rewarding holiday break with your families. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2012.

Gareth Erskine Principal



Term Dates

TERM DATES FOR 2012

Term 1	Friday 27 January 2012 (staff only) Monday 30 January (Year 7 and 12)	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 31 January (All School returns) Thursday 5 April (staff only)	Wednesday 4 April 2012 (students' last day) Staff Development Day
Term 2	Monday 23 April 2012 (students return)	Friday 29 June 2012 (students' last day)
Term 3	Monday 16 July 2012 (staff only) Tuesday 17 July 2012 (students return)	Staff Development Day Friday 21 September 2012 (students' last day)
Term 4	Monday 8 October 2012 (students return)	19 December 2012 (students' last day) Friday 21 December 2012 (last day staff)









Deputy Principal Report

The final weeks are upon us, and while school for our HSC candidates has come to an end, the remaining students are busily involved in a variety of activities.

It's at this time of year when families trying to budget for Christmas, avoid purchasing new uniforms and footwear, knowing that their child may grow a number of centimetres over the holiday period. Parents have done a wonderful job in 2011, ensuring our students are in full school uniform, which is something we would like to continue in 2012.

I would, therefore, request when preparing for school next year, parents purchase shoes, which are completely black, leather and cover the entire foot. We value your ongoing support in making Muswellbrook High School a place we as teachers, students and parents of which we are extremely proud.

On occasions, students have been requested to leave clothing in the library and claim it back in the afternoon. As many students have not reclaimed these items of clothing, the library now has a large stockpile. If these items are not collected by the end of the term they will be sent to the Salvation Army, so please visit the library before the last day of term.

Mr S. Copland Deputy Principal

GATS

The Gifted and Talented Presentation Evening on the 31st of October was the culmination of many months of hard work. Twenty Year 7 and 8 students tested their imagination and originality in the pursuit of the perfect GATS project. Students met regularly with their GATS mentor Mr McKinlay where they discussed and improved their ideas and concepts. In the end, there were many fantastic projects that reflected the amount of hard work that the students had put in. GATS projects ranged from the more practical, Rabbit Hutch, custom made bike and metal detectors, to the more theoretical: Newton's Law, the History of Denman and War Memories.

All projects were of the highest quality, however, there were a few students that produced exceptional projects:

- Most Outstanding project: Anna Suzuki & Lara Cutrupi for their Nail Polish marketing campaign
- Best Presented: Cody Risby for his Restoration of a Lawn Mower business
- Most Diligent: Lesa Nolan and Kylie O'Connor for their project on Genjirou Inui
- Most Original/Creative: Brodie Merrett and Montana Gageler for their Interior Design Home

Our primary feeder schools also enjoyed being a part of the GATS program. These students spent an extensive amount of time meeting with their high school teacher mentors and student mentors. Their contribution to the GATS evening was immense and they added some fantastic projects to the presentation evening. The food produced by Mr. McLaren and his hospitality group was mouth watering and, some may say, the highlight of the night. Many thanks to all of the teacher mentors who helped mentor the young students and to the student mentors that helped when teachers were not available.

Whilst all projects were of the highest quality, there were a few that are worth a special mention:

- Most Outstanding Project: Georgina Rowlands (Muswellbrook South Public School) for her Pony Club Book
- Most Diligent: Ashley Merrick (Muswellbrook South Public School) for her Wedding Cake Design
- Most Original/Creative: Georgia Gal (Muswellbrook Public School) for her Recycled Jewellery

Lastly, Muswellbrook High School would also like to thank Mount Arthur Coal for their generous support to the program over this past year.

We look forward to the projects next year in 2012.

Mr. McKinlay





GATS



Chess Club 2012 — Help Needed!

With all the chess champions at Muswellbrook High School we have decided to start a weekly chess club and are looking for any parents or community members who would be willing to help with the club on a regular basis or whenever possible. Please contract Ms Tier in the LOTE Faculty.

Ms B. Tier LOTE



Solar Boat Challenge

On the 19^{th} of October Year 8 students ventured to Denman swimming pool to compete in the solar boat challenge.

Students from local primary and secondary schools attended the event and a competitive buzz was in the air.

We left school with seven solar boats however, as the day went by our numbers dwindled. We had two boats that made it to the final, Cinnamon Monkeys and Team Sink. Cinnamon Monkeys finished in second place, Team Sink finished a competitive fourth.

A great day was had by all and big thanks go out to Mr Ariel for helping with the construction of the boats and Mrs Moore for driving the bus.

Mrs Moore & Ms Sturtridge









The Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza 2011

The Upper Hunter Beef bonanza was held at Scone at the end of week 3. This is at the end of 100 days of feeding, taming, grooming, leading, etc, by a dedicated team of workers led by Mr Taylor. Most of this happens after school every afternoon and during the holidays and weekends.



Some of the Herdsmen Team for 2011



Courtney Price gained a Highly Commended in the School's Steer Parading competition leading Tangles.

We had a team of 24 Herdsmen ranging from Year 7 to 11 students. All the members of the team are judged for the entire day on their presentation and participation in the competitions, looking after the steers, keeping our area tidy and their knowledge of our steers and the competition. No-one knows who the judges are so everyone must be on-task all day. Throughout the day we competed in the schools competition. There were 29 other schools in the competition.



Amy Pickersgill, Brianna Waters and Joshua Upton receiving the Herdsmen Team award on behalf of MHS.

The judge on the day was so slow that the competition ran well over time. I had to return to MHS with most of the team members to catch buses home. The Herdsmen award had not yet been announced. We finally heard at 3.40pm that Muswellbrook High School was awarded the Champion Herdsmen Team for 2011. This was a great achievement by a great team.

On the second day of competition we gained Highly Commended awards for Buttons and Patches in the heavy medium weight competition on the hoof. These competitions are against even more schools and cattle producers from across the state.



Courtney Price with Buttons

Amy Pickersgill with Patches

Mrs Bailey and 8 students went to Primo Abattoir in the afternoon for the Meat Judging competitions. It was great to get out of the heat and into the chillers. Unfortunately, we were underprepared this year and did not gain any top places.



The Meat Judging Team consisted of Amy Pickersgill, Chris Ebzery, Luke Wilkinson, Sara Payton (obscured), Joshua Upton, Ryan Symington, Brianna Waters and Courtney Price

The third day of competition saw 425 competitors with steers scrambling for positions in each heat in 3 age groups. There were 3 competition rings running which kept Mr Taylor, Thomas Marshall and I busy organising steer changeovers to paraders for their heats.

The competition was interrupted by a couple of storms which helped to spook the steers and drench the paraders. At one stage we had to return to the stalls until an electrical storm had passed. Out came the blowers and brushes to groom the steers while we waited to return to the ring. The steers returned groomed and dried, while our poor paraders remained wet and bedraggled.

We bid farewell to Tangles, Buttons, Patches and Hubba Bubba on Sunday afternoon as they headed off on their' next journey'.

On Wednesday Buttons carcase earned a 3rd place on the hook.

Mrs F. Bailey Head Teacher Science



The Electric Vehicle Competition

The Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment at Newcastle University hosted the inaugural Electric Vehicle Competition as part of their planning for 2050.

By 2050, our current students will be in their fifties and Muswellbrook and the world will be a very different place. By planning now we should be able to make the most of the infrastructure and skilled people we have here and keep the Hunter Valley a good place to live. We will need new technologies and will be relying on different energy sources. One of the things that will be really different is the way we will get around. Will we be using electric vehicles instead of petrol and diesel? The Tom Farrell Institute thinks this is an important way forward, so they organised this competition.

We are so lucky that Mr Faunt in TAS was inventive and brave enough to accept the challenge of leading the project at school and that it was easy to assemble an adventurous and very enthusiastic team. They have forged a really strong partnership. They have learnt to work together, trust each other, take risks, try new things, make mistakes and keep going. While our entry was not ready for the day, due mostly to our late sign up, the participants and our school have greatly benefited from "having a go".

The day at Cameron Park Kart Raceway was really hot, it was no picnic to be travelling on bitumen wearing a helmet and full length protective racing gear but the boys remained steadfast, even when the battery ran flat and the pedals fell off.

We need to thank Eagle Bikes for use of their gear on the day as well as Zac from Zac's Automotive and Pam King from King Cycle Works for parts, advice and sponsorship for next year and Mr O'Hara and Mrs Bailey, who were also on hand to help out as were the wonderful parents.

This is the first time the competition has run so we were in at the very beginning. We were one of 7 teams in the whole of the Hunter and the only country school to be in it. Mr Faunt presented the boys with participation certificates and our trophy and \$100 prize to Mr Erskine at the full school assembly.

So, congratulations to the Electric Vehicle Team for 2011: Mr Faunt, Alexander Armstrong, James Bagley, Riley Collins, Dominic Cooper, Stuart Googe, Jack Hall, Cameron McDonald, Chad Roach and Jarret Schubert.

Wendy Wales Liaising Teacher





Riley Collins

THE TEAM
Mr Faunt,
Dominic Cooper
Cameron McDonald
James Bagley
Riley Collins



PIT STOP

Dominic Cooper



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Monday 28th Feburary, 2012.

School photographs will be taken of all students in the Neate theatre on **Monday 28th Feburary, 2012.** Followed by the catch up day on Thursday 1st March, 2012.

All students are required to present for photos respectably dressed in full school uniform and of acceptable appearance. Students who are <u>not</u> in school uniform will <u>not</u> be photographed. Muswellbrook High School's uniform is as follows:

Junior Girls (Years 7-10)

Light blue polo shirt with school badge Checked skirt or navy shorts White socks or navy stockings Black shoes

Senior Girls (Years 11-12)

As above- but with a white collared woven shirt and school tie *

Junior Boys (Years 7-10)

Light blue polo shirt with school badge

Grey shorts White socks Black shoes

Senior Boys (Years 11-12)

As above- but with a white collared woven shirt and school tie *

*Senior Boys & Girls are expected to wear a button-up collared shirt and tie for the photographs. (School ties will be available for those who don't own one on the day.)

Note: Jewellery for all students is to be kept to a minimum eg; small stud/sleeper earrings and one plain chain only. Students wearing excessive jewellery will be requested to remove it on the day.

PHOTO PACKAGES

The School photos will once again be taken by "Academy Photos" and the style of photographs will involve individual photos being taken of each student. These individual photos are then compiled into a composite Year Group Photo for all years. The photo packages consist of:

* Package A= \$50.00

(1-20x25cm, 3-18x13 cm, 4-13x 9 cm framed, 4-9x 6.5cm B/W, 4- wallets, 1- Year group photo)

* Package B= \$45

(3-18x13cm, 4-13x9cm, 4-9x6.5cm, 4-wallets, 1-Year group photo)

* Package C= \$34

(1- 18x13cm, 4- 9x6.5cm, 4 -wallets, 1- Year group photo)

* Package D= \$22

(1- 18x13cm, 4- 9x6.5cm, 4 -wallets)

*Package E= \$25

(1- Year group photo)

Photo envelopes containing all details plus payment information will be received by all students in roll call at the beginning of Term 1, 2012. Spare envelopes can be obtained from Miss Flood in the TAS staffroom and the front office.

Students must return photo envelopes plus full payment (correct money) on the day of photographs - **Monday 28th Feburary, 2012.** All Students are to personally hand their envelope and payment to the photographer. No payments are accepted by the School.

K. Flood (Photo Coordinator)
TAS Faculty - Muswellbrook High School

P & C Committee

It is sad to say farewell to one of our long serving members, Mrs Maree Nimmo. As well as being a member of the P&C, Maree has been a friendly face in the Canteen as one of our Canteen Supervisors.

We would like to thank her for all her hard work, enthusiasm and diligence and will miss her being there but we would especially like to wish her the very best for a long retirement.

To all staff, students and their families and the wider school community,

Thank you for your hard work and dedication throughout the Year and

very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday.

From the Muswellbrook High School P&C Association



Uniform Shop

Our school website has all the information regarding our uniform including description, policy, pricing and 'back to school' opening days and times.

http://www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/sws/view/1683697.node

Wishing you all safe and happy holidays...

Vanessa

TAS Report

2011 has certainly been a big year in the TAS faculty. The construction of the Trade Training Centre (TTC) has had a significant impact on teaching and learning, however, students and staff have managed this rather well and still been able to complete their work with the resources we have had available. The TTC program is aimed at providing a broader range of options to students so as to improve the Year 12 retention rates and enhance pathways into vocational careers. Under the program, funds were provided to upgrade existing facilities and provide industry standard equipment in Hospitality, Primary Industries and Metal & Engineering. All three facilities have officially been completed and are in full use. Hospitality has already been able to use the kitchen to prepare for a number of school functions, which is something that used to have to occur off-site.

Hospitality







Primary Industries



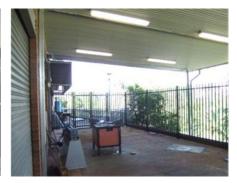




Metal & Engineering







Exciting news has recently emerged regarding the nomination of one of our students for consideration for inclusion in InTech 2012. This is an annual exhibition of outstanding Major Design Projects developed by 2011 HSC Industrial Technology students. Matthew Alexander designed and constructed a desk, desk tidy and pencil holder using an extensive variety of skills. More works are nominated than can be included, as a further selection process takes place after all students respond to their notification of nomination. However, while we wait to find out, Matthew is to be congratulated on this fine effort. Now he, along with the rest of his year group, have to wait anxiously for their final HSC results.



Goodbye and Good Luck

After 5 years as Head Teacher TAS, I am transferring to Wollongong to be closer to family. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, parents, community members and staff who have made my time here memorable. It has been a pleasure to work with enthusiastic colleagues and learn from experienced executives. It was particularly exciting to see this year's year 12 complete their studies after teaching them for 5 years. Watching students develop a greater understanding of subject content and become inspiring young adults is what teaching is all about. Mr O'Hara will be relieving Head Teacher for 2012, whilst a permanent replacement will be confirmed for 2013. His passion for teaching and knowledge of the school community is an asset to the faculty.

Bryce O'Connor Head Teacher TAS

Year 8 Opportunity Class Includes Promising Entrepreneurs

Within the context of studying global inequalities including extreme poverty and wealth, 8HG01 under the guidance of Mr Nougher, have been provided the opportunity to participate in the ASX Schools Sharemarket Game. This activity is open to all schools on a national basis. Students are exposed to a variety of concepts and the skill of aquisition includes the ability to invest in the sharemarket, different researching techniques and teamwork.

8HG01 entered 11 groups who competed against 16,148 teams. All students traded stocks within a simulated market environment for 3 months. 64% of MHS teams finished in profit, compared to the national average of 49%. Special mention and acknowledgment is extended to the first and second placed 8HG01 teams of Alexander Armstrong/Patrick Richards and Holly Arvidson/Jarret Schubert. In the national ranking, Alexander and Patrick achieved 764th out of 16,148 with a portfolio value of \$52,837.17. Well done 8HG01.

Mrs Kelly Head Teacher of HSIE

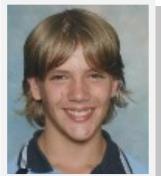
Alexander Armstrong

Jarret Schubert

Holly Arvidson

Patrick Richards











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Phone: 02 65431033 Fax: 02 65433927

E-mail: muswellbro-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au **Web:** www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Text Number: 19910010

"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"





Muswellbrook High School Uniform Shop

← Located just inside B Block main door

Back to School Opening Hours

January 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 8am -2pm	18	19 8am - 2pm	20	21
22	23	24 8am - 2pm	25 8am - 2 pm	26 Australia Day	27 8am - 2pm (Staff Re- turn)	28
29	30 8am - 2pm (Yr 7 & 12)	31 7.30- 11.30am (All Stu- dents)				

Normal Hours (during term)

Tuesday: 7.30 – 11.30 am

Thursday: 12 – 4 pm

Cash, EFT-POS or cheques made out to <u>Daylight Sportswear</u> are welcome.

Phone: 0439 118 033 (during opening hours)

Vanessa



Daylight Sportswear Pty Ltd

ABN 76 069 733 455

35 Garema Circuit, Kingsgrove NSW 2208

Tel: (02) 9758 5588 Fax: (02) 9758 5566

Email: daylight@daylightcorp.com

Muswellbrook High School Uniform Shop PRICE LIST

Name:	Year:	Date:

<u>ITEM</u>	PRICE	SIZE	QTY	TOTAL INCL GST
Girls				
Junior Blouse	27.00			
Senior Blouse	27.00			
Tartan Skirt	48.50			
Navy Stretch Slacks	39.00			
Boys				
Grey Shorts	35.00			
Unisex				
Junior Polo	27.00			
Senior Polo	27.00			
Fleecy Jumper	36.00			
80/20 Wool Jumper	69.00			
Jacket	65.00			
Trackpants	35.00			
Sports				
Sports Shorts Std	24.00			
Sports Short Sup	24.00			
Sports Polo	33.00			
Rugby Shorts	18.00			
Football Socks	08.50			
Other				
Navy Scarf	12.00			
				\$

Canteen Summer Menu 2012

Hot Food		Drinks	
Chicken/Beef Burger	\$4.00	All Cans	\$2.20
Chicken & Gravy Roll	\$3.50	Small Juice	\$1.80
Hot Dog	\$2.50	Poppers	\$1.00
Chicken Wrap	\$3.00	Water	\$2.00
BLT (Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato & Mayo)	\$4.00	Flavoured Water	\$2.20
Beef/Cheese Cruizer	\$3.00	Classic Flavoured Milk Small	\$2.00
Wedges	\$2.50	Classic Flavoured Milk Large	\$3.00
Sausage Roll	\$2.50	Moove Milk Small	\$1.50
Chiko Roll	\$1.50	Dare Milk	\$3.00
Chicken & Corn Roll	\$1.50	Dare Milk Large	\$4.00
Nuggets (3)	\$1.00	Custard	\$2.50
Pizza HP/CB	\$2.00		
Cheese & Bacon Bun	\$1.80		
Chicken Sticks	\$2.00	Iceblocks	
Sauce (Tom, BBQ, SS or Thai Swt chilli)	\$0.30	TNT	50c
		Juice Cup	60c
		Quelch	40c
Rolls		Calippo's	\$1.00
Ham Salad	\$4.00	Icypole	\$1.00
Cheese Salad	\$4.00	Frozen Yoghurt	\$2.00
Chicken Salad	\$4.00	Paddle Pop(Rainbow, Choc, Ban)	\$1.20
Chicken, Lettuce, Mayo	\$3.50	Lifesavers	\$2.00
Egg & Lettuce	\$3.50	Skinny Cow	\$2.20

Toasted Sandwich add 30c

Extra Fillings add 30c each *By order only

Snacks

Butter Menthol/Eucalyptus	50c
JJs	80c
Grain Waves	\$1.00
Chips	\$1.00
Oreos	80c
Fruit	80c
Finger Bun	\$2.50

Parents/Grandparents....

Have you been thinking
about volunteering?

Please give us a call or
come in for a day to try it out.
Phone Stasia on 65432699.

Depending on the number of volunteer helpers in the canteen it may take a while to be served. Placing a lunch order is highly recommended to guarantee getting exactly what you want. Lunch order bags are available at the canteen from 8.30am and only take a minute to fill out. Those with lunch orders can come to the far right window and get your order without lining up.

Please indicate on the bag whether your order is for <u>recess</u> or <u>lunch</u>. (Icypoles cannot be included in lunch order).



The Staff of Muswellbrook High School wish you all a safe and wonderful Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you at Muswellbrook High In 2012.

The first day of school for Year 7 is on 30/01/2012 (This day is for Year 7 & 12 Students only, the rest of the school returns on Tuesday 31/01/2012)