

Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 3 7th May 2012





Principal's Report

Term 2 has begun in an extremely positive manner with the ANZAC Day Assembly and practice NAPLAN tests setting the tone for the term. Some of our students and staff had a late start to the term after spending their holidays in Japan, staying with students and families from our sister-school, Sayama Seiryo. All arrived back safely, albeit a little weary, on ANZAC Day with plenty of stories of their adventures.

The school staff went into the holidays in a motivated and reflective frame of mind following a presentation by Dr Christine Richmond for our Staff Development Day. Muswellbrook High School hosted teachers from all schools in Muswellbrook, Denman

and Martindale for the event as part of our Teacher Quality program.

ANZAC Day



Following a sombre, yet uplifting ANZAC Day assembly at school on Tuesday, 24 April, Muswellbrook High School students and staff assembled on a crisp, clear Wednesday morning to participate in the Muswellbrook Town Service. The students received tremendous support as they marched with other schools and services from our district. Students also made a strong contribution to the formal proceedings with our Captains, Jessica Sparre and Cohen Whyburn opening proceedings along with Josh Davis, John Davis, Sasha Roberts, Elena Peteraitis and Jordi Adam-Smith contributing with musical items. Staff, parents and community members commented to me on how proud they were of our students, with

RSL Sub-branch President, Greg Cole making special mention of Jordi's contribution at the Dawn Service.

Vale Barbara Willingham

Before the holiday break the school received some sad news that former school librarian, Barbara Willingham, had passed away after a short illness. Barbara worked at Muswellbrook High School between 2001-2004 and endeared herself to students and staff alike with her outgoing personality and caring nature. She was an Assistant Year Advisor and supervised the Chess Club during her time at the school.



Relay for Lífe



Following the amazing fundraising efforts by students and staff, teams from Muswellbrook High School joined the Muswellbrook community on the track between 31 March – 1 April at Weeraman Field for the 2012 Relay for Life. It was fantastic to see so many new teams this year with the event raising over \$80 000 for cancer research.

The staff team welcomed back some of our erstwhile colleagues including the Hunt family, Peter Harris, Susan Walker and Sharon Kirkwood. Unlike previous years, when the team clocked up 1000's of collective kilometres, many of our staff (myself included) chose to retreat to the MHS marquee and tents in our camp rather than maintaining the all-night vigil on the track. Perhaps age is becoming a telling factor? Never the less, the team registered some very respectable numbers with Sandra Greenham taking back the mantle for most laps completed within the team.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Muswellbrook High School P&C for their generous donation of the two marquees pictured above. The marquees will be used at all school carnivals as well as other outdoor events, such as lifesaving, providing much needed protection for our students and staff from the elements.

Amy Pickersgill



During the school holidays Year 12 student, Amy Pickersgill, participated in the Open Dairy Cattle Judging section of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. This was the first time that Amy had participated in this event, going up against 17 other seasoned competitors from all over the state, some of whom who had participated in this competition for five years. Amy was required to participate in three rounds of competition including judging a range of different breeds of cattle. To her credit, she excelled in the preliminary rounds and was called upon to give an oral presentation to the judges with the final six competitors. Overall, Amy finished in 5th place. An outstanding achievement from a very talented individual!

Jake Parker



Congratulations to Year 8 student, Jake Parker, who not only qualified for the U/15's Hunter Touch team, but also qualified for the Open age team as well. This is a truly remarkable achievement considering that Jake is only 14 years of age and now has the potential, barring injury and illness, to have represented the Hunter region in Touch for his entire High School enrolment . No pressure! In addition, Jake has also represented the Region for Athletics in 2011 and made the Upper Hunter Rugby League U/15's team this year.

Other Muswellbrook High School students who have earned representative honours since the beginning of the year at State level include John

Langley and James Medhurst in NSW CHS swimming. At the Hunter Regional level, Emily Huggins has earned honours for Basketball as well as Lenny Craft and Jake Barner for Touch.

Príoríty School Program Surveys

Thank you to the parents of students in Years 7-9 for their assistance in completing the Priority Schools Program (PSP) surveys. The surveys are extremely important in attempting to secure additional funding for the school over the next three years, hence the many letters, text messages and phone calls to parents. We appreciate your support in this regard and hopefully will receive some positive news regarding increased funding in the near future.

New Member of English Staff



At the beginning of Term 2 the school welcomed a new teacher, Laura Trevithick, to the English faculty. Laura joins us from Peak Hill Central School, near Parkes, where she has worked for a number of years.

Daniel Horton

Further tragic news over the holidays was the death of former student, Daniel Horton. On behalf of the school community I would like to extend our sympathies to Daniel's family. Our thoughts are with you all at this difficult time.

Mr Gareth Erskine Principal

Deputy Principal's Report—Anzac Day

On Tuesday, 24th April, Muswellbrook High School held the annual ANZAC Day Ceremony. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the behaviour of all our students during this assembly and the respect they demonstrated for such a formal and important ceremony.

The proceedings showcased the wonderful talents of our music and vocal ensembles with soloists Callum Strachan, Josh Davis, Brooke Kilpatrick, Jaudyn Cavanagh and Sasha Roberts providing renditions of "Only Nineteen" and John Lennon's "Imagine". A special thanks also to our music staff, Mr Foy and Ms Parsons, responsible for organising and arranging the musical performances.

Sergeant Peter Cause from the School of Infantry based at the Lone Pine Barracks, Singleton gave a passionate speech of what ANZAC Day meant to him as a soldier. His experience in East Timor and the close bond he has with the Army Veterans was inspiring. Our local RSL was represented with Peter Houlahan attending and Mr Colin Scriven providing a stirring bagpipe version of "The Lament".

Jacob Marshall raised and lowered the Australian flag which has become a family tradition, following on from his brother Thomas in previous years. While Ms Gill McKenzie, our new SRE teacher was introduced to Muswellbrook High School by providing "The Lord's Prayer".

The ceremony was a sombre occasion with both audience and performers making it a special event. Thanks to all involved.

The term has started well with virtually all students in full school uniform. As the weather changes it's important to ensure jumpers and jackets from previous years are still able to be worn. If not, now is the time to purchase new items and avoid a last minute rush.

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.

Scott Copland Deputy Principal







Year 9 Laptop Service

A service on the silver Year 9 laptops will be carried later this term as a result of the identification of loose cabling in a small number of laptops and a faulty fan component that sees some computers shutting down intermittently.

To minimise disruption to your son/daughter's educational use of the laptop, we would ask that you provide your support by ensuring that your son/daughter presents their laptop to the School TSO on the allocated day (to be published later).

We have been advised that this service should only take 1 school day and we will endeavour to return laptops in an efficient manner upon successful completion of the service.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School TSO, Hilton Ariel on 65431033.

Mr Hilton Ariel TSO

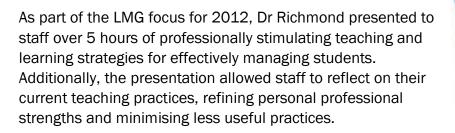


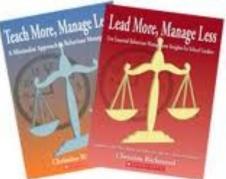
Staff Development Day, 5th April 2012.



Dr Christine Richmond.

Staff from Muswellbrook High, Martindale, Denman Public, Muswellbrook South Public and Muswellbrook Public Schools attended a one day presentation delivered by Dr Christine Richmond at Muswellbrook High School MPC. The Staff Development Day was changed from Day 1, Term 2 to accommodate our guest presenter, Dr Christine Richmond.





Throughout the day staff had the opportunity to work with colleagues from across the local secondary and primary schools in a positive and proactive approach to teaching. Positive feedback from the course included:

- I found this course very informative and extremely interesting. I took a lot of information out of this course and hope to improve my teaching skills.
- Christine Richmond was wonderful, left the day with some very practical and useful behaviour management tools.
- I found this professional learning day very insightful and everyone was engaged for the whole day.

A big THANK YOU to Kirralee Flood, SLSO and Year 12 Hospitality Students who catered for morning tea. Additional thanks are extended to Beth Halstead for her organisation of lunch.

The professional development day was a very positive way of ending a busy Term 1.

Future Directions:

As part of the Head Teacher: Teacher Quality position for 2012, staff will have increased opportunities for professional development focusing on the four key areas identified within the school plan. Term 3 Staff development day will focus on Aboriginal Education. Guest speakers from a number of services will be coming to Muswellbrook to In-service staff on Aboriginal perspectives and teaching strategies to accommodate different learning styles.

Quinn Robertson.

Head Teacher: Teacher Quality

MHS CROSS COUNTRY 2012

On Wednesday the 21st March 2012 all Muswellbrook High students participated in the 2012 Cross Country carnival.

The track started at Weeramen Field and weaved its way down to Karoola Park. Male students aged 12 and 13 and female students aged 12, 13 and 14 ran the 3km track whilst male students aged 14, 15, 16 and 17 and female students aged 15, 16 and 17 ran a 4.5km track.

The age champions for the day are listed below.

AGE GROUP	BOYS	GIRLS
12	Thomas Pickersgill	Sanziana Timis
13	Bailey Taylor	Brydie Parker
14	Kyle McGrady	Cody Wright
15	Jessy Besford	Caitlin Hunter
16	Beaudon Dixon	Samantha Elphick
17+	Nicholas Logan	Georgia Harris

45 Muswellbrook High School students travelled to Singleton on the last day of term one to compete in the Zone Cross Country Carnival. The students performed extremely well on the day and three Muswellbrook High students became 2012 Zone Cross Country Age Champions.

AGE GROUP	STUDENT
14	Kyle McGrady
16	Beaudon Dixon
17+	Jake Barner

Students who finished in the top six in their age group at the Zone carnival will now travel to Newcastle to compete in the Regional Cross country Carnival. We wish these students the best of luck.

Miss Murphy Carnival Organiser







Uní Crawl 2012

Twenty nine Year 11 and 12 students made the mighty trek through six universities in thirty six hours that is known as Unicrawl. The overnight excursion included tours of the University of Technology Sydney, The University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales on Day One. An overnight stay at Wollongong with after dinner presentations from current UOW students Michael Duck and Zack Man Bradbury followed by ten pin bowling with former competition bowler, Mrs Reichel. Day Two featured tours of the University of Wollongong, Macquarie University and Newcastle University Ourimbah Campus.

Pictured below Emma Dewhirst, Jess Nolan, Laura Eade and Lucinda Hermon were impressed by the 'Tower of Power', UTS.



The University of Sydney is always a great photo opportunity





Jessica Nolan gave the University of NSW the thumbs up but didn't seem quite as keen on Macquarie University which include a totally random tour guide standing behind the one pictured





Last term a great group of students completed the TAFE Outreach Introduction to Carpentry and Construction course over eight Wednesday Mornings where the laminated chopping boards were, according to the TAFE teacher, Mr Holland, 'World Class', particularly Shiona Suzuki's.

This term both the University of Newcastle Open Day and the University of New England Open Day will run. The Newcastle University Wollotuka Day is also on. Our big Trades and Careers Day is on May 29th for Yr 9 to 12 and all Yr 12 will be interviewed with Mr Erskine and Mr Borg.

Mr Borg Careers

SRC Report

The SRC welcomes everybody back to school and hopes everyone had a wonderful Easter break.

The Anzac Day Assembly and our participation in the Anzac Day March were both successful. A respectable amount of students marched, at both Muswellbrook and Denman, with a dabbling of students sporting grand, great-grand and great-great grandfathers' medals with pride. Students marched behind our new school banner, reflecting on our freedom and the lives lost fighting for it. School Captains Jessica Sparre and Cohen Whyburn spoke briefly at the Muswellbrook Service and laid a wreath on behalf of the school.

This term the SRC will be fundraising for World Vision, with the funds raised going to our sponsor child Fernanda Jiménez. The SRC will be holding an out of uniform day to raise money for Fernanda in Week 6. Further details will be provided closer to the date. We appreciate the students' support of this cause in the past and encourage their continued support this year.

Finally, another reminder about SRC meetings. We now have meetings each Friday – one formal and one informal. Students are welcome to sit in if they have any issues or concerns they would like to raise with the SRC. Meetings are held in the Neate Theatre on Fridays (formal meetings are Week A and informal meetings are Week B) at 8:40am and are compulsory for SRC members. Everyone is welcome, so if you have an issue that you would like to discuss please join us!

Kimberley Douglas

A reminder for all Staff and Students

We have several students at Muswellbrook High School who have anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening condition. It is a severe and sudden allergic reaction which occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect bite). Anaphylaxis always requires an emergency response.

We have students at Muswellbrook High School who are anaphylactic to:

- Kiwi Fruit
- Peanuts and other nuts
- Bees
- Couch Grass
- Egg
- Unknown substances.





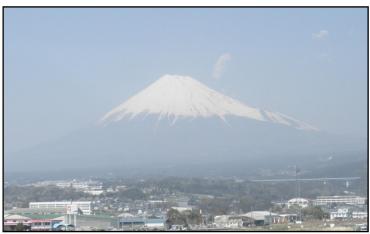
All students with known anaphylaxis have detailed plans and the school is equipped with epi-pens. All staff have been trained in management of severe anaphylaxis.

Students and Staff at Muswellbrook High School have been advised not to bring Peanuts or Kiwi Fruit to school.

Thank you, Quinn Robertson.

"Bíg ín Japan" The Japan Tríp 2012

On Sunday the 8th April 12 students, 3 teachers and 4 parents began a great new adventure to Japan. We flew to Tokyo and caught a bullet train to Kyoto past a spectacular Mount Fuji. This would be our only sighting of Mt Fuji on this trip due to the fog and cloud. I lost my camera on the bullet train only to have it returned in true Japanese style to our hotel by a very generous person. We spent the next 5 nights in Kyoto and conducted day tours to Inari, Nara, Osaka, Hiroshima and Miyajima Island.



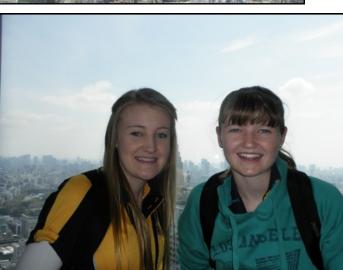


The group in Inari at the shrine for Agriculture and Fishing. (Note the fox statues)

Muswellbrook High School 7th May 2012



Saturday the 14th we returned to Tokyo and visited the Observation deck on the 45th floor of the Tokyo Government Building. We had amazing views over the city of Tokyo which stretched as far as you could see in every direction. Tokyo has a population of 13 million people in the central city with 36 million people in the greater Tokyo area.



Courtney Price and Morgan Page at the lookout

Chris Hartin and host family

On Monday 16th a nervous and excited crew set off for Sayama Seiryo Senior High School. This was just the second week of their new school year so it was a busy time for Japanese teachers and students. Despite this they made us feel very welcome and spent time supplying cultural lessons and excursions for us.

We participated in traditional Tea Ceremonies, Calligraphy, Ikebana (flower arranging), Art (Kirimon), Chopstick and Furoshiki classes, English lessons and an excursion to Asakusa. A highlight for most students was the trip to the local primary school, Okutomi Elementary School

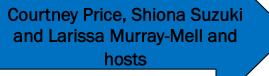


where we played games in English, observed lessons, Holly and Kerry Arvidson and host family ate lunch and even helped clean the school.

We all had to wear inside shoes at the school and change into our outside shoes every time we went out. Mr Mulvihill had a stylish pair of soccerball slippers for his inside shoes and they were nearly stolen by a soccer fan teacher at the Primary school.



















Okutomi Elementary School

Principal and Guard of Honour for us







Muswellbrook High School 7th May 2012



Cody cleaning the school



James Bagley - Ikebana



Taya Elphinstone using chopsticks

Many of our students leapt out of their comfort zones, trying new foods, new activities and embracing Japanese culture. I am so proud of these students and congratulate them. (You have proved you can do anything you set your mind to. They are the reason this Sister-School relationship is still so successful after 19 years. Rennetta Wolfe and I organised the first trip by MHS students to Japan in 1998. Seiryo students have been coming to Muswellbrook nearly every year since 1993. This has been my 8th and last trip with MHS students to Japan. Ms Bronwyn Tier will take the trips in the future. Ms Tier's wealth of knowledge and excellent speaking skills will allow her to continue this successful relationship and take the trip in new directions in future years. Mr Mulvihill kept us all amused with his choice of hat each day and his "bonding" and music sessions. He also enthusiastically participated in Japanese homestays with a Maths teacher and the Principal. The Principal was new to Sayama Seiryo only starting the Monday before we arrived. I had been at the school longer than him!!

I would like to thank all the students and the teachers of both Muswellbrook High and Sayama Seiryo Senior High, who assisted me and made this trip so successful and enjoyable for all of us.

I would also like to thank Hunter Mutual who sponsored our red and blue travel shirts. They certainly made finding each other much easier especially on the crowded trains and railway stations.

Fiona Bailey Head Teacher LOTE and Science

Upper Hunter Show Junior Stewards

This year marks the 20th year anniversary of the Upper Hunter Show Junior Stewards. It has proven to be an excellent learning experience and rewarding relationship for both our students and the Upper Hunter Show. It started in 1992 as Mr. T's brainchild as it had been initiated by him in his previous school with great success for school and the community.

This year 24 students participated in the program and assisted the senior show stewards and judges. They volunteered their help the week before the show and during the two official show days Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th March. Feedback from the Chief Stewards and Show Secretary Jenny Webster was very complementary to the students involved and reflected another positive image of our school in the community. Thank you to all who volunteered their help!

Junior Beef Cattle Judging at the Upper Hunter Show

The first day of the show, Friday 23rd March, provided 48 of our students the opportunity to show their skills at judging cattle. Competitors had to judge two classes of cattle, steers and cows. Points were tallied up and six of our students had an opportunity to give an oral speech to gain additional points. Students namely Isabel Ladmore, Grace Capitaine, Ryan Symington, Jackson Keegan, Tamara Maskell and Kheely Scott all gained the courage to state their reasons for placing the cattle in their judging order. Judge Travis Worth scored their presentations as the massive crowd looked on. Two students gained places; they being Grace Capitaine 2nd and Isabel Ladmore equal 3rd. Congratulations Ladies!!!

All students participated well and were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Singleton Junior Judging Competition 2012

On Friday, the 27th April 37, keen and enthusiastic students travelled to Singleton on the 6.15am train to compete in this annual competition. The day started with a brisk walk to McDonald's to have breakfast and to meet Mr Drewe who was going to share his expertise about cattle judging and assist Mr T. with student supervision. After breakfast we walked to Singleton showground, which was the venue for the competition. Our school placed two teams in the senior competition with the remainder and majority competing in the intermediate section. Students judged three classes of beef cattle namely bulls, steers and heifers. Many schools of the Upper Hunter and Central Coast provided teams of students to compete in the competition. This year 220 students competed for individual prizes and trophies. Xstrata Coal and Beltana Highwall Mining donated two steers for the team winners of the high school section and primary school section of the competition. Unfortunately, none of our students score highly enough to be asked to give an oral presentation, however, all did their very best on the day and learnt some skills and will hopefully have greater success in coming competitions. Students, as well as being involved in beef cattle judging took part in numerous beef cattle workshops held on the day and also a seed identification competition run by Kirkwoods Produce of Singleton. The Singleton Beef & Land Management Association must be commended for running another excellent educational experience for all students of the Upper Hunter.



η,



Mr T. (Grant Taylor) & Mrs B. (Fiona Bailey) Agriculture

HUNTER CENTRAL COAST PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENT

xstrata

Education & Communities

 Friday 15 June
 10.30am & 7.00pm

 Saturday 16 June
 1.30pm & 7.00pm

NEWCASTLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE Tickets Through Ticketek Phone 4921 2121



THE

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{PacificSmiles}\\ \textbf{D} \textbf{E} \textbf{N} \textbf{T} \textbf{A} \textbf{L}. \end{array}$





Aboriginal Education Consultative Group

Muswellbrook Local AECG

Cordially invites you to our

2nd AECG MEETING

On: Thursday 24th May, 2012

Time: 4pm

At: Muswellbrook Town Library (126 Bridge St, Muswellbrook)

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMUNITY, PARENTS/CAREGIVERS, PRIMARY & HIGH SCHOOLS & RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

If you would like an item added to the agenda please RSVP to the secretary.

Tea, coffee & refreshment will be provided on arrival.

Please RSVP,

Melisa Powell Secretary 0409 692785

6542 5061 (work)

Or

Vince Cooper President 0422 224069



Free Adult (age 16+) Medical Clinic

NURSE PRACTITIONER AVAILABLE

- No appointments necessary
- General Medical
- CTG Scripts
- Health assessment and screening
- Management for diabetes, heart problems, lung problems or kidney disease
- Wound Dressings
- Specialist referral

When:	Every Wednesday
Where:	9.00–12.30
	Hunter Park Family Centre
	58 Wollombi Road
	1.00–3.30
	QE II Community Centre
	Cnr Bridge & Market Streets
For	more information or an appointment
	Tiana Geihe 0403428143



Upper Hunter Community Services Inc.

Homework





Help

Hour

PaCE Program

in conjunction with the Aboriginal Family Worker

Will be conducting a Homework Help Hour for school age children and their parents.

Cost : Free

Where : QE11 Building Muswellbrook

When : Thursday afternoons

Time : 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Proudly supported by BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal

For further information please contact:

Upper Hunter Community Services 02 65423555





Helping learner drivers become safer drivers

FREE workshops for parents and supervising drivers

To provide practical advice about:

- Current laws for L and P licence holders.
- Supervising learner drivers.
- Completing the Learner driver log book.
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

Time and date:

Venue:

Wednesday 23 May 2012 6.00 - 8.00 pm Police & Citizens Youth Club Cnr Carl St & Market Lane Muswellbrook Book now on:

4925 4200 enrolments@ weahunter.com.au

Muswellbrook High School 7th May 2012

earr					
PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE
STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER
HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE
PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE
STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER
HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE
PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE
STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER
HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE
PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE
STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER
HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE
PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE
STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER	STICKER
HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE	HERE

Entry to the promotion is open to registered Primary and Secondary schools across Australia. Promotional period is from 9th May-1st July 2012. Check with your school to ensure they are registered or visit Woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn and follow the prompts. One sticker is given for every \$10 spend. Minimum \$10 spend. Excludes purchase of liquor, tobacco and gift cards. Each sticker is redeemable for one E&L point. Stickers will not be accepted by Promoter unless attached to sticker card. Sticker cards must be received by the Promoter by the 27th July for counting. For full set of terms and conditions please visit Woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn.

Please remember to collect your stickers from Woolworths for the current promotion that is running. They can be put in the box provided outside Woolworths or you can hand them in at School Office.

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.



Muswellbrook High School PO Box 198 MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333

Phone: 02 65431033 Fax: 02 65433927 E-mail: muswellbro-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au Web: <u>www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</u> Text Number: 19910010

"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"



