



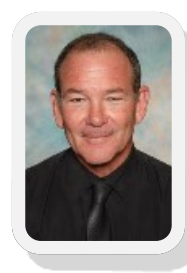
Muswellbrook High School



"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"

NEWSLETTER 11

16 December 2016



Principals Report



Merry Christmas

Student Achievement

You will find our newsletter filled with some outstanding achievements by our students – well done Muswellbrook High School.

Congratulations to our Yr. 12 2016 cohort. They have enjoyed some outstanding HSC results: 4 Band 6s in Music and Visual Arts and 47 solid Band 5 grades across a range of subjects. On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish Yr. 12 2016 all the very best for their future endeavours. I look forward to hearing about your future success stories!

Farewells

We will farewell some wonderful staff this year. We have had the privilege of having some highly professional and competent temporary staff members who have supported our student's learning. We farewell Mr Mitchell Calder from PD/H/PE, Ms Roseanne Kumar from Science, Mr Mark Neale from CAPA who have accepted teaching positions elsewhere for 2017.

What is a little different this year, is that we also farewell some long standing staff members from Muswellbrook HS.

Dr. Tony Borg has accepted a position as Careers teacher at Scone HS. Dr. Borg has contributed and impacted on the lives of many students during his time at Muswellbrook HS and I would like to thank him for his outstanding service. I know that he will be a positive contributor to the young people at Scone High School.

Both Mr Steven Watson and Mrs Elisabeth Moore are retiring from the Science faculty. Mrs Moore has worked at Muswellbrook HS since 1981 and Mr Watson since 1984.

This will leave a huge gap in the expertise of our staff. Their professionalism, wisdom and camaraderie will be sadly missed. On behalf of the Department of Education and Muswellbrook HS in particular, I acknowledge their outstanding careers and thank them for their passion, service and commitment to public education. They have no doubt witnessed many changes in their career and I simply applaud them for making a difference in the lives of many, many young people.

Thank you

We have enjoyed a great year and it would be remiss of me not to mention the talented staff and students of the Popstars Back to the 90s Musical; the talented art work of Ms. Leanne Ward as part of our school beautification program, the introduction of Positive Behaviour for Learning, the generosity of Bengalla Mine with the donation and construction of the outdoor learning space, the Yarning Circle on the top oval. Bengalla apprentices worked in 39-degree heat to transform an unused section of the school, that is now proudly the place of choice for students to sit. We are very fortunate to have such a generous community.

I feel privileged to have led this strong, vibrant school community through a year of great achievement and I would like to thank the students, parents and staff.

Thank you to the students for being pleasant, obliging, helpful, well-mannered and respectful. Our students are always willing to participate and give of their best. Thank you for respecting the learning environment.

Parents, you can be very proud of your children!

I want to thank you for bringing your children to our school and trusting us with them every day. They have shown so many positive qualities and we know this all starts at home. Parents, being involved in your child's education will lead them to more opportunities for success in the future.

Thank you to the supportive and hardworking P & C Body. You continue to inspire me with your dedication to support your students and your school.

The Staff at MHS are dedicated and committed to enrich the lives of the students, engage them in learning and improve their educational outcomes.

Everyone always does what is best for our students! (Support teachers, support officers, admin staff and classroom teachers). Your kindness and positive care of our students as whole people is the reason that we see them blossom into young adults and young leaders of the future.

Thank you for always caring about the Muswellbrook students and assisting them to become valuable citizens of the future.

2017

It is a privilege to be leading Muswellbrook HS and I am looking forward to coming back next year to grow our school's achievements even more.

Next year we will embark on future focused projects: two Project Based learning classes in Year 7, STEM in Yr. 8 and 9.

We will continue to improve the school grounds next year by placing a COLA over the two basketball courts. This will give us an all-weather teaching space and a much needed shaded area for students in the playground.

Have a safe and happy Christmas break. Everyone.

Ms Elizabeth Bate
Principal

Deputy Principals Report

2016 is officially over and it's been a wonderful year for both academic and school initiatives. As Deputies we have witnessed the hard work of teachers and students, which has led to fantastic HSC results and the exit of a wonderful group of young men and women from Year 12.

In 2017 the school will be trialling a number of programs which will support and engage both our top performing students and those who often struggle in the classroom. We will be pursuing positive behaviour through PBL and encouraging teachers to communicate with parents the successes their sons and daughters are achieving throughout the year.

We ask that parents ensure their children are ready for school and start 2017 in a positive manner. Students who arrive at school in full school uniform, equipment for classes and keep a detailed diary of homework will be prepared for the challenges ahead. In 2016 we found a number of students sitting examinations with little preparation, planning or study. 2017 will be the year of PLAN, PREPARE AND STUDY and we will be asking parents to assist the teaching staff by encouraging their students to practise these steps throughout the year. We wish to boost everybody's achievements and this will be done through a group approach from school and home.

The Deputies of Muswellbrook High School wish our school community all the best for Christmas and the New Year and hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday.

Mr Brian Drewe
Deputy Principal

Yarning Circle at Muswellbrook High School completed as Bengalla Community Project

In sweltering thirty-nine-degree heat, the apprentices from Bengalla mining completed a community project that should long stand the test of time and learning.

While the students of Muswellbrook High School were at the pool for the annual Lifesaving education program, the Bengalla Mining apprentices landscaped and arranged fourteen large sandstone blocks around a central large boulder to provide a cultural learning and sharing space to be used in the tradition of the Aboriginal yarning circle.

Muswellbrook High School Principal Elizabeth Bate said the work of the Bengalla Apprentices will leave a lasting impression on the school, 'The finished project is fantastic and for the apprentices from Bengalla to get all of this in place, landscaped, surfaced and edged was a major undertaking of both logistics and effort for which we are truly appreciative.'

Ms Bate added that 'the project beautifies the school grounds, it was a privilege for the school to be chosen for the Bengalla Community project this year and it will definitely be used in the tradition of the Aboriginal yarning circle for sharing and cultural learning for many years to come.'

The project came together with the liaison of Muswellbrook High Industrial Arts teacher Mr Daniel Bavister with Mrs Debbie Day from Bengalla Mining and the apprentices achieved all of the work under the watchful supervision and coordination of Mr Stuart Martin of Bengalla.



Lifesaving 2016

On Wednesday 30th November to Friday December 2nd, years 8 - 10 students participated in the annual Lifesaving development days at Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre.

The students worked with teachers and Year 10 instructors to learn critical skills in saving lives both in and out of the water. Some of the sessions included Sun Smart, CPR, and entering the water safely.

Lots of fun was had by all involved; spending three days at the pool in summer is never a bad thing! Despite the heat, most students managed to avoid sunburn thanks to the great work by staff reminding students to Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, and Slide.

I would like to thank all the wonderful staff, student instructors, and participants involved for making lifesaving such a wonderful experience.



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Planet Savers Workshop— 6 Dec 2016

There was much buzz and excitement last week as 7 Science E, 8 Science 1 and self nominated students took part in the half day OzGreen education for sustainability program, Planet Savers. The program was lead by Lena Hammond and assisted by Jackson Barry, a Year 9 student from St Josephs.

The process of providing a snapshot of some of the current global issues confronting us, some positive initiatives in place and then giving the students time and space to reimagine how things can work differently in a more crowded world and how they may be part of the solutions.

Feedback from students, staff and volunteers has been very enthusiastic. Please check with your child about the event, they may have some energy saving ideas that you can help them follow through. Our Muswellbrook & Denman libraries have meters to measure the energy consumption of appliances, which might be an interesting activity over the holidays.

Have a lovely Summer Holiday.

Wendy Wales
Science Teacher

Thank You—Berry & French Chemist

We would like to thank Berry & French Chemist of Muswellbrook for their generous donation to our school for the Year 7 Development Days .



Uniform Shop



Chiro/Physio/Osteo approved

BACKPACKS

Now available at the uniform shop

- ✓ Three zippered compartments
- ✓ Internal padded laptop pocket
- ✓ Water bottler holder
- ✓ Phone/Music player pocket and ear bud hole
- ✓ Water repellent
- ✓ Plain navy so can be used after school
- ✓ Lightweight
- ✓ Lifetime warranty

Achievements

Muswellbrook High School student selected for STEM summer school

Year 10 student, Marcus Morris, has been selected to attend the Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence in Technology and Science (ASSETS) for his outstanding achievement in science and mathematics.

Marcus is one of only 105 students from across Australia to be selected to attend one of the three summer schools which will take place during December 2016/ January 2017. Marcus will attend the summer school in Newcastle in January 2017.



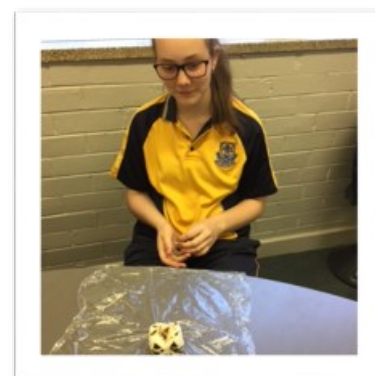
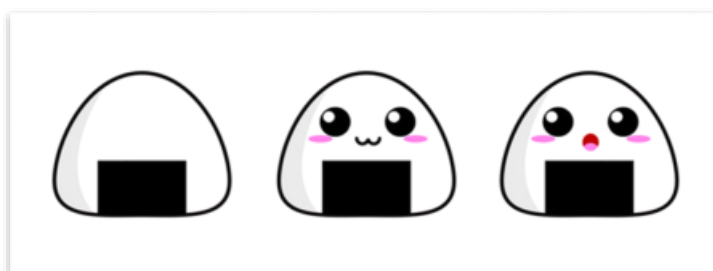
ASSETS is part of a broader Indigenous STEM Education Project funded by BHP Billiton Foundation and delivered by CSIRO.

Year 7 Japanese Classes make Onigiri for Charity

As part of the World Food Day Campaign 2016 a website called **Change the World with Onigiri** was set up to promote the making of Onigiri and feeding school children in need in the world.

For those who do not know onigiri are Japanese rice balls moulded into various shapes with fillings or seasonings on the outside, often wrapped in seaweed.

For every onigiri photo posted on the website jp.tablefor2.org/campaign/onigiri/en five school meals were donated to children in need. Two year 7 classes enjoyed making the Onigiri, taking photos of them and then of course eating them! The students were happy that they were able to provide over 200 school meals to children in need.



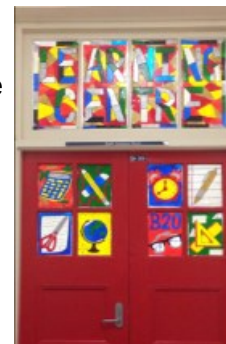
MHS Learning Centre



The Learning Centre is a dynamic teaching and learning space, accessed for the delivery of various programs to assist our students.

2016 has been a particularly busy year with great commitment from the MHS Learning Support Team—

Sharon Young, Kate Eden and Cheryl Ham (Learning Support Teachers), Mandii Durham and Toni Boney (SLSOs and QuickSmart Tutors), Tony March (Norta Norta) and Lauren Gallagher (Outreach Teacher).

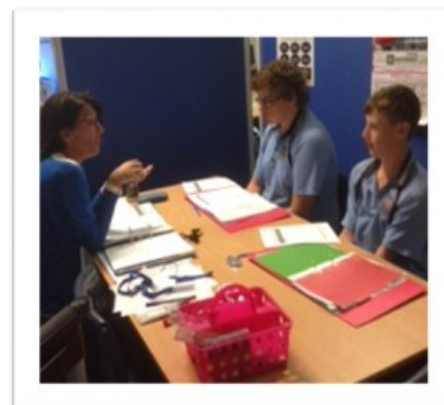


QuickSmart Numeracy and QuickSmart Literacy are research based, intensive, systematic programs with explicit instruction. These programs are designed to develop automaticity, free up working memory and open neural pathways. Each of the three sessions per week are structured, timed practice, developing self-monitoring and providing immediate feedback by graphing results daily.

In 2016, 18 Year 7 students completed the 25 week QuickSmart Numeracy program with Toni Boney. All students improved significantly in speed and accuracy across all components. Two students achieved 100% attendance.

14 Year 8 Students participated in QuickSmart Literacy with Mandii Durham in Semester 1 and 8 Year 7 students in Semester 2. Results indicated improved word recognition, and fluency when reading, which resulted in improved comprehension.

100% of participating students across both programs indicated they would recommend QuickSmart to others. Post program student evaluation suggested improved work organisation skills, time management, more confidence to participate in classes as well as positive relationship building between tutor and students.



Exam Support Data

Learning Support Staff provided examination assistance to 12% of the Junior school during Semester 2 exams earlier in November. A total of 73 students across Years 7-10 completed 156 examinations. This support ranged from separate supervision, reader/ writer assistance for learning difficulties, additional support for anxiety, behavioural issues, student and parent referrals, as well as broken hands.

More than 60 students accessed the Learning Centre for catch up exams.



Norta Norta

Norta Norta provides individual support to indigenous students to accelerate their educational progress and achievement. I have had the great pleasure of working as a tutor focusing on writing at Muswellbrook High School for 3 terms this year.

In this time period the Norta Norta tutoring program helped a total of 26 students with their literacy skills and performance in assessments. Of these students who participated in the program, 13 were Year 7, 6 were Year 8 and 7 were Year 9 students.

It has been most satisfying working with these students and I have experienced great pride and satisfaction seeing their effort rewarded with obvious improvement in their literacy skills and the quality and consistency of their assessment responses.

I would like to congratulate and thank all the Norta Norta students for their work ethic and cooperative attitude throughout the year.

Tony March
Norta Norta Tutor



INDY—Muswellbrook High School Therapy Dog



Mrs Toni Boney and Indy achieved official *Therapy Dog Team* approval in July this year. They have already developed positive relationships with many students, especially during Year 6 transition activities.

We look forward to both Toni and Indy using the Learning Centre as their base in 2017.

Outreach

This program commenced at the start of Semester Two and we have seen some great results to date. Outreach is a program developed to assist students in Year 9 & 10 who are at risk of not completing Year 10, leading to the award of RoSA (Record of School Achievement). Placement in the program is offered to students to ultimately provide additional support in meeting their specific learning needs.

We have had 15 students participate in Outreach at some point during the Semester with two students being successful in gaining full time employment for the remainder of the year. We have also had a number of students participate in work experience, giving them some practical skills to eventually be employed in the workforce while also allowing them to build upon their self confidence.

We have had a really positive reaction by the students with the majority approaching the program with great maturity and reflecting on what changes need to occur before continuing into Year 11. As a combined total, they have completed 100 assessment tasks and 37 yearly exams, with a couple to still finalise the last of their tasks.

Having completed their yearly Exams, we are looking forward to preparing for Year 11 with the completion of 'All My Own Work' in the coming weeks, before returning to the ACE Program in 2017.

Finally, we have been fortunate to be able to use the Learning Centre on a weekly basis to conduct Outreach, and the students have felt very privileged to be utilising such an inviting space where they have access to a number of resources and people who support their involvement in the program. So, a big thank you to Sharon and her team for all their support and the great things they are doing in the Learning Centre.

Mrs Lauren Gallagher
Outreach Coordinator



HSC Examination Support

Each year, a number of Year 12 students at MHS apply to BOSTES (Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW) for Disability Provisions to assist them to complete Trial HSC and HSC examinations, depending on their individual needs. In 2016, several students required the support and commitment of five Year 11 students to assist as Readers/Writers.

These Year 11 students demonstrated such qualities as

- ability to communicate clearly in English
- patience and sensitivity to the students learning needs
- And integrity to maintain student confidentiality.

The Year 11 students received a *Recognition of School Service Certificate* for their commitment.





Transport
for NSW

School travel 2017

Application information Nov 2016

Information for parents, guardians and students

Our school has partnered with Transport for NSW to use the new online process for you to submit school travel applications.

This means we will be able to process your applications online, making it easier and faster for parents, guardians and students to apply for school travel.

Applications for school travel in 2017 are now open, including for travel to Mascot and Green Square station and for private ferries. Parents, guardians and students are encouraged to apply as soon as they are able via:

Applications for 2017 school travel are now open via www.transportnsw.info/school-students

A new application is required when:

- applying for a School Opal card or travel pass for the first time,
- enrolling in Kindergarten, or
- requesting an additional entitlement as a result of a shared parental responsibility situation.

You will need to do an update application if the student has a current school travel pass and:

- is progressing from Year 2 to Year 3,
- is progressing from Year 6 to Year 7, or
- changes address, or
- changes school or campus.

Already have a School Opal card or travel pass?

- When you've updated, and you are eligible for free school travel next year, Transport for NSW will send you an email confirmation once your application has been processed. For travel in rural or regional NSW, we'll also inform your nominated transport operator(s).
- If you already have a School Opal card that does not need updating, or you've successfully re-applied, the Opal card will automatically be updated for travel next year. Do not throw it out as you'll be able to use it when the school year starts in 2017.
- If you currently have a printed travel pass provided by your transport operator, a new pass will be ready at the beginning of the new school year.

Public Information

Muswellbrook Eagles Travelling sides 2017

REGISTRATION will be open through Northern NSW football from 1st February and will close for travelling sides on 28th February.

TRIALS will be held on 2nd and 7th of March at Victoria park.

We hope to field every age-group from 8 -18yo and will be looking for coaches and managers to support this. The 2016 the Muswellbrook Football club travelling sides were again successful, with the 14's winning their premiership, 12's and 18's reaching the finals and the 10-year-old age group now undefeated for the last 3 years.

Save the date and register to play Australia's fastest growing sport next year.

Enquiries: Jo Holt 0409 225 911 (Texting preferred ahead of voice messages)



Upper Hunter Youth Services Inc - Youth Centre

Open Wed-Fri 3pm -6pm Age: 10-18 yrs Free Bus run provided every afternoon

School Holidays Wed - Fri 11am-3pm

Focus of the month: Homeless People

Located at
The Showground,
Maitland Street
PO Box 628
Muswellbrook NSW
2333

Phone: (02) 65434841

Fax: (02) 65425443

Christmas Holidays

Re-Opens January 4th 2017



Important Information

Facebook— facebook.com/mbkhigh (Our Official Facebook Page)

SMS text messaging – Daily attendance of your child is sent to your family mobile number. This can also be used for important information regarding parent teacher meetings, issue of reports etc. The school SMS number is: **0427 016 460**. 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 – The school newsletter is distributed via email to as many families as possible, approximately twice a term. If you have an email address that you use regularly, please contact the school.

Websites – www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au. 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 – The Millennium website contains all of your child's school information. This includes attendance, school reports, assessment tasks, timetables, behaviour information.

Families are able to see the whole family at a glance with your private login. This will be sent to you via an email if you have one listed with us, if not please phone the office with a current email address.

Students can also access this site through a separate login.



Upcoming Events 2017

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 27th Jan 2017 | Staff Development Day (staff return for Term 1) |
| 30th Jan 2017 | Yrs 7 & 12 resume school |
| 31st Jan 2017 | Yrs 8–11 resume school |
| 3rd Feb 2017 | Swimming Carnival |
| 9th Feb 2017 | P & C Meeting, 7pm in the school Library |