



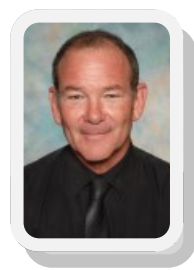
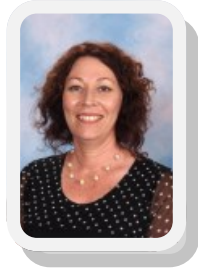
# Muswellbrook High School



*"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"*

**NEWSLETTER 6**

**26th May 2016**



## Principal Report

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### Popstars, the 90's Musical Thank You

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Thank you to the hundreds of parents and family members who supported our recent school Musical, **Popstars the 90's Musical**. With sold out shows and such wonderful feedback from the community about the hard work and talent of our staff and students, I was filled with pride as the Principal!

As you would all be aware, such a professional show requires countless hours of rehearsals, set and costume designing. Thank you to the families who ensured their child made it to the rehearsals! A special mention to some exceptional parents and community members who were integral to **Popstars** success: Miss Amy Foster (choreography, makeup and hair artist), Mrs Michelle Roberson, Mrs Marilyn White and Mrs Julie Delforce (costume design and construction), Miss Jordi Adam-Smith (vocal coach), Mr Phillip Duffell, Mrs Sue Davis (set design and construction), Mr Bazil Wilcher, Mr Lee Hogan, Mr Steven Sokulsky, Mr Alistair Christie and Mr Stuart Ahearn (stage construction).

Congratulations to our CAPA staff for their vision and commitment:

*Thank you for creating such a wonderful opportunity for our students whom will always hold special memories of the musical.*

### Sporting Success

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Muswellbrook HS continues to shine in the sporting arena. Most recently, our Yr. 11 and 12 mixed touch football team travelled to Earlwood in Sydney to compete in the state championships. There were 12 teams competing from across NSW. After 5 games our school finished 1st in their pool beating teams from Port Macquarie, Sydney and Newcastle.

The team played St Mary's College, Maitland in the grand final. It was an extremely close game with both teams displaying excellent skills and abilities on the touch field. Unfortunately we lost 5-4.

This means Muswellbrook HS is ranked the second best team in NSW at mixed touch football. We would like to thank the parents for driving the students to Sydney and supporting them through every game.

## **Wingham Beef Week**

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This event is a must on the calendar for our Muswellbrook HS Ag students! Thanks once again to Mr Grant Taylor for his preparation of the cattle and our students. Thank you also to the parents who always provide such positive praise and feedback for Mr Taylor and the school's agriculture program.

## **GATS @mhs launch**

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Congratulations to Mr Matthew Bellotti, GATS coordinator, for the launch on Thursday evening. We have 17 students who have signed up to complete a GATS project! All students have been matched with a High School teacher/mentor to assist them in their project pursuit. The final presentation will take place in Term 4.

It was wonderful to see so many Yr. 6 students keen to pursue further investigations into varying projects and I look forward to seeing how their projects evolve over time. Project based learning is truly based in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning skills and I am sure that the personal lessons learnt from each project, will set our students up for advancing on larger projects throughout their life. Of special mention – all four Yr. 6 students from Martindale PS have signed up to complete a GATS project. Congratulations Martindale PS for 100% enrolment in GATS – impressive!

Thank you also to Mr Rod Glase and Yr. 11 hospitality students who prepared an amazing supper for the occasion. Of special mention are three student who worked well into the evening; Maddison Williams, Georgia Gal and Nicole Boeckx.

## **WWCC important information for Parents/Carers**

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### **Keep Kids Safe: #parentscheckthecheck!**

Parents or carers who engage the services of a private tutor or coach have an important role to play in helping to keep their children safe.

From 1st April 2016 adults who provide private tuition or coaching services to children will need to obtain a new Working With Children Check.

The Certificate for Self Employed People will no longer be valid after their expiry date and the certificate holders will need to apply for a new Working With Children Check.

Parents or carers should ask their child's tutor or coach for their name, date of birth and their Working With Children Check number.

They must then go online and verify the tutor or coach is not barred from working with children in NSW.

Verifying that a tutor or coach can work with children is quick and easy – just follow the simple steps at [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/parentscheckthecheck](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/parentscheckthecheck)

If you suspect that an adult is providing services to children without a Working With Children Check you can go online to make a confidential report or phone (02) 9286 7219.

Help to keep kids safe by sharing #parentscheckthecheck with your family and friends through your own social media networks.

## MUNA

Last Friday and Saturday, our Cuban ladies (Yr. 10 Jenna Besford and Emily O’Kane), coached and supported by Miss Samantha Turnbull competed in the Mock United Nations Assembly competition.

MUNA is a great way to learn more about other countries and to socialise with other Hunter schools in a friendly competition. Thank you to the Muswellbrook Rotary Club for their commitment to the program and for providing such a worthwhile extra curricula program for our students to be involved in.

**Ms E Bate**  
**Principal**

## EFTPOS

The office at Muswellbrook High School now has Eftpos facilities available for payment of fees and excursions. Sorry no cash out!



## Information for Parents/Carers

### Term 2

<https://parents.au.reachout.com/>



#### Technology and teenagers

For many teenagers, technology and the internet make up a large part of their day. It can often be hard to understand why teenagers use technology and what they are using it for. Similarly, it’s hard to know what constitutes normal technology use. [Learn more](#) about how teenagers use technology, what responsible use looks like, and when there might be problems with how your child is spending their time online.

#### Personal identity and self-discovery

The teenage years can be filled with self-discovery, as teenagers try to figure out who they are as a young adult. While this is a common part of growing up, it can also be a very confusing time for young people and their parents and carers. While young people are discovering their sexuality and gender identity, it is important that they have information and support through this ever-changing process. [Learn more](#) about identity, sexuality and gender, and find out how to offer your support during this process.

#### Knowing the difference between a bad mood and depression

Teenagers can be moody from time to time. But as parents it can be difficult to know when bad moods are a sign of depression. Statistics show that **1 in 16 young people** aged between 16 and 24 experience depression at any one time. [Find out what to look for](#) if you think your teenager is experiencing depression.

## Model United Nations Assembly

MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) is all about building bridges of goodwill for world peace and understanding in the minds of our youth. MUNA challenges our youth to respect and tolerate differences of race, religion and nationalism whilst retaining their own individualism and the best of their national traditions.

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual District 9670 Rotary MUNA was held in Muswellbrook on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2016.

Seventeen teams from schools all around Newcastle and the Hunter Valley participated, representing countries from all around the globe, including the United States, the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt, Russia, Iraq, Malaysia, and China.

The Muswellbrook High School team, consisting of Emily O'Kane and Jenna Besford from Year 10, represented Cuba.

The event began on Friday night with a dinner at Muswellbrook RSL Club where the teams introduced themselves and gave an overview of their country and its beliefs. A big part of MUNA is making sure that the teams present the views of the nation they are representing, rather than their own personal views, so it was fun to hear to the perspectives of different countries, and the friendly sledging that occurred between nations.

After a very late night at the John Hunter Motel that included last minute research and tactical alignment, the official assembly was opened at the Muswellbrook Council Chambers on Saturday morning. The seventeen teams debated a variety of resolutions that included the rights of indigenous peoples, the rise of terrorism and violent extremism, the situation in Syria, climate change, the United States embargo on Cuba, and many other international concerns. Emily and Jenna researched and prepared responses to these issues, but also had to be prepared to improvise responses as well. This meant they were able to develop a deeper understanding of global issues and the impact of these on a developing nation. They performed admirably, showcasing talented debating skills and diplomacy! I was extremely proud of how well the girls debated their points and interacted with the other teams.



We would like to congratulate the team from Merewether High School representing South Africa, who have been chosen to attend the state competition in Canberra.

**Ms S Turnbull**  
**English Teacher**

## **Year 11 Senior Science & Biology field trip to Gulgong**

Week 4 Term 2 and a significant number of Year 11's, Mr Drewe, Ms Jung, Ms Wales, Prac Teacher, Mrs Butt and volunteer teacher Mr Lonergan were off for the excursion of the year, hosted by Redhill Environmental Education Centre at Gulgong.

This excursion covers the mandatory ecology fieldwork for Preliminary Biology and Senior Science students in the best possible circumstances.

Our first day was spent at the recently protected Drip Gorge. This is a spectacular setting to measure the physical factors that influence aquatic plants and animals and the water quality was also tested by analyzing the number and type of bugs in the water. The more intrepid hunters (like Jayden Parker) provided the greater diversity of bugs and we all got to distinguish between fish, tadpoles and invertebrates!

We also did an analysis of the riparian (riverside) vegetation and the more adventurous explored further downstream.

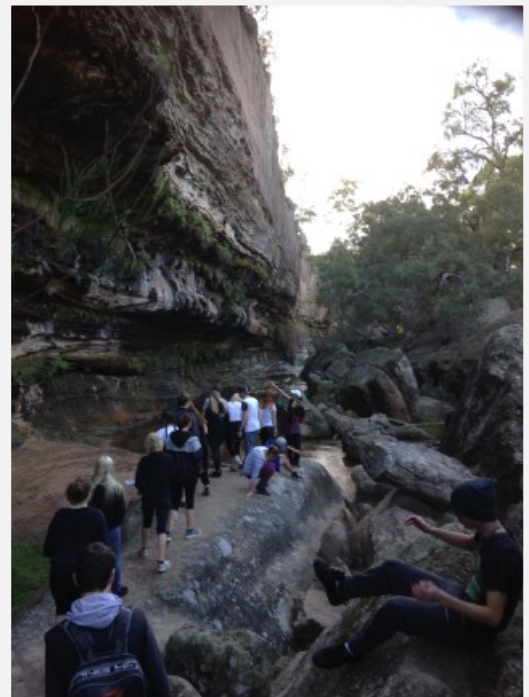
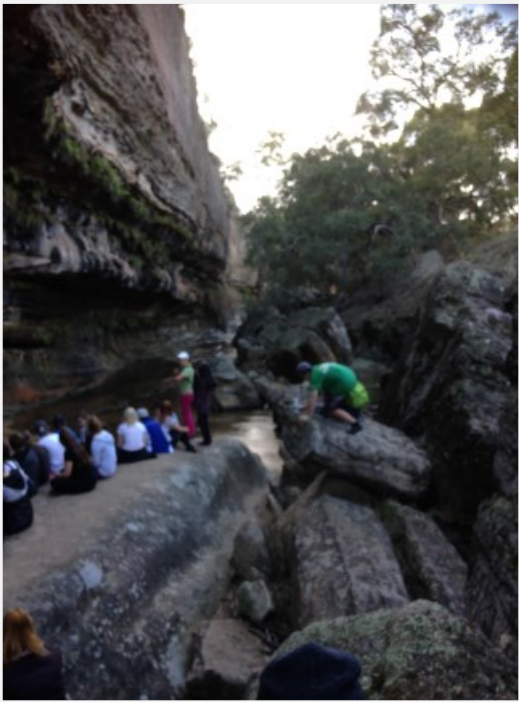
In Gulgong, we had a fabulous meal at the Prince of Wales and spent the evening excitedly talking, playing twister and draughts, but mostly talking. Ms Jung saw to it that everyone got sleep.

Wednesday, after a walk to the lookout for the energetic, we were off to Munghorn Gap for the vegetation surveys. This involved learning how to measure the height of the trees using isosceles triangles, identifying the different trees and shrubs in transects and quadrats, reading topographical maps and looking for and identifying animal calling cards.

Muswellbrook High School has long held a terrific reputation in Gulgong and the Education Centre and this year, with our largest group ever, we truly consolidated our image as young people that "have a go". As always, this excursion ran with the support of the teachers back at school, covering lessons and Mrs Bailey pulling all the threads together.

### **Ms Wales Science Teacher**





## Positive Behaviour for Learning

**P**

Winners of the \$50 Big W gift vouchers.

So far this term:

**B**

Week 1- no draw

Week 2- Jorja Boyd yr7

**L**

Week 3- Lachlan Barnes yr8



## Open Boys Touch Football– Final 8 series

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May definitely wasn't an unlucky day for the Open Boys Touch Football Team. They took to the touch football fields behind Hunter Stadium, Newcastle, to defend their domination of the CHS Touch Football competition in the Final 8 series.

The team needed to win their first 2 games in order to progress through to the next stage of the competition. Round 1 saw Muswellbrook matched up against Lambton High School. This ended as a close game, with Muswellbrook taking a while to assert their dominance and find their groove. The final score saw MHS winning 4-3, with Jason, John, Bailey and Blake putting the points on the board for the first game.

The second round was another good match up again Taree High School. After a slow start both our offence and defence picked up their game and worked their magic. John and Blake both added another try to their tally and Bailey was able to pick up a hat-trick, with one dummy pass on the try line leaving the defenders clueless as to where the ball was. The 5-3 win in this game secured their advancement into the next stage of the competition, however a final game would decide their placing's and which team they will face in the next region.

Callaghan College was our final challenge for the day and the game started try for try and looked to be a very close game. About half way through MHS put their foot on the accelerator and ran away with game, leaving Callaghan in their dust with a convincing 7-3 win at full time. Bailey put another 2 tries under his belt with the other try scorers for the game being Paul, Jacob, Jake, Jarrod and Jason.

After a successful day at the touch fields the Opens Boys team will be making their way to the South Coast region to play their next game in the next few weeks! Stay tuned for more reports to come.

Special thanks goes out to Paddy McTaggart and Finlay McTaggart who came and assisted with refereeing for the day, Timothy Barnett and Reinhard Lategan who were the Sports Coaching assistants, and Lenny Craft who gave additional insight and assistance to the team on the day.

**Miss French**  
**Head Teacher PDHPE**



## OPEN BOYS TOUCH FOOTBALL TEAM:

Joel Barner

Jason McKay

Jake Bartush

Kane Cubillo

Paul Dengate

Blake Shackleton

Bailey Taylor

Jarrold Watts

Jacob Button

Steven Dengate

John Page

Zaine Stewart

Thomas Bianco (injured)

**Coach:** Miss French



## P & C Meeting

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Our next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> June , 7pm in the school library.



## **My Japan Trip - Meg Rankin, Year 9 student**

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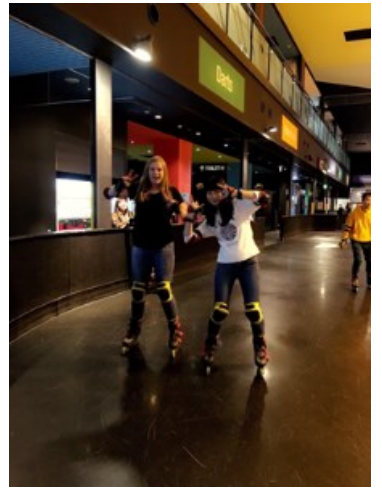
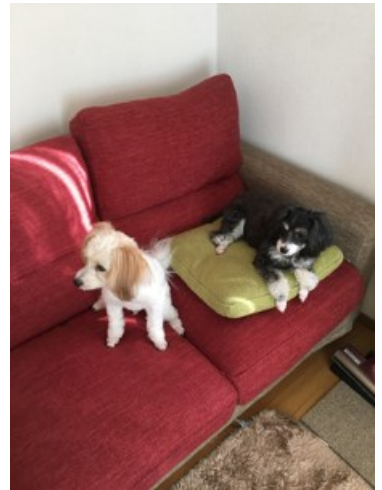
The last 20 days have been so amazing and I really, really didn't want to leave my new Japanese friends! On the 3rd of April I was so keen to leave and to be honest I was nervous at all, the plane trip there was long and uncomfortable which made me way too tired to appreciate anything on the 4th. However after a good night's sleep I was ready for the rest of the trip!

Highlights of the first 9 days for me were; Kinkakuji, Fushimi Inari and the extremely wet climb up all those stairs, Okonomiyaki, Hiroshima which I found absolutely breathtaking, seeing Mt Fuji and the delicious ice cream at the top of the cable car, the baseball, Cosmo world, the crepe at Harajuku and last but not least Disneyland and the amazing light parade. I was absolutely stunned by the cherry blossoms, they were one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen in my life and we were so lucky to have caught them at the right time! By the time we were finished at Disneyland I was so excited for the homestay mainly because I really wanted to see Natsumi again, I had been looking forward to it the whole trip really.

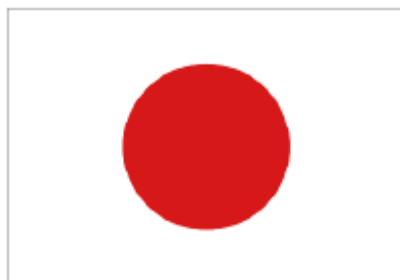
I was a tiny bit nervous to speak Japanese on the assembly but it wasn't that big of a deal. As soon as I saw Natsumi I couldn't wait to spend more time with her and meet her family! My first night in her house was fun but I was absolutely exhausted so I pretty much just had a bath, ate dinner and went to bed. The next day we took an excursion to go to a soy sauce factory and then to canoeing which was pretty good, then to the shops with Kotaro and James then back to Kotaros house for dinner which was so yummy and really fun to meet all his friends and Family!

My highlights from then on were: Going out for sushi with Natsumi and Mami (her mum), the BBQ at Kotaros house, going to Round 1 on Sunday, going bowling after the tree planing on Monday, the excursion to Kawagoe and then staying afterwards and meeting Kotaro to go to KFC and the amazing ice cream Ashlea and I had there, the farewell Party : (, my last dinner when we went out for a buffet with Natsumi and her family, eating lunch with Natsumi, Katsuya and Yori, the numerous walks and bike rides shared with Natsumi and last but not least her adorable family (and dogs) who tried as hard as they possibly could to make me feel at home and get the best out of the experience!! Every single one of these things made the goodbye even harder and I was so so so sad to leave. I miss them so much!!

The homestay as well as the rest of the trip is something that I really enjoyed and will never forget, this trip was an amazing opportunity that I am so glad that I took advantage of! I honestly just loved it so much and there were next to no moments when I would have rathered be in Australia! I am so thankful to all my new and old friend from Muswellbrook and Sayama that made this trip the best it could be for me.



# JAPAN 2016



From April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 14 students and 7 adults (teachers, teacher's aides and staff) travelled to Japan on our biannual trip to visit our sister school in Saitama.

The first 9 days were spent travelling and enjoying the sights of Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Mt. Fuji, Tokyo and Yokohama. Highlights included the Memorial Peace Park in Hiroshima where we left our carefully folded 1000 cranes, climbing up Inari Shrine with thousands of red gates, staying in a Japanese style hotel at the foothills of Mt. Fuji and awakening to the best view ever, watching an exciting baseball game in Yokohama, Disneyland with the amazing rides and light parade at night, trying lots of yummy dishes at various restaurants and shopping at 100 yen shops and convenience stores everywhere.



Next we moved to Saitama and students started their 8 nights of homestay. At school we all participated in an array of activities including Table Tennis, Soccer, Kyudo (archery), Kendo (fencing), Shorinji Kenpo (A type of martial arts), Calligraphy, Flower Arrangement, Basketball, Brass Band, as well as Science, English and Food Technology. Students and their hosts also went on two excursions to a soy sauce factory and canoeing on a dam and shopping to a traditional old town.

At the end of our stay it was sad to say goodbye to new friends and host families and teachers and staff at Sayama Seiryō Senior High School. We will be hosting Japanese students in July 2017 and our next trip to Japan is planned for January 2018 to perhaps see some sights in the snow! A few recounts of the trip from the students follows.



The MHS Japan Trip was an amazing experience and it was really fun. We went to a lot of wonderful and interesting places in Japan and experienced their culture. All the places were beautiful and the country was really clean and there wasn't a single piece of trash on the ground. The people were really nice and they tried their best to communicate to us. They were really helpful and cheerful. The school and homestay was a nice experience as well. Mrs Kitagawa was very kind and we had lots of fun conversations. She said that she wasn't good at cooking but she tried her best to make me food everyday and I thought that was really nice. I made a few friends in school and I tried my best to communicate with them in Japanese. Some of them were really good at English and a few tried their best to talk to us. My friends were an interesting bunch and they were really funny. The trip was really fun and if I have the chance I would definitely do it again in the future.

**By Justine Beldad (Year 10)**



I liked visiting the temples and shrines, my favourite was the Golden Temple, where I got a really good fortune. Even though we had to walk a lot at most of them they were really interesting and I loved looking around and taking photos. I made many great memories in Japan, especially with my host family and at school. My favourite activity at the school was Shorinji Kempo (a Japanese martial art). Staying with my host family was my favourite part, it was a little bit awkward at first but that vanished quickly. My favourite meal with my host family was

corn soup and spaghetti for dinner and dough buys for breakfast. I experienced many things with my host family, such as Puri Kura and a crazy dog. Japan was an experience I will never forget and I wish I could go again. **By Gracie Wallis (Year 10)**



My favourite part about Japan was going to Disneyland. I enjoyed riding on the rollercoaster even though it only went for about 10 seconds. Gracie and I walked around for about 20 minutes just trying to find something to eat. The ride I enjoyed the most was Splash Mountain and we got soaked from all the water. **By Katie Van-Vliet (Year 10)**



## **NEW Bus pass process—Rural & Regional Travel Passes**



We wish to inform you that as of the 12 May 2016 bus pass applications will be changing. From 12 May 2016 the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) online application will be updated, and all SSTS applications must be completed online via:

[www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)

When selecting the forms you will need to ensure you select the travelling outside the Opal network section. Please note that Opal is NOT in our area.

Once this form is completed online the school will then need to verify it and forward it to:

**Transport for NSW  
Parramatta Office  
Locked Bag 5085  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124**

Once the application is back with Transport for NSW endorsed by the school they will send a confirmation email to the appropriate local transport company. The local company will create a bus pass which will be handed out by the driver.

If people do not have access to the internet you can call **131 500**.

**Use the link below to go straight to the application form**

<https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/applyNow>



Grab your sleeping bag, favourite pillow and warm jarmies...and join local community service organisations, school students, service clubs, local polities and identities for the.....

**2<sup>nd</sup> ..... NATIONAL VINNIE'S CEO SLEEPOUT  
FUNDRAISING EFFORT**

**AT**

**THE MUSWELLBROOK SHOWGROUND**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2016**

**AT 6.00PM**

**\$25:00 Sleepover donation includes**

**A light meal of soup, rolls, tea, coffee and slices  
will be provided**



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*



## CAREERS/CULTURAL CAMP

The Ochre Opportunity Hub – Upper Hunter would like to invite students from within Upper Hunter from Years 10, 11 & 12 to attend their upcoming Career/Cultural Camp.

**WHEN:** 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016.

**WHERE:** Hunter TAFE - Kurri Kurri Campus

**COST:** \$50.00 per student

*(the cost of the event will cover transport, accommodation and all meals whilst at the camp)*

Come along and be involved in a variety of activities to be conducted over 3 days. You will have the opportunity to speak to various organisations/service providers in relation to your Career Aspirations & you will also be actively involved in a variety of Cultural Activities.

*“Come along & meet students from other schools within the Upper Hunter”*

If you would like further information please call Toll Free: 1300 363 575

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Facebook**— [facebook.com/mbkhigh](https://www.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](http://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

27th May	Singleton HSC Seminars
28th May–4th June	Outward Bound departs 10pm, Return 9pm 4 June
14th June-15th June	Year 12 Biology/Senior Science Excursion
17th June	Science and Engineering Challenge
21st June	Naidoc Assembly
24th June	Zone Athletics
30th June	Newcastle Uni Schools Day
1st July	Last day of Term 2
19th July	Term 3 commences for all students