



Muswellbrook High School



"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"

NEWSLETTER

8th Nov 2017



Principals Report

HSC

Our HSC external exams have almost finished and they have been conducted without incident. Thank you to our Yr. 12 2017 for your respectful behaviour. Thank you also to Mr Copland, Mrs Tracey Pengelly and exam supervisors for ensuring the exams continue in a calm and organised manner.

I am impressed by the maturity, respect and generosity of spirit that our Yr. 12 students have towards their school. The final week of school in Term 3 was great fun with a dress up day on the Wednesday, a staff and student BBQ on the Thursday morning, followed by their Farewell Assembly. This was an outstanding Assembly where staff and student acknowledged our Yr. 12 school leaders and wished them all the best for the HSC and beyond. The Yr. 12 Year Adviser, Mrs Debbie Vardanega and Senior Prep room teacher, Mrs Fiona Bailey were thanked for their commitment to this year group.

The Yr. 12 Formal on the Friday evening was a fabulous evening for all. Our young people looked amazing and it was wonderful to see them dancing and enjoying one another's company as a year group for the final time.

Generous Community – thank you

Muswellbrook is such a generous community and I would like to acknowledge the following sources of funding that make so many opportunities possible for our students:

Muswellbrook business community came together to sponsor a game of ten pin bowls at Muswellbrook, which featured Mayor Martin Rush.

The funds raised by the business community will go towards the purchase of additional sensors for the data logger. This equipment will increase the range of experiments that can be performed and improve the digital capture and analysis of skills of students working in Science and STEM at Muswellbrook HS.

Thank you to the Muswellbrook Shire Council, Mayor Martin Rush, Mr Kevin Dougherty and the Muswellbrook community for your generosity. The Muswellbrook community have donated \$1000.00 towards this equipment. A tremendous show of support for our school – thank you.

CFMEU Northern Mining and NSW Energy District have generously donated \$4000.00 towards the purchase of five wireless Lavalier microphones for our upcoming School Musical Production. Thank you also to Muswellbrook Worker Club for their generous donation of \$2500.00 towards the mics. The school will be working towards a total of approximately \$12,000 to complete the project.

Student Opportunities – worldwide!

Some of our students have had the most amazing opportunity to travel during the past school holidays. Just prior to the holidays, students from the Polly Farmer Foundation were provided with the opportunity to travel to Australia's red centre to visit Alice Springs. This memorable excursion had a focus on Science and Technology.

Three students from the Girls Academy travelled to Japan to experience their unique culture.

Lastly – two student leaders returned from the memorable experience of trekking the Kokoda Trek in PNG. Thank you to the Muswellbrook Workers Club for sponsoring Joel Hartin and Marcus Morris to have this life changing experience.

Change of executive structure

2018 will bring a change of Executive structure at Muswellbrook HS. The school will have Head Teachers dedicated to each Stage. These HT will work with the Stage Year Advisors to tailor a yearly program specific to the needs of each cohort. The new Stage HT positions have been restructured from existing positions of HT Administration, HT Wellbeing and HT Learning Support. Mrs Sharon Young will take on the Stage 4 HT role, Ms Narelle Smith, Stage 5 HT and Mrs Kylie Kelly, Stage 6 HT. Mr Stephen Baird will be HT HSIE.

Year Advisors will survey the students in their year, determine the specific wellbeing needs of the year and develop a program that will support their students to develop our Positive Behaviour for Learning Expectations of *Respect, Responsibility and Resilience*.

Our staff are excited to bring this new structure to the school and we look forward to working with our students and families to strengthen Muswellbrook HS as a place of learning and wellbeing.

STEM initiative

It was a great afternoon of learning and celebration at the University of Newcastle's (UoN) STEM Presentation and Award Evening. This evening was the culmination of a Term's worth of inquiry based learning in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths with passionate academics from UoN. The aim of the project was to bring women working in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers together with STEM educators, researchers and high school students, to encourage young women to pursue careers in STEM. The students worked on a range of projects that included managing the issue of Flying Foxes in the community, energy use in local homes, along with a website to map local community gardens. Congratulations to all students involved.

SRC 2018

We are currently in the midst of the incoming Student Representative Council elections. The current SRC student leaders have done an outstanding job and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one. They have participated in a host of leadership opportunities, including the Appreciative Inquiry Summits (Student Leadership and the Upper Hunter Community), BurnBright and whole school assemblies. Thank you to Mrs Kat Byrnes and Mrs Samantha Fragar for their time and encouragement with our student leaders.

Ms Jin Jung and Mr Rod Glase will work with our 2018 Leadership group. I have been impressed with the quality and number of students stepping forward to nominate for our 2018 SRC leadership team. This demonstrates a healthy attitude from our students and a belief that they have something to add to make Muswellbrook HS an even better place to be. The aims of SRC is to; provide a forum for student opinion, develop leadership, promote improvement in the school and to promote school spirit.

The Induction of our new SRC will take place at a whole school assembly on 21 November. The Wollemi School Director, Mr Mark Young, will be present at this special SRC Induction Assembly.

Deputy Principals Report—Scott Copland

Due to the closure of the local shoe shop, it has become difficult for some parents to purchase the required footwear for students attending Muswellbrook High School. While a number of students await shoe orders online could you please ensure that your son or daughter follows the correct procedures if out of uniform. It's important if any student is wearing the incorrect shoes they must have a note explaining when they will be getting the correct shoes. This note will be signed by a Deputy Principal and the student will then be able to present this to any teacher requesting evidence they have had a discussion with a Deputy Principal about their shoes.

In the case of a student's wearing the incorrect shirt, pants or jumper, the school will issue a clean replacement for the day. We take our uniform seriously and encourage parents to help support our school in maintaining one of the best uniformed schools in NSW's. Thank you.

Yr7 Development days—Narelle Smith

Just a reminder that payment is now due for the annual Year 7 development days. The program incorporates 3 days and has run successfully over numerous years.

Dates - 29th, 30th November and 1st December.

Students will be broken into smaller groups where they will rotate through various activities.

A day at school with key note speakers.

A walking excursion around the Muswellbrook area organised by the HSIE department.

A trip to Newcastle including dining at a Japanese Restaurant.

Payment for this program is \$55 which can be paid at the front office.

Please note - That during these dates there are no normal classes that run at MHS as alternate program are run across all year ,levels off school grounds.

Please contact Year Advisor Sam Turnbull or Head Teacher Wellbeing Narelle Smith if you require further information.

Reminder to Year 11 Parents

On Wednesday 29th November to Friday 1st December 2017, a Crossroads camp has been organised for Year 11 students. Crossroads is a mandatory program for students in Years 11 and/or 12 in NSW government schools. It is designed to help senior students address issues of health, safety and wellbeing at a time when they face significant changes and challenges in their lives. Crossroads aims to prepare and support these students as they encounter situations related to identity, independence and their changing responsibilities. It also aims to build students' sense of empowerment and respect for themselves and others.

Year 11 students will undertake this program as well as a number of outdoor activities such as, but not limited to, rock climbing, abseiling, giant rope swing, high ropes course, raft building etc over a 3 day stay at the Gosford Centre of the Outdoor Education NSW. It is a fantastic experience for all students to participate in a range of outdoor activities with their peers in a beautiful bush setting.

Students who are unable to attend the camp will be required to be at school for the three days to complete the Crossroads content online.

A reminder that money and permission notes are due to the office by Monday November 13th at the latest. Any questions please call Ms Tier (Year 11 Advisor) at school.

LIFESAVING

It is that time of the year again and Mandatory Lifesaving is fast approaching. The three days for Years 8, 9 & 10 are on Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th November and Friday 1st December.

Our aim is to train your child to be water safe and challenge them to learn new skills in an ordinary or familiar environment, such as their local public pool.

All students will be expected to actively participate in water safety activities, both in and out of the pool, as well as CPR and Sunsmart training.

Some of our Year 10 students will be training as Instructors and, ably assisted by staff, will be teaching fellow students to become water capable.

Muswellbrook High School's expectation is that every student in Years 8, 9 & 10 will attend for all of the three school days at Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. Your child has chosen a level they believe that is both challenging and achievable.

Permission notes will be sent home and we request that they be signed and returned promptly. These notes include the cost of each level and we request that if your child is attempting a BRONZE level, that the cost is prepaid by Friday 24th November at the front office at the school. Each level requires clothing, apart from their swimsuits, and is duly noted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Leanne Duck on 65431033.



Year 12, 2018 Senior Prep Room

Welcome to the final year of your studies Year 12, 2018 students and parents. Students are required to attend the Prep Room for all their timetabled “free periods” instead of the HUB, from now on. Students are able to leave early on days when they have final lessons free but should stay at school if they have assessments due. The Senior Prep Room is a place for planning, editing or finalising assessment tasks, homework, covering some welfare issues or discovering more about themselves, making study notes or seeking assistance from myself or other teachers.

We also have a Milo Club where students are able to make tea, coffee or milo for a small cost. There is a fridge and microwave available for the students to use.

Students should also be attending the Maths Study Hall in the HUB on Tuesdays after school and the English Study Group on Wednesday afternoons. Specialist teachers make themselves available to assist students with these subjects. We must remember our students are competing with students from across the state for the HSC but also from surrounding areas for apprenticeships, jobs and TAFE positions and they should be taking advantage of all the opportunities available to them.

I am fortunate to be timetabled into the Prep Room for most of the lessons, with Mrs McDonald (our Careers Advisor) covering the remainder of the lessons. I am tracking student attendance and the learning, study and social wellbeing needs of our students and working with Mrs Kelly and Ms Tier, who will begin meeting students individually to prepare an ILP (Individual Learning Plan) with every student continuing into Year 12.

CAREERS

This term, students will be provided with further opportunities to expand their knowledge in a variety of fields with the following programs:

Defence Force – 15th November

University of Wollongong/STEM – 22nd November

‘Flying Start’ Godolphin Program – 5th December

White Card Course – 6th December

Information about each program will be distributed to students when further details are available.

Online Careers Information – All parents/carers and students of Muswellbrook High School have access to an online resource tool which provides information about subject selections, career information (even pay rates and industry demand), course information for both University, TAFE and private providers, links to job vacancies and apprenticeship or traineeship opportunities.

To register (which is free) go to:

www.jobjump.com.au

enter the school name 'Muswellbrook High School'

enter the password 'cattledogs'

then click on the top right corner box 'I'm new' and enter your personal details to create your individual password.

Students are also encouraged to regularly read updated information on the MHS Careers page, which can be found from the schools website (under curriculum) or by going to:

www.muswellbrookhighcareers.com

This site contains general information regarding job readiness and has information directly relating to students at Muswellbrook High School, together with a Careers Calendar.

Opportunities and information will still be placed out the front of Careers. If you are unsure about access to any of the above sites, or have any questions regarding Careers, please speak to Mrs McDonald.



**UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA**

**Hunter Region STEM
Travelling Roadshows**
**20th— 24th November
2017**



The University of Wollongong in partnership with RDA Hunter's ME Program is running a STEM travelling roadshow in the Hunter region's Secondary Schools in November 2017.

The STEM Roadshow has a particular focus on increasing the engagement of girls and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in interactive STEM programs.

Cohort: Years 9, 10 and 11.
Numbers: Up to 150 students
Time: Fun hands-on interactive

ENQUIRIES:
Rick Evans 0434 489 609
rick.evans@rdahunter.org.au

INSIGHT EVENINGS



GAIN A VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO STUDYING BUSINESS AND LAW.

The Faculty of Business and Law invites students in years 10 and 11 and their families to learn about the study and career options in the areas of Business, Commerce, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Law at our insight evenings.

We encourage students and their families to take advantage of the exclusive opportunity to interact and connect with Business and Law academics and university students, whilst experiencing first hand our brand new learning and study environment NeW Space.

BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND INNOVATION INSIGHT EVENING

Wednesday 15 November 2017
5:30 to 7:30pm
Level 5, NeW Space, 409 Hunter St Newcastle 2300

**REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE VIA
BUSCOMINSIGHTEVENING2017.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU**

LAW INSIGHT EVENING

Tuesday 21 November 2017
5:30 to 7:30pm
Level 1, NeW Space, 409 Hunter St Newcastle 2300

**REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE VIA
LAWINSIGHTEVENING2017.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU**

Attention medicine hopefuls! MedEntry will be conducting an intensive Medical Interview Training workshop in all major cities in Australia and New Zealand from November to January. The sessions are conducted by Doctors for Doctors-to-be and are specific to the university/course for which you are applying. Due to popularity of this unique program, classes have already started to fill up. Places are strictly limited. Details at: <http://www.medentry.edu.au/>

Stage 5 STEM – Motorcross Protective Gears required.

Our STEM students are in desperate need for safety equipment to wear during Electric Vehicle Competition. If you have any student sized motocross gears including helmets, safety goggles, gloves and boots, please consider donating them to the school. Our students are keen to participate and complete the race and highly appreciative for any required components that can be provided.

Parents are also welcome to attend the event day at Cameron Park GoKart Racing Track.

Any enquiries regarding the safety gears can be directed to Ms Jung or Mrs Byrnes.

Thank you.

Ms Jung

Mrs Byrnes

Science/STEM

TAS/STEM

Year 12 vs Teachers Fundraising Basketball Game

On Friday, 15th September 2017, an event of great rivalry was staged, in the school MPC. Year 12 students challenged the staff of MHS to a duel – basketball style and what an event it was! Junior students across all grades showed up in groups, paying a gold coin donation (to put towards the Year 12's graduation gift to the school) to witness this showcase of incredible skill, grace and sportsmanship. The music was pumping, the sidelines and stage were packed, and at 1:10pm, the game kicked off.

Year 12 fought a gallant fight, bringing the heat hard and fast against the teacher's team. Players were knocked over, knees were grazed and many, many laughs were shared. The junior students raised the roof each time the Year 12 team would score, and while the cheers for the teachers were a lot quieter, it did not lower morale or efforts on the teacher's team. At the final buzzer, youth was no match for experience with the teachers dominating the game 36 points to 16.

It was a very special and hilariously fun way to spend some time with our Year 12s outside of the classroom before they graduate in Week 10. Thanks to all junior students and staff who came along and supported the event, Talesin Court-Kriesch for his organisation and leadership and Mrs Vardanega for organising the event.

Team Teachers: Mr Case, Mr Bavister, Mr Inks, Mr McCallum, Mr Brash, Mr Howard, Mrs Vardanega, Miss Sturtridge, Miss Bowe, Elizabeth Howard (Girls Academy), Kim Kemp (SLSO), Mr Royal.

Team Year 12: Blake Shackleton, Dalwyn Brown, Geoff McBride, Jesse Streader, Jake Bartush, Adam Whitten, Damon Boeckx, Bailey Taylor, Jayden Parker, Chloe Castray, Jack Lee, Lillian Robinson, Taylor Motbey, Molly Ruttley, Talesin Court-Kriesch



ALL MY OWN WORK

Muswellbrook High Students Year 10 students have undertaken another big step in preparation for their HSC. Students completed their mandatory HSC, All My Own Work program which is designed to assist students in following appropriate principles and practices when preparing and submitting assessments. Students learnt about understanding, valuing and using ethical practices and penalties. They listened to various speakers and then completed an online examination.

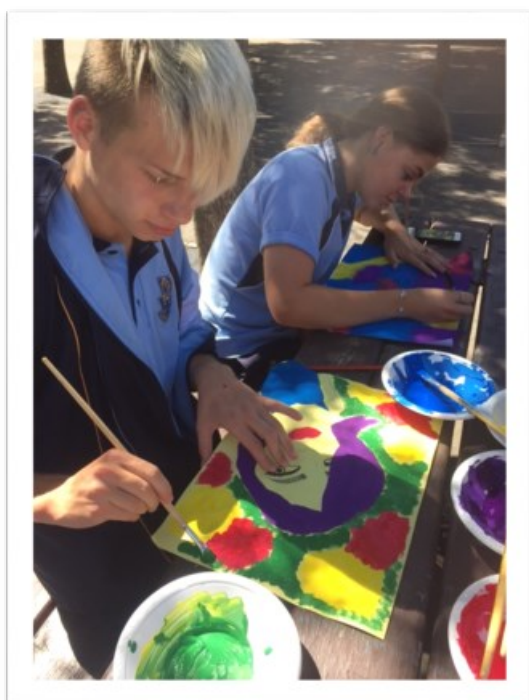


LOVE BITES

Love Bites is an extremely successful school based Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault prevention program. The aim of the program includes providing a safe environment in which young people can talk in a supportive environment, learn skills to support their friends and family members and discuss appropriate behaviours and expectations, encourage respectful relationships and change attitudes towards Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault. The afternoon session involved students involved in either a creative arts session or drama session which was delivered back to the group.

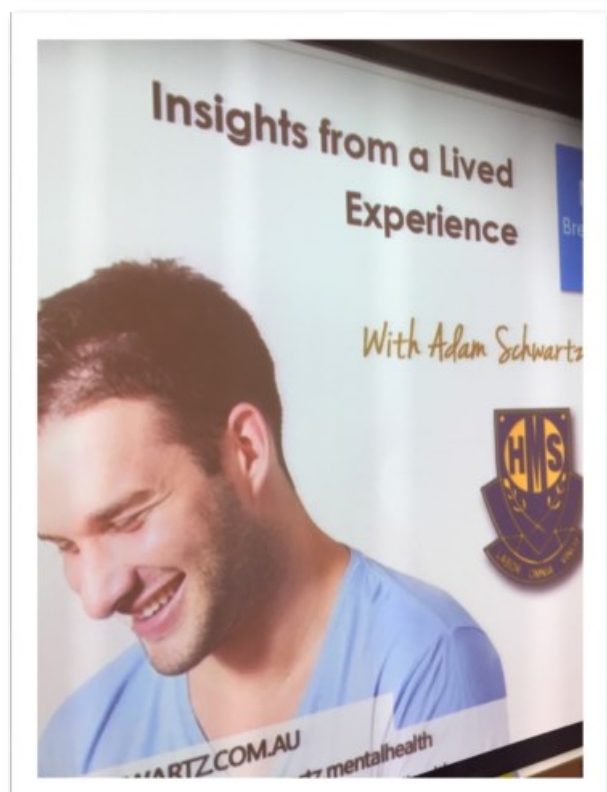
Narelle Smith
Head Teacher Wellbeing

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE



Muswellbrook High School would like to thank Upper Hunter Community Services who assisted in facilitating guest speaker Adam Schwartz to deliver his story to MHS Year 10 and 11 students. Adam took both the students and staff on a journey through his mental health experiences and how he worked with various clinicians and programs to be in a place now where he is able to help teenagers who find themselves on a similar path. Adam connected with the student body delivering an honest, engaging and thought provoking speech.

Narelle Smith
Head Teacher Wellbeing (RELIEVING)
RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE



REACH PROGRAM year 9 and 10

Being a teenager can be tough. Our students can experience various challenges as they proceed through their studies and enter the big wide world. It is important that we teach not only literacy and numeracy skills but also skills inline with our PBL expectations of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

The REACH program is a program that has successfully run at MHS for several years. Year 9 and 10 students recently undertook the program. With Youth facilitators being only a couple of years older than the students, they are able to make meaningful connections and deliver a program that makes the students stop and really think about their actions and how they may impact on their peers. They allow the students in a supportive environment to talk freely about situations that may have occurred and the impact it has had on them.

Year 9 and 10 students should be commended on their maturity, sensitivity and involvement in the program.

Year 9 Basketball—Peter Melling

This year the year 9 boys basketball team represented Muswellbrook high school. They spent a lot of time at school training and it showed in their performance. They won the first two round games easily to make it into the playoffs in Maitland. They had a great day and finished in the top eight schools in the Hunter Region!

Special thanks to Mr McCallum for his work with the team including the basketball party. Also Talesin stepped up to coach the boys as well as organise the student vs teacher fundraiser game.

This year has been a very successful year for basketball at Muswellbrook high school and we could not have done it without the support of the **Muswellbrook Amateur Basketball Association**. You can find them on Facebook.



Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre students in Alice Springs



During Week 10 of Term 3, 15 Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre students travelled from Muswellbrook up to the Northern Territory to spend a week in Alice Springs.

Whilst there students ran Science based workshops with the Polly Farmer students. At Gillen and Bradshaw Primary School worked with their students to make volcanoes. Whilst visiting Centralian Middle School they ran a workshop and made solar panelled cars.

We were also immersed in a range of Science and cultural activities including; visiting the Desert Park, Emily Gap, Simpson Gap, the Telegraph Station, a Nocturnal walk, Araluen Cultural Centre, School of Air, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Angkerle Cultural Experience, Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and Earth Sanctuary.

This experience was funded by the Federal Government and Bengalla Mines and I would like to publicly thank them for their support of this project. This trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity and the students were fantastic and a real asset to themselves, their community, Muswellbrook High School and the Polly Farmer Foundation.

April Flannery
Program Coordinator

Our PBL winners so far this term are:

Week 1—Tameka Shorter—Yr 7

Week 2—Destiny Perrrett—Yr 10

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAMEKA AND DESTINY!!!

MOBILE SCHOOL DENTAL TO VISIT MUSWELLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL IN 2018 FOR CURRENT YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Just a reminder to return your permission notes to Miss Smith ASAP, if you would like your child to see the Mobile School Dentist in Term 1, 2018. Paperwork must be submitted before the end of this term. If you require a new form please phone the front office and leave a message including your child's name and I will send you another form.

Please note - This program is accessible for students who are currently in Year 7 in 2017.

Narelle Smith
Head Teacher Wellbeing

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE





Family Running of the Colours and Fun night

Starting at McKinnon Oval Aberdeen

4:30pm Saturday 18th November

Join us for an afternoon/evening of fun, family games, bands, food,
a bar and colour.

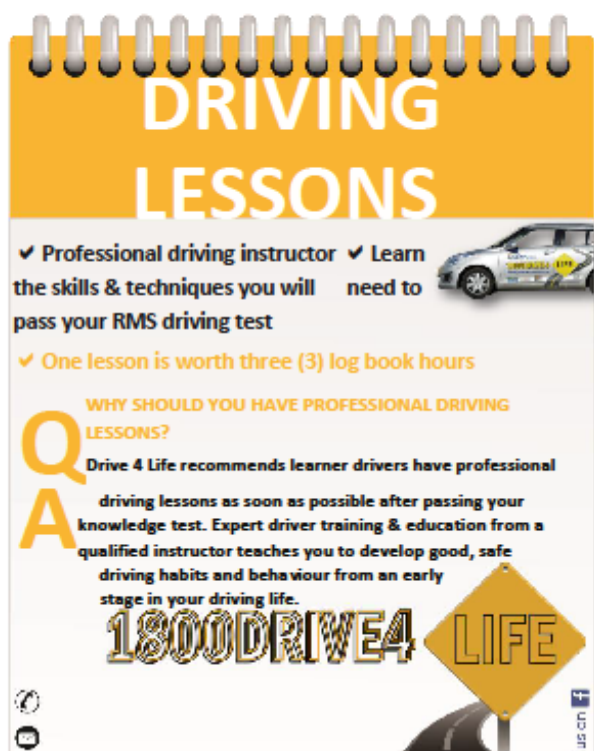
Running packs and entry passes available for purchase at the
PCYC.

Entry Adult \$45.00

Under 16 \$25.00, under 5's Free

Running pack includes T-shirts, sunnies and headband and more.

For more information please call the club on 6541 1434



1800DRIVE4 LIFE

1800 374 834

**drivertrain-
ing@joblinkplus.com.au**

www.1800drive4life.com.au

Junior Golf Clinics

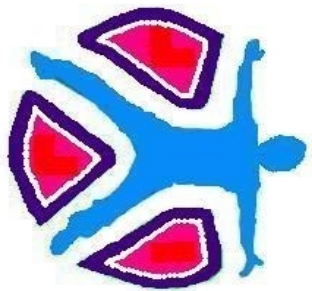
Golf clinics are held Wednesday afternoons from 4pm-5pm.

All ages and abilities are welcome.

Cost: \$6

Enquires: Phone Jason Taylor (PGA Professional) on 65432128 or visit the Pro Shop at the Muswellbrook Golf Club on Bell Street.

Rikki-Lee Moore
PDHPE Teacher/Sports Coordinator
Muswellbrook High School



Upper Hunter Youth Services Inc - Youth Centre

NOVEMBER Calendar 2017

Open Wed-Fri 3pm –6pm Free bus run home provided in Muswellbrook area

Located at

The Showground,

Maitland Street

PO Box 628

Muswellbrook NSW

2333

Phone: (02) 65434841



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
		1 SOCIAL SKILLS Learning that winning is	2 GROUP ACTIVITY Making up our own dance Routine.	3 YOUTH CENTRE CLOSED	
		8 CRAFT ACTIVITY Making some Christmas decorations.	9 SELF ESTEEM What makes you happy?	10 HEALTH/WELLBEING Are we ready for the Summer heat?	
		15 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Touch Football on the lawn.	16 COMMUNITY AWARENESS Tolerance Day	17 CRAFT ACTIVITY Choose your own craft activity.	
		22 LIFE SKILLS Looking at some healthy lunchbox foods.	23 GROUP ACTIVITY Displaying our own dance routine.	24 COMMUNITY AWARENESS Making our own white ribbons for <u>White Ribbon Day</u> .	
		29 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Handball challenge.	30 LIFE SKILLS Making fruit kebabs.		

Connect with Your Neighbours

If you are fortunate enough to live with a sense of community, where you know the people who live near you, share experiences and help one another, then you'll probably agree, your life is richer for it. The Street by Street Project is seeking community minded people to turn streets into communities in your area, through simple social activities. We'll support you to do this. Contact Irene Oppen at irene@streetbystreet.org.au or 0413 706 233 and see www.streetbystreet.org.au for more info.



Street by Street

— BRINGING NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER —



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

Week 5 & 6	Years 7, 8, 9, 10 exams
29/11–1/12	Yr7 Development Days
29/11–1/12	Yr 8–10 Lifesaving
29/11–1/12	Yr11 Crossroads