



HopeTown Newsletter

Term 1—March 2011

177 Pollock Avenue, Wyong

Postal Address: PO Box 805, WYONG 2259

Phone: 43532522 Fax: 43512381

Email: hoptown-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.hoptown-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Reading this newsletter, you will gain some appreciation for the variety of programs that have been on offer at Hoptown this term.

Many of our students have experienced difficulties, disillusionment, distress, disinterest or disengagement in their previous school lives. Our programs are intended to engage our students, to provide them opportunities to take on new challenges with confidence, to help them experience successes and to have their successes acknowledged and celebrated.

Novelty and challenge sound like fun but can be quite daunting for many of our students. Even the more mainstream academic programs of this and other schools are often viewed by our students with suspicion, defeatism or despair.

Our varied programs are designed, in part, to help our students to discover not necessarily how smart they are but how they are smart. It is then hoped that they will acquire increased confidence and resilience.

We wish you all a pleasant, safe holiday break and invite you to go to our website and look at Hoptown's Annual School Report.

Terry Taylor
PRINCIPAL

School Swimming Scheme 2011

The NSW Department of Education and Training's Swimming Scheme is the largest learn to swim program in Australia. From 14th to 25th March, Hoptown students took part in this program designed to increase confidence and skills in the water. Students had daily, one-to-one lessons with qualified instructors and supporting staff members.

All participating students were able to show daily improvement. Skills included treading water, stroke improvement and survival skills. All students enjoyed this experience.



Sleepover at School



On Thursday 24th March our Aboriginal boys from primary stayed overnight at Hoptown. The program included a fun afternoon with fishing and swimming, building a campfire, making damper with honey and a BBQ dinner.

Role models from the local community came to spend time with the boys. Both Steve Ella, "The Zipzip Man", former Australian Rugby League representative and Parramatta player and Matthew Sonter, former Australian Rugby 7s team mentor, who now works to promote sport within the indigenous community with the Central Coast Sports Federation, spent time interacting with the boys.



Dates to remember

Last day Term 1— Friday 8th April

First day for students Term 2 will be Wednesday 27th April

Staff Development Day—Friday

June 10th (students do not attend)

Last Day Term 2— Friday 1st July

COLES SPORTS for SCHOOLS

Thanks to the parents who collected many thousands of vouchers and thanks to Coles for running their Sports for Schools program. We have recently received our sports equipment. The students have enjoyed learning new skills using their new equipment.



Advice for people planning to travel west or to Victoria these holidays.

NSW Health advise that the risk of transmission of Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE) is current as mosquito numbers are high and there is evidence of transmission of MVE in NSW west of the Great Dividing Range and in Victoria.

It is likely that the risk period will extend through until Easter.

Parents/Carers are advised to contact their local public health unit (Ph:43494845) if they require further information about mosquito-borne infections or measures to prevent mosquito bites.

A fact sheet is available via the following link.

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/murray_valley_enceph.html

HOSPITALITY HARGRAVES CLASS

During the early half of term one, students from Hargraves class participated in a "mini hospitality" course which was run as an industry education day each Thursday. Students were involved in examining career opportunities in the Hospitality industry, required education and training, food safety and hygiene, preparation techniques, methods and demonstrations.



This culminated in students planning an excursion to the Watagan Mountains for a barbecue lunch which involved planning the catering, costs and food service on the day.

Hargraves Trip to the Watagans

Creative Writing by Cory Carr

When Hargraves went to the Watagan National Park, the drive was alright but we got lost.

When we got to Heatons Lookout we had some morning tea. John, Chris, Kane and Adam decided to make a swing with the rope in the back of Donna's car. They got about two minutes fun out of it and then we all went looking for a place to have our BBQ.

We drove for a while and then after a bumpy ride a BBQ and Steve drove sideways around a tree. But as fate has it, the gas bottles were empty.

So, off we go and on the way Donna goes sideways around the tree and shows Steve up. We kept driving for about another half an hour.

We finally arrived at our BBQ site and John, Kane and I went to look for some logs to use as seats. I then had to fight an evil tree!!!

We found some logs and then we all sat down and had something to drink and eat.

When we had finished, we put out the fire, packed up and went on our way. A good day.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST are invited for a part-time tutor to assist selected Aboriginal students at Hopetown. Funding under the *Norta Norta* program provides assistance for identified Aboriginal students in the areas of literacy, numeracy and engagement. The tutor will work in a small-class setting under the direction of a classroom teacher and will provide support in the delivery of individualised education programs for selected students. Applicants do not need to have formal qualifications but will need to have or acquire a clearance for working with children. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants are particularly encouraged to apply. If there are multiple applicants, a merit selection process will take place.

Please contact the school (Ph:43532522) and speak to Terry Taylor or Sue Donoghue for further details.

Applications need to be submitted by 4pm on 29th April, 2011.



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The annual Hopetown School Swimming Carnival was held again this term at Wyong Pool. The carnival was a fantastic day enjoyed by all. The level of participation was pleasing to see this year as all the students who did attend the carnival were eager to start in as many races as possible, regardless of their swimming ability. Highlights from the day include an almost dead heat in the 50 metre surf board paddle, the red turtle event, the staff race and the perfect weather.



Thanks must go out to all students, staff and parents who came along for making the day a real success.

CO2 Dragsters



This term in Woodwork students engineered balsa wood dragsters which were powered by carbon dioxide gas cartridges. Over the course of 5 weeks, students investigated aerodynamics, experimented with dragster designs, produced technical drawings and finally built their dragsters.

On race day, two dragsters at a time lined up at the starting gate. The thrust of the CO2 bulbs pushed dragsters to the finish line at hurtling speeds.

It was David Creaton's spear shaped dragster which was crowned the fastest dragster in the school. Well done David.



Seeing RED

Staff and students had a fund raiser to help raise money for the schools affected by the Queensland floods. We wore red for a day and donated a gold coin. This raised \$65 for this very deserving cause.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Students from Darcy and Hargraves volunteered their time to help make Australia cleaner. Students targeted Jenny Dixon Beach Reserve at Norah Head where they each filled their clean-up bags with an assortment of garbage. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a bacon and egg roll for their efforts.



Flinders class were asked to come up with an example of success for each letter.

Supporting my family
 Understanding my friend's needs
 Committing to do my school work
 Controlling my anger
 Educating myself
 Sitting at my desk
 Socialising with friends and family
Logan

Sitting quietly at my desk
 Understanding school rules
 Coming to class nicely
 Controlling anger
 Excursion manners
 Staying in bounds
 Staying safe
BJ



This term Flinders class have been getting their teeth into World News. With the war in Libya a main topic of discussion as well as the Japanese Tsunami the students are combining geography, history and general knowledge to form some interesting and educational discussions. As part of our lessons we have been adding to our 'News' notice board, where newspaper clippings and photos about the events are displayed. To reinforce our learning we watch BTN (Behind the News) on a Tuesday morning.

Primary Room 3 Limericks

There once was a fellow called Bart,
 Who used to think drinking was smart.
 He drank so much wine
 That he even drank mine,
 That stupid old man from Hobart.

Ryan Perceval

There was an old man from Nantucket,
 Who drank all his wine from a bucket.
 He drank too much wine,
 So he never feels fine,
 Now he feels like he's going to chuck it!

Jamie Skeet

There once was a young boy named Jack
 Who always liked dressing in black
 He went out one night
 And got in a fight
 That boy got a kick and a whack.

Jack Madsen

PLAN MY CAREER MINGARA

Students from Hargraves class visited the Plan My Career Expo held at Mingara, after school, during March. This was a joint event coordinated by the Hunter Institute of TAFE and The University of Newcastle.

The expo gave students a valuable opportunity to speak to industry experts and teachers involved in areas such as Automotive, Horticulture and Primary Industries, Hospitality and discuss possible pathways for their future. It also provided an opportunity to be involved with other senior students from schools across the Hunter Region and Central Coast. Parents are encouraged to discuss future training and goals with their child and the information that they collected, to help plan a smooth transition from school to post school areas.



VISUAL ARTS EXCURSION KOOINDAH WATERS



Kinetic art made of polished metal.



Students creating their own kinetic art. A stunning example by Kyle Read was chosen for display in the school reception area. Adam Lusted contributed a work that took time, creativity and effort. He enlarged an image of a mask and used watercolours to bring it to life. (see back page)

As part of Flinders Class' Social and Emotional Learning program, the students worked together to 'mummify' their classmates (and Donna) with toilet paper. In teams of three and four, students raced against each other and the clock to cover their chosen 'mummy' from head to toe.

The activity helped students form positive relationships with each other and was a fun and exciting start to our day.



There was a huge horse and rider made of woven rattan. Kyle Read, Aidan Burston and Leslie Lloyd enjoyed photographing art exhibited at Kooindah Waters.



Non-objective art made of fibreglass and shaded cloth.



Our annual Primary Swimming Carnival was held at the Hopetown swimming pool on 31st March. The carnival is an excellent way to consolidate the skills that the students have learnt during their school swimming lessons and the Special Swimming Scheme. The program involves a mixture of novelty and traditional events. The aim of the carnival is to have every participant go home with a chest full of ribbons and boosted self esteem. A BBQ lunch followed the carnival. It is a credit to all staff involved, especially Kevin and Jane, who put in a great effort both before and during the swimming carnival. Thanks also to parent and student helpers who helped make sure the events ran smoothly.



