

HopeTown Newsletter

Term 2—June 2011

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Term Two has been a time of progress for many of our students. Some of our primary and secondary students have been successfully negotiating their transition back to mainstream school settings. We congratulate them for the confidence, courage, persistence and positive attitudes they have shown to achieve their goals.

Other students have become more accepting of the support and programs on offer at Hoptown. As their participation increases, their enjoyment, self-confidence and personal gains (both academic and social) have become more evident. Hoptown offers a wide range of opportunities for students to find out more about themselves and to also find a greater appreciation of those around them.

We are also very proud of the students who participated in the NAPLAN testing earlier in Term Two. For some it was a daunting prospect which they managed to take on with earnest effort. It has been heartening to see how the resilience of some of our students has increased with their exposure to challenges. These students have come to realise that an apparently threatening situation can be more productively seen as a challenge.

We look forward to providing more opportunities for self-discovery and personal growth in Term Three and wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday period.

Terry Taylor
PRINCIPAL



Jeffery is demonstrating a water pH Test.

WATERWATCH

Primary Room 3 students have been helping to monitor the water quality of the Wyong River. *Waterwatch* is a national program that involves schools in carrying out tests on local water sources. Primary schools can become involved in the *Junior Waterwatch* program by carrying out basic water quality testing. The tests that primary school students can carry out using the *Waterwatch* kits of equipment include temperature, pH, electrical conductivity and turbidity.

Through *Waterwatch* we hope to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the local environment.



Fishing News

Fishing continues to be a popular choice for primary students on Friday afternoon for sport.



Unfortunately the weather has not always been the best, with a few days washed out however, the students are always enthusiastic. It has been good to see many of the older students being kind and considerate by helping the younger ones improve their skills.



Dates to remember

Term 3 first day Monday 18th July
School Development Day—Friday 16th
September (students do not attend)
Last day Term 3—23rd September

Planet Ark Tree Day 29th July
Jeans for Genes Day 5th August
Snow Trip 7th-13th August
Bandanna Day 28th October
School photo day 29th August

TRIATHLON

Primary students participated in a triathlon held at the Hopetown School on the 6th May. The day was a great success with the students completing an endurance course consisting of running, bike riding and swimming. Each student was required to complete a number of laps of the course depending upon their year level at school.

It was encouraging to see the determination of the students as they completed each lap. Some students even took on extra laps and helped other students complete the course.



Congratulations to all those students who persisted at, and completed, the triathlon.

After the triathlon, Mr Taylor presented the students with a "Certificate of Participation."



Saunders Class has also been enjoying several nature walks when the weather has allowed. Walks have included Forrester's beach to Bateau bay and through Katandra national park. On these walks the boys have been able to identify different plant and animal species as well as the natural landforms that exist in our local surroundings. It is hoped that the boys continue their enthusiasm into the next semester.

Woodbury Class – Distance Education

Congratulations to Daniel and Kyle who completed their integration to Wyong High School during Term Two. We wish them the every success in this next stage of their education.

Woodbury Class works in conjunction with the Distance Education High School in Sydney. The efforts and diligence of most Woodbury students have resulted in numerous Achievement Awards from Distance Education as well as positive and encouraging comments being returned on students' Title Pages and through telephone conversations with their Distance Education teachers.

The strong academic emphasis in Woodbury Class positions its students well for success back in mainstream settings or for their senior school studies at Hopetown.

Ms Armstrong, a PD/Health/PE Distance Education teacher came to spend a day with some students from Woodbury Class. She was extremely positive about her interaction with the students and complimented them on their efforts and achievements in the subjects.

SAUNDERS CLASS

As well as working hard at their academic tasks, Saunders Class has been experiencing a range of sporting outings and it is encouraging that the students have become more open to new and different situations.

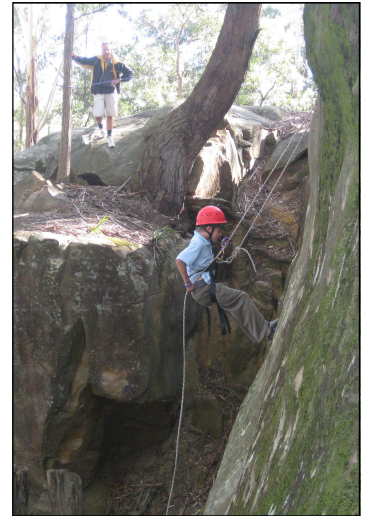
When rain has been an issue the students have been taken to Bateau Bay ten pin bowling. It has been pleasing to see all the boys participate and we have developed some very skilled bowlers indeed. Their scores have improved with practice and we have had a lot of rainy days.

ABSEILING / ROCK CLIMBING PROGRAM

Students from Darcy and Flinders classes participated in an Abseiling/Rock Climbing Program this term. We visited a number of outdoor abseiling sites including Wyong Lookout, Ourimbah State Forest and The Watagans National Park. Indoor climbing centres included Kincumber Indoor Sports Centre and Pulse Climbing at Newcastle.

The program is designed to better engage and motivate students and to develop their capacities for persistence, resilience, confidence, empathy and self-regulation. These qualities benefit students in their social, emotional and academic growth.

Well done to all those students who pushed beyond their initial fears to make their way up and down a variety of rock faces and to those students who encouraged and supported their peers.



WOODWORK

Woodwork continues with students from all classes producing some fantastic results. A number of students who were at first timid about using certain machines showed a high level of confidence and persistence to develop the skills necessary to operate machines independently.

Highlights included Keian's baseball bat, Fred's briefcase, Jaxon's jewellery box and Lewis' model boat. It was pleasing to see so many students enthusiastic about developing their woodworking skills and knowledge this term.



HOSPITALITY

The Senior Cafe workers not only ran our Wednesday Cafe throughout the term but also catered for a professional development day attended by teachers from numerous schools across the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie areas. Our guests were impressed with not only the quality of the food but also with its presentation and the service provided by the Cafe staff. Excellent work Ian, Damien, Adam and Chris.



Healthy Harold Visits Hopetown

Healthy Harold came to Hopetown on 2nd June. All primary and some secondary students were included in this informative and enjoyable presentation. The younger students all agreed that their program, *Harold's Heroes*, was full of fun and helpful information, while our older groups learned about staying healthy and were given helpful advice about how to deal with the pressures they may face as teenagers.

The Life Education Program has been operating in our schools for more than 20 years; staff agree that it remains a valuable resource which presents important information to our students in a fun-filled and enjoyable manner.



Wyong Campus of TAFE will run courses that may interest our parents / caregivers. One such course is Career Education and Employment for Women (CEEW) another is the Mature Aged Careers and Education Program (MACE).

Enquiries in the first instance to:
CEEW – Trish 4350 2280
MACE – Bronwyn 4350 2375

REWARD OUTING

The boys from Primary 1 class worked hard to enjoy their reward outing to *Muck-a-bout* at Charmhaven. The students were required to earn points during a two week period; they needed 17 point to be invited to take part. Points were awarded for pleasant language, completing class work and showing respect to staff and classmates. While most students can do these things for one day, it is very difficult to maintain this high standard for two weeks.

The students really enjoyed the ball pit, maze, jumping castle and an enormous climbing gym with slide.

