



HopeTown Newsletter

Term 1— 2012

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hoptown School has begun the year with a great deal of activity and the promise of more as the year progresses. Both the Primary and Secondary swimming carnivals were well attended and are a credit to the staff who organised these events and to the students who participated so enthusiastically. The confidence and persistence shown by many students are wonderful qualities which will contribute to fuller lives if applied in the future.

The Primary swimming scheme provided enrichment and opportunities for students to experience progress and success outside the classroom. Similarly, the excursions, challenge activities and off-campus programs attended by secondary students assisted them to develop in maturity and independence and to broaden their experiences.

Hoptown's newly acquired interactive whiteboards have been well-received and are proving to be great motivators for students and a rich resource for teachers.

I invite you to read Hoptown's *Annual School Report 2011* which is posted on our website (www.hoptown-s.schools.nsw.edu.au) as it provides recent and detailed information about the school, its programs and progress.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Easter break.

Terry Taylor
PRINCIPAL

Dates to remember

First day Term 2 Tuesday 24th April
ANZAC Day no school attendance 25th April
Queen's birthday 11th June
Last day Term 2 Friday 29th June.



Shell QUESTACON Science Circus

Our students enjoyed a revealing and informative science session presented by the enthusiastic young staff from Questacon.

The primary students took part in practical experiments involving air pressure and its effect on our environment. Some primary students stood in huge bubbles while others experimented with balloons.

The excited students asked many questions and watched with amazement.
(other photos on the network)

Hoptown Swimming Lessons

During term 1 we have offered our regular swimming lessons on Monday morning with each participating student having an opportunity to improve his strokes, increase his fitness and enjoy a swim to begin their week. These lessons are organised by staff led by our SLSO Kevin.

School Swimming Scheme

For a two week period the students enjoyed participating in the School Swimming Scheme, which is provided to schools by the Department of Education and Communities. The Swimming Scheme had in excess of 1 400 schools and 93 000 students participating in 2011. We had three instructors giving one-to-one lessons to our students for 10 days.

Lessons included learn to swim, stroke correction, water safety and treading water. All students had the opportunity to take part. The instructors were impressed by the manners and willingness to learn shown by our students.



Primary Classroom Two

This term students in primary classroom two have been learning about natural disasters. There were many opportunities for students to learn about droughts, bushfires, volcanic disasters, earthquakes, cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons.

One of the more memorable learning experiences was when each student made a model of a volcano. After writing a procedure on how to make the volcanoes erupt, each student then followed their procedure. All volcanoes worked well and some students made their volcano erupt more than once.



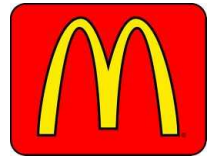
Coles Sports for Schools Program

Last year Hopetown School collected over 10,000 vouchers in the Coles Sports for Schools program. This is a great effort for a school of our size.

Our vouchers allowed us to receive new Gator Skin Volleyballs, a Vortex set, First Aid Bumbag, a Catch Cone set and other useful items.

Thank you, to all the students, parents, carers and friends who donated their vouchers to the school.

Thankyou to Bob Jane T-Mart Lakehaven and McDonalds Central Coast for their support this year.



APP. OF THE MONTH!!

The Morcombe foundation has released a phone application called HELP ME. It can send a message and GPS location to two nominated adults if a young person is in distress.

Response Art and Design Studio

Students from Hargraves and Woodbury paid a visit to Response Art and Design studio to learn firsthand, the processes involved in the commercial production of screen printed designs. Students are studying printmaking in visual art and the process involved is a complicated mixture of technical printmaking skills and careful design layering which requires a great deal of patience by the students.

Students were able to see the entire process in operation from the initial design, the development of a photosensitive screen in a dark-room and the use of a print carousel to layer the many colours for each print. A big thankyou to Jamie Conroy for allowing the students to visit, it has made a big difference to the students understanding of printmaking.



Another good website for parents and carers supporting students with medical, developmental and psychological conditions
www.physicalasanything.com
 There is a big section for Parents and Carers and A - Z information on many disorders.

Thank you to the Tuggerah Branch Library for their kind donation of several hundred non-fiction books. The books will make information available to our students on a broad range of topics from Extreme Snowboarding, Festivals in Turkey to Recycling. These books have been distributed throughout primary and secondary classes as well as some being used for staff resources.

Career News

2012 has already been a busy year for students planning their future careers!! Students were lucky enough to visit the Career and Skills Defence Force Forum held at Darling Harbour during week one of the term and had the opportunity to hear guest speakers from the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Australian Air force. The forum covered all aspects of Defence force careers at a local and national level and covered entry requirements, lifestyle and the different pathways through the forces. The highlight however was a tour of a Royal Australian warship with some of the serving crew which made the long day worthwhile!!!

March saw students from years ten to twelve visit the Australian Government Jobs and Skills expo at Gosford Showground. This was the first such expo for several students and they embraced the opportunity to visit the many stalls and service providers, to access information about their individual career and future education options. It was impressive to see a motivated group of students showing an interest in their future pathways and playing an active role in planning their work and career lives. A fabulous day!!



Distance Education

This year, 9 secondary students are completing academic programs which are keeping pace with the majority of mainstream students. The Distance Education High School provides the units of work which are in turn delivered by Hopetown staff. Student visits to the High School and visits from Distance Education High School staff to Hopetown offer opportunities for enrichment.

We are very pleased to note that Marcus has overcome many obstacles and demonstrated the motivation and resilience needed to be a candidate for the Higher School Certificate this year. We wish him well in his final studies and future exams.

The two new students to Distance Education this year Ryan, Year 7, and Michael Year 9, have succeeded in being promoted from Middle School Distance Education to Main School Distance Education as a result of their work rate completion and competence in completing set tasks.

To date the students completing Distance Education have received 26 Achievement Awards for the high standard of work they have submitted. One student, Aaron, has received a Bronze Achievement Award for the effort he put into his work last year.

DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS / SCHOOL INFORMATION

Just a reminder that the school would like to provide relevant updated school information for your son when you attend medical appointments. Many parents have commented how essential and useful this is, and many are more than happy for us to fax it through earlier so the specialist doctor can read it. You receive all the information that is sent. The following information can be sent:

- ◆ Functional / Academic Assessment completed by the class teacher. This information reports your son's behaviour (classroom and playground) ; social interaction (peers and adults) ; language / communication (expressive and receptive language) ; physical (mobility / motor and hygiene / general health) ; academics (reading / spelling / writing, maths and other Key Learning Areas) ; emotional literacy (self awareness, self regulation, motivation, empathy, social skills) ; medication (type, when taken, any comments) and ; additional relevant information.
- ◆ Recent behaviour incident data.
- ◆ Relevant questionnaires completed by you the parents and/or the teacher.

We need at least a couple of week's notification of your paediatrician / psychiatrist appointment to gather this information which is collected and compiled by myself, Alison Reilly – School Counsellor / Psychologist.

Saunders

This term Saunders class have been exploring the strengths and weaknesses of superheroes. The class has investigated a variety of dangerous situations and identified the need for safety precautions. They have been using descriptive language to describe the characteristics of various superheroes. The students have really enjoyed this topic.



Elastigirl

*Elastigirl is fast.
Elastigirl is faster than a Leopard.
Elastigirl is faster than Keian.
Elastigirl wears a costume.
It is red and it stretches and has a circle on it.
Elastigirl has superpowers.
She can stretch her arms to reach things.
She can tie herself in a knot.
Elastigirl is really flexible.*

By Keian

Secondary School Swimming Carnival

The annual Hopetown Secondary School swimming carnival was held on a sunny Friday at Wyong Pool this term. Students competed in a variety of swimming and novelty events.

A good turn out from students and parents and a high level of participation from all students made the day a real success. It was pleasing to see students cheering each other on from the stands and getting along well in-between races.



Thank you to all students and parents who attended this fantastic day.

Hopetown versus Annex Soccer/Oz Tag Challenge

On Friday 16th March, 12 students from Hopetown united to play against the The Entrance Annex students in games of soccer and oz tag.

The Annex is a branch of Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College which caters for students with similar needs to students enrolled at Hopetown. Both teams showed a high level of sportsmanship and camaraderie during the matches that were played on the grounds at Hopetown.



While the schools had a one all draw in the game of soccer, it was the Annex that won oz tag four tries to three. Students enjoyed oranges at half time and a BBQ lunch after the match. Well done to all who participated.



Music with Flinders Class

This term, Flinders students have been working towards learning outcomes of listening to music from a variety of social and cultural contexts and communicating responses to a variety of music. The students have shared the type of music they like to listen to and have explored Rap, Hip-hop, Techno and Rock and Roll. They have listened to a variety of bands and solo artists to create their own descriptions of each type of music further enhancing their ability to communicate about music they listen to. Flinders students have debated about what type of music is best and have created some persuasive texts to further share their reasoning.

I LOVE TECHNO.

Techno is great because it has good bass and a good beat. It always has good lyrics because it rhymes. You can party to it and dance to it as well.

Techno is very unique.

By Billy

TECHNO

Techno is better than every other type of music. It has good rhythm. It has good types of songs that are all different in their own way. You can manipulate the music to how you want it to sound. That is why I think it is a good type of music for people who like it.

By BJ