

HopeTown Newsletter

Term 2— 2012

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are just completing another very productive term at HopesTown. Our students are not the only learners at school. We regularly host a range of visitors who come to HopesTown to increase their professional understanding of our specialist services. Visitors this term have included trainee teachers, teachers from mainstream schools and trainee nurses. The feedback from these people has been consistently positive. Many noted the calm, empathic and compassionate nature of staff responses to challenging behaviour and also how staff balanced the needs for both structure and flexibility in school programs.

Other learning that has occurred during the term was that done by staff. All school staff either qualified or requalified in Apply First Aid. Staff training also occurred in the areas of autism/Aspergers, quality teaching of literacy skills, behaviour and crisis management, anaphylaxis, supporting children with complex learning needs and interactive whiteboard teaching techniques.

Students who participated in sitting for NAPLAN assessments are to be commended for the courage, persistence and resilience that was required of and shown by them. It was not an easy set of tasks for some students and it was heartening to see these young people rise to the occasion.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday period.

Terry Taylor

PRINCIPAL



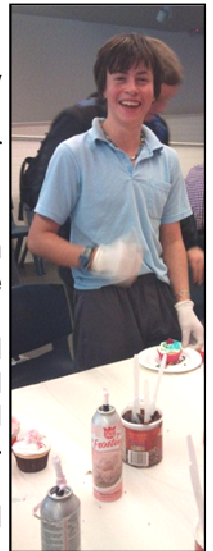
Distance Education – Woodbury Class

The students in Woodbury class have been working steadily during Term 2 completing units of work for Distance Education. Michael, in Year 9, received a Bronze Achievement Award for the work and effort he has produced this term. On the 23rd May Woodbury went down to Sydney Distance Education, at Woolloomooloo, for the Big Day In. This was a fun day full of activities and events organised by Sydney Distance Education.



The Woodbury boys participated in many of the events offered such as cake decorating, animal petting farm, ring toss, measuring games, plastic fantastic, screen printing, juggling and trivia.

Joshua, in Year 10, won the guessing competition and received a certificate acknowledging this and Ryan, in Year 7, won the ring toss event winning many stationery prizes. Les, Year 8, and David, Year 10, experienced the opportunity of hand feeding the baby goats and sheep.



The students enjoyed the trip to Sydney with all taking home something that they had either won or made on the day.

Primary Road Safety Excursion

In May, Years 4, 5 and 6 students visited Palmdale to participate in bicycle and road safety activities. This program is run by the Community and Road Education Scheme (C.A.R.E.S). This is a joint program supported by both Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council. Students were taught skills in road safety, bicycle skills and coping with traffic. Bicycles and helmets were provided for the day by C.A.R.E.S.

Our students were able to learn about traffic lights and roundabouts and general road rules. There were a number of challenges including a "slow" race in which the aim was to maintain balance on the bicycle while crossing the finishing line last! The opportunity to ride a hand pedal tricycle was another highlight of our day.



The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

The Duke of Edinburgh program is up and running at Hopetown School. Five students from Hargraves class have elected to complete the first stage of the award which is the bronze level.

This involves students completing 4 separate sections under their own steam to achieve the award.

- ◆ Physical Fitness (3months)
- ◆ Volunteering (3 months)
- ◆ Skill (3 months)
- ◆ Adventure Journey (practice journey and assessed journey)

Students are required to choose their own challenges, choose their assessor and have the responsibility of completing the award within a 6 month time period. This encourages independence, responsibility and decision making whilst allowing the freedom for students to work at their individual level and challenge themselves personally rather than as a group.

Students have elected to complete Physical Fitness, as a group over a period of six months/20 hours. They are currently completing a weekly walk of at least 1 hour but have more regularly completed between 1.5-2 hours of bushwalking each week at a variety of locations around the Central Coast. Students have the added responsibility of logging each week's activities online to be recorded.

Some students have begun their volunteering hours but some need to get it started before they run out of time!!! There is also the skill component that must be completed outside of school so parents get your thinking caps on!!

Well done to all involved.

Romeo and Juliet at the Opera House

“Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?????”

Senior students from Hargraves class and Woodbury class were treated to a live theatre performance at the Sydney Opera House, early Term Two. The usually traditional play was set in post-war Europe and was presented in a creative way, which really appealed to students new to Shakespeare. The cast were all quite young and the performance had a modern flavour which made it easier for students to follow visually as well as absorbing Shakespeare's language. Students study this play as a part of their English course and this has helped them to appreciate the script.

Bell Shakespeare Company is one the most famous and innovative theatre companies in the world and we were very lucky to be able to attend. During the performance, which lasted one and a half hours, it was impressive to see that no-one blinked or wriggled!!! Students in the group rated the performance as an eight out of ten which I would say is a success!!

World War 1 display and ANZAC ceremony



Students at Hopetown were fortunate enough to view the amazing display of World War I artefacts and equipment kindly brought to the school by Shane Blackman-Living History. Shane not only delivered an interactive display allowing students to handle and try on items from his personal collection, but had the students captivated with his stories and tales from diggers.

The stories enable students to empathise and imagine the emotions and feelings of soldiers who fought for Australia. “The students enjoyed learning about ANZAC Day whilst having the opportunity to explore and discuss the historical collection of war artefacts that Shane had on display.” “It was heaps good!!” A big thankyou also to BJ Adams who passed on a thank you and donation to Legacy on behalf of the school.



Secondary students also held a commemorative ceremony and assembly for ANZAC Day. Many thanks to Marcus Bickerdike, Andrew Nicholson and Aaron Clare who ran the ceremony.



Healthy drinks at home

Water and reduced fat milk are the best drinks for primary school aged children.

To avoid any arguments about what your children should drink, don't buy sugary drinks such as soft drink or energy drinks.

If they aren't there it is much easier to say no!

Keep these drinks for special occasions NOT for everyday.

Nutrition News Snippet 2011
Produced by Central Coast
Health Promotion Unit

NSW Health
Clinical Support Cluster
Northern

Dates to remember

First day Term 3 Tuesday 17th July.

Staff Development Day 16th July—no students to attend.

Snow trip August 12th—18th.

School photos 27th August.

Last day Term 3 Friday 21st September.

Primary Reward Excursion



Primary students from classrooms one and two who maintained good behaviour over a three week period were invited to participate in the Tree Tops Adventure Park excursion. This was held on Thursday 5/4/12. Congratulations to those students who persisted with achieving this goal.

The day was sunny but not too hot, which was perfect for climbing in the tree tops. After arriving, the students were harnessed into their climbing gear. They were given a talk and demonstration about how to use this equipment. The students then had to go through a practice course to show they knew how to use the equipment and be safe while climbing.



The students were very enthusiastic when they started on the first of three courses. There were many opportunities for the students to build confidence as each course became more difficult. All students supported each other when faced with a challenge. Some students managed to complete all three courses before we had to return to school. It was a very memorable excursion and the staff at the Tree Tops Adventure Park commented on how well behaved the students were.



Christian working hard.

KOOINDAH WATERS SCULPTURE EXHIBITION



The annual sculpture exhibition at Kooindah Waters is becoming a favourite for students at Hopetown. Students enjoy visiting the exhibition to look at entries for the annual art prize and walking amongst the works. This year saw students from several classes visit to look at the different themes and materials that the artists have used to represent their ideas. Students are able to gain some inspiration for their own art making as well as being intrigued at trying to determine what message the artist was trying to communicate. A great activity for photography students is also photographing the art works to improve their skills with the camera.

Michael Vickery and Les Lloyd, photo taken by Ryan Perceval.

Give Me Five for Kids

Give Me Five for Kids is a national annual fundraiser which runs for the entire month of June. Funds raised go to our local Children's Ward to buy much needed medical equipment that assists in helping seriously ill children. Our school community raised \$100. This exercise not only benefits the recipients but also develops a sense of civic responsibility in our students.



Our Garden

Hopetown students have resurrected the gardening program: growing herbs and vegetables for the school café.

Picking and drying of herbs will be introduced next term along with companion planting of herbs and flowers.





Dae-Han learning to make rocky-road for Mothers' day.

Coles Sports for Schools 2012

We are again taking part in the **Coles Sports for Schools** program in 2012. During the previous two years we have been part of this program, with the school receiving sports equipment as a result of parents and staff collecting Coles vouchers. It is a simple process for the school, and we appreciate the extra sports resources that it provides.

If you do shop at Coles, remember to collect your vouchers and send them in to the school.

Healthy Harold Visits Hopetown.

All primary students visited the Life education Van on Monday 18 June. The students watched and listened to a program called "All Systems Go". The students learnt about the function of the body systems, peer pressure, second hand smoking and safety with medicines. Healthy Harold gave out rewards to those students who had participated well. All those who attended received a work book with follow-up activities.



School holidays are a good time to check your family for head lice. They are very small and very fast and highly contagious. The female can lay 150 eggs in 30 days. One method of treatment is wet-combing. First apply a generous amount of regular conditioner all over the scalp and hair. Leave for about 20 minutes (maybe use a shower cap to minimise mess). Then use a lice comb to as best you can remove lice and eggs, wiping comb between strokes. This method should be repeated every 2-3 days for 2 weeks.

Flinders Class

During this term Flinders class has been exploring the topic of maps in their mathematics program. The students have been identifying and locating selected landmarks using the mapping elements of scale, legend, grid references and coordinates. Flinders class are examining the different types of maps from street to geographical maps and the features that distinguish them both. These skills have tied in well with their Geography topic for the term, *Australia and its physical environment*. As well as exploring Australian states, the students are progressing well in locating Australian capitals, rivers, lakes, creeks, mountains and roads.

It has been extremely encouraging to see that with minimal exposure to map reading in the past, the students have grasped the fundamentals of understanding maps and are heading towards more complex practical tasks such as orienteering their way through selected walking tracks.

Students from Flinders have also been abseiling and rock climbing this term as part of Hopetown's Self Development Program. The boys visited a number of natural rock faces around the Central Coast, descending some cliffs up to 30 metres high. Continuous wet weather however, resulted in students rock climbing at a number of indoor climbing gyms. Apart from students learning how to abseil and climb, the program targeted others skills embedded in each activity such as tying knots, cliff edge safety and basic first aid.

The Self Development Program has been a great way to promote reliance and persistence amongst students during engaging and challenging activities.