



HopeTown Newsletter

Term 4-2014

177 Pollock Avenue Wyong

Postal Address: PO Box 805, WYONG 2259

Phone: 43532522 Fax: 43512381

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

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

While we don't see our students at Hopetown as gods we do see each child as a trinity. There are three aspects of our young people that we, as a school, need to promote. Each aspect is as important as the other and must be cultivated to its fullest potential. The three parts of any student are; the individual, the learner and the citizen.

The student needs to develop as an individual with a clear understanding of who they are and what they are capable of. The intrapersonal capabilities include resilience, self-awareness, self-confidence, self-control, self-identity and self-efficacy. Self-efficacy develops with the acceptance that you are responsible for how you respond to things that happen in your world.

The student must also develop as a learner. This includes academic progress, the love of learning, the acceptance of lifelong learning and a desire to better understand yourself, others and your place in the world. There are many things to learn, many different learning styles, different rates of concept acquisition and different ways of teaching. Presenting school programs that are differentiated enough to address these variables is a core challenge for any specialist school.

The third aspect of a student is the student as a citizen. We live in many communities at the same time. One's family or carers, one's groups of friends, classmates, team mates and school peers, the broader local community, one's nation and the world. Every student is encouraged to understand each of these communities and how they can personally best contribute to and participate in them. Good citizenship requires self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, social skills, motivation, responsibility, respect and compassion. These qualities are intrinsic to Hopetown's Social and Emotional Learning programs and are emphasised across the curriculum.

Our newsletters and school reports testify to the variety of opportunities and supports our students enjoy when at Hopetown and how these experiences help to develop the three vital aspects mentioned above. Of course I realise our staff, parents and carers are also individuals, life-long learners and citizens of the school and broader community.

I take this opportunity to thank our students, staff, parents and carers for another year of interactions, input, friction and flow and for keeping in mind the ultimate goal of Hopetown; to ensure that we optimise each student's chances of becoming the best individual, learner and citizen they can be.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday period.

Terry Taylor PRINCIPAL

Getting Back On Track

During the term selected students were invited to attend a four day course on bush survival. The course was fully funded by Kincumber Neighbourhood Centre and run by local tracker, Jake Cassar.

On each day we attended various locations that held significance to the local Aboriginal people, the Darkinjung. These included the areas of Brisbane Waters National Park, Girrakool and Somersby Falls. The students were excited to be learning about the local flora and fauna and how to obtain the appropriate nutrition from bush tucker. Other interesting aspects of the workshops included shelter construction, fire and tool making, hunting and gathering, tracking and identifying the different animals' signs. All the boys were very attentive, asking well thought-out and pertinent questions and eagerly participated in the practical components of the day. The encompassing themes of these sessions were safety and respect of the bush while maintaining positive relationships within an individual's local and wider communities. It was very encouraging to see the students display the confidence to try new things and attempt difficult challenges while supporting one another.

The course was a pilot program and all students were accommodating and respectfully offered their suggestions or opinions on how to improve the program in the future. The students should be proud of their achievements as they represented themselves and their school with dignity and respect. This required remaining focussed for three or more hours in the bush and enduring thirty plus degree days. Good work.



Individual Photobooks

To begin 2014 Primary 1 purchased a class set of waterproof and shockproof Olympus cameras. Throughout the year the class have taken unlimited photos. We have taken the cameras on many of our excursions. The class has explored many of the in-camera programs available such as underwater photography, special effects and “selfies”. If a student created a masterpiece from LEGO blocks, he was encouraged to take a photo, if the peacocks were in the playground we took photos or when we first saw the duck family the boys again took photos.

To complete this Digital Photography program the boys made individual photobooks using their own photos. For some, the most difficult part of this process was to cull their photo collection to 30 photos as several students had accumulated up to 300.

With 30 selected photos loaded onto a USB, we then put them onto the Big W site. The process of compiling their own books captivated the boys. They persisted with the task to achieve exceptional results. It involved digitally placing the photos into the book, positioning it correctly, selecting a suitable frame and background then creating an eye-catching cover. This process reinforced, and at times, tested the boys’ skills of the 5 foundations from our Social and Emotional Learning.



Somersby Falls Photographic Expedition

Primary 1 went to Somersby Falls for another Photographic Expedition during Term 4. With our Olympus Tough cameras fully charged we travelled to this amazingly beautiful part of the Central Coast. It had been raining and the falls were spectacular. The boys took many photos and searched for “The Hobbit” along the river banks. They scaled rocks and shimmied along the fallen trees.

YES Eco Summit

On the 23rd October eight secondary students travelled to Newington Armoury to partake in various hands on activities focussing on sustainability, indigenous culture and general science. Every student who attended found something of interest throughout the day.

Most of the students found making Aboriginal stone axes extremely interesting. They had to grind a stone on another rock, to shape and sharpen an axe head. Flax leaves had to be plaited to make twine. The stone head was inserted into a bamboo stick, which was being used as a handle, and lashed together with the plaited flax.

The solar car that raced from Adelaide to Darwin was another attraction for the students. University students took the time to explain the design of the car, showed the engine and battery compartments and discussed the conditions inside the car as it was travelling across the centre of Australia.

SECONDARY STUDENT FOLIOS

Parents and carers of secondary students are advised to keep their eyes open for the wonderful student folios!! The folios were trialled with Hargraves class in 2013 and it was a fantastic way to keep work samples, certificates and awards.

In 2014 secondary staff have created a more comprehensive folio endeavouring to collate work samples, assessments and outstanding pieces of work in addition to awards, certificates and additional accreditation and training achieved by students.

These folios will be on display with other work samples in the hall on presentation day, so be sure to catch up with your child's homeroom teacher if you wish to review the folios. The work presented is something for parents, carers and students to be proud of and is a great record of each student's achievements and efforts during the course of the year.

SENIOR ART EXCURSION

SCULPTURE BY THE SEA-TAMARAMA TO BONDI

Sculpture by the Sea, 2014 Written by Andrew Yr 11

On Friday the 7th of November students from Hargraves and Woodbury classes went to Bondi Beach for Sculptures by the Sea. We had to walk to the start of the track at Tamarama and took a short break to have some recess.

The first sculptures we saw were a massive Pop Art frypan on the beach, a large colourful Op Art piece made of hundreds of pieces of coloured yarn, not to mention the giant knitted rhinoceros.

One of the most interesting pieces was a humpback whale sculpture on the cliff edge. It was made entirely from one giant piece of wood. As we walked around the rocks there were large insects made from papier mache, massive bronze babies, stone figures and lots of abstract artwork. There were over 100 artworks scattered on the walk from Tamarama to Bondi and many were monumental. Of course it was a very crowded and popular walk!

After we walked around we got lunch on the main street of Bondi Beach. It was a lovely hot summer day at Bondi Beach. Just a massive thank you to Mrs Lott and Steve for taking us out to Bondi Beach it was a memorable day and for most of the group it was the first time we had been there.



Bowling at Bateau Bay

Primary 1 went bowling at Bateau Bay Ten Pin Bowl. Each student played two games. The staff and the boys all enjoyed their outing. They were all winners because they encouraged each other to do their best, they celebrated with endless "high-fives" and clapped each other's great efforts. We later used the score card to graph the results using column graphs and to discover the mean (average) scores for each player.



More Fun in the Music Room

Our weekly music lessons are a great mix of fun and learning. Miss Sarah always has something new and interesting for the students to explore, and the boys seem to enjoy anything loud and noisy that they can bang. The new drum kit has ticked all of these boxes. It is new, loud, noisy and you can bang it! It has been an excellent addition to our collection of instruments.



We have also explored the violin, with everyone patiently taking a turn. The boys were challenged to play in combinations including loud or slow and fast or soft. The boys were taught how to hold the violin while using the bow.

Attendance

Whilst we realise that not all students will be able to achieve 100% attendance every term, we believe it is important to acknowledge the excellent attendance shown by most. It displays a commitment by students, parents and caregivers to the culture of Hopetown School. It becomes evident that with regular attendance the valued Social and Emotional Learning elements of Resilience, Motivation, Self-Regulation and Persistence can be enhanced and developed. Well done.

Townies

Hopetown continues to acknowledge and reward the positive behaviour shown by students. In the Secondary school, "Townies" are accumulated enabling students to reach Green (25), Red (50) or Gold (100) levels. Our yearly tally revealed students achieving varying levels of success. Two students even managed to reach the Gold level. This was a considerable feat. Congratulations Logan and Kane.



Cruising Yacht Club

Several students were invited to take part in the Freedman Foundation Youth Sail Program run by the Cruising Yacht Club at Rushcutters Bay. The three day program gave the students the opportunity to participate in a Yacht race on Sydney Harbour before spending two days learning the "ropes" aboard the smaller Elliot Class Sailing Dinghies. You never know, one of our students may be a future Sydney to Hobart yacht race participant.

Summer Camp

The annual summer camp was recently held at Del Rio Riverside Resort on the Hawkesbury River. Students spent two nights away from modern conveniences and comfortable beds in search of all the highlights that go with camping including leaking tents, blood thirsty mosquitos and communal bathrooms. Some of the activities which students actually enjoyed included boating, fishing, canoeing, swimming, bike riding, golf, bonfires, BBQs and one very large jumping pillow. As the teacher in charge of running the camp, I knew my job was complete when the students in transit returning from camp had either an ear-to-ear grin or were sound asleep. Many students should be congratulated on their efforts while camping. A number of experienced students were seen assisting novice campers with setting up tents, roasting marshmallows and other essential 'camp life' tasks. A big 'thank you' must also go out to staff who worked tirelessly to help expose students to a range of new and exciting experiences.



Mad Scientists

Students from Flinders class enjoyed the investigative nature of science this semester. A unit called *Changing States* looked primarily at common substances and the forms they take when a solid, liquid and gas. Students had to carry out a number of experiments and utilised computer software to record and present their results. Hoptown's science program endeavours to mirror to learning outcomes and activities that are delivered in a mainstream school's science laboratory.



TVET COURSES 2015

Students, parents and carers should now be aware that all students who have applied to do TVET courses at TAFE in 2015, have been successful. Students will receive a letter and or a phone call between now and the start of the TAFE semester on Monday the 2nd of February to confirm details of attendance. This will include campus, day, time and course code details for individual students. The school holidays is a perfect time for parents/carers to assist students learning to travel to and from TAFE on public transport. Early in January, a reminder letter from the school TVET coordinator Donna Lott will be sent which will include further information. This is an exciting time for students and begins a new chapter of their lifelong learning.

Assembly of Excellence

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly of Excellence in conjunction with ngara Local AECG was held at Wyong High School. Three of our students received awards. Jarrod Hall in Yr8 for improved effort and participation across all subject areas, Michael Hawkins Yr9 for an excellent attendance rate of 99% for 2014 and Dylan Vittori-Gage Yr5 for improved academic performance in all Key Learning Areas.



Primary Triathlon

To celebrate the opening of the Hopetown pool for the new swimming season the primary classes held their annual triathlon. Each participant ran laps of the tennis court, swam laps of the pool or rode laps on bikes along the driveway. The number of laps was decided by the age of the student, if the student was 11 he would do 11 laps of the pool, court and driveway. This was challenging for some of our students, but they received help and encouragement from the fast finishers.

After lunch waterslide activities and the pool were available for the weary participants.



V8 SUPERCARS

A group of selected students attended the NRMA 500 – V8 supercars at Olympic Park in Homebush. We had a good run of traffic on the way to the venue, although it took some time to find the car park. Students displayed a lot of patience when we were driving back and forth to find the correct car park.

Students enjoyed watching the cars race around the track and were surprised to see the Jaguar was the loudest. Given the humidity, we had a quick lunch in the shade before heading over to Pit Lane for their extra special tour. This special tour involved meeting Erebus motorsport owner Betty Klimenko. Betty was excited to talk to students as she has many fond memories of Hopetown. She is the daughter of John Saunders, the founder of Hopetown. Betty then proceeded to take us into Erebus motorsport pit and explained her role. During her conversation several students were distracted by the large wall of computer screens directly behind them. Betty informed students that each computer screen gave them vital information, including predicting accidents and measuring tyres. Our tech-savvy students were in heaven! Betty signed a few autographs before handing out a special Erebus hat to each student and staff member.

torsport owner Betty Klimenko. Betty was excited to talk to students as she has many fond memories of Hopetown. She is the daughter of John Saunders, the founder of Hopetown. Betty then proceeded to take us into Erebus motorsport pit and explained her role. During her conversation several students were distracted by the large wall of computer screens directly behind them. Betty informed students that each computer screen gave them vital information, including predicting accidents and measuring tyres. Our tech-savvy students were in heaven! Betty signed a few autographs before handing out a special Erebus hat to each student and staff member.



Afterwards, Betty had to rush off so we were put in the hands of her husband Daniel. Daniel took a lot of time to explain specific parts of the car, particularly the safety components and motorsport regulations. Students were very keen to look at the motor and the roll cage inside the car. They listened attentively, despite the loud V8s that continually entered the pit. Students asked relevant questions and were very understanding of the need to be respectful in such a small and busy work environment.

To conclude our big day at the V8s, we almost completed a lap of the track to find the exit. By this time, everyone was drenched in sweat and relieved to feel the air conditioning in the bus. It was pleasing to see students showing their best behaviour on the excursion and travelling on the bus. We would like to thank Warren Gore for arranging the pit tour with Betty and her Erebus team.