

TERM 3
Issue 2 2008
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MOSAIC NEWS

OAK FLATS HIGH SCHOOL

COMING EVENTS

- 8th August - Regional Athletics Canberra
- 12th August - Koori Students Animation Workshop
- 13th August - Snow Trip Trial HSC
- 14th August - Snow Trip
- 14th August - Year 11 HSIE Economics Lecture Wollongong University
- 14th August - Year 9 History Performance in School Hall
- 15th August - Snow Trip
- 18th August - Australian Red Cross Lectures
- 19th August - Tafe Taster Day
- 22th August - Year 7 Excursions to Killalea

P & C MEETINGS

Our P & C Meetings are held on the **1st Tuesday of each month** at 7.30 pm in the Common Room. Administration Building. We look forward to seeing you. **Due to unforeseen circumstances August's meeting had to be cancelled and will be held in September instead, sorry for any inconvenience!**



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The term is well underway and everyone is very busy. Recently over 100 of our students took up the challenge and competed in the University of NSW Mathematics Challenge Test. Mr Duffy reported that this represented our largest group for a number of years. Students from Year 7 to Year 12 competed and they will receive a detailed report on their performances.

Shortly over 70 students will be participating in the schools annual snow trip. With recent reports of heavy snow falls a good time is assured.

The school has recently purchased five interactive whiteboards and they will be installed in classrooms shortly. In a future P & C meeting a demonstration will be organised for parents.

Our Year 12 group should be hard at work for their upcoming Trial HSC exams. For a number of students this is the last formal assessment task of their HSC career. It is important that all our students perform to their potential in these exams.

A working party of staff and students is currently reviewing our uniform and in particular our school jacket. It is hoped that our current "hooded" jacket can be replaced with something that is modern and appropriate.

Attendance: It's not OK to be away.

Many students are not progressing as well as they could due to absences from school which are more often than not, unnecessary and for reasons that are fairly low on an importance scale.

Students do best when they attend regularly. It is hard to keep up to date if you are continually absent. Parents have a critical role to play in protecting your own child's future. Absences can be minimised by arranging doctor's and dental appointments in the holidays or after school. Helping at home or visiting relatives may seem important at the time but not for a person's future.

The school will not accept trivial reasons for absences and such notes would not discharge a parent's legal responsibilities.

School and parents have a legal responsibility to account for the whereabouts of students daily.

If you require help to say **NO** to your son/daughter on their attendance, please contact one of the Deputy Principals.

Working together can make a difference to your child's future.

DEPUTYS' DIALOGUE

Already we are well into Term 3 and the school is very busy on a number of fronts.

Year 12 students are studying vigorously for their Trial HSC exams which commence on Wednesday 13th August. Students should ensure they attend all lessons in the lead-up to these exams as part of their exam preparation. With cold and wet weather here we ask all parents to help keep their children in school uniform by providing notes to the school when their child is not wearing uniform. Parents will be contacted if their child is out of uniform without a note.

Year 10 students are selecting subjects for study in the senior school in 2009. Parents have an important role to play here by discussing possible patterns of study and post-school options with their children.

Year 8 students will be choosing two subjects for study as electives in Years 9 and 10. There will be an information afternoon for students and parents at the school hall on 25th August at 1.40 pm.

Thankyou to the teachers and students who prepared and presented our Year 12 Music Night on Wednesday 6th August 2008. Everyone enjoyed the students fantastic performances.

Congratulations to Brandon Crapp and Melanie Charters-Brown who performed so well at the Regional Public Speaking final. Thankyou to Ms Moulton who was outstanding as their coach.

To reinforce our school's Core Values—Care, Respect and Responsibility—the staff are handing out raffle tickets when students display these values. We will have weekly prizes and at the end of each term we will draw a major prize. These prizes are a way of encouraging our students to behave in a caring, respectful manner while taking responsibilities for their actions.

SCHOOL MUSICAL
4, 5, 6 SEPTEMBER, 2008
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM FRONT OFFICE
\$ 7.00 Students
\$10.00 Adults

YEAR 10 PASS

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of week 10 last term, Miss Randall and Mrs Taylor accompanied the two Year 10 P.A.S.S classes to Balarang Primary, Albion Park Rail Primary and Oak Flats Primary, on a L.E.A.D drug day. The Year 10 P.A.S.S students taught the Year 6 students from each school about drug education and how to act when placed in a tough situation. We ended the day with a game of trivia, which all of the kids participated in. Miss Randall and Mrs Taylor received positive feedback from the primary school teachers and principals and we hope to host other L.E.A.D days in coming years.

- Written by Brittany Simpson

SPORTS

PDHPE NEWS

The PDHPE faculty has been very busy coordinating Health units for years 7 to 10 during terms 2 and 3.

Some excellent class work has been done by a number of students across all years with assessment tasks and assignments being well received. Excellent efforts from a number of Yr 10 students, who are working towards their School Certificate grades. Special mention to Melia Zur, Paul Fuller, Sandra Spremo, Harley Hawkins, and James Strachan for their "Risky Business" assignments. Well Done.

During practical PE lessons most classes have been enjoying participating in the dance units. It is pleasing to observe the students' enjoyment of these units and to see maturity develop. Some excellent performances, styles and techniques were rewarded with merit certificates. John Martinoski is a natural and should consider entering in the "so you think you can dance" competition.

The annual SNOW excursion which is set down for the 13th, 14th, 15th August, looks set to be a ripper as the snow depth for 2008 is one of the best for many years with more snow on the way. Students from our elective classes PASS, SLR and PDHPE are offered this excursion as part of their courses and this particular excursion is probably the most memorable one of the students school life. A big thankyou to Mr Trist for all the effort he dedicates to making this excursion possible.

Remember to bend your knees kids.

C. Wishart. (Relieving Head Teacher)

Athletics

Oak Flats High students performed exceptionally well at the recent zone athletics carnival. So well in fact that we now have 30 students going on to represent our school at the regional athletics carnival held in Canberra on Friday 8th August.

Of the 70 students who participated at the zone carnival Jessica Ross Kelly and Dylan Crandell deserve a special mention as they were crowned zone age champions for their particular age groups for 2008. Congratulations!

Well done to all the students and GOOD LUCK to those students going to chilly Canberra on Friday.

Cross Country

Oak Flats High was represented by 8 students at the regional cross country carnival held at Cambewarra, Nowra. Jason Invernon and John Tilden performed very well and were rewarded with selection to go on to the state cross county carnival. John was a member of the winning regional team for his age group. Well done!

Grade Sport Competition

Oak Flats teams in the Thursday grade sport competitions are performing well. As we enter into round three most of the teams have a chance of being in the playoff finals held in week 9. Sportsmanship has been a pleasing factor observed by all of our teams, whether they win or lose. Good luck to the teams and their coaches for the remaining games before the finals.

LAKE ILLAWARRA LITTLE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION INC.

REGISTRATION DAYS 2008/2009 SEASON

Sunday 10, 17, 24 & 31st August 2008 1pm—3 pm at King Memorial Oval, Barrack Heights.

"Early Bird" rates month of August \$60.00 Normal rates \$70.00 please bring birth certificate or passport

Children aged 3—17 yrs First night of competition Friday 5.09.08 at 5.15pm.

Any enquiries phone Howard McGarry on 42 967319

HSIE

The busy times have returned for all HSIE students from Year 12 to Year 7 after a good break in July, we have begun the run into the final yearly examination period beginning with Year 12 trial examinations next week. We have had some outstanding performances from Year 12 recently, most notably Col Studman and Jena King-Gee in Retail Operations.

Year 11 have more preparation time before their Preliminary Finals. The Economics class will be spending next Thursday at the University of Wollongong as guests for the day of the University's Economic's Department. They'll be listening to lectures and enjoying a complimentary lunch. These students completed their compulsory seminars recently, and they were of high quality, particularly those seminars delivered by Chris Lichtenberg, Alyce Erikson, James Bazzina & Martin Cohen.

Year 11 Retail Services had fun during the excursion to Sydney. You can read Alexandra Dickens' report to join further insights into the day's activities. The behaviour of this group was exemplary during the whole day in class, there are also some encouraging performances from Anthony Ferri, Serina Kane, Morgan Tipping, Jacinta Landon and Jaye DeSousa.

Year 11 Retail recently travelled to Sydney to explore the retail environment and meet with management from the Broadway shopping centre. The management discussed opening and closing times, security breaches within the complex, and we also discovered the complexities of businesses housed within heritage listed buildings. Included in the tour was a glimpse around Paddy's markets with lots of banter between students and market stall holders! Many bargains were gained and contrast between the two shopping destinations emphasised the many different retail experiences and potential job opportunities there are for retail students. Last but not least, we travelled to Miranda Fair which was the largest retail outlet to be visited for the day. There was an endless variety of stores ranging from a small English lolly shop to large department stores such as Myers. All in all we had a great day with lots of learning opportunities and we are now busy planning our next road trip!
Alexander Dickens.



You may have noticed Kiara Nolan working diligently in the School Office during her work placement for Yr11 Business Services. The Office staff commended her great help during the week. Also seen in the office were Serina Kane and Megan Bateman. These two students were responsible for operations in the front office on our pupil free day at the beginning of this term. A professional display from these two competent students and thanks to Mr Trist for his supervision.

Year 11 Retail & Business Services have their final week of work placement during the week commencing November 3rd. Last week the school participated in National Tree Day and our Year 10 Geography students planted 25 trees and shrubs around the school to commemorate the occasion. Each year the Shellharbour City Council provides our school with many trees and shrubs for our school beautification program. We are always grateful for the Council's generous assistance in our program.

Year 11 Modern History have been working very well this year. During Term 2, many students produced outstanding Historical Investigations on topics such as the JFK Assassination, War on Terror, the influence of the 1960s & 1970s music on society's culture the Tiananmen Square protests and the Whitlam Dismissal. This term, students will be working on their core topic: Life at the Beginning of the 20th Century and the causes of World War One. The study of this topic will involve an excursion to The Rocks Discovery Museum in Week 6.

M Lyddiard

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS BLOOD SERVICE DONOR MOBILE will be at:

STOCKLAND SHELLHARBOUR

18, 19, 20, 21 & 22 August, 2008

Please note all donors need identification eg: driver's licence, proof of age etc

To make an appointment please phone **13 14 95**

ENGLISH

Most students have been progressing along nicely in English and remembering to use their diaries in order to keep up to date with assignments, tests and so on, which is great! Utilising diaries is the only way to successfully organise yourself and it also gives parents an idea of up-coming tests and work to be submitted so they too can play an active role in helping students complete their work on time.

There are some exciting projects coming up for both staff and students. 60 students will be going to The National Art School in Darlinghurst on the 27th of August to watch an innovative production of Shakespeare's play, "Macbeth". The students will be mesmerised by this theatre experience and give them valuable insight as to how plays transform from merely text in a book to something that comes alive before their eyes. We can't stress how important these types of experiences are for English students and as busy people, they are not generally something that parents have time for. So enjoy, and remember that Care, Respect and Responsibility are doubly important when we are out in the community representing our school.

A number of English staff will be attending a workshop after school on the 13th of August in order to familiarise themselves with the new HSC topic of "Belonging" which relates to both Standard and Advanced English for the 2009 HSC. These in-services are invaluable professional development for staff and are essentially a part of the work that teachers put in to better equip themselves with the required knowledge of their subject area.

WRITERS WANTED! WIN GREAT PRIZES!

Entry is now open for the 2008 Schools Writing Competition. Entries close on the 31st August. Poems must not exceed 16 lines and short stories must not exceed 500 words. For further details on how to enter, see Mrs Hoole in the English staffroom.

This week's dedicated students are:

- Michael Johnson in 10E7 who has improved his skills in analysis by completing high quality responses in relation to the film "The Simple Plan".
- Cherrie Gooden in Year 12 who achieved full marks in the latest HSC Advanced English assessment task (radio interview).
- Jacob Benko and Mitchell McCaffrey in 8E2 have written great fantasy stories. Jacob's story of the farmer fighting to save his animals from the werewolves was very animated and bloody. Mitchell's story about the war between Santa and Frosty was an awesome read. Well done boys!
- All of 8EA produced an outstanding piece of creative writing on fantasy kingdom/characters and this was made into a booklet which was bound and given to the students as a memento to remember in years to come. They were proud to see their published work.
- Congratulations to Shedeia Barnett of Year 9 for her great book review on "Hush" which will appear in the IQ section of the Illawarra Mercury in the near future.
- Well Done Jessica Ross-Kelly of Year 7 for participating in the Australian schools spelling competition last term. Well done Amy Faras, Melanie Hodson, Sam Burnham, Ebony Morgan and Teagan Boniface for writing excellent creative writing pieces called "Willy Wombat" for homework last term. Until next time. ADIEU.

BRING HOME A BROTHER OR A SISTER

In February 2009, students aged 15—18 years from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis.

Host families help provide our students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call **Student Exchange Australia** on **1300 135 331**

Or visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au

CENTRAL ILLAWARRA YOUTH SERVICES INC TERM 3 2008 PROGRAM—ALBION PARK RAIL

Albion Park Rail Community Centre
Monday and Tuesday 3.00 to 5.00pm
Phone: 42578080

Activities include excursions, cooking classes, movie days and cricket games phone above number or come and join in.