College Executive Principal starts work

Willem Holvast, our new College Executive Principal, started work this week. He spent Monday at Westport Campus and Tuesday with us. During this time he spoke to the students on assembly, visited each staff room, spoke to students in the playground, attended a welcome morning tea and observed some of our classes. He was particularly interested in our alternative learning programs. Willem has spent some time in the school previously as relieving principal, so not everything is new to him. Tuesday night he attended P&C and Wednesday he came to our executive meeting. On Thursday he went to the first day of the STEM conference as part of the College Principal’s Team. This was a great opportunity for the 3 principals to spend time together. I would like to congratulate Willem on his appointment; he will be a great asset to the college.
From the Principal

I have just returned to the school after three weeks long service. I sailed the whole of the Pacific Ocean from South America to Sydney. At one stage we did not touch land for nine days. The journey made me think of our early sea explorers and the challengers that they faced. This has been a very exciting week for the college with our new Executive Principal starting work, (see page one) Year 7 Camp and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Action Schools Conference.

STEM Conference
Last Thursday I had the privilege of travelling to Sydney with the other college principals for the first day of the STEM Action Schools Conference. This is a college initiative with Jo Bourke, Jeff Appleby, Luke Barry, Amanda Leech and Dr Peter Fletcher, our mentor from the University of New England representing our campus. Seven other city and regional schools are involved in the project and part of the day was spent hearing what they are doing to promote STEM in their schools. Some more details about our STEM involvement are elsewhere in this newsletter. We had guest speakers from Cotton Australia and Google Australia. The Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli came to meet the teachers involved. This is a wonderful opportunity for our college and students. Congratulations to all those involved in the college promotion of STEM.

P&C Annual General Meeting
The P&C held their annual general meeting on Tuesday. This was their first opportunity to meet Willem and discuss his role in the college. The P&C have asked each faculty to present a proposal for funding. Jo Bourke, the Science Head Teacher went along to the meeting with her faculty's proposal. They want to purchase the rights to run the “Intoscience” program which is in some ways similar to the Mathletics Program. This program is internet based and allows students to work on their Science at school and at home. It features 3D environments, virtual experiments and deep contextual activities. The parents were very interested in the program. I would like to thank the P&C for the support they are giving the school and congratulate their office bearers for 2016. These are:

President - Leanne Burbridge
Treasurer - Louise McArdle
Vice President and Canteen Convener - Kellie Fardy.
The position of secretary remains vacant. They would love to hear from you if you can help out. The new venue at the Town Green Inn is proving popular, congratulations P&C on this great innovation.

Year 7 Camp
On Tuesday I was delighted to talk to some of our Year 7 who were going to camp on Wednesday. They were very excited to be off on their adventure and wanting to make sure that they had all the right equipment. The camp is being held early in the year to help students bond with their school, teachers and each other. I would like to thank Ms Farmer and Ms Cox for their organisation and Mr Duck for accompanying them and driving the school bus. No doubt we will see the photos and hear all the details next week.

Parent Conferences on Tuesday
This evening in the second part of our parent conferences and is for Years 8, 9 and 10. They will be held in the Multi-Purpose Centre from 4pm to 6pm. We now call them conferences because we wish students and teachers to be involved. The best learning happens when we all work together on our goals.

Easter and Term Holidays
Next week will only be four days as Friday is the start of Easter. School will resume on Tuesday March 29th. This will be week 10 of the term. This is an eleven week term with school not finishing until April 8th. Students will need to be in class and engaged for the whole of the term.
We have another exciting week coming up for students, teachers and no doubt parents. We have a scripture seminar on Tuesday, a lockdown and evacuation drill, an Agriculture excursion to the Royal Easter Show and several sporting events including Rugby Union, Hockey and Touch Football. Have a happy and safe Easter.

Lorraine Haddon
Principal
Imogen Brunner

Thirteen year old Imogen Brunner is the fourth of the high achieving P&C scholarship winners to be featured in the weekly newsletter.

Imogen was born on the Gold Coast and lived there until she was eight. She and her sister Annika, who is in Year 9 at Port Macquarie Campus, attended Port Macquarie Primary before moving to high school.

Imogen likes having an older sister at the school. “She knows where to go so I can ask her for help around the school,” she said. “I was a little bit nervous when I first came but I was excited”

Imogen makes friends easily and hangs out with her Port Primary classmates as well as new friends she has made in Year 7.

Imogen admits she loves school. “I like music especially and I’m learning to play the trumpet. I also like to play sport and I play touch football and netball and just love swimming. My sister Annika likes netball. That’s her number one,” she added.

What does the future hold for Imogen?

“I’d like to be a lawyer. My aunt and uncle are both lawyers. My parents say I’m argumentative and that would help. I’m happy to spend four years at university.”

We wish Imogen and the other three P&C scholarship winners, Jade Carrick, Jesse Beard and Jade Vaughan every success in Year 7 and in future years at this great school.

Jade Carrick, Jesse Beard, Imogen Brunner and Jade Vaughan
What’s happening in Week Nine

Monday: Zone Hockey Trials
Tuesday: Years 8,9,10 Parent/Student/Teacher Conference 4-6 pm in the MPC, Scripture Seminar
Wednesday: Sydney Royal Easter Show
Thursday: Zone Touch Boys/Girls

Zone and Regional Swimming
On the 29th February Port Macquarie campus swimmers travelled to Macksville by bus and competed in the Zone Swimming Championships. All swimmers swam to the best of their ability and showed how proud they are of themselves our school. On The 8th March the Regional Swimming Championship was at Kempsey. Swimmers had to make their own way to this meet. It was very hard competition. Ashlyn Dures was age champion as was Sam Harris. They will compete at the State Championships along with the great swimmer Jack Agland. Well done to all.
Careers News

Upcoming opportunities for Year 12 students:

Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Course

There is an opportunity provided by the school for Year 12 students to complete the qualification for the course ‘Provide Responsible Service of Alcohol (SITHFAB009A)’. This qualification will give the students essential skills to work in the Hospitality Industry in either a part time or full time capacity when they finish school later this year.

Course: Provide Responsible Service of Alcohol (SITHFAB009A)
Trainer: Novaskill Training Group Port Macquarie
Location: The Connected Classroom at Port Macquarie Campus
Date: Thursday 7th April
Times: 8am to 2:15pm
Cost: The cost of this course is $100 per student which has been subsidised and is well below the market rate for this qualification.

University of New England Yr12 Open Day Excursion

A school excursion has been organised for interested Year 12 students to the Open Day at UNE Armidale on Friday 6th May (Week 2 Term 2). The Open Day showcases the campus in regard to its courses, facilities, accommodation, entry and scholarship programs. The university is generously subsidising travel for the day. UNE will also be providing some lunch for the students. The cost of the day is $20 per student and the trip leaves school on Friday 6th May at 5:30am and returns to the school at 6pm. Students who have registered to attend this excursion need to pay their money and return their note by Friday 29th April.

I encourage all Year 12 students to consider the above opportunities to help enhance their future career options. Any enquiries please consult the Careers Adviser.

Mr White – Careers Adviser
STEM Academy
Our Science Technology Engineering and Maths Academy students have been working on structures this term. The following photos show the students finalising the Arch bridges they have designed, measured and accurately built.

Students also used data logger technology to measure the tension and compression forces on our truss bridge. Thanks to Dr Fletcher our academic partner for explaining the concept to our students. Thanks also to Shanley Porto (Dux of Port Macquarie campus 2015) working in STEM to help our students to understand the concepts.
Our “Egg Arch bridge” where students calculated the mass per gram half an egg could hold. Well done to Seth who calculated 1g for 464g we are now attempting to support his weight with egg shells.

Students have also used interactive online software to design their truss bridges. We will be proving a site visit to a local bridge construction, Sting Ray creek, where engineers will take the students through all aspects of design and construction.

The STEM teachers are very excited to be part of the new STEM academy and we have successfully applied to part of the STEM action schools project; we are one of 7 schools in the state to be selected. We will be attending a conference in Sydney this week to learn more about STEM initiatives.

Jo Bourke  (Science Head Teacher)          Jeff Appleby (Technological and Applied Studies Head Teacher)
Out of Uniform Day
Thursday 24th March
Week 9
Wear ‘purple’
* Gold coin donation
* Money collected at gates on entry to school
Raising money for EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

To raise much needed funds and awareness for the epilepsy foundation we will be selling chocolates, wristbands and raffle tickets throughout the next few weeks. There will be an out of uniform day next Thursday 24th March in exchange for a gold coin donation. There will also be a bake sale outside the canteen during Lunch 1 on this day. So bring some spare change and enjoy some home-baked treats! Cakes and biscuits range from 50c - $2

All moneys raised goes to the Epilepsy foundation for much needed research to help the lives of thousands of Australians living with epilepsy.

We are aiming to match our efforts last year and raise $1000, so please help us reach our goal and support a great cause!
School uniform required

ANTI-BULLYING DAY

Wear an odd strange accessory that stands out!!

Stand together and fight against bullying

When: Friday March 18th
Open Girls Netball

Last week the Open Girls Netball team travelled to Macksville to compete in Rounds 1 and 2 of the State Knockout Competition. Whilst we weren't successful the girls showed great team and school spirit in competing on what was a very hot day, especially considering they had no reserves. Congratulations to Elenoa Wilson who was selected in the Lower North Coast side to trial for the North Coast side next week. We wish Elenoa all the best for this. Also, a big thank you to Tayla Dures for being our umpire and conducting herself in a most professional manner.

North Coast AFL

Jack Terley was chosen in North Coast AFL team to play in the State Carnival in Newcastle on 29th April. Jack has played AFL for the last six years and follows the Sydney Swans. He was selected in the Under 15’s and his preferred position is in the Centre but also likes to play across the halfback line. Congratulations Jack.
Celebrating International Pi Day 2016

14th March was International Pi Day. The LEAP Academy took one period to focus on this historic day. One of the LEAP teachers, Amanda Leach, went out of her way to put together a little power point and quiz for the kids to really grasp the meaning of "π". The LEAP kids got a visit from the Head Teacher of Maths, Mr Luke Barry. In the end, they all got to have little party pies and got creative with the tomato sauce. "It was a very fun and different way of learning" Krystal Brazier said.

Olivia Kittila-Howard, Year 9 LEAP Academy