Year 12 Exam Time

Students in Year 12 are facing the challenges of their half yearly exams this week at both campuses of Hastings Secondary College. Higher School Certificate courses began in term four last year and already students are at the half way mark in their studies for this year's HSC. Two papers in English were the first to be tackled and afterwards most students said the exam papers were fair with no surprises. Most were relaxed afterwards and said they were going home to prepare for their other subjects. The areas around the exam halls are out of bounds to other students which helps reduce playground noise which might interfere with students’ concentration. The exams run for about a week at both campuses and all students are looking forward to a well-deserved break in their Easter Vacation starting on Good Friday 3rd April.
North Coast Soccer and Touch Football Teams

Port Macquarie Campus selected in the North Coast Soccer and Touch football Teams. Congratulations to Maddison Stockham, Jessica Sanderson, Billy Axford and Allana Butlin for gaining selection in the Regional team to compete at the State Carnival. Allana was selected in the U15 girls touch team where her skills and pace were recognized. Jess and Maddy were a part of the LNC team which was the Regional title and play in Bathurst early in term 2. Billy Axford showed determination and skill at the Regional title, where despite his LNC team being well beaten in there games he performed brilliantly to be selected.

Well done all!

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Congratulations to Stephanie Mackedie in Year 11 who represented the Port Macquarie Campus at the recent Lions Youth of the Year Regional Final. Stephanie delivered a speech on “How to Remember.” The competition, with competitors from as far south as Taree, was held at the Lake Cathie Bowling Club. Speakers were all highly polished and Stephanie said she enjoyed the experience of hearing other students' ideas.

Mrs Jan von Schoenberg
Public Speaking Co-ordinator
From the Principal

This will be the last newsletter for the term. We have had a busy week again. I have been on an in-service to learn about the new performance and development framework for teachers. Students are busy preparing for the Royal Easter Show and state swimming. Year 12 completed their exams on Friday.

College news

This week we are still working on the subjects to be offered in Year 11; we are balancing choice against sustainability. We should be able to offer about 45 subjects, in nine different (Key Learning Areas) KLA s. We will be offering two different languages, nine subjects in the Creative and Performing Arts areas, seven subjects in Science and twelve subjects in Human Society and Its Environment. This should give every student, whether ATAR or none ATAR, the opportunity to do a strong vocational pathway. The subjects offered at school are supplemented by subjects at TAFE. We will have our last Steering Committee for the term on Monday.

Bon Voyage – Ancient History Group

During the Easter holidays 17 students and 3 teachers will travel to Italy for 13 days as part of the Ancient History tour of ancient Rome, Pompeii and Herculaneum. They will see the Trevi Fountain and toss a coin over their shoulders to ensure they return to the Eternal City. They will visit the fabulous Pantheon built by Agrippa and re-built a little later. Also on their itinerary is the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica, Piazza Navona, Ara Pacis – the wonderful alter of peace dedicated to Augustus in the first century B.C. Next on the agenda is the Colosseum, the arena of the gladiators and the Roman Forum followed by the Catacombs and the Tivoli. Then the excursion leaves Rome and the group will travel to the Bay of Naples where they will climb Mt. Vesuvius, the active volcano which erupted in 79 B.C. with several smaller eruptions since. There will be guided tours of the ancient towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum with Dr. Estelle Lazer and Sarah Court. Dr. Lazer is also scheduled to give the group a lecture at their hotel. She is the leading forensic anthropologist at Pompeii. Some valuable time will be spent in the Naples Archaeological Museum. This will be followed by a day trip to the beautiful Isle of Capri. Other archaeological sites that will be visited include Sorrento and Monte Cassino. The group will return to Rome where they will fly out on their return journey to Sydney. This is the fourth time Mr. Littlefair has organized an excursion like this to Italy. "This will be a great trip for our senior Ancient History students," he said. "It will help them greatly with their HSC studies. We are all looking forward to the adventure.

Senior Success

Last week we had the first of our Senior Success meetings. This is a program run by CSU at CSU and is an across campus program, that aims to support senior students by setting up a mentoring relationship with a parent or supporter. The course goes through how to help your son or daughter with subjects you nothing about; they also look at goal setting and study skills and other areas of support. I would like thank Sandra Wallace from CSU for running the course and Mark White for organising it. Our students are reporting that it is very useful.

Gabby Plumb at the Royal Easter Show

Gabby is going down to the Easter Show to compete in the cattle parading competition. It is a great honour to be selected to compete. Other members of the cattle team will going to the show as an excursion. We will have all the details in our next newsletter. Thank you to Mrs Napier for all the hard work she puts into the team.

Harmony Day Barbeque

Last Friday night Teri Boyle organised a Harmony Day Barbeque for Aboriginal students and their parents. Uncle Bill, his wife Maz and his daughter Kelly attended. Please see more details elsewhere in the newsletter. I would like to thank Teri Boyle for her effort, organising the night.

Starting dates for next term.

The first day of term is a school development day. All students should come back to school on Tuesday April 21st. Please note the following Monday is not a public holiday. All students and staff are required to be at school Monday April 27th. We welcome students to come and be part of the school team at the Anzac Ceremony on Saturday April 25th. The national anthem will be sung by our student Shannon Beck.

The last week of term will feature the next round of parent teacher nights and our second whole school formal assembly for the term. This is the last newsletter for the term, our next one will come out on the Friday of Week 1.

Lorraine Haddon
Principal
Mad Science

This year we have started our new Year 9 Mad Science elective with a bang, literally! It's always nice to have balloons on your birthday but a better way to celebrate is to ignite a hydrogen filled balloon with a sparkler. Looks and sounds amazing!

Throughout the term, students have been given the opportunity to explore a range of practical activities, without the need to write a Science report. This is every budding scientist's dream. We solve problems in teams and the students choose what types of experiments that they would like to explore. Some chosen have been favourites from Year 7 and 8, 'Elephant’s Toothpaste' being very popular. Others have been inspired by the Crazy Russian Hacker who has a large following on You Tube.

Activities for this term have included:
Egg Drop Challenge, Magic with Balloons and Candles, The Wonders of Dry Ice, Volcanic Eruptions, Film Cannister Rockets, Ring Wing Glider, Aluminium Foil Boats, Eco Challenge: Aqua Republica, Seed Twister and Sugar Density Columns
Science for our Gifted and Talented Students

1. Gifted and Talented Discovery Program

Towards the end of 2014, students in 8ScienceA and 9ScienceA were invited to participate in the University of Sydney’s Gifted and Talented Discovery Program Qualifying Exam. The following students were recently awarded with a participation certificate: Aaron Sherwood, Liam Clark, James Jackson, Helen Charles, Miriam Woof, Lachlan Byron and Elliot Burn.

The exam was a 40-minute multiple-choice paper that consists of multiple choice questions designed to test a student’s ability to solve scientific problems in the areas of biology, chemistry and physics.

This is a highly competitive program, with over 1000 students across NSW involved. Congratulations to Aaron Sherwood who was our highest ranked student.

2. Science and Engineering Challenge

The Science and Engineering Challenge is a nationwide Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics outreach program presented by the University of Newcastle in partnership with communities, Rotary clubs, universities and sponsors.

Through the Challenge, students experience aspects of Science and Engineering which they would not usually see in their school environment.

The Challenge runs a range of programs but focuses on inspiring students in year 9 and 10 to consider a future career in science and engineering by choosing to study the enabling sciences and mathematics in years 11 and 12.

Early in Term 2, students from our school will travel to Kempsey to participate in the first level of the Challenge. We would like to thank the sponsors of this activity, especially the University of Newcastle, for continuing to provide support for our school so that the only cost to our students is for travel to the venue.

Amanda Leach
Science Faculty
CLOSING THE GAP

Congratulations to Emilyrose Cole for her excellent speech on “Closing the Gap.” Her important message was given during the Harmony Day celebrations organized by Mrs. Teri Boyle on Friday in the cola.
Rose said that closing the gap is essentially about improving the health and education outcomes for indigenous people.
Many thanks to those who helped with the organization: in particular, Christina de Ramirez, Dillon Lee in Year 10, Rose Cole in Year 11 and Harmony Cole in Year 7.

UNIFORM

Congratulations to the overwhelming number of students, parents and caregivers who have ensured the wearing of correct uniform this term.
Please note with the cold weather coming on that school jackets or plain navy blue jumpers or cardigans are required.

- **Hoodies** are not our uniform.
- Grey or black jumpers are not our uniform.

Boys remember:
Grey long pants or grey shorts are worn on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
Navy blue sports shorts are worn on Wednesday.

Girls remember:
Navy blue long pants or shorts can be worn by girls. Not RUGGERS.

Thank you for being proud of our school.

Mr. Terry Mundy
Uniform Co-ordinator
A school excursion has been organised for interested Year 12 students to the Open Day at UNE Armidale on Friday 1st 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 1st May at 6am 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 the end of this term (Thursday 2nd April).
This will be the second last chance to attend a University Open Day Visit with the school, the last Open Day will be to Newcastle University at the end of term 2.

**Year 11 Senior Success Night**
Last Thursday night a group of Year 11 students and their parents attended the Senior Success Program run by the Future Moves Team at Charles Sturt University in Grant Street Port Macquarie.

This Hastings Secondary College Program involved students and their selected support person working together to understand and organise themselves through Year 11 and 12. This is an opportunity for senior students at our school to develop strategies to enhance their progress throughout Stage 6. We thank the students and their parents who supported this valuable initiative and we look forward to more students and parents attending the next sessions in the program.

The next sessions in the program will be held from 6:00 pm until 7:30pm at the Charles Sturt University Campus in Grant Street, on the following dates:

- **Term 2:** Tuesday 2nd June 2015 – Learning Styles / Exams & Study
- **Term 3:** Tuesday 18th August 2015

Mr White – Careers Adviser
Our Year 7’s are learning a Concert Band Instrument

Thanks to an injection of College funds, Hastings Secondary College students in year 7 at Port Macquarie Campus are all learning a concert band instrument as part of their mandatory music course. Research shows the benefits of studying music and playing an instrument can be substantial. “There are a great many reasons why children should learn to play music,” says Dr Richard Letts, the executive director of the Music Council of Australia. He states, "If a child studies music constantly over a period of time, they do better in school in all sorts of ways, including academically and socially.”

Over the past 10 weeks our students have been learning how to play their instrument and are now coming together in their class bands. Music teacher, Clare Farmer, said "all of our year 7 students have really taken on this challenge. Even students who have never played an instrument in primary school have been shining in our class band. Some students have chosen to also join the school band after discovering that they enjoy learning a musical instrument as a result of this opportunity”.

Dr Richard Letts states "If a person is engaged in making music and art, the brain will grow to support the activity as it would for any activity – but in the case of music and art it appears other abilities also increase. The consequence is that children who problem solve in the area of arts have an accelerated learning in other academic subjects," he says.

Basically Dr Letts outlines what we in the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty already know ….."The earlier a child ... comes to grips with music and creative arts subjects, the more the brain growth will be influenced. It sets them up for life."

Band practice is on Thursday afternoon from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. The band is learning music in preparation for the Circus Production which is being held at the end of next term.

If you would like to know more information about our band program and enquire about your child learning a musical instrument please contact Clare Farmer on 65831488.