Class of 2015 says ‘Goodbye.’

Parents, teachers, students and invited guests gathered at the Port Macquarie Campus of Hastings Secondary College to honour and farewell the graduating class of 2015. The official party on stage consisted of Dr. Wayne Ible Executive Principal, Mrs Leanne Burbridge President of the P&C, Ms Lorraine Haddon Principal, Mr Daryl Mason Deputy Principal, Year Advisers Ms Combey and Mr Harrison, the school captains for 2015 and Mrs von Schoenberg officiating as M.C.

Year 12 students presented musical items between the presentation of awards and speakers paid tribute to the many academic, sporting, cultural and community service achievements of this fine group of young people. Those who spoke included the Principal Ms Haddon, the Year Advisers Mr Harrison and Ms Combey and the outgoing captains and vice captains, Amelia Pitt, Lachlan Fardy, Laura Reed and Max Lewis-Barnett. The announcement of next years' new captains was greeted with great enthusiasm. The captains elect for 2016 are Stephanie Mackedie, Christian Familiar with vice captains Georgia Hunt and Liam Eastwell.

The new captains being congratulated by the retiring captains.

(I-r): Georgia Hunt, Liam Eastwell, Stephanie Mackedie, Christian Familiar, Lachlan Fardy, Amelia Pitt, Max Lewis-Barnett, Laura Reed.
First came the sports awards presented by Mr Mason:
The Sporting Recognition Award went to Harriet Crowley. The outstanding sportspersons awards went to Breearna Walsh and Max Lewis-Barnett. Max also took out the Pierre de Coubertin Award. Teacher Mr Damien Huens was named ‘Coach of the Year.’
Mrs Marion Napier presented the Agriculture Awards to Courtney Galbraith, Emily Barham, Gabby Plumb, Natasha Newberry, Tanique Kirkman and Katie Harris. The four very prestigious Special Awards were presented by P&C President Mrs Burbridge. The Reuben F Scarf Award went to Jasmine Jackson. Max Lewis Barnett was again honoured for the third time with the ADF Long Tan Award. Ashleigh Cocking took out the Citizenship Award and Hayley Newell was recognized as the House Point Award winner.
Dr. Ible presented the Academic Excellence Awards. Mitchell Quiney got the Vocational Education & Training Award. The CAPA Blue Award went to Lachlan Fardy who also came first in a number of subjects. Shanley Porto not only received the Principal’s award but was given the Science Blue Award also. Erin Moss was named the Most Outstanding Student having come first in seven subjects. Erin also received the English Blue Award. Other students to come first in a subject were recognized. These were Claudia Gorry in Lifestyle and Recreation, Adam Granger in Mathematics, Katie Harris in Agriculture, Jasmine Jackson in Visual Arts, Madison Marchant in Information Technology, Amelia Pitt for Ancient History, Joshua Trowbridge for Industrial Timber, Jesse Kemp for English Studies and Lachlan Wattus for Metal and Engineering.
The assembly ended on a sad note with the final roll call before the graduating students left the hall to mingle with parents and well-wishers.
The BEST Initiative in Mathematics

‘BEST’ is an acronym for Be Everything, Succeed Together. Year 9 and 10 students from both campuses of Hastings Secondary College got together towards the end of last term for a series of workshops in Mathematics. The purpose of the BEST Initiative is to promote mathematical thinking and to improve student study skills and habits. The secondary goal is to develop study groups and friendships between students at both campuses.

So, while students were happily building friendships during a whole day of problem solving at the Westport Campus, one challenging task they were set was to build bridges to span a 30 cm gap using only straws and drawing pins. No easy feat as many found out when their constructions were put to the test by supervising ‘engineer’ Mr. Bovey. The bridges had to hold the weight of two model cars. At least four were successful but most buckled under the weight of the toy vehicles. The activity was tackled in a spirit of fun and gentle rivalry. Loud cheers greeted the successful builders.

Begun in 2014 with Year 7 and 9, the BEST Initiative was expanded to include all top year 7, 8, 9 and 10 mathematics classes at the Hastings Secondary College in 2015.

Recently, Year 7 and 8 students from both campuses took part in workshops conducted over a whole day at the Westport Campus also. The organizing teachers, Mrs. Sue MacGibbon from Port Macquarie Campus with Mrs. Regina Stewart and Mrs Erica Browning from Westport Campus, were very happy with the outcomes from both days.
From the Principal
We have had a busy start to the term. We have had an excursion for Year 11, a performing arts excursion, an orientation day for Year 12 and a whole school assembly. This follows a very busy end to last term with Year 12 graduation and farewell activities, the launch of the Techno Museum and the dance eisteddfod.

College News
We are still working on the new program for Year 7 and 8. We will be going into our partner primary schools next week to tell Years 5 and 6 about the program. Year 6 will hear about how they can apply for academies or select personal interest projects. The staff members involved have prepared brochures to explain the various aspects of the program. Our current Year 7 will get information the following week. We will be holding our Steering Committee meeting on Monday next week to get community members and parents up to date.

New Captains and House Captains
At the assembly on the last Thursday of term our new captains were announced by the outgoing captains. Each of them announced the successful candidate and gave their badge to their replacement. The successful candidates were:
- Girls Captain - Stephanie Mackedie
- Girls Vice Captain – Georgia Hunt
- Boys Captain – Christian Familar
- Boys Vice Captain – Liam Eastwell
House meetings were held before the end of term and the following were elected;
- Towns – Ashlyn Dures, Tayla Davenport, Billy Axford
- Flynn's – Sam Harris, Blake Elliott, Zoe Hayes
- Shelly– Samet Portakadali, Drew Miante, Tiegan Munro
- Lighthouse– Elenoa Wilson, Jacana Ward, Sam Smith
Congratulations to all these students who have selflessly taken on leadership roles.

Grant from Westport Club
During the holidays I had the pleasure of attending the Westport Club annual donation to charities ceremony. It was a very impressive ceremony with Peter Bessling and Leslie Williams in attendance. The Westport Club contribute to a wide variety of groups in our local community ranging from schools, to Marine Rescue, many sporting groups, the Alzheimer's Society and Schizophrenia Australia. The club gave us $5,000 to fund the Mathletics project for Year 7 and 8. This gives the students the chance to work on their Mathematics at home and school. Never can students say they have no homework. I would like to sincerely thank Westport Club for this wonderful contribution to our students’ learning.

Year 12 Graduation and Gift to the school
The Year 12 2015 graduation was a wonderful celebration of 13 years of schooling. Most of the students had very mixed emotions, happy to have achieved so much and sad to be leaving their friends and teachers. We had wonderful musical numbers from Year 12 themselves. They were certainly a talented year. Their Year advisers Todd Harrison and Sharon Combey spoke emotionally about their time with them. The students thanked both their parents and teachers and spoke about their mixed emotions. We chose Kellie Fardy as a representative of all those parents whose children were leaving the school and presented her with some flowers. The students announced their gift to the school. They are redoing the interview room after their HSC keeping the Japanese theme in the room which symbolises our relationship with our sister school. They started with a presentation of Australian flowers in a Japanese arrangement. This is a very thoughtful gift. I wish them all well in their exams starting on Monday.

Shayden Schrader awarded bravery medal
In the second last week of term Shayden went to Sydney to receive his bravery medal for his part in the attempt to save his mate from a shark attack. Unfortunately the attempt was unsuccessful but those present made sure he was nominated for the medal. The award was made through the Governor General on behalf of the queen and presented by the Governor of NSW. Shayden is a very humble young man but he should be congratulated on his recognition. It is an impressive medal with five different parts to be worn on different occasions. Congratulations Shayden.
Dancers at Eisteddfod awarded a Highly Commended
On the last Thursday of the term I had the pleasure of seeing our dance group at the Port Macquarie Eisteddfod competing in the high schools section. Even though it was 9pm they danced very well and were enthusiastically applauded by the audience. They were awarded a Highly Commended. I would like to congratulate the girls and thank Jacyntra Moylan for all the work she does with the group.

P&C
I would like to thank the P&C for their magnificent fund raising activity catering for the Antiques Fair over the holidays. There was a lot of very successful work done. Our next P&C meeting will be on Tuesday October 20th.
I will write about the formal assembly, the Matilda Excursion and the Year 12 Orientation Day next week. Again it will be a busy week with the Techno Museum display day, boys and girls beach volley ball contests and Year 7 Camp.
Lorraine Haddon
Principal

Poetry winners
These students entered a school based competition to recognise International Literacy Day on the 8th September. A $20 book prize from Bookface was awarded to the best piece of ‘founded poetry’ writing from each faculty. Students had to choose words from the text they were using in class that lesson and use them to write a poem.

Brandon Conway, Ellianna Munro, Hannah Popplewell, Jordan Folley, James Lee, Jessica Brown, Ebony O’Brien
With Mr Jackson.

Congratulations Rachel
Rachel Alger of year 11 did a wonderful job in presenting our campus in public speaker during term 3.
She was successful in winning the Quota World Service Ambassador of the Year competition. Her speech on a self-sufficient sewing charity in the Philippines was donated to this project.
In the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Public Speaking, Rachel’s speech on Gender Marketing was excellent. She was the runner up and will now compete for the Sunrise Rotary Club in the District competition.
Well done
Careers News

Careers Guest
At the end of last term the Year 9 careers class had a guest speaker. Chantelle Cooper the 2014 Port Macquarie Campus top performing HSC student called in to the school in her university break to speak with the students. Chantelle is now studying a Bachelor of Medicine at the University of New England.
Chantelle openly spoke to the students about: succeeding at school, good study habits, life balance, university life, university accommodation, her university course and a range of other questions put forward by the students.
It was great to have Chantelle back in the school. She is loving her university course and hopes to follow a career as a paediatrician when she completes her study. Chantelle is photographed below with the Year 9 class.

Year 12 Southern Cross University Careers Excursion
An opportunity exists for Year12 (2016), students to travel to SCU Coffs Harbour Campus, to investigate the campus and its facilities, as well as find out about scholarships, courses and methods of entry. The excursion will take place on Tuesday 20th of October at a cost of $20. Students are to return their permission notes and payment to the Careers room by 15/10/15.

Year 10 Work Experience Program 2015
We again encourage all Year 10 students to take part in the School Work Experience, as part of the Career Education Program. All Year 10 students who are work ready will have the opportunity of participating in Work Experience during the allocated two week period from Monday 23rd November (week 8) or Monday 30th November (week 9). A letter with further information about the process of applying for work experience will be issued to all Year 10 students in the coming week. Any further enquiries please contact the Careers Adviser.
Mr White – Careers Adviser