Studying at a different campus

With the creation of Hastings Secondary College this year came the opportunity for students in Year 11 to have a wider range of subjects to choose from. Students at the former Port Macquarie High and Westport High Schools can now opt for a subject that is taught at the opposite campus to where they are enrolled.
Fourteen students from Port Macquarie Campus travel to the Westport Campus four times a week to study Early Childhood, Society and Culture or Indonesian for beginners. Twelve students from Westport Campus also travel across town four times a week to study Chemistry, Music, Entertainment, Physics or Textiles at the Port Macquarie Campus.

Most of the students spoken to said they found the travelling by Maxi Taxi across town a 'bit of a drag' but now they have become used to it and, for most, they say, "It's not a problem." All are happy with their choice of subjects and plan on continuing to HSC level next year. They are happy to recommend the arrangement to next year's cohort of students if they wish to select a subject not offered at their campus.

Tanith Hardy finds her subject Society and Culture easy. "It's more relaxing than my harder subjects. If I have to drop anything next year it will be Maths and not Society and Culture," she said. "The travelling is OK, but sometimes I feel a little out of place in the other school. Hopefully that will change."

Casey Burn also likes her choice of subject and is studying Society and Culture. "I like the teacher Ms Mooney and I’m getting used to the travelling," Casey said. "The course lives up to my expectations. I find it really interesting and I’ll definitely take this subject in Year 12 as well."

Sebastian Nocelli loves Society and Culture. "It’s my favourite subject. It’s fun. We have a cool little group and we all get along. The taxi is not a problem as some of us have our own transport," he said.

Chloe Mullan says she likes her Indonesian teacher. "Ms. Quinn is really nice. Indonesian is my favourite subject," she said. "I've been to Indonesia and spent four months there and picked up a lot of the language. Ms. Quinn teaches us much more than the basic course which we all appreciate."

Maddy Hanson studies Exploring Early Childhood at the Westport Campus. "It’s one of my favourite subjects," she said. "I love my teacher, Mrs. Grant. She's really nice. I'd like to take this subject to HSC level if I can."

Students from the Westport Campus said they have settled in to the routine of cross campus study also.

Mikalya Harrison has enrolled in the Music course at Port Macquarie Campus. "It's going very well," Mikalya said. "I love music and I've made friends with lots of people."

Brianna Dowell is studying Ancient History with Mr. Fowler. "He has made us feel very welcome," Brianna said. "Mr. Fowler is a really good teacher. All three of us from Westport are enjoying the experience."

Paige Hyde was doing both Physics and Chemistry at the Port Macquarie Campus. "I dropped Physics," Paige said, "But I love Chemistry. Ms Leach is always supportive and willing to help. The only trouble is I can’t ask for help at lunchtimes as we have to travel back across town."

Trang Nguyen has opted for both Physics and Chemistry as well. "I might drop Physics," Trang said. "I find both subjects difficult. I love Chemistry the best. Gabriel Herron has chosen Physics and is happy to continue with it. "Teachers have different teaching methods over there. They explain things differently. But I'm getting used to it," Gabriel said.

Blanchard Mwanza also loves Chemistry and his teacher. "The subject is better than I expected. Ms Leach is really helpful," Blanchard said.

"I still find the travel annoying though. I'm sure it will all be OK."

William Lewthwaite is one of the three Westport students taking Music as a subject at the Port Macquarie Campus. "I’m happy with everything," William said. "The travel, the course, the different campus and making new friends. I think the whole experience is great!"
A Partnership Begins

On Thursday 26th February Hastings Primary school embarked on a partnership with Hastings Secondary College marking the occasion by producing some Visual Artworks that will go on the be used as a collaborative entry into the renowned exhibition ‘Operation Art’. Hastings Primary students, dressed in green and fund raising for Epilepsy Day, worked industriously on individual artworks based on the theme, ‘Things that make you feel better’. The following day, Choir students participated in their first session with teachers Karl Morris and Clare Farmer who are team teaching this talented young group who will have opportunities to perform with the Hastings Secondary Choir at our Production Night in Term 2 and at our Night of Excellence in Term 3. This partnership aims to cement existing links between teachers, students and community to provide many more opportunities for our students in the Hastings Community of Schools to showcase their talents.
College news
The major college event this week has been the strategic planning day for the three college principals. Although we meet each week there is not always the opportunity and time for deep thinking. We discussed the school development day at the beginning of next term and our plans for college professional learning for the rest of the year. We are considering having some more after school sessions. We also discussed our vision for the development of the college beyond the stage that we are currently at. We spent last year setting up the college, the start of this year implementing it and it is now time to look closely at future directions. We want to build our relationships with our partner primary schools particularly in the Creative and Performing Arts area and Language. We want to also work on the transition from primary school to high school and from Year 10 to the senior school. Next year shared curriculum will be in Year 11 and 12. Another important activity on the day was refining Strategic Direction 1 for the school plan. This will be the same for both campuses.

Lunch with Leslie Williams and the Hon. Adrian Piccoli
On Thursday the two school captains and I were invited to have lunch with Leslie Williams and the Hon. Adrian Piccoli. This was a leadership lunch for all school leaders in the Port Macquarie area. The lunch was held in the Pier 1 Room at the Panthers Club. The minister was in the area to officially open the Lake Cathie Primary School. This was a wonderful opportunity for our captains to get an insight into how Parliament works and the importance of leadership.

Rhys Marquez has been awarded a Year 10 academic excellence award
The University of Sydney has awarded Rhys Marquez an academic excellence award to be presented at the university in the MacLaurin Hall on Wednesday March 25th. The university is seeing this as a significant event. There will be an official photographer to record the event with all students having to wear school uniform. Congratulations Rhys and thank you to Mr Sanderson for nominating him.

Rural and Remote Forum
On Monday I attended the Rural and Remote Forum run by the Secondary Principals’ Council. It was a great opportunity for the group to discuss the Rural and Remote Blueprint with three of the directors of public education based in Sydney. Sharon Ford is the Director of Secondary Education. She discussed the progress of Aurora, the Virtual High School that started this year. Our students could access the senior part of the school if they wished to do a subject that we don't deliver here. E.g. Economics. At this stage the subjects available are limited but could expand. Brian Smyth King the Director of Learning and Engagement spoke of the Network Specialist Centres that are being started. These will bring together a variety of government agencies so we can work together to better support kids. Veronica Wilmott the Relieving Director of People and Careers (staffing) spoke about, the incentives being given to trainee teachers to teach in rural and remote areas. The participants were able to clarify issues and raise concerns including school counsellor support and the lack of applications for executive positions in rural and remote areas. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to keep up to date with issues emerging for rural schools.

BEST program
This is a gifted and talented initiative running across the college. It involves students in Years 7 and 8 Mathematics. They do a series of gifted and talented activities and a focus on study skills. The course has been evaluated highly by both parents and students. The highlight of the course is a trip to Luna Park to look at concepts from Maths and Physics. I would like to thank Mrs MacGibbon and Mrs Stewart from Westport Campus for their wonderful work on this initiative.

P&C Annual General Meeting
This will be held on March 17th in the school common room. The AGM will start at 6:30 and be followed by the general meeting.

Week 8 will be another interesting week. We have our College Steering Committee meeting on Monday, the P&C Annual General Meeting on Tuesday and the installation of a new server as well as various sporting events.

Lorraine Haddon
Principal
Regional Swimming

On Wednesday the 4th March, 15 Port Macquarie Campus students travelled to Lismore for the Regional Swimming Carnival. Although the day was extremely hot our swimmers performed superbly. Dane Perry, Jasper Cartwright, Kingslee Marks, Zita Overton and Ella Barnett swam really well but were not successful to reach the higher level. Well done to those swimmers.

We have 3 relay teams going to Sydney for the State Championships on the 26th March at Homebush Aquatic Center. These are the Events our swimmers are competing in:

The 6x50 female Age Group relay from 12 years to 17 years. The swimmers are: Sierra Cummins, Riley Dures, Danielle Stone, Annika Brunner, Ashlyn Dures and Caitlyn Dewbery.

The 4x50 female Freestyle relay 17-19 and the 4 x 50 Medley Relay . The swimmers in both relays are: Caitlin Dewbery, Ashlyn Dures, Toni Hurkett and Harriet Crowley.

Jack Agland for the 50 Freestyle.

Riley Dures for 13 years 100 Backstroke, 100 Breastroke, 100 Butterfly.

Caitlin Dewbery for 17 years : 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle, 100 Backstroke, 200 Individual Medley and Long Distance events.

Ashlyn Dures for 16 years : 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle, 100 Backstroke, 100 Breastroke, 100 Fly and Long Distance Events.

Sam Harris for 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle, 100 Backstroke, 100 Breastroke, 100 Butterfly, 200 Individual Medley and Long Distance Events.

Sam Harris was also the Regional 16 Years Boy Champion, scoring the most points on the day. He is the first Regional champion for some years from Port Macquarie High School. All performances are to be commended as each swimmer put in 110% effort. Well done everyone and a big Thanks to the parents who drove the students to Lismore and also the marvellous billets that looked after some of our swimmers.

Our whole school wishes all the swimmers the very best in Sydney.

Fabulous News.

Helen Cox

Back row: Danielle Stone, Tony Hurkett, Caitlyn Dewbery, Dane Perry, Jack Agland, Sam Harris.

Front row: Kingsley Marks, Riley Dures, Ella Barnett, Sierra Cummins, Ashlyn Dures, Harriet Crowley.
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

Kylee Owen
Deputy Principal

Careers News

Future Choices Expo

On Wednesday of this week students in Yr’s 10, 11 and 12 from the school attended the “Future Choices Expo” at Port Panthers. The Expo brought together a range of organisations which provide transition services for students preparing to exit school. Information was provided by organisations such as: Traineeships, Apprenticeships, Skillslink Training, Aboriginal Services, TAFE, Disability Employment Services, Community Participation Services and Transition to Work Services.

Students and parents found this Expo very helpful in being able to identify organisations and resources which can assist students in their transition into their post school careers.

A big thank you to Interact People Solutions in Port Macquarie for donating water bottles to the school for use with our sporting teams. Interact People Solutions is a leader in the area of Disability Employment Services. They assist job seekers with a disability or injury into sustainable and meaningful employment.

Mr White – Careers Adviser