Open House at the LEAP Academy

Parents, students and staff were invited to an 'Open House' afternoon on Thursday 25th to view the facility that has been set up for the Port Macquarie Campus LEAP Academy. LEAP is an acronym for 'Learning by engaging, authentic pedagogy' and is designed for students who can be independent learners. A LEAP Academy was set up at both campuses of Hastings Secondary College after extensive research during 2015 where staff visited existing academies to learn what was working best and to decide how the best practices could be adopted for the students of the College. Staff then had to undergo training before being accepted for the shared role of Academy advisers.

"The basis behind LEAP is using an interest area for each student to program a cross-curricular personal interest project," according to Ms Amanda Leach, one of the Academy's advisers. "There are many interest areas selected by the students and these include midwifery, animal studies, the fitness industry, agriculture, interior design and computers are especially popular with some of the boys."

The Academy is limited to a total of 15 students from across years 8, 9 and 10. Participants had to apply and convince a panel that the academy style personalised learning program would benefit their learning outcomes. Fifteen were selected and there is a waiting list if a position becomes vacant. The students have their own large, air-conditioned classroom with a new desk each and personal learning space. Each has a laptop computer. There is also a space for group interaction in the centre of the room.
The two teachers who run the academy are Mr Colin Rogers and Ms Amanda Leach. More than half these teachers’ teaching allocation is spent with the students of the Academy. Ms Leach also teaches Science classes while Mr Rogers has additional responsibility for English classes. “The students are taking ownership of their classroom,” Ms Leach said. “They helped clean and restore an old fridge for their own use. The students offered to assist without being asked. They love their comfortable environment with air-conditioning and they have personal items displayed on their shelves. They have space to display their work on the noticeboards.”

Students can still go in and out of the Academy for elective subjects. They were also able to attend the school swimming carnival and later will take time out for the athletics carnival. They are excused from school sport if they are involved in a sport outside of school hours.

Both teachers are very enthusiastic about the progress of the students at the Academy. “Two students have been home schooled until now,” Mr Rogers added. “This approach really suits them. They love coming in full school uniform, which came as a surprise. One student said it takes the pain out of having to find something to wear every day.”

**Jesse Beard**

Jesse Beard is the second of our four Year 7 P&C scholarship winners to be acknowledged in our newsletters. Last week we featured Jade Carrick and both Imogen Brunner and Jade Vaughan will appear over the next two editions.

Jesse was born in Canberra and is the eldest of four having two brothers and one sister still attending Hastings Public School. The family lived in Phillip Island, Victoria before moving to Port Macquarie when Jesse started pre-school.

“A lot of my friends from Hastings are in my class. It makes it real easy,” Jesse admits.

Both of Jesse’s parents are secondary school teachers and Jesse is delighted with the help they give him when he needs it with his schoolwork.

“Mum is an English teacher and dad teaches Maths. Mum will proof-read my writing for me which helps,” Jesse said. “I love Maths and Geography and I show dad my Maths to check that I got things right.”

Like most boys his age Jesse loves sport. “Hockey is my favourite. I like to play on the weekends and next week will be my first hockey competition game. I also play cricket and I’d like to get on the school team in the future. This weekend will be our last game for the season with the Port Macquarie Junior Cricket Club (PMJCC).”

Jesse has two ambitions for his future. “I would like to play professional hockey and go to the Olympic Games,” he said. “Dad was a Volleyball Olympian at two Olympic Games – Sydney in 2000 and Athens in 2004. I’d like to follow in his footsteps.”

Just in case a sporting career doesn’t work out or last too long, Jesse said that he also plans on going to university to study Zoology. “I’d like to make a long term career out of it.”
From the Principal's Desk – Kylee Owen

Flexible Learning Opportunities
The formation of the Hastings Secondary College has given staff the opportunity and inspiration to innovate. This has resulted in the design of a range of new learning programs for our students. These include the Academies, Zenith program, LEAP and the PIPs. All of these are designed to cater to the unique needs of the individual students, allowing flexibility and aligning their learning to real world experience.

Students in Years 7 and 8 have the opportunity to apply for one of our Academies – SPORT, STEM and Creative Industries. The Academies are designed to enrich and extend those students who have a passion and skill level in one of those areas. If a student’s interests lay in areas other than those of the academies, they are able to select a PIP – Personal Interest Project. These include Web Design, Farmer’s Market, Bold Adventures, Food Design and Ancients to Heroes. In each of these programs students are exposed to a range of disciplines and are then able to specialise in a particular area through project-based learning. They will all produce an individual project which will be showcased.

The Zenith program is designed to extend our high achievers. All teachers on this class work as a team to plan and program challenging, engaging and authentic learning activities.

The LEAP program is offering students an alternative learning environment. With a home room and two core teachers, students are able to draw on the full range of curriculum through individualised projects. Students are still able to access mainstream classes, dependent on their individual needs.

We are all very excited to see the progress of each of these programs and the College Innovation Team is already busily working to plan the next phase.

Reminder
Immunisation for Year 7 is on the 8th March. Please return the signed envelope to the front office and make sure your child has breakfast.

Week 9. 22nd March Student conference for 8,9,10

What’s happening in Week Seven

Monday: Zone netball trials, Zone Rugby Union, Legal Studies Excursion

Tuesday: Year 7 Immunisation, Student Conference Afternoon 4-6pm, 7,11,12. Free sausage sizzle and Tea and Coffee provided. Extension History Assessment, Regional Swimming.

Wednesday: North Coast Touch Footy, Period1 Melanoma awareness talk to Year 7

Thursday: Catch up day for photos

Friday: Regional AFL, Modern History Assessment Task, Preliminary Chemistry Assessment Task
Tickets for Pop Stars - The 90’s Musical go on sale this week.
Don’t miss out, get a ticket early to see this dynamic show about Shannon the “popular” girl at school who decides with her friends to form a “girl band” so they can compete in the State Talent Show and more importantly meet world famous, singer Simon Austin. While her ex-boyfriend Mark starts a “boy band” to win the Talent Show title from Shannon. There’s drama and romance aplenty on the rocky road to stardom and fame. Come along to see who will win the recording contract and achieve their dreams?

Where: Port Macquarie Campus MPC
Tickets: available at the door or at our front office: Adults $10 and Kids $5.
Enquiries on 6583 1844
When:
Tuesday 3rd May       6pm show
Wednesday 4th May      6pm show
Thursday 5th May        6pm show
Friday 6th May         6pm show

See you there.
The CAPA Team
Careers News

Where did our 2015 HSC Graduates Go?
A total of 74 students completed their HSC at Port Macquarie High School in 2015. Of this group 34 students (46%) received offers from NSW Universities. The most popular university was Charles Sturt (29% of students) due to its local proximity and identity. The University of New England and University of Newcastle (both 21%) were the second most popular. Other universities that students chose include: University of Wollongong (9%), Western Sydney University (6%), University of Technology Sydney (6%), University of NSW (3%), University of Canberra (3%) and The Australian Maritime College (3%). The students have chosen a broad range of university studies with the most popular fields being Health, Business, Science and Creative Arts. A significant number of students have deferred their university study until 2017 and taken a gap year.
The dux of Port Macquarie High School, Shanley Porto has taken up the offer to study a Bachelor of Forensic Biology in Biomedical Science at the University of Technology Sydney and maybe one day we will see her on the TV shows Bones or CSI!
The students who have sought permanent employment are heavily employed in the Retail, Hospitality and Trade Industries. Many students have chosen to stay locally however a significant number will move to the bigger cities.

Yr 12 Parent Information Evening

Wondering what to expect for the year ahead? Join CSU's Information evening for parents and carers for information on:
- what information you need to know and where to find it
- important dates
- how the application process works
- what you can do to support your child

When: Thursday 17 March at 6:00pm
Where: Port City Bowling Club, 4 Owen Street

Mr White – Careers Adviser