

NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 ISSUE 9 – NOVEMBER 2016

FAREWELL YEAR 12 STUDENTS



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Community,

Welcome to the final term for the year. As I write this, Year 12 are completing their HSC exams and soon will be eagerly preparing for the Formal in week 5. We had a lovely Graduation Assembly at the end of last term, and on behalf of the school community I wish them all success.

Our Year 11 students are now entering the first term of their HSC year. We will be meeting with them to outline expectations and the support available throughout this crucial time of their schooling.

Congratulations to the following students who were elected as our school leaders for the 2017 school year: our Captains: Grace Single and Max Cleversley; our Vice Captains: Zoe Baines and Callum Caesar. They will be inducted at an Assembly during week 5.

It was lovely to see a packed house for the final performance of our School Musical. The students exhibited outstanding 'triple threat' abilities in singing, dancing and acting. I would also like to give, a huge thank you to the staff who had given so much time to prepare the students during rehearsals and putting on the show. It was a great show!

We are well and truly into our planning processes for 2017, including a number of transition activities for the incoming Year 7, and more activities will continue throughout the term. I will also be having planning meetings with key teams across the school to continue our focus on quality teaching and learning at Macksville High.

The Department of Education has contacted all Principals in regards to attendance. A reminder that the school year does not end until Friday 16th December and all students are required to attend up until this date. Attendance at school during term 4 has seen a decrease in previous years. It is essential that students attend and remain focused in class is to prepare fully for the assessment tasks and exams ahead. I seek your assistance in ensuring that your child attends school every day, unless they have a valid reason such as illness. It is the legal responsibility of parents/caregivers to explain in writing your child's absence(s) from school promptly and within 7 school days, and that the reason is valid. Shopping trips, birthdays and going to concerts are NOT valid reasons, and will show on reports as an unexplained absence. To assist with this process you should receive an SMS message to inform you when your child is absent. Responding to the SMS is a convenient way to meet this requirement. All Head Teachers will be outlining the program of work for junior students till the end of the year in the coming weeks.

To all of our students, have a positive attitude, keep learning, and reap the rewards.

Erica Lyne
Principal

YEAR 7 AND 8 DEBATING – CONTINUING THE TRADITION

Macksville High School's tradition of producing strong debating teams has once again been proven in recent rounds of the Premier's Debating Challenge.

A trip to Toormina High School on 7th September saw our Year 7 and 8 teams prepare for a range of topics to debate with the two Toormina teams. Topics included, 'That contact sport should be banned for those under 18', 'That voting should be voluntary', 'That we should change the flag' and 'That we should ban animal testing'.

Our Year 7 team consisting of Rory Partington, Brody Schmidt, Elliot Joyce and Jonah De La Hunty worked well as a team to win their first debate. They showed their strong teamwork again in their second debate but were unfortunately defeated by a more experienced Year 8 Toormina team.

John Panaguiton, Mallee Goldrick, Annalise Robertson and Solomon Hill formed our Year 8 team and were unlucky to be defeated in what was an extremely close first debate. This team rallied for their second debate, showcasing many of the skills that took them to State level in 2015, and were clear winners in their second round.

The two Macksville teams were then left to complete the final debate on the 14th September by debating against one another. It was a delight to see the two teams engaging in a serious debate for the topic 'That we should ban horse racing'. The Year 8 team claimed victory but were mindful of an emerging Year 7 team, supported by Nickolas Currin for this debate.

While this completes the competition for Year 7 and 8 this year, coaches Melissa Robertson and Amanda Hill are extremely impressed by the way in which these teams have proudly represented Macksville High School. Stay tuned for further success from these two teams in 2017!

Amanda Hill
Teacher



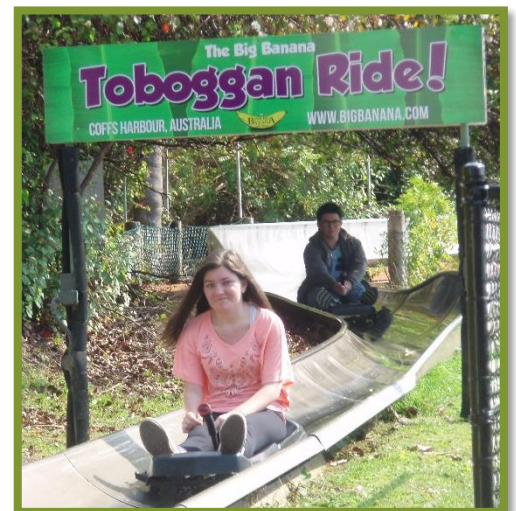
STARS TO THE BIG BANANA

At the end of Term 3, students on 5 STAR merit level were invited to attend a day out at the Big Banana in Coffs Harbour. Students had a busy day full of activities. In the morning students rotated through mini-golf, tobogganing and laser-tag, with some fierce rivalries and competition between some students. We then had an opportunity to visit the candy shop where we could see some candy being made and purchase our favourites followed by pizza for lunch as a treat.

After lunch, we headed off to the ice-skating rink. With a number of bumps and falls, students finally found their feet and were flying around the ice. At the end of the day everyone was tired and ready for the bus home.

I would like to thank Melissa Robertson (Year 10 Adviser), Toni Jones (Year 9 Adviser) and Jon Driver (Year 7 Adviser) for all their hard work on the day and for making it as enjoyable as possible for all students involved.

Luke Smith
Year 8 Adviser



YEAR 8'S INTRODUCTION TO UNIVERSITY LIFE

On Wednesday of Week 1, Year 8 students had a visit from Southern Cross University where they were given a presentation called UNIBound. This special presentation gave students the opportunity to learn about university life and the different things that university has to offer, from extra-curricular social groups and activities, to courses that could be studied. Students were also given information about the number of different pathways they can take to get into university if they wish to do so in the future.



The visit also incorporated a number of different activities that students could participate in to increase their awareness of differences between them and their peers.

Thanks to the team from Southern Cross for coming down and presenting this session to our students.

Luke Smith
Year 8 Adviser

VALID SCIENCE TEST FOR YEAR 8

The *Validation of Assessment for Learning & Individual Development* (VALID) test for Year 8 students will be held between **Wednesday 2 November** and **Friday 11 November 2016**. The test takes approximately 70 minutes. The **VALID Science 8** test is an interactive, multimedia test completed entirely on a computer.

VALID Science 8 contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks that are grouped around real-world issues, including scientific investigations. This is a diagnostic test, with tasks framed on Stage 4 outcomes and essential content in the NSW *Science Years K–10 Syllabus*. Students will be tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas.

Students also complete a survey about their opinions, attitudes and values about science.

Since students complete *VALID Science 8* on a computer, each student needs to bring **headphones or earbuds** that plug into a school computer. Earbuds for an iPod or portable player are suitable.

Results of the test will be available during Term 1 2017. Information about each student is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that the right to privacy of all students is maintained. A personal report for each student will be sent to parents/carers to describe the science knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student in the test.

U15s BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL

On 1 September 2016, a group of boys and girls from Macksville High School travelled to Port Macquarie Basketball Stadium to compete in the Lower North Coast Knockout.

The boys had to run directly onto the court upon arrival and found themselves in a tight tussle with the Melville team, where the lead seesawed. Unfortunately, Macksville were unlucky to narrowly lose a very low scoring match.

Their second match was a complete contrast to the first. They played Kempsey High and Macksville completely dominated from start to finish and ran out winners by more than 50 points. Because of their narrow loss in the first game they were ineligible to compete in the finals.

The girls played two close games against the Melville and Nambucca teams winning the second and just losing the first. This was a great effort considering most of the team were much younger than their opponents. What the girls lacked in experience, they more than made up for with tenacity, team work and natural ability.

Although neither team made the finals, all the students had a very enjoyable day and gained valuable experience in a competition environment. Thank you to all the parents who contributed to the day by transporting students to the venue and cheering them on.

Michael Smith
TEACHER

Girls (from left): Clair Barber, Sienna Harris, Abby Baxter, Lauren Laverty, Amelia Kyle, Lilly Bartlett, Tiajuana Rosser, Jaimaya Rosser and Sarah Laverty.



Boys (from left): Callum Denison, Harvey Taitumu, Declan Sutton, Jordan Moore, Kamden Walker, Ulysses Roberts, Heath Galvin and Michael Gill



PORT MACQUARIE DISTRICT DANCE EISTEDDFORD

On the evening of Thursday September 22, twenty-two dance ensemble students competed in the schools' section of the Port Macquarie District Dance Eisteddfod. For many students, this was the first time they had competed in a dance eisteddfod and performed on the Glasshouse stage. The ensemble competed against 12 other exceptional performances and gained a Highly Commended with 84 marks.

Congratulations to all dancers who performed – you did Macksville High School proud!

Amanda Midson
DANCE TEACHER



MHS Dance Ensemble

Jazmyn Horne, Shakirra Silvia, Violet Capell, Jiminka Laow, Zara Brown, Kiraleigh Bloomfield, Tayla Graham, Kayla Turner, Ruby Moore, Kira Goodwin, Poppi Rogers-Palmer, Brooklyn Johns, Saule Stasionis, Johanna Walsh, Kellie Tsujimoto, Ellie Welsh, Clementine De La Hunty, Lauren Laverty, Courtney Duffy, Rylee Godfrey-Martin, Aaron Creighton and Sophie Wicks.

CAREERS CORNER



Like our Facebook page for latest information and key dates 'Macksville High School Careers'



School Student Transport Scheme Applications open 10 October 2016

From Monday 10 October 2016 parents, guardians and students over 16 years, will be able to apply for 2017 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel pass by visiting www.transportnsw.info/school-students

Information for parents and students

School travel passes only need to be updated when a student:

- changes address, or
- changes school or campus.

A new application is required when:

- applying for an SSTS pass for the first time,
- enrolling in Kindergarten,
- progressing from Year 2 to Year 3,
- progressing from Year 6 to Year 7, or
- requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation.

For more information on planning your school travel, visit www.transportnsw.info or contact your local operator.

Passes for 2017 travel

Opal network: Please remind ALL your students to keep their School Opal cards for travel in 2017. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in term one. Current School Opal card can be updated with changes of school, home address or operator.

Rural and regional travel: Student's travelling with operator issued passes will receive a new pass in the new school year.

SCHOOL FEES

As the school's financial year ends on 30 November 16, it would be appreciated if any outstanding fees could be paid by this date so the payments relate to the correct year. We understand if this is not possible, therefore we will still accept payments until the end of the school year.

INDEPENDENT LITERATE YOUTH (ILY) UPDATE

Last term, students from Year 7 ILY groups read '*Lockie Leonard - Human Torpedo*', written by Australian author Tim Winton. The students are now finishing up their book reports. They are not just any book reports though...they have made a decahedron! They will be displayed in the ILY room until they take them home at the end of the term. This activity has enabled students the opportunity to improve both their written and verbal literacy skills.

Jasmine Lyle
LITERACY LEADER



YOUTH FRONTIERS

Youth Frontiers is a NSW youth mentoring program for young people in Years 8 and 9. The program is designed to build young people's skills, capacity and community connectedness. It includes the development and delivery of civic projects and is an initiative of the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Youth Frontiers Showcase was presented last Wednesday at the Nambucca RSL. Students have been working on their projects for the last six months and presented their projects at the showcase. Students' works are being displayed in the library, illustrating their journey of their projects.

Kayla Turner and **Sophie Wicks** - Presented an Alcohol and Drug awareness workshop to all Year 8 students.

Maddison Roberton - Presented an Empowerment for Women project.

Brent Smee - Petitioning Local Council for a basketball court at Nambucca Heads.

Charley Rumbel - Working on a Year 7 information booklet looking at dealing with stress and anxiety when starting high school.

Violet Capell - Organising a netball game between different years to promote camaraderie within the years.

Right: Year 9 student Maddison Roberton with guest speakers Billie McKay and Louise Robinson, Mayor Rhonda Hoban and Mel Hanger (from Youth Frontiers)



Left: Snr Constable Steve Jeffery, Kayla Turner and her mentor Stuart Garvey and Sophie Wicks and her mentor Elyce Unterrheiner.

thank
you!

A very big thank you to the students' mentors who have assisted the students along their way to make their projects a success - Lynn Buchan (Maddison Roberton), Stuart Garvey (Kayla Turner), Christine Pollard (Charley Rumbel), Heidi March (Violet Capell) and Elyce Unterrheiner (Sophie Wicks).

ART DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Well, our Art and Design students have created some fantastic and inspiring art projects so far this term. We have completed the backdrops and some props for the musical which looked great! Students have also created a range of individual projects from years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Visual Arts and Visual Design. Please have a look at our creative art and design student works. Well done everyone! 😊

Kelly Hardingham and Jonathon Driver
TEACHERS



RESILIENCE FOR YOUNG PERSONS PROGRAM (RYPP)

Year 9 students who are studying Macksville Way 1, 4 and 5 attended the final activity for RYPP (Resilience for Young Persons Program) at the end of last term. Students challenged themselves and worked together as a group to complete the muddy obstacle course at the Coffs Coast

Adventure Centre. Students also competed against one another using zorb suits, which was very entertaining to watch. The other students in Macksville Way 2 and 3 are currently working through RYPP and will also have the opportunity to attend an activity day at the end of the program.

Toni Jones
YEAR 9 ADVISER



YEAR 12 PHOTOGRAPHY

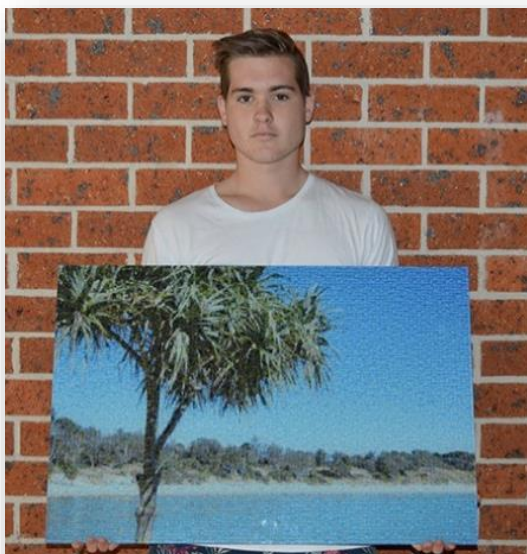
I would like to congratulate the students in this year's Photography class on the quality of their major projects. Amy Cooper led the way with her three poster sized montages made up of over two hundred photographs of family, friends, landscapes, sunrises and her pets. Amy chose to frame two of her works in matching timber frames and have the third on printed on canvas.

Jess Howard's work was presented in a hand crafted red cedar frame which she made herself and now takes pride of place in the family living room.

Sam Perkins tried a mosaic technique where each pixel of the poster sized image was an individual photograph. Sam also elected to try something different and have the poster printed onto glass; the end result was quite impressive.

Alex Bonser combined the mosaic technique and a selection of other images taken from our local area and shots of his pride and joy. Alex also constructed a photo frame from Australian red cedar.

David Sheridan
TEACHER



COMING UP

OCTOBER 2016

Week 4	31 - Nov 4	Primary Industries Excursion
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NOVEMBER 2016

Week 5	7	Year 10 / Year 11 School Leaver Talk – MHS Library
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Week 5	8	Year 12 Formal – Macksville Ex-Services Club
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Week 6	14 - 18	Year 9 and 10 Yearly Exams
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Week 6	17 & 18	Year 11 RISKK – Coffs Harbour
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Week 7 & 8	21 – Dec 2	Year 10 Swim and Survive
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Week 7	22	P & C Meeting – Starts 5.30pm
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DECEMBER 2016

Week	5 - 8	Year 10 Excursion
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	6	Year 6 Orientation Day
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	13	Presentation Day
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	16	Last Day of School
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Program applications are open for 2016/17

