Term 1 Week 4

Important dates to put in your calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>25/2/2015</td>
<td>Year 7 2016 Transition program family information. 4.30 to 6.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/20/2015</td>
<td>Yr 11 Newcastle Wetlands excursion. 8.00 - 2.30pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26/2/2015</td>
<td>YR9,10,11,12 Art Gallery excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3/2015 and 3/3/2015</td>
<td>Yr11 Geography excursion</td>
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Principal Report

On behalf of each and every positive act by our great children and young people...

We continue to focus on the work needed to make sure each and every lesson benefits the learning of our students and to ensure we are continually evaluating and improving the way we develop our quality systems to maximise outcomes. However, in my principal’s message this fortnight I would simply like to shine the light on some emails the school received this week about acts of kindness, collaboration and achievement by our students. They reflect examples of some of the wonderful values and actions that our children and young people demonstrate daily as part of our community.

Thank you to the members of the public and our community who felt they needed to write to the school to share the story of good deeds by our kids.

The following email from a member of the public acknowledges the deeds of one of our students who attended the Playing Beatie Bow excursion in Sydney.

Hi
I just thought I’d let you know, I just got on a train from central station and on my way to the platform I was assisting some elderly citizens climb the stairs with their heavy luggage that they were quite obviously struggling to carry. As I took one bag, a young lady who was also getting the train back to the Central Coast came rushing down the stairs to help them with their other bag. They were very appreciative, and afterwards I realised they were in fact students from Wadalba High School. No one had asked the girl to help, she did it on her own accord. They represented Wadalba school beautifully. I didn’t ask for her name, but I hope that the message gets passed on.

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Dear Jason

The Primary Swimming Carnival was held today – the 4th I’ve attended with my children. My very first year, I was apprehensive at the sight of big, boisterous teenagers at the pool, not only competing in some events over the course of the day, but assisting in running the carnival. Each and every year, our older High School Students attend, not only to participate, but to assist the Primary Students in the pool, and out of the pool, with timing of events and general running of the day. I believe today they have proved themselves invaluable members of our community school.

Today, I am prompted to write and shout out a “thank you”, not only to the staff, but to our High School Students. These students should be proud of their conduct today – they encouraged the younger members of our school in their participation, and often that extra encouragement was just what the students needed to finish their races.

The older students happily assisted in the pool – helping our younger students out of the pool, playing in the pool, completing their races and playing with younger students during “free time”.

The following email was sent by a parent:

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The students that assisted today should be proud – they represented our school in such a positive light with their encouragement, positive behaviour, great manners, friendliness and assistance in running the swimming carnival today. They represented themselves as great role models for our younger students.

Over the past 4 years, I am happy to say, I have never been prouder to be a part of a K-12 Community school. Thank you for giving the opportunity to all of our students to have a different method to engage and communicate with other members of the school – I am grateful that the Primary and High School are able to interact with each other in all different capacities through the year, which I believe is of such benefit to all students..

Collective Smartness

In the first four weeks of this year, student attendance has been higher by between 0.5 and 1.0 percentage points on last year’s improved attendance. This equates to between 70 and 140 extra students in class each day.

Mr J McGrath
Principal

Deputy Principal

It’s been an exciting start to the year for both Year 9 students who have been able to choose their three electives and for Year 12 as they move into their final year of school.

Recently many Year 12 students participated in two sessions run by company, Elevate on “Ace Your Exams” and “Memory and Mnemonics”. These sessions were most timely as Year 12 Half Yearly exams occur in week nine and ten of this term. The first session on Ace Your Exams emphasised the following;

Biggest Mistakes – cramming for exams, no plan around revising, no goals, not enough practice papers, doing the wrong work (eg concentrating on note taking alone), not allowing enough time to prepare for exams.

Best Strategies
1. Go through past papers and correct mistakes, identify areas where you lost marks.
2. Seek teacher’s advice as to where you lost marks specifically and make sure you understand these areas
3. Learn from people around you. Look at student papers which have achieved well.
4. Redo exam papers and have them marked by teachers.
5. Complete 3 – 5 practice papers for each subject
6. Complete the first few practice papers with an open book
7. Do the last couple under exam conditions
8. Use mind maps to make summaries.

The second session was designed to help students improve their memory through semantic learning which focuses on the relation between signifiers, like words, phrases, signs, and symbols. Students have access to the Elevate website which contains a large amount of extremely useful information around preparing and succeeding in the HSC. Students have been provided with a password and user name to access the site (see me if unsure).

Next Wednesday 25th of February commencing at 6.00pm will be a HSC Science information night covering specific strategies to enhance results in Science subjects. It would be great to see as many parents and students as possible on the night.

Year 9 students are settling into their electives and have the opportunity to develop a wide variety of skills through different experiences. The school offers a very broad curriculum that enable students to select areas of interest and increase engagement. Year 9 students are working hard on their Literacy and Numeracy skills to build confidence across all their subject areas.

Regards,
Cameron Dusting
Deputy Principal

Cultural celebrations

As part of our school cultural celebrations acknowledging the Luna New Year, the students were set a challenge during roll call. The challenge was to create, using limited resources and cardboard in their house colour, as many Chinese lanterns as possible in ten minutes. Every student from K-12 participated in this challenge and over 500 lanterns were created and are hanging in the school quad. Bradman was the winning house creating over 200 lanterns. Points will be awarded to Bradman house as part of the Wadalba Cup.
Lisa Wright and Rebecca Painter.

Science Faculty Report

As usual we have hit the ground running, Year 12 are moving on to their second (of four) topics and will be sitting their Half Yearly exams before they know it. In order to support Year 12 and their parents the Science faculty has organised an information evening on Wednesday 25th February. The main purpose is to help parents understand HSC assessment, exams, ATAR and study skills so that they are in the best position possible to support their child. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible.

We will also hold an information evening for Y11 parents and students on the 18 March. This will again go through assessment, study skills and tips and have a large focus on organisation.

Year 11 Biology and Senior Science students will be attending a field trip to Newcastle wetlands to gain a better understanding of the interaction of organisms in ecosystems. Attendance is compulsory since the field study will be used in an assessment at school the following day.

We are fortunate to have two Scientists in Schools partners this year. Last week Dr Sophie Parks visited the school and spent the entire day speaking to many of our junior and senior science classes as well as Marine Studies and Agriculture classes. Dr Sophie Parks is a plant physiologist and spoke to the students about her field work in the area of agricultural practice. The students were very attentive and asked many probing questions. It was great for them to see one of the many areas that the study of Science can lead.

The Agriculture students are working hard to prepare several breeds of chickens for the Easter show. The students will spend the weekend at the show learning how to judge animals and present our chickens. We are happy to announce that we will be adding pigs to our farm shortly. This is on top of our sheep, steers (periodically) chickens and large variety of produce.

Due to the large number of Science subjects offered and student uptake of the Science electives our faculty has grown. We are very lucky to have such a passionate and talented teacher join our faculty. Miss Fuller is already making a noticeable impact on the student’s engagement and enjoyment of Science.

Mr Colin Harris
Head Teacher Science

Year 7 Science

Students in 7sc2 have been working hard the last couple of weeks and have gained an understanding of the basic skills needed to be successful in Science. They have been developing their laboratory safety skills and every student attained their Bunsen burner licence which they successfully used in our first practical experiment. The students were also set a scavenger hunt challenge using microscope lenses for their phones. The following are some of the great pictures taken, showing the microscopic detail in everyday objects.
Mrs Lauren Hesse
Science

Year 7 Middle School

In Science, Year 7 is studying the unit: Separating Mixtures. This unit involves students conducting experiments on evaporation, sedimentation and chromatography. For the assessment task, Year 7 will work in groups to solve a mixtures problem.

In mathematics year 7 classes have completed whole number testing and are now working on computation with positive integers. If students are looking for extra mathematical support, parents and carers could buy ‘Mathematic Revision & Exam Work book’ Excel Essential Skills by A.S.Kalra from a local book shop. The Homework centre is also open after school on Wednesdays in the Library.

Sportsmanship has been a hot topic of conversation in all Year 7 Health classes, as students identify good and poor sportsmanship behaviours. Students will now be discovering the nature of health with their PE teachers. Students have been developing their skills as they get to know the students in their classes by playing minor games.

Middle School classes will soon be competing against each other in a minor game challenge before the end of the term.

Miss Jennifer White
Classroom Teacher

Learning Choices

Welcome to our new families and welcome back to families who have been involved with the Learning Choices Faculty. Once again, we are pleased to be able to offer three transition programs with our highly trained staff. We welcome Ms Crystal Reynen to our faculty this year.

Delta (Yr 8/9)- Mrs Taryan Walsh and Mrs Danielle Young

Crusaders (Yr 10)- Mrs Samantha Burton (HT Learning Choices) and Ms Crystal Reynen

XLR8 (Yr 11)- Mrs Samantha Burton and Ms Angela Moir

Careers Advisors- Mrs Rhonda Boardman and Ms Margaret Swanson

SLSO- Mrs Melinda Taylor and Ms Karen Lennon who work across all three programs

It has been great to see the return of students in uniform, fully equipped and ready to learn. Overall, the start to the year has been a very settled one.

Program Overview:

Delta- This program is for vulnerable students who need additional literacy and numeracy as well as social skills support. Students have been asked to nominate at least one subject that they would like to try in the mainstream and most choices have been able to be accommodated this semester. Some art choices will be available during semester 2 due to reduced student numbers in those classes. Students have been asked to select a second choice in the meantime.

Delta this term are enjoying reading Holes by Louis Sachar.

We have been strengthening our number skills in math and Year 8 are investigating Medieval Europe and Yr 9 are Steaming through the Industrial Revolution in HSIE.

Yr 8 are working on a collaborative project in science and are going to build an “earthquake proof” model.

Crusaders- This is an extension of the Delta program and students study their core subjects within one home base classroom. Ms Reynen teaches them for HSIE (History and Geography), Maths and PDHPE and Mrs Burton teaches the class for English and Science. All students retain the two 200 hour electives that they began in year 9. There is no home base open for students to return to during these elective times as this is part of their transition program.

Students are studying:

English- The Maze Runner Novel study and English skills – we are currently working on writing, directing and producing a silent movie to demonstrate how to write descriptive dialogue. Students who are not involved in acting are actively involved in production techniques such as camera angles and lighting for mood and effect. Students are very excited by this project and I cannot wait to see the final products.

Science- Physics- we have begun the year by studying Newton’s Three Laws of Motion. We have raced...
match box cars, discussed gravity by dropping a small rubber duck to the ground at the same time as a heavy book and are currently beginning to design our own science experiment.

**HSIE- Human Rights** - we have been learning about the Declaration of Human Rights and discussing current political decisions and justifying our personal opinions using the Declaration of Human Rights. There have been some very interesting discussions and students have been demonstrating their maturity during these discussions.

**Maths** - we have been studying Financial Maths and becoming more aware of pay rates and percentages as they relate to GST and discounts when we shop.

**PDHPE** - we have been learning about Driver Awareness including the effects of alcohol on the body.

Student writing sample from the Crusaders class: In English, students read the opening chapters to the novel, The Maze Runner by James Dashner. They were then asked to imagine what it would be like to be trapped in The Box, an airless, metal lift that transports new teenagers to The Glade. Their memories have been wiped...

Bright lights passing hit his face, seeing faces he has never seen before, telling him it is going to be OK. Then, with a sudden jolt of pain he jumped up. All he could see now was darkness. All he could feel was pain and a cold shiver rundown his spine. He wanted to scream but nothing came out. Chains ceaselessly moving, making noises he wasn’t used to. He walked forward as he realised he was rising. CLONK! He walked into a metal wire wall. He ran his fingers across the wall but it formed a complete square. With a sudden thud, the room stopped and he yelled “GET ME OUT!”.

The roof opened slightly as a stream of light shone in. “HELP!”, he yelled. Nothing. With a hum the door slightly opened as the light grew bigger and he noticed some laughter.

*Written by Aaron Walker-
Crusaders class*

**XLR8** - This is a Year 11 Transition to work program that ends at the end of Term 3, 2015 where we then begin the transition program for the 2016 cohort. In this program, students attend school for three days and are exempt for two days so that they can undertake work experience in an industry that relates to their career aspirations. During class time, they work on developing their resume, job hunting and interview skills, developing a healthy mind and body by learning how to cook and look after themselves as well as going to the gym to set personal physical goals and generally developing a sense of who they are as individuals. Students give back to our school community by taking part in a landscaping program each Monday afternoon. As students are successfully transitioned into paid work, positions become available in the program and we begin interviewing new students into the program. All students that are part of the program have undertaken an intensive interview process and agree to the terms and conditions of the program. All students are subject to a four week trial period as they enter the program and must be committed to finding work, taking part in Trade Training or other training programs that relate to their career goals. Students are nominated by teachers, can self-nominate or a parent/carer can nominate their child to be considered for the program. If you think that your child could benefit from participating in this program, please contact Mrs Burton (HT Learning Choices) to arrange an interview.

Learning Choices roll of honour: Delta- Ebonnie Jager- always working hard and contributing in class Crusaders- Bevan Hatch- having an excellent attitude towards his work at all times XLR8- Kane Byrnes- having an excellent work ethic and always trying hard to improve his knowledge in all areas.

**First Class 2014**

Congratulations to one of our 2014 Yr12 Visual Arts students, Loren Morison.

Loren’s HSC Body of Work has been selected for an exhibition at Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery. The exhibition titled **First Class** showcases some of the best HSC Visual Arts works from The Hunter, Newcastle and the Central Coast. The exhibition runs until the 22nd March.

**What is WADALBA CUP?**

2015 is the inaugural year for The Wadalba Cup. A system where points are awarded to students, staff, parents and community
members for positive behaviours, sporting events, and extracurricular events. Two cups will run parallel in Primary and Secondary. Students and staff are working together as House groups – Thorpe, Bradman, Hall and Freeman to be crowned the overall winners. All points accrued this year from swimming carnivals, athletic carnivals; school focus blitzes, academic excellence and other challenges will be tallied. Last week saw Bradman take out the Chinese lantern challenge, this week teachers have been collecting points by wearing their house colours. Each term two week blitzes will encourage students to earn bonus points.

At the end of Term three the winning house will be rewarded an excursion, a trophy and the title of 2015 winners. We encourage you to ask your children what house they are in and have regular conversations about the weekly blitzes, the point scores and how they can earn points for their house.

May the Best team win.

Miss Melissa Norris

Beatie Bow excursion

Yesterday, 8END and 8ENA spent the day at The Rocks looking at the setting of 'Playing Beatie Bow' as part of their Novel study. Mrs Clark and Mrs Stone were very proud of the way all students demonstrated our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence.
From the Library – Mrs Taylor

Students are welcome to borrow from the library. Come in and see us for reading suggestions.

Reminder – students please return all of the school textbooks and other resources that you are no longer using from 2014 (and any previous years).

For HSC students
Looking for related texts for the new English Area of Study: Discovery?
The Library has compiled a list of suggestions via a ‘Bibliography’. Come in and view the document.


Elliot Baranski lives in Bonfire, the Farms, the Kingdom of Cello – where seasons roam, the Butterfly Child sleeps in a glass jar, and bells warn of attacks from dangerous Colours.

They are worlds apart – until a crack opens up between them; a corner of white – read more...

http://www.goodreads.com/

Shine a Light!

Book Week 2015 is from Saturday 22 August to Friday 28 August. The theme for Book Week 2015 is Books light up our world. The library invites all students to enter our Book Week Poster Competition 2015. Posters can be A4 up to A3 size and should relate to the theme for this year. Prizes will be awarded at each Stage (K, 1, 2 & 3 and 4, 5 & 6).

The winning posters will be displayed in the library during Book Week. A $20 Dymocks gift voucher and certificates will be awarded to the winning entries. Entries should be submitted to Mrs Taylor by hand or digital entries may be emailed to tanya.taylor11@det.nsw.edu.au

Entries close Wednesday August 12th. Watch this space for Book Week lunch time in the library entertainment and activities.