Keeping in Touch

The next P&C Meeting for 2014 is on

Monday 15th SEPTEMBER at 7pm in the LIBRARY in D Block

Dear Parents & Carers,

We as a school have started the long process of developing the school plan for the next five years. This involves input from students, parents and staff about where the school is presently situated and where we should go from here. We would like to thank all the parents and staff who completed the relevant surveys.

Last Tuesday the staff met after school until 6:30pm working together in professional discussion on the school plan. This was a very successful afternoon and our next meeting will be in Week 2 of next term.

I would like to thank Chris Dibben, Leanne Morton, Kerry Spicer-Worth and Lisa Scobie for their work in bringing all this information together.

This Friday we have our farewell assembly for Year 12. This will commence at 9:30am but everyone is asked to be seated by 9:15am. All parents and family of our Year 12 students are invited to attend and celebrate Year 12 achievements.

Congratulations to our Robotic Team who finished second in the New South Wales State Championship. Well done Aidan Connaughton, Eden Wilson, Hamish McFarlane and Kye Webb. Also thanks to Mr Hopkins for the time and effort he has put in with the boys over the last year.

Our Term 3 holidays commence on Monday 22nd September and the students and staff return on Tuesday 7th October. So we will see the students back next term safe and well ready for a very busy 4th Term.

Stephen Barnett.

Principal.
Measles is about!

- Up to 2 in 5 NSW high school students are under-vaccinated against measles.
- Substantial outbreaks are occurring, particularly in South East Asia.
- 14 teenagers/young adults caught measles overseas and brought the infection back to NSW in the first 3 months of 2014.
- NSW Health is urging parents to check their teenager's vaccination records to ensure they have a record of 2 doses of MMR vaccine.

MMR IS FREE FOR ANYONE WITHOUT 2 DOCUMENTED DOSES

Parents are being encouraged to contact their GP. Catch-up clinics will be available in some high schools.

For more information visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/measles
ATTENTION ALL STAFF, PARENTS AND STUDENTS

There is a drop off and pick up area **ONLY**, for our disabled students in the Staff car park off Corriston Cres. Please take care and use caution when driving through the car park to drop your child off **outside** the school gate.

There is also a speed limit of 20km to be used in this area for the safety of both staff and students.

The Principal

Stephen Barnett

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Parking safely near the school

The school has been contacted by concerned parents and neighbours about parents who are parking illegally outside the school, when dropping off or picking up their children.

Parents are reminded that parking unsafely can put children’s lives at risk. Behaviour such as calling children across a road, dropping children on the wrong side of the road, leaving children in a car without adult supervision, double parking, parking in a bus zone or driveway or making an illegal U-turn put children at risk outside of schools.

Fines and demerit points apply when certain offences are committed in an operating school zone. The minimum penalty for parking or stopping on or near a pedestrian crossing is a $344 fine and the loss of 2 demerit points. Parking in a bus zone or no stopping zone could result in a fine of $258 plus the loss of 2 demerit points.

Please take care, be safe and considerate of others when picking up or dropping off your children at school.

L. Morton
Year 12 Work Studies Fundraiser

On the 4th September a fundraiser was held to raise money for several charities as part of the Teamwork/Enterprise unit for Work Studies. The students in the class nominated a charity each and the chosen charities were: Ronald McDonald House, Josh Caruso Foundation, Cancer Council and the RSPCA. The class put together a sausage sizzle for the students and teachers during their lunch break. A lolly guessing and M&M guessing competition was also held to raise money. The preparation for this fundraiser involved a lot of hard work with students organising to pre-sell tickets, make posters, promote the event, purchase and prepare the food and drinks.

On the day of the event, the sausages were sizzling and the drinks were cold. As soon as the bell went for lunch the students raced up to the BBQ to get their sausage sandwich and drink. We sold many more sausage sandwiches on the day than we had expected so that was good for our charities. As people came through to get their sausage sandwich and drink they were able to designate the charity that their money went towards. In total we raised $526 which was an amount much higher than we had expected to raise. A breakdown of the money raised for each charity was: $91 for Ronald McDonald House; $105 for Josh Caruso Foundation; $203 for Cancer Council and; $127 for the RSPCA.

Mr Turner was the winner of the M&M’s guessing competition with a guess of 1475 with the actual amount being 1468. With the lolly guessing competition there were four winners as they were all within one of the correct amount, being 381. The winners were: Alex Mott, Jessica Compton, Zoe Tsimos and Mrs Robbie. Congratulations to those winners.

After the event the class paid a visit to the charities to present a certificate, letter and the money raised.

Members of the class were:
Brooke Astley, Sally Bendeich, Harry Elliott, Brandon Frost, Hannah Grice, Jayden Hill.

Honorary members of the class who gave invaluable help on the day were: Mrs Wicks, Chopper, Taylah Mitten, Hans-Jurie Beukes and Jordan Robinson.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event and contributed to its success.
Information for applying for university through UAC

Students are to apply through UAC’s website. Applications **open 6th of August** and the on-time **closing date for applications is the 30th of September** and it is at a cost of $28. You can still apply after this date, but late fees apply. NSW and ACT Year 12 students will need a UAC Personal Identification Number (PIN) to apply. This is different to your HSC PIN. Your UAC PIN will be posted to your home address in early August.

Students should have collected their UAC Guide from the Careers Office and it also included 5 supplementary handouts with useful information. For the whole document on the application process go to: [http://www.uac.edu.au/documents/publications/year11-12-booklet.pdf](http://www.uac.edu.au/documents/publications/year11-12-booklet.pdf)

To apply for interstate universities there are other procedures to follow and the applications are NOT managed by UAC. QTAC manages QLD universities and VTAC manages Victorian universities. Visit their websites for more information.

Ms P Campbell
Careers Adviser

LIBRARY

The holidays are fast approaching and what a great time to kick back and relax with a good book. After 10 weeks of intense study it’s time to give those overly active minds a rest and escape into the fictitious worlds created through novels. We have a wide range of reading to suit all age groups and genders from: wizards to wimpy kids; heart throbs to hobbits; romantics to runaways; twilight to thirteen-storey tree houses; and everything in between. With over 4500 fiction books available from the library why not take a great read home today?

Mr T Pulsford
Teacher Librarian
Air Force Cadets offers sky-high opportunity for local youth

Young people in the Hunter region who are looking for a challenge are invited to join a dynamic and exciting youth organisation.

The Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) is a voluntary organisation which aims to equip young people for community life by fostering initiative, leadership, discipline and loyalty. It is supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

Officer Commanding 3 Wing (NSW & ACT), Wing Commander (AAFC) Wayne Laycock said cadets participate in a wide range of activities.

“Our syllabus includes practical aviation, bushcraft and survival activities,” Wing Commander Laycock said.

“In addition to weekly meetings and weekend activities, cadets have the chance to apply for specialist courses conducted on Air Force bases during school holidays.”

Cadets develop a range of life skills including self-reliance, teamwork, initiative and a sense of mateship. They also make new friends and importantly, have fun! There are a number of Air Force Cadet Units in the Hunter region.

No 316 (City of Lake Macquarie) Squadron meets on Friday evenings during the school term and will hold two recruit information session on Thursday 5th and 12th June at 7.00pm. Address: Bullecourt Barracks, Military Road, Adamstown.

No 321 (City of Newcastle) Squadron meets on Wednesday evenings during the school term and will hold two recruit information session on Wednesday 16th and 23rd July at 7.00pm. Address: Bullecourt Barracks, Military Road, Adamstown.

Anyone interested in joining the AAFC should attend the appropriate information night with their parent or guardian to learn more. New applicants must be between 13 and 18 years of age.

For more information about Australian Air Force Cadets, visit www.aafc.org.au.
- English, Maths, Sciences
- All levels Years 5 - 12
- Exam preparation workshops
- Essay writing & study skills
- Small group & one-on-one tutoring
- HSC specialists
- Qualified, experienced teachers
- Your child is special & deserves the best

Book now for Term 3!

40 years of helping Newcastle students succeed

4929 2522
arrendell@ozemail.com.au
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
School Students with Disability

Information for Parents/Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn’t matter what the individual child’s circumstances are — every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better information about school students with disability in Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information about students with disability — in fact, schools have had to do this by law for some time. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information — that is, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with disability at some point. Schools need to be able to support students with disability by removing any obstacles for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. This means that schools need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carer about reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do now and this won’t change.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).
WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Your child’s school will collect and report information every year about:

- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- where known, the student’s broad type of disability.

Some students who are not provided with an adjustment at the time of the collection will meet the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and will be eligible to be included in the data collection.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD’S INFORMATION?

Teachers and other school staff from your child’s school will collect the above information based on:

- consultation with parents/carers
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for making sure that the information collected about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. With the new data collection, this will be done in the following ways:

- Personal or confidential information will not be given to anyone not authorised to see it.
- When the information is sent by your child’s school to the local or federal education authority for combination with information from other schools, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.
- When the information is reported from 2016 onwards, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE DATA BE AVAILABLE?

When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection, the information will be reported on the My School website from 2016 onwards. It will be by school only – no student names are recorded as part of the data collection.

CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY CHILD’S INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

It’s your decision about whether you want your child’s information to be included in the national reporting or not.

Including every school child who is being provided with an adjustment because of disability in this new national data collection each year will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students’ needs.

Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don’t want to have your child’s information included in the national data collection.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, your school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2014

SEPTEMBER

Monday 15\textsuperscript{th} September \hspace{1.5cm} P\& C Meeting 7pm
\hspace{1.5cm} School Library D Block

Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} September \hspace{1.5cm} Mini Relay for Life

Wednesday 17\textsuperscript{th} September \hspace{1.5cm} Year 12 Slave Auction

Thursday 18\textsuperscript{th} September \hspace{1.5cm} Year 12 Breakfast & BBQ

Friday 19\textsuperscript{th} September \hspace{1.5cm} Year 12 Graduation
\hspace{1.5cm} Assembly 9.30am

Monday 22\textsuperscript{nd} September \hspace{1.5cm} Holidays

October

Tuesday 7\textsuperscript{th} October \hspace{1.5cm} School Resumes

Monday 13\textsuperscript{th} October \hspace{1.5cm} HSC Exams Commence