Principal’s Report

Once again I am able to start my newsletter article with congratulations. The Fennell family have excelled with Tegan gaining a bronze medal in the U17 Discus in the Australian Junior Athletics Championships and Maddison being selected in the Australian squad for lawn bowls. This squad will be reduced to a final team for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014. This is an outstanding result for one family, well done to both girls and congratulations for the support they receive from home to be able manage the commitments of these outstanding sportswomen.

Congratulations also to Dannielle Hancock for achieving a gold medal in the East Lakes Surfing Competition. Hopefully our surfing competitors will be increased considerably next year. Students who did not have their surf survival certificate were unable to compete this year, due to the requirements by the Department of Education and Community to ensure the safety of students in the surf. The PDHPE department will be organising a surf survival course at the end of each year and will include students in Year 6 so everyone who wants to, can enjoy the fun of competing in Surf Fest and the East Lakes Surfing Competitions. Our students who were able to compete, have performed admirably in both competitions and against much older teams in Surf Fest.

A group of year 10 boys are initiating our kayaking program with Chez Suska taking on the coaching role. Chez is an elite kayak coach and we are extremely lucky to have him. We hope that more students take advantage of this great opportunity as our program continues to grow.

To more formal issues, the Welfare and Good Discipline Policy has been reviewed to bring it into line with current practice at Swansea High and will continue to be reviewed as the school moves along the Positive Behaviour for Learning Journey. This process looks at strategies the school can use to improve the way in which we acknowledge and celebrate success and deal with students who do not comply with school expectations. The policy can be found on the Swansea High web site, or if required a printed copy is available on request.

I am always being impressed by students at Swansea High School and an email I received today should be shared. A group of adults were waiting for a bus in Swansea and when it arrived it was full of Swansea High students. They all complained that they would not get a seat as young people today do not have the respect to give up their seats to older people. To their surprise, as soon as they boarded the bus, students immediately stood and offered their seats. It was obvious to them that others were also willing if required. One of these commuters took the time to send an email congratulating our students on their wonderful manners and the respect they showed. Just one more example of the high calibre of our students.

In 2013 I have also been very impressed with the way students have worn their uniforms. Schools are regularly judged on the level of uniform compliance, often unjustly. However, it is an indicator of whether students are aligned with the ethos of the school. As autumn continues, and the weather cools, it is important that our uniform standards continue to remain high. The new winter uniform is only available at the school uniform shop which is open on Tuesday morning (9.30 - 11.30 am) and Thursday afternoon (1 - 4 pm). The prices for uniforms are included in the newsletter. The sweatshirt jumpers, taslon, badged jackets, teamed with the black, taslon track pants will ensure students are both warm and stylish. There are also knitted scarves available which complement the uniform well and provide added warmth. Please ensure your student is prepared for the chilly weather around the corner.

Due to safety reasons, I need to point out to parents that picking up their students of an afternoon, in the Park Ave staff car park, is not appropriate. The majority of students exit the school through these gates and all of our bussed students wait in this area. There have been a number of cars moving through the students leaving, and this is a high risk situation. As the manager of the site it is my responsibility to minimise the risk of injury to students, and I would ask all parents to park outside of the school to assist in this.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Easter and remind everyone that students are due back to school on the Tuesday after Easter for 9 days prior to the holidays.

Robyn Leggatt
Relieving Principal

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop is open every Tuesday 8.30-11.30am and Thursday 1-4pm.

We have plenty of Jackets (2 different styles) and long pants in stock. So come in and stock up on your winter garments before the cold weather sets in.

I would like to thank all the parents and students for supporting our Uniform Shop by purchasing their uniforms from us.

Please note that cash, Eftpos and credit cards are the accepted payments, sorry no cheques will be accepted.

Jacqueline Bugeja
Uniform Shop Co-coordinator
Deputy Principal

Bullying is constantly being discussed in the media and all schools are working hard to embed structures and processes to support students. It is important to note however that bullying is defined as ongoing, not provoked, not returned harassment and there is often a power imbalance involved. When there are inputs from both sides this is not bullying, it is a conflict. Although it can have impacts as severe as bullying, the ability to determine who is at fault, or who started the problem is more difficult. In either scenario the goal is to reach a resolution of the issue and allow students to move on in their lives. The start of the process in bullying relies on good communication with the school and with parents. If we are unaware, it is difficult to put measures in place to support improvement.

When we are aware, the process begins with a non disciplinary approach where the perpetrator is made aware that the school is monitoring the situation, they are asked to stop the behaviour and the future process explained if the behaviour does not cease. This latter process involves using the DEC Discipline process and moving through lunch detentions, parent contact, after school detentions, verbal cautions, formal cautions, conferences and if all else fails, suspensions. Often the process has an impact for a period of time and the behaviour begins again. Depending on the time frame the DEC policy may require the school to initiate the process from the start again or we can start where it finished previously.

In conflict situations, where there has been negative input from both sides, the process starts with mediation. Up until now, this has been undertaken by the year advisors or in more serious situations the Deputy Principal. We are currently training Year 10 students to assist with minor conflicts with younger students. This assists the year 10 students to develop strong skills they need to rely on hear say when social media is concerned. If you feel the social media is impacting on the school environment for your young person please contact the year advisor as the first port of call. If the matter needs escalating to a higher level the year advisor will do this.

Social media, including facebook, twitter, snap chats and other media make this process even more difficult. Close monitoring of the use by young people (particularly those who are under 14 and really should not have a site ) is essential to ensure they are not involving themselves in negative behaviours on line. It is so easy to say things when you are not face to face with the person that may inflame a situation dramatically. If confronted with abuse or negative comments my advice is to ‘block and report’. It may also be useful to print or screen shot the abusive post so it can be used as evidence if required. It is very difficult to rely on hearsay where social media is concerned. If you feel the social media is impacting on the school environment for your young person please contact the year advisor as the first port of call. If the matter needs escalating to a higher level the year advisor will do this.

It is heartening to hear however, from a number of parents, that when their young person has had an abusive post there are a number of students who step in to support the student. I commend this action, but caution that it also needs to done respectfully so that the situation doesn’t get worse.

On the positive side I would like to congratulate the large number of Year 11 and 12 students who received commendations from their teachers for working well this term. Don’t forget to show the commendation Certificates to your Year Advisor so that you can accumulate credit towards Bronze, Silver and Gold awards at the end of year Formal Assembly.

Guli Skamperle
Deputy Principal

English/Drama

All the junior years have completed their first assessment tasks. The Year 7 teachers are enjoying reading the student portfolios which provide additional information about each student.

Year 11 students are coming to terms with their first assessment task – a speech. Fears and trepidations are a natural course of senior life, as well as growing up. It is pleasing to see a growing number of students seeking extra help from their class teachers in regards to the upcoming assessment task. It seems that we are creating a culture of seeking assistance in the desire to understand and succeed.

Year 12 Advanced students have been very diligent in writing draft responses in preparation for their assessment task. This is exactly what is required from them at this stage if they are to succeed in their Higher School Certificate.

We are very lucky that our teachers are more than willing to provide that extra assistance during lunch breaks, before and after school as well as after hours via email.

I want to thank Mrs Suchy for efficiently running a variety of competitions within the faculty. Her efficiency is evident in the number of students coming to the staffroom to ask for entry forms for writing competitions. We have a number of Year 11 students entered into the Sydney Morning Herald writing competition and the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition.

Miss Enks has entered two teams into the Model United Nations Assembly competition. The students are allocated a country and they ‘speak’ as that country in a mock assembly forum. The competition will take place in May in Muswellbrook and goes over the weekend. I appreciate the time Miss Enks will take in preparing the students as well as giving up a weekend for the competition.

Lidija Nenad
Head Teacher English

Attendance

Unfortunately a large number of students are arriving to school after the bell and after Roll Call. It is an expectation of the Department of Communities that all students arrive to school on time, unless there is a valid reason.

If your child is late occasionally please provide a note. I would also like to remind parents that students who have absences need notes to explain absence. This is a legal requirement, otherwise the absence is marked as ‘unexplained’ and ‘unjustified’, which reflects negatively on potential work, apprenticeships and so on.

Lidija Nenad
Attendance Coordinator
Mathematics
On the maths front, all years are preparing and studying hard for their upcoming assessments.

These tests are done without a calculator. The online homework, available to all students via Moodle, is an excellent study tool to prepare for their test, providing opportunities to practice skills strengthening students’ ability to problem solve which carries across to all subjects.

Week 10 is a big week for our Senior Mathematics students with Year 12 completing their half yearlies. We wish them all the best and hope that they are studying hard.

The Australian Mathematics Competition will be held this year in August. The competition aims to give students an opportunity to discover talent in mathematics and provide resources for the classroom and general discussion. The competition will help identify strengths and weaknesses of students in mathematical thinking, skills and application, allowing for a comparison with the wider state. The Australian Mathematics Competition also provides opportunity for students to attempt further enrichment activities such as the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians and the opportunity to progress to national and international Olympiad projects. Students can start preparing for the competition using the online homework via Moodle mentioned above.

Bruce Eyre  
Head Teacher Mathematics

Visual Arts
Students in Mr Jan’s Year 8 Visual Arts classes are just starting a unit of work based on “Creatures”. Focusing mainly on Ceramic forms, students will be interpreting this subject matter in different ways, for example like the surrealist artist or indigenous artists like the Tjanpi weavers of central Australia. Mrs. Jan’s Year 8 class are focusing on “People” as a topic and have been experimenting with media and technique. They are now painting self-portraits.

The Year 9 students are designing a ceramic mask that reflects some aspect of their world.

Students in Year 10 have been creating images and forms based on the beach. Their first assessment task this year is to make a ceramic torso, inspired by Brett Whiteley.

Students in Mrs Jan’s Year 9 Digital Media class have begun the year on a positive and creative note. They have taken some very interesting photos concentrating on line, shadow and colour and some creative compositions of portraits. The students are very engaged in this subject and have created some very interesting work. I am hoping to display these around the school at some time in the near future.

Year 12 Visual Arts students are working diligently towards the completion of their body of work for their HSC exam. The students are extremely dedicated and creative. We have been on several excursions this and last year and they have been outstanding ambassadors for the school.

Year 11 Visual Arts are working hard in class developing their first mini-major work which is based on the human form. Already, their skills and sense of creative investigation has been evident. Keep up the good work there.

There are still a few outstanding fees required for art, as a reminder all materials used in class are purchased with the fees raised from students. If there are any problems in paying fees this term please send a note, so that we can still provide an appropriate program of work for the students.

Students are reminded to ensure that they have all the required equipment for Visual Arts. This includes a 2B pencil, an eraser, a sharpener, a ruler and their visual arts process diary.

I Jan  
Visual Arts Teacher

Exam Date
3 April Year 12 Exam Week

Student Invoices
Students have been invoiced now and their outstanding contributions are included in this newsletter. Contributions can be paid in installments over a period of time. If your child has been invoiced for an elective that they do not do please have your child come to the front office so we can correct your statement.

Payment of elective fees is essential as students use the resources personally. Payment of the general fee supports the school to provide the best possible learning experiences.

The government counts all general fees as part of our budget for the school year. Any fees not paid, means we cannot provide everything we would like to. Any contribution towards these fees makes the educational experience at Swansea High even better!
**Music**

Year 7 has been completing keyboard assessments this week with many students achieving beyond the personal goals they had set for themselves earlier in the year. If your year 7 child has access to a keyboard or piano at home they can practise for the next assessment in early term 2. The instruction booklet being used is the “SFX Start Playing Keyboard Tutor”. Small segments can be copied for rehearsal purposes for students to take home.

Year 8 has been rehearsing individual songs with an extra song every week. Last week was the Cranberries hit “Zombie”, this week Daddy Cool with “Come Back Again”. Also a sprinkling of 12 bar blues to give a very broad coverage of musical styles.

**WOTOPERA?**

The Wotopera company is coming to Swansea High School and 19 students have been selected to take part in this exciting project. There are still 1 or 2 vacancies left for any budding singers, writers or dramatists to take part. See Mr Rippon for details asap.

The students who take part will write, compose and perform their own opera in their own words in a modern setting. A tradition of Opera performed in a totally non-traditional way at the Newcastle Conservatorium on the 31st May.

**FREE instrument hire for a year. That's right, FREE instrument hire for a year.**

If you or a friend would like to try an instrument you can hire it from the school free of charge for the rest of this year. A commitment is sought that you would take lessons from a tutor and be part of the Caves Beach Primary school band and for a combined band program.

The tutors are organized for Thursday mornings during school time at a very reasonable cost. The instruments are waiting to be played. There is a venue to regularly practice with the primary school band. All we need are willing participants to get the show on the road.

See Mr Rippon or get your parents to ring and enquire about this great deal. The instruments available are; 4 Trombones, 3 Trumpets, 3 Saxophones, 1 Euphonium, 1 Clarinet, 1 Flute, 3 Violins.

In other news don’t forget that vocal group is operating every Wednesday lunchtime and guitar group every Thursday lunchtime. Don’t wait to come with a friend, if you want to sing or play guitar JUST DO IT.

**Year 7 Update**

Well the Year 7 camp to the Great Aussie Bush Camp has been and gone. A fun time was had. Mr Pascoe and myself as Year Advisers, had the wonderful opportunity to see every single Year 7 student that attended camp learn, develop and grow in some way.

Mr Pascoe and myself would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people because without all the help we received, none of this would have been possible. Firstly, we would like to thank Mrs Leggatt, Mrs Skamperle and all the Swansea High School teachers and SASS staff that stayed behind and looked after and covered all the Year 7 classes. Thirdly, we would like to give a big thank you to Ms Thompson and Mr Mateer for volunteering their personal time to come to camp. If teachers don’t volunteer their personal time for excursions they would never occur. Staff do not get additional payment for going on overnight camps.

I’d like to finish with a phrase the students used at camp a lot when each of them succeeded and conquered an activity.

**Year 7 we Nailed It**

Cheers

Tania McLaren & Mark Pascoe
2013 Year 7 Advisers
**School Chaplain**

As this is my first addition to the Newsletter, I’d like to introduce myself and my role here at Swansea High School.

Firstly, my name is James Norman, and I am Canadian by birth, Australian by choice. I have lived in Caves Beach for a little over 6 years now, and before here, lived in Townsville for 6 months. I have a Bachelor Degree in Business Admin from Capilano College University, where I majored in accounting. Since coming to Australia, I have completed a Certificate in Theology from Morling College, and am working towards a Graduate Diploma Divinity through the Australian College of Theology. I have worked and volunteered in numerous positions working with young people for the past 10 years, and I have been and continue to serve as the Youth & Children’s Pastor at Swansea Baptist Church since 2007.

My role here as Chaplain is to provide pastoral support to the school community, students and staff in a number of ways. As a member of the school’s support team, including the Counsellors and Year Advisors, I am here to assist and help provide support for students facing challenges both in and out of school.

My funding is provided by the Federal government under The National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP) and so my role at Swansea High is at no expense to the school. I am employed and supported by Community Activities Lake Macquarie (CALM), based in Toronto, a community organization that does great work around the Lake Macquarie region with families and young people. As outlined in the NSCSWP Guidelines:

- “School chaplains in particular, have a key role in supporting the spiritual wellbeing of students, regardless of faith or beliefs. School chaplains/student welfare workers must be able to provide support for a range of day to day matters affecting the school community and communicate effectively with a diverse group of people. They can become involved in a wide variety of issues including health, social and values education and emotional support.”

In closing my first post, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Mrs Leggatt and the great team of teachers and faculty at Swansea High School for their committed and passionate work in teaching this next generation. Day in and day out they serve and are dedicated to seeing your children mature and develop into great Australians. My kudos to them and to you as parents and carers for the invaluable contribution you each make in your children’s lives.

I also welcome any questions that parents or students may have in regards to my role here at the school. If you would like to know more about the program or have any concerns, you can visit the NSCSWP Website below, or feel free to call me at the school during my office hours, also below.

Thank you and God bless.

James Norman
Chaplin Swansea High

Community Activities Lake Macquarie Inc. (CALM)
Promoting Opportunities with Local Communities
Office Hours: Monday 9am-1pm; Tuesday 8am-10am, 11am-1pm; Thursday 8am-9am, 10am-12pm
National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program Website:

**Coming Events for Term 1**

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<th>Term 1 Events</th>
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<td>25 March</td>
<td>P7-8 Marine excursion</td>
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<td>CHS Girls Water Polo</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>P1-2 HSC Biology Assess Task</td>
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<td>P3-4 rock &amp; Water</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P1-2 Y10, 11, &amp; 12 B-Street Smart Road Safety</td>
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<td>CHS Girls Open Water Polo</td>
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<td>27 March</td>
<td>P1-2 Y10 Girls TAFE Pathways Program</td>
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<td>P7-8 Y10 Girls TAFE Pathways Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P5-6 School Cross Country</td>
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<td>28 March</td>
<td>P5-6 Marine excursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Girls KO Volleyball all day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>E/S-P1 Prelim Maths Ext 1 Assess Task 1</td>
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<td>P1-2 Senior Science Assess Task</td>
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<td>29 March</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>1 April</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY</td>
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<td>2 April</td>
<td>P3-4 Rock &amp; Water</td>
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<td>3 April</td>
<td>Duke of Ed Bronze &amp; Silver</td>
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<td>Prelim Maths General Assess Task 1</td>
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<td>P7-8 Y10 Girls TAFE Pathways Program</td>
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<td>P3-4 7W, 7K, 7T Swimming</td>
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<td>11 April</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY Ceremony</td>
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<td>P5-6 Marine excursion</td>
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<td>12 April</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>Last day Term 1</td>
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**Term 2**

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<td>Prelim Hospitality Work Placement all week</td>
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<td>30 April</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>1 May</td>
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<td>2 May</td>
<td>Eastlakes Zone Cross Country at Gwandalan</td>
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<td>P5-6 Marine excursion</td>
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<td>3 May</td>
<td>Vaccination Program - all Y7 2nd HPV Wotopera Artology at school</td>
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<td>Prelim Hospitality Work Placement last day</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>6 May</td>
<td>P7-8 Marine excursion</td>
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<td>8 May</td>
<td>Y16/2013 Transition taster lessons 1.45-3.00pm Wotopera Artology at school</td>
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<td>9 May</td>
<td>P5-6 Marine excursion</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>13 May</td>
<td>P7-8 Marine excursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prelim Retail Work Placement</td>
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<td>HSC Retail Work Placement</td>
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<td>14 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<td>P5 HSC Snr Science Assess Task – open ended research</td>
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<td>15 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<td>P5-6 marine excursion</td>
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<td>Wotopera Artology at school</td>
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<td>16 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<td>17 May</td>
<td>Prelim Chemistry Assess Task 2</td>
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<td>20 May</td>
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<td>21 May</td>
<td>Computer Skills ICAS competition?????</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 May</td>
<td>Wotopera Artology at school</td>
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<td>23 May</td>
<td>P5-6 Marine excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>HSC Physics Assess Task 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P4-6 Y10 Newcastle Careers Expo</td>
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The Solar Sailor

The Solar Sailor is an eco-friendly boat, by using the sun to get its energy to manoeuvre. It is great for the earth because it is not letting out any pollutant which contributes to global warming. Boats like these should be used all the time to help keep our area of the planet healthy.

The Solar Sailor arrived at Speers Point jetty looking like some sort of spacecraft. The hour and a half boat trip went from Speers Point to Green Point and back. It consisted of dolphins chasing the boat and playing alongside. The children of Swansea High and Speers Point Public School raced from one side of the boat to the other to catch a glimpse of the dolphins leaping out of the water. On the boat you can see the land from a totally different view. Part of the lake and land could be seen that you could not have seen driving a car.

The first solar boat was created in 2000 and raced in Sydney Harbour and won by 5 laps. It looks like a little bug.

The trip back to the jetty was quick but fun. Sitting up the front and taking in the views, the water, dolphins and the wind. Altogether the trip was educational and fun. Hopefully in the future more solar boats and possibly solar cars will be made to decrease the chance of global warming.

by Abbey Richardson – Year 9

Tips for parents

Year 10 subject selection
In year 10 students are asked to select subjects for Years 11 and 12. Here are some tips to help your teen choose well. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/year-10-subject-selection

A crash course in poetry appreciation
Understanding why an author uses certain words or structures in their poetry can help your teenager enjoy the English subject and give greater depth to their writing and language skills. Find out more: http://schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/a-crash-course-in-poetry-appreciation-for-your-high-schooler

Facts about tutors
Private tutoring to give kids a helping hand in their schooling is a growing business. However, it’s also an area where parents can be vulnerable to bogus offers and misleading advertising. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/facts-about-tutors

GORDON’S DRIVING SCHOOL
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SPECIAL PACKAGE
5th lesson HALF PRICE
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Disclaimer: The advertisements included in the Principal’s Newsletter should in no way be considered as recommendations by this school. Any advertising fees paid, help to offset printing costs.
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49 716633

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Come and visit us at our brand new salon in Swansea. We have new treatments including microdermabrasion, shellac nails and acrylic nails and all your old favourites

**PARENTS AND STUDENTS**
Purchase any three Dermalogica Skin Care products and receive a FREE mini microdermabrasion treatment valued at $60 (please mention this ad)
Call for an appointment
We look forward to seeing you soon
*Valid until 30 April 2013*

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Every school holidays....
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**DONNA**
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PLUS your own professional fashion shoot and catwalk show

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**Disclaimers:** The advertisements included in the Principal’s Newsletter should in no way be considered as recommendations by this school. Any advertising fees paid, help to offset printing costs

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**Like the leaves on an autumn breeze,**
Our hearts are uplifted by love...
It is with great joy that we,

**THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**
**OF CLOTHING & TEXTILES**
Cordially invite you to our latest exhibition

**“TO HAVE AND TO HOLD”**
16 March to 13 July 2013
Lt. Governor’s Residence, John Street, East Maitland
Admission $3.00 (Concession $2.50)
Thursdays, Friday, Saturday from 10.00am to 3.00pm

For out of hours & group bookings, call Lynette McDowell on 02 4930 9051
All other enquires, please phone 0458 505 280

Weddings are a time of hope for the future. Preparations are exciting, often fraught with mishaps or downright disasters & today, often quite expensive.

“To Have and to Hold” traces the customs surrounding weddings through the decades, how fashions have changed, often in response to an event, Society’s rules or historical circumstances.

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**ICE SKATING**

Wheelers Place, Newcastle
Saturday 5 April to Friday, 12 April

$17.00 child ticket includes skate hire, 1 hour skating – during school hours – open daily from 9.00am and is subject to availability and limited session times only.

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

Newcastle is set to enjoy a slice of European-styled enchantment when an ice rink with all the whimsical trimmings is set up next month. Thanks to Newcastle City Council, we’re adding a touch of winter to the area, in and around the school holidays.
Quick Zip
Sewing &
Clothing
Alterations

Jacqueline Bugeja
64 Park Avenue, Caves Beach
Phone 0400 006 373
jbcove@bigpond.com

Staying Home Leaving Violence
– A program of Eastlakes Family
support Service Inc.

Sydney Factory Outlet
Bus Trip

Saturday, 6 April 2013
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