Principal’s Report

Term 4 is always busy and with the Gallipoli process and the 50th Anniversary celebrations Swansea High has been a hive of activity. The Gallipoli selection process has been completed and the successful applicants will be announced by the Minister for Education on Wednesday 3rd December. It has been a very difficult job for the panel to choose the successful candidates from a high quality group. The standard of work presented was exceptionally high and the quality of the interviews also a high standard. As I said at the outset, it is always a challenge for all concerned to submit to a selection process when most of the applicants will be unsuccessful. I congratulate all students who completed their works for consideration and hope they continue to apply for opportunities that are on offer. The four lucky students and one staff member will have an amazing and emotional time at the Centenary celebrations in Gallipoli on Anzac Day 2015. When they return, the group will share those experiences with us and hopefully we will get to live the trip vicariously. The 50th Anniversary celebrations were a great success. The ex-students who shared the celebration came from varied times throughout the school’s history. We had a number of foundation students from the first year housed at Belmont High in 1963 who were able to share the 50th. A number of ex-students provided inspirational speeches and told a story of a school that has continued to be successful. Swansea High has within its graduate ranks a diplomat, a Supreme Court Judge, an author, numerous successful athletes, media personalities and school Principals. I am sure there are many more successes that we were not able to uncover and we would love to hear about them. If you know of anybody who attended Swansea School who has achieved success in any aspect of life please let us know. We would love to form a Friends of Swansea High forum as a way of reconnecting ex-students to the school and also developing a School Hall of Fame. If you would like to be part of this project, or know someone, please contact the school.

The school has, of course, continued to pursue a number of other activities during the term. Brandon Olasser and John Hoffman have developed a student voice web page as part of our moodle site where they are hosting student contributions of news items from each week. Our year 10 have completed their interview process, where they undertake training in presenting coherent and reflective responses in an interview environment with a teacher, two year 9 students and a community member who provides real world feedback. My expectation is that year 10 students will return to school on Friday unless they have previously organised work experience through Mr Korsman (our Careers Advisor). Maths and English are undertaking foundation skill development for the courses to be presented in 2015, HSIE has a mural project operating and other subjects are continuing their courses until the end of the year. Any absences will be recorded and listed on their Semester 2 reports.

Year 8 will undertake their interviews next week with a teacher and year 7 students. The interview program is designed to ensure students are encouraged to reflect on their learning and to develop learning goals to assist them in identifying strategies to improve for next year. It also provides them with practice interviews, providing the skill development to improve their ability to perform in interviews for scarce employment opportunities. Our Positive Behaviour for learning Process is continuing with the next roll out of lessons being undertaken around toilet behaviours. Thankfully our students do not need extensive toilet training!! The lessons are mainly around when it is appropriate to leave class, the process and a reminder about hygiene. The PBL program will continue in 2015 and hopefully we will have completed all of the expectations and explicit teaching of these by the end of 2015. It will then be about reminders and identifying problem areas through the analysis of the data we gather and working specifically on these. We are also in the process of organising a celebration and reward for those students who have completed the year successfully without any teacher referrals. Over half of our students deserve an accolade for their wonderful and consistently good behaviour.

I hope your Christmas and New year are joyous, peaceful and safe and I look forward working together to make 2015 another great year for Swansea High.

Robyn Leggatt
Principal

P & C

The P&C has held two successful BBQ’s, one at Bunnings and the other at the Salt Water Markets Swansea this year which has helped to refurbish some of our classrooms. We have another fundraiser happening this year and into next year which is “ezcover” book coverings. The information for this is enclosed in the Newsletter. Don’t forget we meet the first Tuesday of each month and would love to see some new faces.
Deputy Principal

Here we are again - winding down another school year! We have just celebrated our 50th Anniversary and our students were on their best behaviour at assembly which was very long but also very entertaining. Thanks to all those students who participated in the assembly or assisted with the proceedings of the day. Please come and see me for a Commendation Certificate.

Thank you to all of those ladies who have assisted in the canteen and our P&C who have run a number of successful fund raisers this year. We also appreciate the support of all of our local churches who once again gave up their Saturday to improve our school grounds and buildings.

Thank you to all of our wonderful teachers, SASS staff, SLSO’s, Counsellor, School Chaplain and our Youth Worker for their hard work in providing outstanding commitment to the education and support for all of our students so that they can be responsible respectful and ready to learn. Unfortunately our Youth Work Carl Stewart has recently left us. Thank you, Carl, for your commitment to the wellbeing of Swansea High School students and in particular the ‘Boys’ group that you organised. I know that these boys, in particular, will miss you greatly.

Thankyou to the parents and carers of our students who ensure that their children are in school uniform, arrive to school with everything they need for the school and support them every day in working to their personal best.

A special thank you to Joey Ward, Camryn Ahern, Yasin Asymin, Jye Toby, Tyler Atwy, JD Stewart and Aidan Bromfield who have locked the gates and put up the flags during Term Three and Four this year. I am on the lookout for new flagmen or women in 2015. If you are interested see me before the end of term.

A very special thankyou to Brandon Oblasser, John Hoffman, Rowen Ragg, Jason Dizon and Thomas Mitchell who have never let me down in the organisation of the sound for the hall this year. Brandon and John’s powerpoints and music have made a significant improvement to our assemblies and all of the boys have done an excellent job this year.

Lastly I would like to also acknowledge all of those wonderful students who went to class did all their work and did the right thing all year and to those students that at some time during the year have helped a fellow student or a staff member in some way.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday and look forward to 2015.

Guli Skamperle
Deputy Principal

Maths

2014 has been a great year for Mathematics! Students across all years have been making good progress. However, the year is not over yet and I would ask that you encourage your students to stay focused right up until the end of term. We need to “finish strong”!

Year 12 students are working on their HSC course and have recently been advised of their first HSC Assessment Task that will occur late this term. So, it is really important for these students to working hard right up to the last day and to minimise any absences from class.

Junior students (students in Years 7 to 10) have an assessment in Week 9 of this term. This assessment plus their work in class will contribute to their next year’s Semester 1 Report. Hence, it’s important for these students to regularly attend, bring the right equipment (in particular their own calculator) and to be prepared to apply themselves in every mathematics class.

What contributed to making 2014 a good year for Mathematics?

• Students are taking greater responsibility for their own learning in Mathematics. Many students are making use of Swansea High’s after school tutorial centre. And even a greater number of students are making use of Maths Online!

• The response to Maths Online in 2014 has been so good that the school is going to continue funding this in 2015. Also, Maths Online have been working hard to improve what is already a very good computer based Mathematics tutoring program. Of course, we would like to see all students using Maths Online and perhaps we can achieve this in 2015. We know it works; students who regularly use Maths Online outperform those who don’t!

• Finally, and very importantly, the commitment of the Mathematics teaching staff. Big changes as a result of the new syllabus (with Years 7 and 9 being introduced this year while Years 8 and 10 will be introduced in 2015) have been made. Incorporated into these changes has been a major shift toward the use of computer technology and Super6 literacy strategies to create more engaging lessons that better help student understanding. As well, teachers have made themselves available to assist students before school (as early as 7.30am), at lunch or recess, and in some cases outside school via email.

For these reasons I’m optimistic that good student progress in mathematics will continue into 2015.

Wishing all in our community a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

Bruce Eyre
Head Teacher Mathematics

Newsletter

Please make sure you have notified the office of your email address as we are going paperless for our newsletters next year.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform shop is open Tuesdays 8.30-11.30am and Thursdays 1-4.00pm every week.

Parents and carers can contact the Uniform shop on 0434 285 031 or email swansea@daylightcorp.com.

Phone orders are accepted with credit card payment during the opening hours.

Jacqueline Bugeja
Uniform Shop Coordinator
PDHPE

It’s been another terrific year in the PDHPE faculty. The students have been busily completing their units of work in the classroom; presenting some truly wonderful projects to be marked by the teachers, as well as completing work on the laptops that the faculty were recently given. In practical lessons students have been working on some new units including Aboriginal Games, this gives students another perspective.

As always our senior students are working hard as they now shift into HSC mode. I would like to acknowledge this year’s cohort and hope that their results enable them to continue into whatever field they are interested in.

Thanks to the excellent PDHPE staff for another year of hard working dedication, they are a great group to work with and on behalf of all the PDHPE staff I would wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Jacqui Charlton
Head Teacher PDHPE

Sport

The school has had another successful year in the sporting arena. The schools’ teams have played well, achieving various levels of success. The staff have enjoyed coaching the teams and have started preparing for next year in anticipation of another great year.

Congratulations to all the Year 7 students who participated in the Premiers Sporting Challenge! The students were presented with their certificates which acknowledge the level that each student achieved. You should all be very proud of yourselves and use the certificate in your resume. We will be continuing with the program next year in Year 8 and starting it with the new Year 7’s.

Integrated Sport has continued to work well this year and I would like to thank the terrific groups of teachers for their enthusiasm and energy. Students have participated in a variety of sports each term and have enjoyed their time at sport.

Jacqui Charlton
Sports Organiser

Library

This year was a year of change for the physical library. The photographs below tell the story better than words.

School Archives & Mementoes

Library staff have really enjoyed collecting materials for the Swansea High archives. We have displayed this collection in our library for a week. During this time each Year 8 Library class has been given time to peruse the collection. It was also open to visitors on the days of our 50th anniversary celebration, 14 -15 November, 2014. Much of this collection has been digitised and was viewed at the celebration assembly. This material was then made into a movie by John Hoffman and Brandon Oblasser. The movie and photos are available for purchase from our school library as an USB of over 400 photographs with a Swansea High School lanyard. Also for sale are beautiful gold and cream Swansea High 50th anniversary coffee mugs and lanyards.

Any of these items would make excellent Christmas gifts for grandparents, parents or other relatives who have previously attended our school. Current students may also purchase mementoes of their time at Swansea High.
Wishing all students a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all making use of our much more attractive library in 2015.

Michelle Jarrett
Teacher Librarian

Welfare

Thank you to all parents for your support in the smooth running of the final immunisation programme this year for all year 7 and year 9 boys this term. Any student who has missed their HPV immunisation this term should contact their General Practitioner this year to have their vaccine as it will not be covered by the National Health Scheme next year.

A small number of students have been participating in Drumbeat with Eastlakes youth centre this term. As a culmination of their achievements, the group, including Rhiannon Gilbert, Joseph Pembroke and Daniel Woodhouse performed at Caves Beach Early Learning Centre to a very enthusiastic audience for a community celebration. Well done to all those students involved.

Another group of dedicated students have also been working with Eastlakes Youth Workers down at our local Landcare Galgabba site. The students have been doing some general maintenance at the site, working on designing some new botanical name tags for the site, as well as approaching local businesses for donation of some resources to achieve the revamp for the local area. The boys have enjoyed their work over the term and their achievements will be celebrated at a community presentation on the 10/12/14. Invitations are being sent to parents/caregivers for this event. Congratulations go to the following students - Dylan Jennings, Bailey Lodge, Kyle Mascord, Jeremy Rits, Adam Stothard and Jay Stenner-Wall. Well done boys.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe holiday’s with your family over the break.

Judy Loveday
Hospitality / Food Technology Teacher

Food Technology

This term our Year 10 Food Technology students have been busy focussing on a unit of work on Food Trends. They were asked to design plan, prepare and present a contemporary food item and style it for food photography. Students came up with some excellent dishes such as Paella, Churros with Chocolate Sauce, Blueberry and Banana Bread, Spaghetti Bolognese, Halloween Cake and Infused Chicken with Lemongrass & Ginger. Below are some of the inspiring results.

Judy Loveday
Hospitality / Food Technology Teacher

Learning and Support

Special Provisions HSC 2015

If your student is sitting the HSC in 2015 and has a learning disability, a mental health issue or a medical condition and will need some support to complete the HSC either during assessments or completing assessments it will be necessary to apply for special provisions through the Board of Studies NSW.

If you think your child will need this support can you please contact me at school and I will discuss the situation with you and if appropriate I will apply for the support required. It is best if we start this process now so they do not miss out on the support required for them to complete the HSC year in a positive way.

My name is Jenny Fraser I am the Support teacher at the school and the phone number is 49711944. Please call me if you have any questions.

Jenny Fraser
Learning and Support Teacher

Hospitality

Our Hospitality students recently transformed the library into a pop up café for a business breakfast during the term. The Hospitality students are to be commended on their input into the organisation, preparation and service for this event. Congratulations to all students in the Hospitality team, well done.

Judy Loveday
Hospitality / Food Technology Teacher
Careers

The school has started building a Putt Putt golf course which is planned and constructed by students. Construction materials are expensive and any donations from the public would be very welcome. Materials required are road base, sand, gravel, 200mmx110mm pavers (used or new), steel reinforcement and astroturf (used or new). Any contributions would be welcome, please contact Mark Korsman by email at mark.korsman@det.nsw.edu.au

Chaplain

Hello Swansea High Community,

What a year it has been! It is already week 8 of term 4. This means that our year 12’s are off into the wide world after completing their HSC Exams; year 11’s have taken up the senior mantle from their predecessors; and many of our Duke of Ed students have completed their qualifying excursion. Its again that time of year where final exams, projects, interviews, classes, and reports will be due….and in the midst of all those things is the gear up for the Christmas and holiday season. Yes, what a year it has been!

In the midst of the coming weeks, as stress levels increase; work, social, school, and community activities clamour for your attention as the calendar counts down to 2015; and as we each try to stay sane, I pray that each of us finds the time for the important things that this time of year can remind us of. We must not forget to laugh with those you love; celebrate safely together with your family and friends; remember those who are less fortunate; and where you can, brighten someone’s day with a smile. As you do all those things, may you and your families find joy and peace in the midst of the coming “silly” season.

With 2014 drawing to a close, as your young people finish school for the year, as you plan for holidays, vacations, stay-cations, celebrations, and whatever other gatherings that you take part in, I would like to wish you all the very best. My prayers are with each of your families, and I look forward to being able to serve this wonderful school community again next year.

Many blessings,
James

James Norman
CHAPLAIN - SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL
Community Activities Lake Macquarie Inc. (CALM)
Working to Make Lives Better
Office Hours: Mon 9am-2pm; Tues 9am-10am, 11am-1:30pm;
Thurs 8am-9am, 10am-12pm

Disclaimer
The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Acknowledgement
This project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

Snow Trip 2015

Swansea High School is in the initial stages of organizing a snow skiing excursion to Perisha/Smiggins for August 2015. If it becomes a reality more information will follow next year, including dates, itinerary and cost. We will then ask for expressions of interest from students. Watch this space.

Mark Korsman
Organising Teacher

Calendar

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 1/12</td>
<td>Yr 8 Mock Interviews</td>
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<td>Manage the bull P 1-4</td>
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<td>Rage P 5-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 2/12</td>
<td>Yr 11 Biology Excursion</td>
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<td>Yr 7 Taronga Zoo Excursion</td>
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<td>Yr 8 Luna Park Excursion</td>
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<td>Yr 9 Darling Harbour Excursion</td>
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<td>Wed 3/12</td>
<td>Landcare P 5-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 4/12</td>
<td>Yr 8 Mock Interviews</td>
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<td>Hello High School Yr 7 2015</td>
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<td>Fri 5/12</td>
<td>HSC Modern History Assessment Task 1</td>
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<td>Sat/Sun 6/7/12</td>
<td>Belmont Dance Festival</td>
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<td>Mon 8/12</td>
<td>Yr 12 Speech day Advanced English – all students</td>
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<td>Yr 12 Maths all (except applied) class test</td>
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<td>Manage the Bull P 1-4</td>
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<td>Rage P 5-6</td>
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<td>Tues 9/12</td>
<td>Yr 12 Speech day Advanced English – all students</td>
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<td>Wed 10/12</td>
<td>Yr 12 Information Proc &amp; Tech Assignment</td>
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<td>Landcare P 5-6</td>
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<td>Thur 11/12</td>
<td>Transition Yr 6 Vulnerable students P 1-4</td>
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<td>Mon 15/11</td>
<td>Term 4 Principal Achievement Assembly</td>
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<td>Rehearsal for Annual Presentation</td>
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<td>Tues 16/11</td>
<td>Annual Presentation Day Assembly</td>
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<td>Wed 17/12</td>
<td>Yr 12 Breakfast &amp; signout day</td>
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<td>Thur 18/12</td>
<td>Staff Development day</td>
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<td>Fri 19/12</td>
<td>Staff Development day</td>
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<td>Mon 26/1</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Tues 27/1</td>
<td>Staff Development day</td>
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<td>Wed 28/1</td>
<td>Yr 7,11,12 return to school</td>
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<td>Thur 29/1</td>
<td>Yr 8,9,10 return to school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 4/2</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16/2</td>
<td>Eastlakes Zone Swimming</td>
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More Information
For more information on the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program, please visit the website at: http://deewr.gov.au/national-school-chaplaincy-and-student-welfare-program
Are you struggling with Maths or English or Reading or Essay Writing? I have affordable tuition available for all ages (4 year olds through to HSC students) with fully qualified staff to help you in any area of Maths or English.

Phone Sue at Kip McGrath, Belmont, on 49454112 for further details or to arrange a FREE assessment.
WEP Student Exchange – A Once-In-Lifetime Opportunity!

Ever wondered what it would be like to live in another country and to swap your vegemite sandwich for a pop tart or croissant? Applications for WEP Student Exchange Programs to over 25 countries around the world are now open for programs starting from July 2015 onwards. Choose from more than 100 short and long-term programs, designed to fit into your Australian schooling. Find out more today!

From Emily in France:
France has been amazing so far! I love everything and even though there is still a huge language barrier I’ve slowly started to understand more and more. The Paris Orientation was beautiful and I was so shocked that we actually managed to cover a lot of places in such a short amount of time.

The Australian and French schooling systems are definitely different from each other. All of my teachers are incredibly nice and understanding. I think in my first week I had a mini freak out because I couldn’t understand one word but being able to easily participate in Math, English and Gym has definitely helped and reassured me. I’ve even done a few tests for different subjects and actually managed to answer parts of it.

I’ve made quite a few friends, friends of my host sister and friends of my own. They’ve all been incredibly nice and try to speak English as well as French to me. Although I can’t understand what they say half of the time it’s still nice to hear them talk.

I absolutely love my host family; they are nothing short of perfect! My host sisters are absolutely hilarious and my host parents are always trying to help me. The family has been very welcoming and they are trying to help me out all the time but they’ve also integrated me into their lives. We all went to Dijon last Saturday actually.

Request Program Information Now
Whether you wish to go overseas or host an exchange student in your home, request an information pack today to find out more about WEP’s not-for-profit student exchange programs.
Visit: www.wep.org.au
Phone: 03 9598 4733 / 1300 884 733 (cost of a local call) Email info@wep.org.au

Guide to technology tools
The holidays are traditionally the time for the big gifts that kids have been begging for all year. Here’s what to watch out for when choosing technology toys for your kids.


New website gives easy access to vocational courses
Students can explore the range of subsidised courses available to them in 2015 by visiting https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/

The website features an Eligibility Checker and a Course Finder, which enable students to find approved training provider that meets their needs, as well as calculate their estimated fee. It also contains comprehensive information on apprenticeships and traineeships.

For enquiries, students can contact enquiries@smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au.

Career planning for your child
Experts talk about how you can help your child broaden their ideas about work and career paths.

Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/career-planning-for-your-child

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