Four Funerals and a Wedding

Bravo, Coomealla, Bravo!

Wed 6/2/13 - Yrs 7, 11 and 12 commence
Thurs 7/2/13 - Yrs 8, 9 and 10 commence

Updated on our Website this fortnight:

Four Funerals and a Wedding
Term 4 Social - Tradies and Office Ladies
Good morning parents, guests, staff and the students of Coomealla High School. Congratulations to all of our award winners today. The awards that you receive today represent your hard work and consistent effort. We are recognising the excellence of our students in a range of areas from academic, sporting and community service. It is an impressive list of students who have been honoured today.

The end of the year is naturally a time to reflect on what has been accomplished over the course of the year. This year we have made significant and important inroads in a number of areas across the school.

Firstly we have established much closer links with our partner primary schools. We have introduced an excellent transition program. This has seen regular visits to the primary schools with the students making pencil cases, conducting science experiments, playing sport and generally building up enthusiasm and excitement for high school.

We have worked hard to share information with our partner schools so that we know as much as possible about our Year 7 students while they are still in Year 6. This will give these students the best possible start to high school and set the groundwork for a successful education. As a result of this excellent transition program our Year 7 group for 2013 is the biggest in a number of years.

In March our Year 7 and 9 students sat for their NAPLAN tests in literacy and numeracy. We had outstanding results particularly with our Year 9 students. In many areas we were well ahead of Western Region and equal to if not above the whole state both public and private schools. This reflects the continuing partnership we have developed between the students, the school and their parents. Without exceptional work from our staff, unqualified support from the home and hard work from the students we would not see these results. This is a partnership we want to keep developing through 2013 and beyond.

We continue to offer an amazingly diverse curriculum. We offer a full academic choice of subjects as well as the opportunity to develop real skills for the workforce. The Building and Construction class has seen our students complete the TAS staffroom, lay concrete around the school and they are presently constructing a classroom for Gol Gol Primary School. The students involved in this course are gaining skills that other schools simply do not offer.

For those who need a different educational pathway the ‘Where Am I Headin’ program has continued to evolve and meet the needs of this group of students. Our close links with TAFE and the community allow students to gain literacy skills, on the job training and TAFE qualifications. We have had great success seeing some of our students re engage with their education and give themselves options and choices for their future.

The Coomealla High School P&C have continued to support the school throughout 2012. Thanks for a year of hard work and dedication. The P&C have contributed to the school in a number of ways. They assisted with the purchase of the stage we are standing on today. They paid for the new outdoor learning area next to the art room. Increasingly they are being asked to help with textbooks as the school looks at the impact of the Australian Curriculum. Most importantly from a student point of view, the P&C run the canteen. We have seen a year of consistent improvement and innovation in this area of the school. The P&C meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm and new members are always welcome.

Looking at the events of this year we can not go past the Trade Training Centre Kitchen. This was many years coming and the original concept was begun by the previous principal, Mr Geoff Seymour. After much paper work, many meetings, red tape and even a trip to Melbourne this year the kitchen was opened. It is a great resource for our students and has already been well used by the TAS staff.

For me the visit by our state Governor Professor Maree Bashir brought the year’s accomplishments together. I was able to show her the wonderful array of programs and projects that the school offers. To see her genuinely impressed with our school and what we are offering our students allowed me to reflect that even though we are isolated our school community is providing an excellent education for our students.

Thanks to all of the staff, parents and students for their efforts in 2012.

So we shall end as we started by congratulating our award winners. Well done and thank you for your efforts. Thank you for attending this celebration. I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday and an enjoyable Christmas. I am looking forward to 2013 as another successful year at Coomealla High School.

Mr R Scotton
General and Subject Contribution Booklet

Booklet will be distributed at the start of 2013. Early Term 1 a copy will be sent home with students.

If you would like a copy earlier please collect one from the front office.

First Aid Training

Once again I was able to offer the Senior First Aid Training to interested Year 10 and 11 students at a very minimal cost. Twenty four students committed two full days to the training. Two representatives from the Australian Lifesaving Academy-NSW drove all the way from Sydney to deliver the training. They related well to the students and kept them involved and interested over the two days.

This qualification lasts for three years, then a shorter refresher course needs to be done to keep the qualification up-to-date.

The students enjoyed the days and now they have a valuable qualification to add to their resumes. A big thank you to Mr Saulge for supervising the students for the two days.

Mrs Pauline Smith, Careers Adviser
Term 4 Social  -  Tradies and Office Ladies
On Friday 30th November and Saturday 1st December many Coomealla students from Years 7 to 11 were involved in the performance of the school play ‘Four Funerals and a Wedding’. These shows were the result of weeks of hard work and preparation by the cast and teachers.

The show, a witty adaptation of the classic ‘Romeo and Juliet’ starred many talented students including Abbey Patterson, Eli Kervin, Demi Hewitt and Patrick McMahon who played interesting characters ranging from gun wielding detectives to the slightly difficult to understand Darth Vader.

All three performances were successful with the cast managing to continue on smoothly despite small mishaps such as the candelabra falling over in the middle of a scene. Cassie Timpano bravely stepped into the role of Rosaline, learning her lines at the very last minute and Taylah Chatterton also took on a second character after Mikayla Martin sustained a knee injury and was unable to perform on the night.

All students gave the performance their all and this was clearly evident to the audience. Many teachers including Ms Crowley, Mr Celegon, Mrs Alderton, Miss Weeks and Mrs Golledge volunteered their time and experience to help ensure the smooth running of the show.

Quotes:

“I had a great time and I’m glad I got to be in one last show before I graduate.”

“It’s a pity they put the two most attractive people in masks…”

“It’s always a really great experience and I would recommend it to younger students.”

“Always good fun and you really get to know a range of different students.”

Molly Stephens
The girls were originally entered in the ‘second’ eights race on the basis that most of them were Yr 9 students (5 from Yr 9 and 1 each from Yrs 10, 11 and 12) and the likely opposition in the ‘first’ eights would be against city crews, predominantly private schools, made up almost entirely of Yr 12 students and with each crew having access to ‘paid’ professional coaches. In the end it didn’t matter as they were the only entry in that event so the race was combined with the ‘first’ eights race on the day. Obviously our main aim for the weekend was to give the girls some competition (to row against) and get a sense of ‘eights’ racing at a competitive schools level.

From a coach’s perspective this is a nerve-wracking call because the last thing you want to have happen, particularly when the girls are rowing over the Olympic distance of 2000m (instead of the more usual 1000m rowed over for club events), is for the girls to get blown off the water in their first ever competitive row in an eight at a regatta. The crew had only really had 6 or 7 rows together and all of the kids were rowing sweep oar (one oar each) for the first time and had never actually rowed entirely as this combination at all previously. It was the epitome of a young, inexperienced crew rowing their first ever regatta together over a 2000m course that took to the water at Berri on Saturday!

A 2000m race in an eight takes good crews 7-8 minutes to row usually and at 2km the start is far out of sight of the spectators, so all the very strong support for the CHS crew from family and friends on the bank were waiting nervously for the crews to come into visual range about halfway through the race to see whether the girls were still in touch with the three other ‘first’ crews… and in touch they certainly were! Out in clear third position was the call as they rounded the bend with 300m left to row and snapping at the heals of the very accomplished crew in second place by about two lengths (4-5 seconds) in front … as the coxes straightened the boats up in the dash for the line we all got to have a good look at how our crew was travelling (in terms of speed AND technique) and what we saw was all good. The girls were rowing a beautiful controlled race behind their ‘stroko’ (Rhianna Duncan), sitting the big eight up really well while getting plenty of boat run from solid leg-push and good clean blade-work and most importantly good timing up and down the boat. They continued to row the race out to the line strongly, beating off a late desperate challenge from Unley HS and coming in third to St Peters Girls College who came second (by still only the two boat lengths at the end) and a very strong Seymour College* a further 3 lengths out in first place. Officially of course, this rates as a ‘win’ as our girls were rowing the ‘seconds’ eights ‘event’ and coming third in the ‘firsts’ eights ‘race’ as well was a bonus win for everyone involved.

(* It should be noted that the same crew from Seymour College were later to row in the 1st Grade Women’s eights race as well… so obviously a crack crew !)

The Coomealla High School crew of Laura Bysouth, Shanae Tilley, Keely Duncan, Hannah Murdoch, Natalia Radloff, Lauren Fraser, Sam McLean and Rhianna Duncan with (ring-in) cox Amy Rix are all to be highly commended, not only for their outstanding efforts in a rowing sense, but for the way they represented Coomealla High School as a whole on the day.

Other wins on the day that CHS students were involved in (representing the Wentworth District Rowing Club) were Lauren Fraser and Amy Rix winning their 3rd grade double sculls event, Laura Bysouth, Keely Duncan, Lauren Fraser and Rhianna Duncan coxed by Chris Radloff winning their 3rd grade quad sculls event, Lauren Fraser and Amy Rix getting the quinella (1st and 2nd respectively) in their 3rd grade single sculls event and Rhianna Duncan winning her division of the 3rd grade single sculls event in the very next race. And Sam McLean picked up a strong win in her 3rd grade double sculls event with her fellow sculler rowing for the Mildura Rowing Club.

Guy Wight, Team Coach
Additional Work Experience

During weeks 7, 8 and 9 twenty Year 10 students took up the opportunity to undertake additional Work Experience. Most of these students sourced their own placements and went out for either 1, 2 or 3 weeks. I encourage students to do as many Work Experience placements as possible to assist them in planning their careers.

Mrs Pauline Smith, Careers Adviser
### CALENDAR

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**Reminder:**

Thongs or canvas shoes are NOT to be worn at school for safety reasons.
Recipe Corner: **Christmas Trifle**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 pkt strawberry jelly
- 1 pkt lime jelly
- 1 litre shop bought (thick) custard
- 600 mls cream, whipped
- 1 punnet strawberries - hulled & halved
- 1 tin (825g) sliced peaches
- 1 tin (425g) mango slices
- 1 swiss roll
- 1/2 cup of sherry or orange juice

**Method:**
- Prepare the jellies as per the instructions on the pack and refrigerate till set.
- Whip cream and refrigerate.
- When ready to assemble, drain the mango and peaches.
- Slice the swiss roll and lay in the bottom of a good sized clear glass bowl.

- Sprinkle with sherry or orange juice.
- Add ingredients in this order:
  - Green Jelly
  - Half the custard (500 mls)
  - Peaches
  - Red Jelly
  - Other half of custard
  - Mango
  - Cream

- Smooth the cream out and decorate with strawberry halves.

This recipe is even better made the day before.

**HO HO HO**

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**Rugby League Clinic**

Thursday, 6th December
Rugby League
Development Officer,
Daniel Swan, ran a clinic
with interested students
at Coomealla High
School. He plans to
return in 2013 for more
clinics covering coaching
and refereeing.

Students were put through their paces and learned some valuable skills.

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Thank you on behalf of the Ulysses members for contributions made to the Mildura Toy Run.

*Bonny Ward*
IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ABSENTEE NOTES

The DET Attendance Policy PD20050259 states that:
Parents are responsible for explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school. (from Responsibilities, 2.1 point 3); and

A hard copy of the electronic record is to be generated weekly for the previous two-week period. The principal or delegated school executive must endorse this hard copy, certifying its accuracy. Once signed, this hard copy becomes the record of attendance and must not be amended. (4.2 Electronic Attendance Registers, 4.2.2)

Please send absentee notes to school promptly and, if you are going on holidays, please inform the school in advance.

Coomealla High School—Absence Note

Student Name: ___________________________ Year: ________Roll Group: ______________

My child was absent from school: Date/s ____________________________________________

Reason: _______________________________________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________Parent/Guardian

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Coomealla High School—Absence Note

Student Name: ___________________________ Year: ________Roll Group: ______________

My child was absent from school: Date/s ____________________________________________

Reason: _______________________________________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________Parent/Guardian

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Quotable Quote:

You know you’ve grown up when none of the things you want for Christmas can be bought in a store.

Author: ? But I love the sentiment.