Students visited the Coomealla High School Library to view examples of fellow students work from each of the different Key Learning Areas.
Welcome to our second last newsletter for the year. I would like to begin by giving a huge thankyou to Rebecca Nixon for putting this newsletter together and for volunteering to co ordinate the newsletter and school magazine for 2015. This is Rebecca's first year at Coomealla HS and she has taken on a number of challenges including this years school magazine. This is typical of our current new staff who have embraced all that Coomealla HS has to offer.

The school magazine is back from the printers and ready to be purchased. At a cost of $26.00 it is excellent value for money and a great source of memories. My thanks to Helen Reid, Di Brown and Rebecca Nixon who, along with many other staff, worked on this years edition of the magazine.

We recently held our Aboriginal boys camp under the leadership of James Kiely and Ron Jackson. Both boys and staff had an amazing time and learnt much. Our Aboriginal girls camp is next week and Rebecca, Amanda and Ron have a number of interesting activities and guest speakers already planned.

The year 6 Transition and Orientation Program has continued this term with an evening of information to parents and two 1/2 day "Coomealla Experiences". The evening session was well attended and parents had the opportunity to meet staff and ask questions in preparation for their children starting at Coomealla High School in 2015. Many parents also viewed photos from the past; bringing back many happy memories. They were also fortunate in receiving a school magazine from last year; a pictorial of all the wonderful things that we spoke about on the night and that Coomealla High School has to offer.

Our student transition days were well attended also. The year 6 students and some of their teachers participated in activities such as Woodwork, Art, Science and Drama. The final products were of a high standard with the year 6 students involving themselves in all activities. I was particularly impressed with the "ninjas" in the drama workshops led by Emily Leon. The second half day finished with a delicious pizza lunch.

Thankyou to Jackie, Pam, Duncan and all the staff who assisted. We are very lucky to have 2 year advisors of the calibre of Pam and Jackie and also Transition coordinator, Duncan for the 2015 year 7 cohort. Whilst our Transition program has gone very well this year we welcome your feedback and suggestions for ways to improve it for next year. We have been researching the option of a "City / Country Alliance" recently. This is something that Buronga Primary School has been involved in for the last few years. We are keen to further investigate this opportunity.

Our Links to Learning Certificate ceremony is on the 3rd of December and I hope that many parents will attend. We have submitted an application for further funding of this program for next year. Unfortunately, however there have been 8 times as many applications as funding. We will find out if we have been successful in early December.

The P&C AGM is on the 25th November at 5.30pm and I encourage all parents to attend. This is a good opportunity to support your child and the school. P & C is not just about fundraising it is also about playing a part in the forward planning of Coomealla HS. We are still in the process of researching potential changes to the school uniform. Whilst some changes are likely to begin next year there will be a 3 year introduction phase to allow for the changeover. Please ring the school if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Don’t forget our last day is Wednesday the 17th December as we have completed our staff development days earlier in the year.

We have also been successful in moving the last SDD for 2015 to the beginning of 2015. I hope to see you all at our 2014 Presentation day, Tuesday 9th December at 10.30am.

Ms Jo Scott
Principal
Interschool Cricket

On Wednesday the 22nd of October four cricket teams from Coomealla High competed in the inter-school cricket competition at Aero Ovals. The four teams included junior girls and boys (year 7 and 8) and intermediate girls and boys (year 9 and 10).

Unfortunately the two junior teams did not win any games but had several close matches. The two intermediate teams won all games leading to the semi-finals; however both teams lost in their finals.

Although the day was very hot the students played well, showed great sportsmanship and behaved well throughout the day.

A big thank you to the teachers who assisted on the day and helped organise this event, this includes Linda Barker, Graham Stratford, Duncan Driscoll, James Kiely and Year 11 student Katelin Kemp who volunteered her time.

Alicia Hancock
“Coomie Kids on Show” SHINES!

Last Wednesday night a great turnout of parents and year 6 students gathered in the school library for a parent information night. This also provided an awesome opportunity for our staff and students to showcase their work and talents in the various KLA areas.

Part of the Transition program helps the parents and Year Six students coming next year to gain a better idea of what to expect and to see things to look forward to. They love seeing kids they already know in the various photo slide shows and movies that are playing as they walk around.

The group that enjoys this display of work the most is our current student body and staff. As they do the class tours the following day, you can see it is with great pride that they show other students their work and remember the excursions, sporting days and other events they have been involved in. The animation movies were a particular favourite.

Thanks to everyone for their positive feedback and a big thank you to Mrs Lynne Wesoleck, Mrs Lynne Cameron, Mrs Jan Cupper and Chloe Turner for their hard work behind the scenes.

Ms J Watson
Interschool Basketball
Lexia Reading Program

The Lexia Reading Trial undertaken in Term 3 with 130 students has been completed. The program was received positively by the students in the trial and its success has meant that the school has now purchased the Lexia Program for ongoing use by all students.

Lexia Reading Core 5 is a computer based program which provides students immediate corrective feedback, multiple levels of scaffolding, and explicit instruction both online and through direct instruction with the teacher. Students work independently to develop reading skills in a structured, sequential manner with a focus on:

- Foundational skills to develop automaticity and fluency
- Listening and reading comprehension with complex text
- Academic and domain-specific vocabulary to improve comprehension

The students in the trial were chosen from years seven, eight and nine across a range of reading abilities. All were pre and post tested using the Woodcock Johnson Reading Mastery Test III. Students were taken out of class three times per week to use the Lexia Program for twenty minutes each time, over a period of eight weeks in Term 3 2014.

Participation was exceptional with the majority of students having a positive attitude towards the program. Feedback from students and staff was excellent and the results of the pre and post testing showed a marked improvement in all students who participated fully in the program. Most students increased their reading ages by between one year and four years and ten months.

The Lexia Program has been offered to all of the students who took part in the trial, to continue with the program in Term 4, while other students are starting Lexia for the first time.

All students who were in the trial are still active in the program and they can access Lexia at home if you have a computer and Internet access. Students need to see Annette Finch or Dianne Langley to find out how to access the program at home.

Lisa Frost
Students celebrate the completion of the Lexia Reading Trial as Principal Jo Scott cuts the cake.

Emily Bertalli receiving a Merit Award from Principal Jo Scott

Some of the students who participated in the Lexia Reading Trial
Each term this year has seen a new group of potential Spielberg’s from year 7 head into the graphics room to try their hand at the film making business. Working as singles or in pairs the students are given a blank slate to create, write, build, act, direct and edit their own short Claymation or Stopmotion animated film. They spend the first few sessions building their character models and sets and rehearsing then, “Action”. They meticulously film each scene movement by movement which is quite a tedious process. After a spot of editing the film is done and we finish off with popcorn on opening night. Awesome work year 7.

Miss Francis
## CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>A Week 11</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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**Reminder:**

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

**Bacon Chocolate Chip Cookies**

Ingredients:
- 3/4 cup butter (It has been suggested that using 1 full cup of butter works best due to cookie dough dryness)
- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tea spoon hazelnut extract
- 1/2 tea spoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg (It has been suggested that using 2 eggs works best due to cookie dough dryness)
- 2 1/2 cup self raising flour
- 1 tea spoon baking soda
- 1/2 tea spoon salt
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 cups bacon bits (if preferred, you can separate the dough into two parts and only make half of the dough into bacon)

Maple cinnamon glaze
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon maple extract
- 1 tea spoon vanilla extract
- 1 tea spoon cinnamon

Directions:
1 - An important note- Be sure to use real bacon bits.
2 - Also, you can make your own bacon bits, just make sure you pat down the bacon chunks with paper towels to remove as much extra bacon grease as possible.
3 - Preheat oven to 180 degrees.
4 - Beat together the butter, sugars, flavouring and eggs until creamy.
5 - In another bowl, sift together the dry ingredients.
6 - Add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture and stir together.
7 - Dough will be slightly soft. If you want a crumblier cookie, add another half cup of flour.
8 - Add in chocolate chips and bacon bits. Stir until well integrated.
9 - Place dough on a sheet of waxed paper and refrigerate at least an hour.
10 - Remove dough from fridge, pinch off 1 1/2 inch pieces of dough and roll into balls.
11 - Set dough balls about 2 inches apart on.
12 - an ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten dough balls slightly with your fingers in the centre.
13 - Bake cookies for about 10 minutes, or until the dough starts to turn golden brown. Allow cookies to cool on a cooling rack while you make the glaze.
14 - Maple cinnamon glaze Recipe.
15 - 2 cups powdered sugar.
16 - 1 tablespoon maple extract.
17 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract.
18 - 1 teaspoon cinnamon (It has been suggested that 1 teaspoon may be a bit much, so go ahead and add to taste).
19 - Enough water to make a thick glaze.
20 - Mix all ingredients together until smooth and creamy. If lumpy, use a whisk.
21 - Spread a small amount of the glaze on the top of each cookie and top with a small piece of crisp cooked bacon.

Casual Work available in administration at Coomealla High School

In 2015, Casual Work available in administration for 6 weeks with a possible extension. If you are interested could you please forward a two page resume including two referee’s to the following email with the required information.

The successful applicant will need to have a NSW Working With Children’s Check done at Roads & Maritime.

If interested please contact:
Jo Pardoe on ph03 5027 4506, fax 035027 4837
Email: johanna.pardoe@det.nsw.edu.au

Closing date 3rd December 2014
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:

*Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.*

Mahatma Gandhi

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Change of Address/Personal information

Please obtain an official ‘Change of Student Details’ form from the front office. This will allow details to be updated on our system.