Coomie Excursions

Year 7

Year 9

Updated on our Website this fortnight:
Years 7 & 9 Excursions
Principals’ Report

Front of school proposed changes: the P & C subcommittee met after the last meeting and we "walked" through the suggested area, discussing options and noting suggestions. I have also met and spoken with a number of staff and students to gauge their thoughts on this topic. The SRC will have their suggestions to me by next week.

SRC: The SRC will be holding a social on the 3rd of April. They will also have a BBQ on that night. The Wentworth Council has kindly made a (Youth Week) donation for the night and this will enable it to be a fundraiser for Murray House. The Wentworth bakery is also making a very generous donation of bread for the BBQ.

WHS Committee: The WHS team met last week. We discussed current changes to WHS policy and reviewed information on WHS consultation and issue resolution procedures. We are at present working on revising our evacuation plans and updating them in relation to recent staff changes. Ted is contacting Ros Williams, DEC WHS Consultant, to visit and give advice to the committee.

Finance Committee: The finance committee met last week and we spent time assessing the schools financial situation. We are fortunate that at this stage we are financially stable and as such spent time analysing recent funding requests as well as replacement costs for such items as a torn shade sale.

Enrolment Information: This week we have sent out letters requesting parents to update the information that they originally put on their child’s enrolment forms. There is no need to return the form if nothing has changed. It is very important, however, that all other parents return the form attached to the letter as soon as possible as the information included affects our funding.

Excursions: We have had a number of successful excursions in the last few weeks. Year 7 under the organisation of Nicole Fraser went to Kings Billabong and did a range of adventure activities with the emphasis on teamwork.

Year 9 under the direction of Michael Dicker went to the Grampians and challenged themselves on a variety of activities including high ropes and abseiling.

Last week Year 11 advanced English and Drama students went to Sydney under the guidance of Emily Leon and Paul Celegon to see "Once in Royal David City" a production by Michael Gow. Previous to this the Belvoir Street Theatre staff came to the school to lead a workshop with our students to prepare them for the performance. We are very grateful for this support of Coomealla High School.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all staff involved in the actual excursions and also to those who remained at school and covered their classes. Without this support our students would not have these excellent opportunities.

SDD Term 2: I had hoped to have a joint Staff development day with our partner Primary schools, however they have had an offer of an excellent presenter who will talk about lower Primary maths. As this is not a high priority for us at present we will manage our own day and instead plan to join with the other schools for the term 3 SDD. One of the topics we will cover in term 2 is "The Australian Curriculum". We will also have workshops on SENTRAL welfare as this is the new system that we will be implementing from term 2 this year. Duncan Driscoll has begun training in the implementation of this system. The new system will provide a more comprehensive profile of the "whole student" which will assist both staff and parents in getting the best outcomes for students.

Additional items: Due to lower student numbers this year we have lost .4 SASS time. This time is from 3 areas within the school and we are awaiting advice from DEC as to whether a transfer in will be part of our changes. We may also be able to use some existing money to partially fund staff to cover these areas.

On Thursday last week I went to Sydney as part of a reference group to revise the guidelines for the Links to Learning Program. This program is an engagement program for students who are disengaged with school and has been running for over 10 years. A pilot program will be offered this year to 2 areas and we are an option for 1 of these. It will involve students being off site for part of each week participating in specific activities designed to re engage them in education.

Newsletters for this term will be out on the 21/3 and the 11/4 and then twice each term for terms 2-4.

Jo Scott
Principal
Dear Parent / Guardian,

It is with sadness that I write to inform you that John Nicholls, a former student from our school, passed away recently. John had been undergoing treatment for cancer for some time.

John was a much loved member of our student body and local community. We have informed the students of John’s death and about the school counselling services available to them. You may also wish to call the Cancer Council Help Line on 131120 to learn more about communicating with your child about cancer. The Kids Helpline is also a useful counselling option for children. Their number is 1800 551800. The Dareton Health Service could also be contacted on 50217200. Please encourage your child to access these services, if appropriate.

The funeral will be held on Monday, 25th March 2014 at North West Funerals. On behalf of our school community of students, staff and parents, I have sent sincere condolences to the Nicholls’ family.

I will endeavour to ensure that your child’s education is not disrupted at this difficult time and that any of your child’s needs are addressed. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns about changes to your child’s education and welfare.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Scott
Principal
Year 9 Grampians Excursion 2014

The bus set off from Coomie on Monday February 24 about 7:40am to make the next pick up at Buronga. There was a bit of a buzz in the air as children said goodbye to their families for five days. Everyone settled in for the first leg of the trip to Horsham where we would have lunch. On arrival at the Halls Gap accommodation, we were told about the facilities and then the students went to their bunkhouses.

There was a combination of High Ropes, Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, Abseiling, Canoeing and Hiking for the duration of the week. The overall purpose of these activities was to allow the opportunity to see what each student could achieve when they set their mind to the task. There were some quite challenging situations, even for the staff, who also faced some of their fears. When the students “had a go” and finished an activity that had a sense of dread to it, the emotion of achievement made them want to have another go.

It was quite a physical week of activities with some bumps and bruises, but overall it proved what can be accomplished by having a go.

A big thanks to Ms Francis, Ms Nixon and Ken (our bus driver). Also thank you very much to the staff at The Grampians.

Michael Dicker
Year 9 Advisor
Dobell Drawing School

Congratulations to Emily Smyth in year 11 Visual Arts who has won a spot in the prestigious Dobell Drawing School at the National Art School in Sydney. Emily will be traveling to Sydney in the Easter holidays to take part in the four day program offered to current year 11 students who display an interest and high level of drawing skills.

Emily will participate in still life and drawing workshops run by university teachers and spend time viewing work by practicing artists and university students.

Congratulations Emily

Enrichment Drawing Class

In Enrichment students have been learning different still life drawing techniques, starting with selecting different perspectives to draw an object from, in this case watering cans. Then adding high lights and depth with soft pastels to create areas of interest and shadow.
Interschool Swimming Carnival

Twenty-five Coomealla High School students competed in the annual Inter-school Swimming Competition against the Victorian High Schools within Sunraysia. Although time was against us in terms of organising relay teams, in particular and trying unsuccessfully to get even one training session in before competition day, I can safely report that every student who represented Coomealla High School was a worthy competitor.

We had some individual success with Ashton Tilley earning three 2nd places in Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke, Rhys Christian earning 2nd place in Freestyle and Meg Richardson gaining 3rd place in Freestyle.

Our relay teams were impressive with the 12-13 year Boys team comprising of Ashton Tilley, Blake McDonnell, Connor Chatterton and Aaron Marshall gaining 2nd place in the Freestyle Relay.

Not to be out done, the 12-13 year Girls Freestyle Team consisting of Lucy Christensen, Belah Ussher, Chloe Henderson and Emily Bertalli also earned 2nd place.

Christopher Gold, Tyreece Kelly, Hamish Ribarits and Jacob Whitfield fiercely contested the 14 year Boys Freestyle Relay with a well-deserved 2nd place.

The most stressful of all events proved to be the Medley Relay Team where, let’s face it…unless Butterfly is your favourite stroke, you tend to avoid it at all cost. So, hats off to Bailey Chatterton who came to the fore thus allowing Coomealla High School to enter a 16 Year Boys Medley Relay Team. Bailey, along with Harleigh Ussher, Oliver Mangan and Rhys Christian brought home a valiant 4th place.

The competitors were chosen based on their performances at our school carnival so we had some very good swims from all of our team members:

Emily Bertalli, Lucy Christiansen, Belah Ussher, Chloe Henderson, Amber Thompson, Murphy Baird, Imogen Smith, Meg Richardson, Jade Pohliner and Shanae Tilley as well as Ashton Tilley, Blake McDonnell, Connor Chatterton, Christopher Radloff, Tyreece Kelly, Hamish Ribarits, Jacob Whitfield, Alex Fasolino, Oliver Manga, Rhys Christian, Harleigh Ussher, Bailey Chatterton, Kobe Mutch, Aaron Marshall and Christopher Gold.

Both Mrs Barker & I were very appreciative of the cooperation we had from all of the students particularly with those swimmers who stepped up to the mark, swam even when they were pretty sore (Harleigh) and those who came along to help make up relays and really show what it is like to be part of a TEAM. Well done, everyone.
Year 7 Excursion

On Thursday 27th and Friday 28th of February over 50 year 7 students attended two days of fun and team building activities at Kings Billabong. Students were split into 6 teams and participated in 12 activities such as the calculator, which involved the students stepping on consecutive numbers, without stepping on the ground, working as a team as quickly as possible. The fastest time for the day was 17 seconds, which was very quick considering the members of each team had to step on 30 numbers spread randomly in a marked area approximately 6m by 4m.

Many of the activities involved canoes, fitting as many people as possible in a canoe, or joining multiple canoes together to increase the number of students on the water. Many times these activities ended in “accidently” tipping the canoe and lots of squealing and laughter. The most popular activity involved blacked out goggles, mud and water. The aim of the game was to knock a tennis ball out of a large barrel by filling it with as much water as possible. Teams had to split into 3 roles, running up and down a very muddy bank with buckets of water filled from the billabong, passing this to a team member who could not see who was encouraged across a space of 5 metres and then attempted to throw their water in the barrel about 2 metres away, by a team member who may have got very wet with wayward water.

I wish to thank Allan Hassel and his son Brad at Wildside Outdoors for organising a great two days, and Mr Kiely, Mrs Baker and Ms Frost for attending with us. Year 7 are to be congratulated for their behaviour and attitude, they are fantastic to work with and it was pleasing to see their team work improve over the two days.

Nicole Fraser
On Wednesday the 11th of March a group of Drama and Advanced English students woke up to catch a bus at 3.30am heading to Sydney so that we could watch the play “Once in Royal David’s City” at the Belvoir St Theatre the following day. After travelling for 9 hours by bus we arrived at Cootamundra where we then caught a train to travel the rest of the 17 hour trek to Sydney. By 8 pm, with very tired faces, we arrived at our destination. Not long after we were snuggled into our beds at the Sydney Central Youth Hostel. The Youth Hostel consisted of 8 floors which included a games room, cinema, café, and a pool on the top with an amazing view of the city.

The next day we had many breakfast options to explore, one being that we enjoyed the free continental breakfast supplied by the hostels café or we could go and discover what the city of Sydney had to offer us. Both options were explored. Both options were amazing! After this we began our walk to Belvoir St Theatre.

Walking into the theatre with several other Sydney schools was slightly daunting but insightful to see how the city kids are compared to us. One by one they called each school to the circular shaped theatre. The lights dimmed, the characters appeared and the play started! The main character (Will) addresses the audience about the scene set up, which is a rare theatrical technique and is known as ‘breaking the fourth wall.’ The characters weren’t dressed in anything theatrical; instead they were dressed casually, wearing everyday costumes fitted for everyday people.
During the play, there were many different plots to start with, from small children and how irritating they can be in airports, to whether Will should take up a position teaching Brechtian Theatre at a prestigious and strict Catholic School. One of the main plot arcs of “Once in Royal David City” is the relationships between the main character, Will, and his mother. During the course of the play they learn that Will’s mother has an aggressive and terminal form of cancer. Will struggles to deal with this diagnosis and what it means for his mother and his family. The play was very interesting and covered the majority of life’s aspects such as death, decision making, career, and the different walks of life, but, most importantly, it taught us that in life we can’t control things as much as what we would like or as much as we think we can.

To have the opportunity to go to this production was amazing and would not have happened if Belvoir St Theatre didn’t give us this chance. The excursion came about because Belvoir St Theatre likes to provide schools that are isolated, such as our school, the opportunity to see performances on stage. This is an opportunity that schools in the city get frequently. This program is run every year, but because Belvoir St Theatre likes to share this opportunity with as many schools as they can, they don’t offer it to the same school every year, so we were extremely fortunate to go. The program also included sending someone from Sydney to explain theatre and its workings which was very beneficial in our understanding of the play and will help us with our future studies.

On behalf of the year 11 Advanced English and Drama students, we would like to thank Belvoir St Theatre for providing us with and paying for this fantastic experience. We also would like to thank our teachers Miss Leon and Mr Celegon who accompanied us to Sydney and helped us whenever we needed it. And last but certainly not least, Mrs Alderton who organised and applied for us to go on this terrific excursion. We are so grateful for all the efforts that everyone put in to this trip! It was an experience that none of us will forget!

Natalie Wescombe
The **Lower Anabranch Sporting & Landcare Group Inc.**

are holding their

**Annual Picnic and Sports Day**

On **Saturday 12 April 2014** at **1pm sharp**

Starting with the kids running races.

Free Entry.

Raffle and Lolly guess held.

Afternoon tea supplied including cordial for the kids.

BYO drinks, shared evening BBQ, please bring a salad. Meat provided by the Club.

Evening entertainment provided by Megan Laurie

Coin roll.

**A great family day!**

**All welcome**

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**Winter Hockey is looking for new players**

Would you like to play?

The Winter Competition is just about to start, so come along and join us.

Sign Up Night is Wednesday, March 19 at 7pm. There are games for everyone, from beginners to more advanced players.

There are teams in Under 9, Under 11’s, Under 13 Boys, Under 13 Girls, Under 15 Boys and Under 16 Girls, plus many more.

Hockey is played at the Hockey Turf, Eleventh St, Mildura.

If you would like some more information, please contact: Jodie Morvell 0419 835 470 or jmorvell@bigpond.com
BURONGA/GOL GOL LIONS CLUB

We are inviting community members to join our dynamic Club, to make new friends and support the local community.

The BURONGA/GOL GOL LIONS CLUB supports the local community by providing funds and help for many worthy causes.

Are you interested in volunteering?

** We meet at the Gol Gol Hotel every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening at 7.15 pm for dinner & a meeting.

Please contact:  
Ken Cornell  [0407257434]  
Richard Munro  [50248411]  
Tom Modica  [50248470]
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Reminder:
Thongs or canvas shoes are NOT to be worn at school for safety reasons.
Recipe Corner:
Toffee Apples

**EQUIPMENT:**
6 pairs wooden chopsticks or 12 thin round wooden sticks

**INGREDIENTS:**
4 small red apples, stalks removed
1½ cups caster sugar
2 tablespoons liquid glucose
1 teaspoon white vinegar
½ teaspoon red food colouring

**METHOD:**
- Wash apples in hot water to remove wax coating & dry apples
- Push 1 chopstick or stick in top of each apple, being careful not to push all the way through
- Line 2 large baking trays with baking paper
- Place sugar, ¾ cup warm water, glucose and vinegar in a heavy-based saucepan over low heat
- Cook, stirring for 5 to 7 minutes or until sugar has dissolved (don’t boil)
- Increase heat to medium-high & bring to boil
- Cook, without stirring for 15 to 20 minutes or until toffee reaches hard crack stage, brushing sides of pan with a pastry brush dipped in water to avoid crystallisation
- Remove from heat
- Tint red with food colouring
- Stand for 30 seconds and wait for bubbles to subside slightly
- Working quickly, dip apple into toffee, tilting pan to coat
- Turn apple above pan to drain excess toffee
- Stand apple on prepared tray
- Repeat with remaining apples & toffee
- Stand for 20 minutes or until set
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

Coomealla High School—Absence Note

Student Name: ___________________________ Year: ________Roll Group: ______________

My child was absent from school: Date/s ____________________________________________

Reason: ____________________________________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________Parent/Guardian

Quotable Quote:

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.

Confucius

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.