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Have a happy and safe holiday, see you all next term

Updated on our Website this fortnight:
Term 1 Social
Principal’s Report

There are so many topics to choose from for the first official speech that you give in a new school. I could talk about leadership or education or even the meaning of life. I could talk for an hour or perhaps less? Or maybe I could talk about my “what,” that is, what drives me to come here every day.

My first passion is of course education; the key to a child’s future. I am passionate about educating future generations because each child deserves a quality education. In fact, I believe as teachers it is our obligation to educate children; we are responsible for providing a quality education for each and every child here every day.

Relationships are vitally important to ensuring success in schools. It is crucial to develop strong, positive relationships with co-workers, parents and students. We cannot do this alone, and it is only through relationships that we are able to successfully educate each child. We need the staff, parents and students to know that we are all in this together. This year, for the first time in many years there has been a number of new staff. Our new staff have got off to an excellent beginning and have been involved in a variety activities both in and out of school. These activities range from joining the local football team, to taking photos at the swimming carnival, to introducing new programs, to taking students on excursions. Many also participated in the workshop for newly appointed teachers held here earlier this week for all new teachers from the area. The P&C are also working hard towards improvements at Coomealla and are looking into remodelling a new entrance to the school. I look forward to joining them in this endeavour.

Our staff both new and established are all aware of the importance of building relationships and to this end other events that have happened at Coomealla High School so far this year have been: The very successful Mungo Youth Conference, year 7 and year 9 excursions to Kings Billabong and the Grampians, the swimming carnival, also the excursion to Sydney to view a Michael Gow production and of course the amazing School Social. Without dedicated staff and the support of parents, students would not have so many diverse opportunities.

I am, however, not only an educator, but also a parent. It is important that you also know that I am both a mum and a teacher, that I have children of my own and have been a teacher for 30 years in 8 different schools.

This is the lens through which I see things. In each situation, I ask ‘Is this okay if my son were here? Would I want a situation handled this way if it involved my daughters. What previous experience from my other schools can I use to make this situation easier. And indeed: How would I feel if I was the parent and not the Principal in this situation?

Having a positive attitude: I don't think that I have had one day this term when I have not wanted to come to school. Yes I enjoy every day, even the days that are somewhat busy. Being positive allows you to get the most out of each experience.

Other areas that make a difference are being a team player, showing initiative and finally showing appreciation. Showing appreciation is one of the areas that I most appreciate at Coomealla High School. It is so refreshing to see students and staff alike saying “thankyou, I appreciate what you have done”.

So What is your “What?” What drives you as a person, what inspires and motivates you every day?

My "what" is the belief that education is the most important factor in providing choice for later life and I see this as the underpinning philosophy to providing students with a great place to learn, teachers with a great place to teach and parents with confidence that their children are getting a great education.

Finally can I invite all students, staff and parents to attend the ANZAC Day Service at Wentworth. Marshalling is at 10:30am near the Artback cafe and the march begins at 10.50. Students need to wear full school uniform. Our captains will be speaking and participating in the laying of a wreath. The service should end at 11.20am.

Jo Scott
Principal
Coomealla High School
Year 7 Visual Arts

This term in Visual Arts year 7 are creating artworks based on the theme “Out Of This World”. Students in Ms Francis and Miss Nixon’s classes have designed and are constructing with paper mache wearable art that mixes reality and fantasy, students took inspiration from animals, books, and movies to combine into an artwork. The next step after a white layer of paper mache is to paint the artworks in fantastic colour.

Year 9/10

Students are creating Pop Art posters inspired by bright colour and flashy slogans. They have taken photos of themselves and classmates then digitally manipulated the images to create high contrast black and white photos to create the artworks. These are some examples of students work so far and we can’t wait to show everyone the finished product.
Mungo Youth Project 2014

Mungo youth project was held again this year at Top Hut station very closely situated near ancient Lake Mungo and the Walls of China. Coomealla staff members Phil Gee and Della Philp took 10 students that did an amazing job presenting their two topics “Changing Mungo Landscape Over Time” and “Initiation Now and Then”, MYP is all about kids teaching Kids and our students did an amazing job.

Coomealla students were able to have access to AIME Mentors, Elders, Discovery Rangers, Archaeologists, other educators and students from many different places. They also got the chance to meet rappers, dancers and ABC journalists.

This event was an amazing experience and enjoyed by all. Camping out under the stars and playing in the sand hills truly made the experience worthwhile. I would like to congratulate both presenting teams on doing an awesome job and the respect shown attending other presentations, also helping other students and MYP members.

MYP Coomealla team 2014
TAS FACULTY
TRANSPORTABLE CABIN

The year 11 and 12 Construction students are putting the finishing touches on our fourth transportable cabin. They have been practicing their painting skills and are learning that it requires a good deal of care and patience in order to achieve a professional result.

Materials for the project have been purchased with funds we received through a $15,000 grant from the Wentworth and District Community Bank, along with some money that has been generated from past projects.

It is planned that the cabin will be purchased by the Gol Gol School fruit block committee and used as a research centre.

As the construction of the project has spanned a period of 2 years, a large number of students have been involved in the process. I would like to thank Mr. Nevan Johnson for his time spent with the final stages of the plastering which has enabled us to maintain a good quality finish. Apart from electrical work, all other aspects of the construction have been completed by students.
WEST DARLING AFL TRAILS REPORT 2014

Trials were conducted at George Gordon Oval, Dareton on Wednesday March 26.

Game results:

**Game 1:** Coomealla High School 6.4 (40) defeated Broken Hill High School 1.1 (7)

Goals:
Coomealla: Tyson Bath and Rupert Mackie 2 goals each, Rhys Christian and Tyreece Kelly 1 each.
Broken Hill: Tyler Carswell 1 goal.

A very strong and fast Coomealla set the tone for the day with fast flowing football and some heavy tackling. Broken Hill could not go with the stronger Coomealla outfit.

Best:
Coomealla: Oliver Mangan, Rhys Christian, Cambell Davison, Justin Redpath, Joel King.
Broken Hill: Rourke Turner, Sage Hocking, Casey Sanderson, Luca Napoli, Jake Trengrove.

**Game 2:** Coomealla High School 14.8 (92) defeated Willyama High School 0.0 (0)

Goals:
Coomealla: Tyson Bath, Rohan O’Connor, Tyreece Kelly and Bevan Wade 2 goals each, Rhys Christian, Joel King, Rupert Mackie, Riley Saunders, Tyler Tyers and Zac Witte 1 each.
Willyama: nil.

Coomealla had blown out the cob webs in the first game against Broken Hill and came out with all guns blazing. A very strong and polished performance saw them easily account for Willyama.

Best:
Coomealla: Joel King, Colby Wade, Justin Redpath, Bevan Wade, Zac Witte.
Willyama: Sam Edgecumbe, Tyler McInnes, Chad Hipwell.

Coomealla Students selected to represent West Darling in Wagga 1-3 June at NSW All-Schools trials:
Tyson Bath (8), Geoff Bottrell (9), Jarrod Brander (9), Rhys Christian (10), Cambell Davison (9), Joel King (9), Oliver Mangan (10), Justin Redpath (10), Bevan Wade (9), Colby Wade (9) and Zac Witte (9)
Rhys Mutch (9) and Tyreece Kelly (8) were named as emergencies to be called on as required. I am also awaiting confirmation that Coomealla will also go through to the Western Region final for Swan Shield (scheduled for week 1 in Term 3.)

Thanks to the large group of students for their assistance on the day with umpiring, time keeping and running water.

Duncan Driscoll
Convenor- West Darling AFL Coach 2014

Sunraysia Hockey Association is looking for new players in Under 9s, Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15 Boys & Under 16 Girls, Senior Men and Women. Training and Games are held at the hockey field off 11th Street. Please speak to a club contact or go to a training session. For more information you may speak to Sunraysia Hockey Association President Andrew Carrigan on 0417072559.

Club training nights are as follows.

**Monday: Waratahs**
U9/U11/U13 6-7pm & U15/U16/Seniors 6:30-8pm. Contact Jodie Morvell 0409835470

**Tuesday: Koowinda**
U9/U11/U13/U15/U16 5:30-6:30pm & Seniors 6:30-8pm Contact Daf Scholes 0408246537

**Wednesday: Wanderers**
U9/U11 4:30-5:30pm & U13/U15/U16 5:30-6:30pm. & Seniors 6:45-8:15pm Contact Wendy Kelly 0488041965

**Thursday: Rivaside**
U9/U11 5pm-5:45pm & U13/U15 5:30-6:30pm & U16/Seniors 6:30-8pm. Contact Jess Melsen 0400131254
WEST DARLING TEAM ANNOUNCED!!

In May this year the Combined High Schools Netball competition is being held in Northern NSW at Coffs Harbour. On 6 March, netball trials were held at the George Gordon Oval to select a team of 12 girls. We had an excellent turnout with 23 students, three from Broken Hill High School and a lot of junior players all happy to have a run.

After much deliberation congratulations to the following girls for gaining a place on the West Darling Team for 2014:

Sam Maclean    Hannah Murdoch
Emily Clothier   Jade Pohlner
Beth Darby     Monique Mitchell
Claire O’Connor  Natalie Wescombe
Korreigh Wade   Abbey Stevens (Willyama High School)
Bianca Howe Willyama High School)

I would like to thank everyone who tried out on the day it was awesome to see you having a go. A special thank you must go to Mrs C Polhner and Mrs M Watson for volunteering to umpire the game. Also to Mrs Barker for her expertise and to Sam Mclean for helping organise equipment and transport.

Ms Watson

MILDURA CLAY TARGET CLUB

SSVS Inter-School Shoot
Thursday 8 May 2014
Commences 1pm
The event is 25 TARGETS DTL, 1 round 15, 1 round 10 targets
SINGLE BARREL ONLY
The event is open to male & female competitors.
Juniors Years 7-8   Seniors Years 9-12
Cost is $15 per competitor [includes cartridges and clays]
You are competing for a perpetual trophy, team event and individual medals.

Training Days are Wednesday & Friday nights from 4:30-6:30pm. For competitors who do not have their Firearms Licence, please contact Kate Redman who is organising numbers for several licensing evenings. A firearms license is require for the event.

A reminder for students who have not had previous experience at a gun club, it is a requirement that you attend at least three training sessions prior to the event.
This is for the purpose of safety & procedures on the range.

After the presentations there will be a Teacher competition, (teachers please wear closed footwear for this event)

On the evening of the shoot, join us for a family BBQ tea. MCTC will supply the meat; families please bring a salad to share. Soft Drinks, Water and chips can be purchased at the canteen. We encourage everyone to attend and celebrate a local event.

For further details please call:
Event Organisers - Greg (Ph 0427 212791) & Kate (Ph 0427 801705) Redman
Mildura Clay Target Club Inc.
Interschool Tennis Report

On Thursday, 27 March, Coomealla High School students travelled to the Mildura Lawn Courts for the annual Interschool Tennis Championships. Our students played with enthusiasm and fine sportsmanship all day against some very tough competition from schools like St Joseph’s College and Mildura Senior College.

Our most pleasing results on the day came from the Junior Girls team of Imogen Smith, Sarah Hancock, Meagan Verstappen and Chantelle Gunn who came in third in their division. The Junior Boys team of Jaidyn Ruhs, Mitchell Kemp, Rupert Mackie and Colby Wade played very well and also gained a third place in their section.

Thank you to other team members for their wonderful participation. They were: Emily Hancock, Kaitlin Kemp, Emily Clothier, Corey Henderson, Aaron Duck, Callum Mackie, Nick Cottrell, Alex Smith, Bevan Wade, Dylan Watson and Bailey Chatterton.

It was a great pleasure to accompany such a fine group of students on the day.

Roslyn Buckley
Tennis Coordinator

INTERSchool BASEBALL AT AERO OVALS, MILDURA

Junior

On Wednesday March 26, Coomealla sent a team of 13 junior players to compete against teams from both public and private schools in Mildura. The team consisted of year 7 students with three year 8 students.

The first game was played against a strong Chaffey Secondary College side. Chaffey won 8-3.

In the second game Coomie played St. Joseph’s College, an opposition team we always liked to beat. St Joseph’s won 3-1. Unfortunately, in our last innings we brought home 5 runs, but they did not count because St. Joseph’s had not finished their equivalent innings.

In the last game we played Trinity Lutheran College. Although the game was cut short, we drew 4-4.

The day was a great success for a number of reasons. The team behaved themselves immaculately both on and off the field. Secondly if someone was having a bad run there were only words of encouragement. Thirdly they NEVER gave up at any stage. Fourthly our base and line umpires and coaches (Riley and Cody Clifford, Rick Langanke, Nick Tregeagle and Jesse Lugg) not only officiated for our own teams but helped out other teams as well. Importantly a big thank you to the year 11 and 12 students from St. Joseph’s who officiated at our games when our umpires were playing.

As far as best players go everyone did something at some stage during the game, a run, a catch, a bunt, backing up or simply encouraging others. However, Brodie Miller and Darby Mclean played outstanding ball in each game they played.

Thank you to Nick Tregeagle and Rick Langanke for their organisation skills.

Mr Tarrant
Accompanying Teacher

Intermediate

Coach Mr Gee was unavailable due to the Mungo excursion. Nick Tregeagle and Rick Langanke demonstrated leadership in organising the team.

It was clear that many of the Mildura teams take their baseball very seriously. Many of their players regularly play in weekend competitions.

In both games against Chaffy and Saint Joe’s the team was defeated. A play-off for remaining places was scheduled but Coomealla won by forfeit.

It was a good day and everyone had fun.

James Kiely
Accompanying Teacher
SRC ‘Sport’ Social
‘Sport’ Social

Term 1 has been a very busy start to the year. The SRC students have been very busy organising different events for the already packed school calendar.

Last week the SRC held the first BBQ social for the year with ‘Sport’ as the theme which was generously financed and supported by the Wentworth City Council which ran in conjunction with Youth Week.

With over 170 students in attendance, the night was a huge success raising over $1100.00 which will be donated to Murray House.

Special thanks to all the staff, especially to Mr O’Shannessy for organising equipment needed for the night, Mr David Burrows for his DJ expertise and to the SRC students for all their help organising and running the BBQ on the night with fun to be had by all.

Mrs Maddi Johnson
SRC Coordinator
SCIENCE AT COOMEALLA HIGH

Earphone Problem

Both students and parents must be aware of the DEC policy on head phones and other electronic media devices in classrooms.

Science and the practical subjects (TAS and PE), have a total ban on ear phones being used, in line with this policy.

Earphones and headphones are banned due to the increased dangers they present to the wearer and those near them. Those wearing these devices cannot hear instructions or what is happening around them.

Term 1 Update

Now nearing the end of term we can reflect on significant events that have helped to shape the term.

The implementation of the Australian Curriculum in Science has meant a complete rewrite of our programs. Thankfully some hard work by all of the staff has meant that this could be done with a minimum of fuss and confusion for the students. Our new programs are working well.

Another change has been a move to a more hands on approach. This means more practical time, where theoretical science can become “real”. Students are gaining better understanding of the ideas they get taught.

We are having very positive outcomes. Judging by the smiles on faces and the murmur of excitement around the rooms our students are enjoying this change.

Students must, however, be careful to maintain self-control and not attempt to take liberties with their new learning style.

“Mad Science” elective has allowed a brief introduction of aquaculture, where our students get the opportunity to work with and study some of the local fish, native to this unique region of Australian.

Should any family have unwanted fish tanks or aquarium equipment, these would be gratefully accepted. This might help to promote this concept. We have tried to establish tanks containing native fish and yabbies, unfortunately success collecting stock has been limited.

The Ag Department has been busy

A new batch of lambs has arrived, 11 at last count, were in the paddock.

Our breeding pigs are about to drop another litter.

The rabbit stock have been upgraded. We will soon see the results of this.

Modification of structures around the farm is a result of a huge effort by Mr Colley, Ron the assistant, and many of the students.

Senior Science is busy planning the construction of a native tree corridor, including sections for “bush tucker” and “medicinal natives”. These will have a major planting during mid July, national tree planting week.

Dennis Brown
Head Teacher Science