Makayla Witte and Laura Tilley performed at the Year 7 ‘Meet & Greet’ BBQ which included parent/teacher evening.
Welcome to the March edition of the Coomealla High newsletter.

This term has seen students participate in a wide variety of experiences: The Year 9 Camp to the Grampians; the Year 7 two day excursions; and the Swimming Carnival, to name just a few. Thank you to my staff for making the time to organise these wonderful experiences.

Thank you also to the parents that have provided positive feedback to the addition of the Weekly Newsletter. I believe that this initiative has enhanced the level of communication between the school and home. If you haven’t seen it yet, visit our web page [http://www.coomealla-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.coomealla-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) and follow the links under “Weekly News”.

As a result of the success of the “Weekly News”, I have repurposed my report in the monthly newsletter from a simple report on the month’s goings on; to a more in depth look at analysis of the school’s operations. The theme of this edition’s report is on performance and classroom discipline.

Coming out at the end of Term 1 will be the School Report. It gives a very detailed account of the school’s performance over the past twelve months. When gathering the information for the report, I was struck by the dislocation that exists between our school’s performance and the perception of our school’s performance in some sections of the community.

A good school focuses on improving the academic achievement of the individual students that it serves. At Coomealla High School we do just that. What’s more, we do that better than average. Value added data (VAD), refers to the level of academic improvement experienced across the school. Our VAD illustrates that Coomealla High School is currently placed above the average improvement for schools across the state, as illustrated in Figure 1 below.
The horizontal axis shows us the average improvement across the state and you can see that Coomealla High School sits above the line, meaning that we are achieving above average improvement for our students! I ask that when speaking of our school you mention this in your conversation. You should feel confident that what we do here works. That is not to say that we do not wish to improve. To the contrary, my staff are working very hard to lift our school’s performance to greater heights. We are working to push that “dot” to the far right of the graph.

As mentioned at the end of last year, the school has trialled a new discipline process. Unfortunately there have been some kinks that need ironing out. Below, I detail the process for managing classroom behaviour so that your child will have the opportunity to concentrate in class free from the influence of disruptive students. This will be in effect from ‘Day One’ next term.

It is important to acknowledge that ALL schools have students who become disruptive from time to time and often these students require much support. Coomealla High has a large Learning and Support Team that is focussed on working both with staff and students to achieve better individual learning outcomes.

The discipline process in class is simple and only has three steps. These steps are only activated AFTER the teacher has tried a range of strategies that have proved to be ineffectual in assisting the students to make a decision to stop their pattern of disruptive behaviour.

The act of suspension is taken very seriously. This system allows for many opportunities for the student to correct their behaviour. The length of suspension will vary, dependant on previous number of suspensions and the degree of misbehaviour.

Obviously, staff have a varying degree of skill when it comes to classroom management. The new management structure of the school allows for a dedicated Head Teacher to work with individual’s disrupting the learning of others is totally unacceptable and the changes that we have adapted expedite the discipline process to balance fairness and efficiency.

Should you wish to comment on the structure, either call me 03 5027 5406 on the school’s number or email me at Stephen.harper@det.nsw.edu.au

Our school enforces the compliance with school uniform. This year has seen great success in compliance with wearing the school shirt. Our attention will include the wearing of the school jumper next term. Should students attend school wearing a jumper NOT endorsed by the school’s P&C, they will be directed to the front office where they will be provided with a school jumper to use for the day. Refusal to cooperate may result in the student being sent home. This is a safety issue to allow us to quickly identify students and to identify people who may be present in the school that don’t belong.

The following is a link to an article that highlights some of the other benefits of school uniform compliance. https://www.theguardian.com/education/mortarboard/2013/oct/03/why-wear-school-uniform

I wish everyone a safe and happy autumn holiday and am very much looking forward to what the rest of the year has in store.

Steve Harper
Principal
**Step 1:** Student is placed onto Blue Monitoring Book for a maximum period of two week learning cycle. The teacher may take the student off the book beforehand IF the student has turned their behaviour around AND the teacher is confident that there is little chance of relapse. **WHEN STUDENTS ARE ON THE BLUE BOOK, THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL ON SPORTING TRIPS OR EXCURSIONS OR PARTICIPATE IN EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES.**

**Step 2:** Student continues poor behaviour they are withdrawn from class and work with the Head Teacher or in a Senior Class. Sanctions from Step 1 continue.

If the teacher, after consultation with the Head Teacher determines that the student is not making a serious attempt at rectifying their behaviour they are moved onto Step 2. **THIS COULD BE BEFORE THE END OF THE TWO WEEK LEARNING CYCLE.**

**Step 3:** Suspension for Continued Disobedience or Persistent Misbehaviour.

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**Return to normal routine**

**In-class monitoring for two weeks**

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On Wednesday 28th March staff, students, parents and carers joined together for a ‘Meet and Greet.’ It was fantastic to meet the parents of our Year 7 students and reconnect with other members of our school community.

The BBQ was cooked by our Principal, Mr Harper with assistance from Coomealla High School students Lauren and Jody Boundy.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by Go! Gol Community band which was enjoyed by all who attended.
The Year 8 Technology Metal class are off to an amazing start this year with their projects.

Pictured are students with their design projects which are all different and individual. The 'metalcraft' scroll former was used to make the bracket and the aluminium plaque was embossed.

Pictured is a project created by Kyla Gregg showing the skills the Year 8 students have learnt in Metalwork this year with Mr O’Shannessy.
The SRC has made a terrific start to the year! We have held a raffle for a swimming race between school captains Dylan Brown and Chris Gold and teachers, Miss Steel and Mr Kiely. The SRC reports that the students need to keep up their training efforts for next year as the teachers won the race!

The SRC has also held an Easter guessing challenge where students had to guess the correct number of Easter eggs in a jar. Well done to Lee Evans who guessed correctly!

The main aims of the SRC this year so far have focused around assisting and participating in the school’s Relay for Life Team and their fundraising efforts. The SRC would like to thank Miss Leon for organising the event, as well as all of the teachers that gave up their weekend to supervise.

The SRC has also been focusing on our public speaking skills. So far, Alston Cook, Makayla Witte, Laura Tilley and Fletcher Collins have been brave enough to take up this challenge to develop their leadership skills. Well done to these students!

Year 7 SRC votes have been conducted this term and the SRC has been happy to welcome Jake Harriss and Laura Hancock to our SRC team.

Currently, the SRC is focusing on their organisation of the Term 1 Social which will be held on the 12th April.

Ms Natalie Steel  
SRC Coordinator
WHAT: RYPEN is a weekend long program which provides a group of young people aged 14-17 an opportunity to develop valuable leadership skills. RYPEN will see you engage with like-minded people, while having fun and learning new skills in areas such as problem solving and public speaking.

WHEN: The camp is held on the 13th-15th of April.

WHERE: Camp Kedron, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Barmera.

HOW: For more information and how to apply go to: http://rypen9520.org.au/
On the 24th and 25th of March, Coomealla High School entered in a team in the Mildura Relay for Life. This year’s event saw our students battling with all types of weather, from a hot sunny day to a freezing windy night. Our team, which included 50 students and 8 staff members, raised over $7500, earning us the award of ‘Highest Youth Team Fundraisers.’ Our school would like to thank each and every member of the community who supported our fundraising efforts with their generous donations, including a $2000 donation from Wentworth Shire Council and a $1000 donation from Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club. Our fundraising efforts also earned us a Research Award, which means our team has the opportunity to fund a world class cancer research project- and be acknowledged for it. Only three teams at Mildura’s Relay for Life received this prestigious award, so our students should be very proud of their fundraising efforts. Our students also won the ‘Best Dressed Team’ award, with the committee stating they were touched by the reasoning behind our blue theme.

A huge thank you to all the staff who gave up their weekend to help supervise our team: Miss Emily Leon (Team Captain), Ms April Winckel, Mr Duncan Driscoll, Miss Natalie Steel, Mrs Daniela Ganderton, Miss Rebecca Nixon, Mr Stephen Harper, Mr James Kiely and Ms Jackie Watson. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs Nicole Fraser who dropped off some yummy pasta for our troops, and to Miss Lottie Sapuppo and an ex-Coomie student, who came along to help with supervision on the night. Our school is extremely proud of all involved, for standing up for the fight against cancer.

Miss Emily Leon
Team Captain
Learning through fun!

The Special Education classes are enjoying our new classrooms in the old maths block. Moving again after only twelve months was a big job but we are settled now and looking forward to the future. Our new facilities include an outdoor education area that will be screened off from the main quadrangle in the future.

Students have engaged with a variety of subjects in Term One including looking at Evolution in Science. Year 9 students have completed some posters showing the process of Evolution. During their classes all Special Education Science students have had the opportunity to learn about various theories, including Charles Darwin’s natural selection, together with the Indigenous Creation Story that was presented to the students by Aboriginal Education Officer Will Ward.
In support of Anti-Bullying month here at Coomealla High School, the 9-10 Drama Class performed an original piece of theatre which highlighted the impact bullying has on students. This 15 minute play entitled ‘Not Here,’ was written by the Drama Teacher Miss Emily Leon upon consultation with the class about the impact they feel bullying has on today’s students. The play was initially performed to a small group of staff and students at lunch time on Monday 12th of March, Coomie’s ‘Day Against Bullying’ and then again on Friday 23rd of March to the whole school.

The performance focused on the three main types of bullying experienced by students: cyberbullying, social isolation and physical bullying, highlighted some upsetting statistics surrounding youth and bullying and explored the ramifications of some of the more sensitive consequences to bullying. The performance received high commendation from both staff and students, with a lot of people saying they found it ‘extremely moving,’ ‘powerful’ and ‘truly touching.’ A huge congratulations to the 9-10 Drama Class: Alyia Whitton, Amity Mathieson, Aurora Gleeson, Hayley Kerridge, Jackson McDermott, Lauren Boundy, Makayla Witte, Mia Alderton, Montana Norris, Olivia Daymond, Shayden-Tane Tengu, Taylor Kemp and Zoe Sapuppo for their commitment to such a challenging performance and the professional manner in which they tackled their roles.

If you believe your child is being bullied at school there is plenty of support available. Please contact the school and ask to speak to your child’s Year Advisor:

Year 7- Mrs Debbie West
Year 8- Miss Emily Leon
Year 9- Ms Cassandra Tonkin
Year 10- Ms Jackie Watson
Year 11- Mrs Nicole Fraser
Year 12- Mrs Maddi Johnson

Miss Emily Leon
Drama Teacher
Year 7 students attended two days of team building exercises at Kings Billabong on Thursday March 15 and Friday March 16, 2018. The program was run by Wild Side Outdoors, Red Cliffs.

Thirty-eight students attended and were accompanied by Mrs West, Mr Driscoll and Mr Astill. At the Billabong, students were placed into random groups where they remained for the duration of the program. While there they participated in a range of activities, designed to improve their ability to problem solve within a team, often with time constraints.

The activities on the first day enabled the students to practise some of the skills they would need for the second day. This is when the real fun began as teams competed against each other for a prize. It was apparent to staff that fatigue on the second day hindered the students’ ability to work together as a team. The activities clearly demonstrated to the students that co-operation was a key factor to success.

I would like to thank the students who attended for their exceptional behaviour over the two days.

Mrs Debbie West
Yr 7 Advisor
Two year 9 students received their awards for the Wollongong STEM Competition. Students completed projects last year with Miss Steel in their extension program. Both projects involved scientific developments that would be of assistance in the future and were completed to such a high standard that they were submitted to the Wollongong STEM Competition. Thank you Miss Dove for submitting the projects to this competition! Matthew Hancock won the whole competition and Makayla Witte came second – this was a terrific effort and achievement from both students!

Several Year 9 students have also received their VALID examination results from last year. Several students achieved a Band 5 in this which was a fantastic achievement. Well done to Thomas Baird, Matthew Hancock, Sarah McCarten, Caitlyn Ribarits and Makayla Witte who achieved a Band 5, demonstrating their ability to think critically and understand science content.

Senior students have been working extremely hard in their studies and many have taken up the opportunity to further enhance their understanding during homework club sessions after school on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

Pictured is Year 7 student, Lleyton Johnson learning about science and conducting several engaging experiments to develop his practical skills.
The Lower Anabranche Sporting and Landcare Group Inc.

Are holding their Annual Picnic and Sports Day

Saturday April 21st, 2018.

To be held at ‘The Anabranche Hall’

Starting at 1pm sharp, with the kids running races.

Entry Free

Raffle and Lolly guess held.

Please bring a plate of Afternoon Tea to share

Cordial for the kids supplied.

BYO drinks, shared evening BBQ meat and Salad.

Evening entertainment provided by Glen Walker.

Coin roll.

A great family day!

All welcome!
CHS students achieving wonderful results.

Interschool Tennis

Coomealla High School junior girls placed first from five teams and the boys were runners up in their Intermediate section also with five teams.

The students played singles and doubles against each school displaying excellent skills, rallies and good sportsmanship throughout the day.

Enjoying the day are the members of the CHS Junior team Jane Cullinan, Olivia Barber, Amelia Paech and Laura Tilley.

Pictured are Matthew Hancock, Joshua Verstappin, Zac Hyde and Cooper Modica.
The Coomealla High School ‘2017 Annual Magazine’ is now available for purchase from the school administration front office.

Cost - $20 per magazine.

If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact us On 03 5027 4506 or call in during school hours.

Dear parents/caregivers

We hope you are enjoying the new look Coomealla High School Newsletter.

Given that our monthly newsletter is available electronically on our website and our Facebook page, we are no longer going to distribute coloured hard copies to all families. Should you still require a coloured hard copy or a copy emailed to you, we ask that you contact the school to update your contact details. This new method of distribution commenced Term 4, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact us on 03 50274506.

Thank you.
Just before Easter the Year 7 students participated in a learning rotation themed around the egg. For two hours the students were busy completing various activities in the Science labs.

In LOTE the students learned how to say the colours in German and then decorated hollowed eggs the traditional German way, which were then displayed in the front office.

Will Ward showed the students how to carve an emu egg and the students tried it out themselves. Everyone listened attentively to Will explaining the Emu egg and comparing it to a normal chicken egg.

Mr Kiely and Mr Ganderton based their sessions around calculating the volume of an egg both scientifically and using different mathematical concepts. Thank you also to Mr Harper, who worked with the students on the Maths problems.
Eagles Baseball Club Mildura Inc.
We would like to invite you to attend our 2018 Junior Registration Day.
Sunday the 15th of April
10:00AM to 4:00PM
If you are unable to attend on the day or require more information, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Email – ebcmildura.secretary@gmail.com
Phone
Kim Law – 0428 399 336
Or
Andrew Law – 0447 006 975

Want to look us up?
Facebook - Eagles Baseball Club Mildura Inc
TeamApp – Eagles Baseball Club

MathsOnline is available to all Coomealla High students for 2018 at a low cost of $20 per family.
It is based on the NSW syllabus, including the new Standard Year 11 Mathematics course. It has both lessons (tutorials with specific explained examples) and questions that are marked, so students receive immediate feedback.

Many students from year 7 to 12 have found it very useful in the past, but to assist in its use at home this year, classroom teachers will be regularly sending emails to parents outlining the particular lessons that cover the work being completed in class.

I am always happy to assist students with efficient use of the website and answer any questions from parents.

If any students would like MathsOnline please pay $20 to the front office by the end of term and then see Mrs Fraser for your login and password details.

The Wentworth District Football Netball Club Debutante Ball will be held Saturday 7th July 2018 at the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club.

Girls wishing to make their Debut this year, please contact Margaret on 0428274546 after 7:00 pm to indicate your interest. If phone unattended, leave your name and phone number (send SMS at any time) and I will return the call to collect your details.

Practice will commence 28th May, involving 12 sessions in total - 2 lessons per week for 6 weeks, Monday/Thursday, with the final 2 sessions being the week leading up to the Debutante Ball.

Please contact me before 1st May 2018. Looking forward to hearing from you.
Margaret Burrell, 2018 WDFNC Debutante Ball Coordinator
La Trobe University School Partnership program

Coomealla High School has linked with La Trobe University (Mildura Campus) school partnership program.

Staff and students from La Trobe link in with Career classes to introduce students to University life, spaces, people and courses. During our Year 11 Careers class we have been focusing on study tips.

University of Adelaide

The University of Adelaide spent time with Year 12 students in the senior lunch room.

Mr Ari Traucki, Senior Future Student Advisor spoke to students individually about university, scholarships and courses including general South Australian university information.
Coomealla High School, Wentworth Shire Council, local non-for profit and charity organisations are working together offer senior students exciting opportunities to volunteering in our local community.

Be rewarded for volunteering and help others in your community!

This program is currently open to Year 11 and 12 students NOW!

For further information, please see Ms Wakefield to register your interest by 13th April 2018.
Coomealla High School and Wentworth Shire Council, local non-for-profit and charity organisations are working together to offer senior students the opportunity to volunteering in our local community.

New activities and innovative strategies will be offered to strengthen career development and help students transition through building networks and connections in the local community. Students will be offered the opportunity to embrace new learning opportunities and challenges, striving for optimum personal outcomes and achievement.

What is Volunteering?

Volunteering is any activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit others in your community.

It’s a way of giving your time and skills to help others and at the same time help you progress.

The ‘Volunteering Program’ will assist students to:

- Learn or develop a new skill
- Be part of the community and develop networks for the future
- Sense of achievement and purpose
- Boost your career options (employment opportunity, referees, scholarship applications, support for employment, TAFE, and university applications)
- Develop leadership and responsibility
- New experiences, interests, and hobbies
- Meeting a diverse range of people creating opportunities to build networks and connections
- Send a signal to your future employer
- Enjoyment and having fun

Senior students will be released from SPORT on Friday afternoon to participate in volunteering activities within non-for-profit organisations and charities in the local community.

Volunteer supervisors will record student’s hours of volunteering.


In school volunteering: Recycling program and agriculture improvement project.

Wentworth Shire Council will hold a compulsory induction afternoon at the Council buildings on 4th May 2018 at 1.00 pm - 2.45 pm to complete WCC and work safety.

Once students have completed the ‘Volunteering Program’, an official ceremony will be held, and certificates will be presented to students by the Wentworth Shire Council.

This program is currently open to year 11 and 12 students NOW!

For further information, please see Ms Wakefield to register your interest by Friday 13th April 2018.
Motivational Media is returning to Coomealla High in 2018 on Thursday 8th March. Students have always enjoyed the presentation in the past and I am sure this year will be no exception.

In 2018, it’s about stepping up and taking the lead in your own life. Life often throws you a curveball, forcing you to confront fears and go through trials. This is when it's time to step up and TAKE THE LEAD.

How will 2018 be different?

It's in the story telling. Instead of our previous segmented design spacing out the important parts with entertainment pieces and words from the presenter, 2018's program is one big epic adventure, following the main character's unexpected journey as they confront their fears, experience trials, and ultimately grow, aided along the way by the advice of some key Australians whose amazing real-life stories guarantee inspiration.

The program will focus around these inspiring people as the main character interviews them along the way unpacking their journeys.

There will be laughter and tears as students identify in their own way with the wide-variety of stories presented in one narrative.

Mrs Nicole Fraser
Mrs Nadein Mayfield
Elevate education was held again this year for our senior students on Wednesday 14\textsuperscript{th} February. Year 11 and 12 participated in the Study Sensei and Student Elevation seminars, while Year 10 students were introduced to Elevate through Memory and Menmonics.

The Study Sensei seminar covers:
- Utilising the syllabus to frame study
- Structuring and reviewing organised notes
- Conceptual learning to develop deep understanding
- Utilising practice exam papers
- Standing out through independent learning

The Student Elevation seminar covers:
- The role of belief and self-efficacy in performance
- Developing a growth mindset
- Increasing motivation through goal attachment
- Breaking goals into manageable tasks and deadlines
- The role of belief and self-efficacy in performance
- Developing a growth mindset
- Increasing motivation through goal attachment
- Techniques for self-motivating

The Memory and Menmonics seminar covers:
- How to overcome reliance upon rote learning
- The role of attention in memory and managing distractions
- Semantic learning techniques for higher level memorisation

Students enjoyed the day, but more importantly learnt skills they can use to ensure they work more efficiently and effectively. Some examples of this are:

- Start notes early/make notes as you go
- PRACTICE PAST EXAMS
- Trigger words
- Mind maps and the use of colour
- Use the syllabus
- Be motivated by little wins
- Use of your imagination to prepare for a test/exam
- There are many different ways to memorise
- Turn off mobile phone and avoid distractions
Hooray for Home Laboratory!

For the past few weeks we have been looking at sugar reactions. We grew our own sugar crystal lolly pops where we created a supersaturated sugar solution; ‘sugar-seeded’ a lollypop stick, and then set it in the solution to grow. It took several days and some solutions grew so much that they almost outgrew the jars!

In another experiment we looked at the effects of sodium bicarbonate (bi-carb soda) and heat. We made another sugar solution using sugar, honey, golden syrup and water then heated it to 150°C using candy thermometers. We then mixed in the bi-carb soda and watched it fizz and grow before pouring into a mould. The bi-carb soda reacts when you add it to the hot sugar syrup.

This is due to the heat of the solution breaking down the sodium bicarbonate into carbon dioxide, water and sodium carbonate. The bubble made by the CO₂ makes the mixture rise. The end result was edible honeycomb!

Ms Golledge
Each Friday Year 7 and 8 students have participated in lessons on calligraphy and have learned to appreciate traditional and contemporary calligraphy and painting techniques of the Asian region.

Students have been captivated by the magic of traditional Chinese ink painting and have created a range of artworks including flora, fauna, figurative and landscapes. Having learned about the significance of Chinese poetry and mastering the principles of brush strokes, students have incorporated calligraphic text to complete their artworks. An exhibition of student artworks can be seen in the school library.

Ms Cassie Tonkin
Entertaining CHS staff and students

Wentworth School Band
Yr 9 Grampians camp

Students enjoying the activities
Coomealla High School is offering after school study sessions for senior students from 3:15-4:30pm every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. These sessions will be located in both the library and ALC (Aboriginal Learning Centre) and attended by teachers from a range of subject areas. This will give your student opportunities to ask content specific questions, gain assistance with homework and develop examination technique by completing and discussing practice questions. Students will be expected to make their own way home and will need to complete the necessary forms if they are travelling home with another student. This would be a beneficial opportunity for your child and will assist them greatly with their studies in Year 11 and 12.

Attention Parents & Carers

Update your contact details now!!

It is important that we have your most current and relevant contact information so that we can reach you when necessary.

Please let us know your preferred mode of contact and update your details if you have moved address, changed phone numbers, or changed your email.

Thank you for the support.

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.

J-LEAGUE JUNIORS TRAINING for Under 6 - Under 11 boys and girls

COMMENCES THURSDAY 19th APRIL 2018 from 4.00pm
PITCH 10 OLD AERODROME SPORTING COMPLEX
For information please contact Lucy Fotia 0439 302 090
threecolourssc@live.com.au
www.threecolours.com.au