

SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL

Sea Horse News

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RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READY TO LEARN

Issue 1 Term 1 2017



Lions Youth of the Year

Six Year 12 students participated in the Lions Club Youth of the Year Competition for 2017. Jason Dizon, Emma Boertje, Ruby Rizk, Thomas Mitchell, John Hoffman and Bianca Racsits competed in 3 rounds which involved students completing an interview, two 2 minute impromptu speeches and a prepared 5 minute speech on a topic of their choice.

Congratulations to Emma Boertje who was overall winner for the evening and will now move into Round 2 of the competition. Congratulations to Ruby Rizk who was awarded the Public Speaker award for the evening.

All six participants showcased their speaking ability, but more than that they showcased their social awareness as all prepared speeches discussed issues that not only impact on the youth of our society but society in general. Mrs Leggatt and I could not have been more proud of our students, as far as we were concerned they were all winners.

National Representation Honours



Gabby Hooper from Year 10 has been selected in the Thailand National Women's Water Polo Squad. This is an open age team who are preparing for the South East Asian Games, to be held in August this year. What an amazing achievement for a 15 year old from Caves Beach!

Gabby will be overseas during March and April for a training camp in Thailand and possibly Italy. From this camp the final team will be selected for the South East Asian Games. Gabby was born in Thailand and holds dual Australian – Thailand citizenship.

Gabby is also a member of the NSW under 16 water Polo Team, Hunter CHS Open Water Polo Team and plays in Sydney Women's First Grade Competition for Drummoyne on weekends.

We wish her the best of luck in her sporting endeavours and look forward to hearing of her future achievements.

Premier Sporting Challenge

The NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge (PSC) promotes student participation in sport and physical activity across NSW public schools. The PSC's aim is to promote the enjoyment of participation in physical activity by getting "*more students, more active, more often.*" 2017 marks the 10 year anniversary of the program and as part of the celebration schools are invited to participate in a promotional poster competition.

Theme: *Celebrating 10 years of the NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge*

Schools are invited to submit artwork for possible inclusion as a poster which addresses the theme, *Celebrating 10 years of the NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge* and the enjoyment of a healthy, active lifestyle.

Artwork specifications

Artwork should: Reflect the theme, incorporate the idea that participating in sport and physical activity is fun, be A3 or A2 size for reproduction purposes, be the work of a single student or a group of students.

Closing date: 8 March

See Mrs Charlton for more information

Important Dates

February

27th - 1st March Year 7 Camp

March

3rd HSC Business Studies Ass Task

7th Yr 7 Immunisation Vaccinations

8th Eastlakes Zone U15s Rugby League

9th Yr 11 Snr Geography Ass Task

9th HSC English Studies Mandatory Module

10th & 13th Yr 10 Love Bites Program

16th Yr 11 Early Childhood Ass Task

17th Anti Bullying Yr 7 to Yrs 10

17th Yr 11 Sport Lifestyle & Rec Ass Task

17th Yr 11 PDHPE Ass Task

17th HSC Engineering Studies Ass Task

20th - 24th Yr 11 Hospitality Work Placements

27th - 7th April Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams

30th - 31st Yr 11 Duke of Ed Hike

Lights, Drama, Challenge Accepted

Over two event-filled days members of our Year 12 Drama class got the opportunity to travel to Sydney on an adventure of Shakespearean proportions. Stopping in at some of Australian Drama's most prestigious locations such as NIDA and the Belvoir St Theatre.

It was an unusually early start (for some), arriving at Wyee Station at 6:30am, although in typical teenage fashion, some thought the note had said much later (mentioning no names Hamish Ragg). Once the early morning sprint was out of the way the class settled in for the train ride to Central, eager to see what the day held in store.

The first stop was Belvoir St Theatre in Surry Hills, a stage synonymous with names like Geoffrey Rush and Cate Blanchett just to name 2! The class were at first greeted by Nielski the cat and it wouldn't be the first animal encounter for the day! Once inside, the group spent the first 2 hours watching an archived production of *The Laramie Project*. After a quick break the group was then back into Belvoir for a Group Devising workshop where they were teamed up with a class from Kingscliff High School. It didn't take long for Swansea to shine and before you could say 'backstage' they were jumping rope and falling all over the space honing their group performance skills.

No time to spare, the group set off for the NIDA campus in Kensington. After another cat encounter (this one not so friendly), the group were on the road, no thanks to super bus whisperer Mr Darnbrough.

Arriving a bit early, the group had time to explore the main foyer of the Parade Theatre where they took copious amounts of selfies. Year 12 were then escorted to their Group Devising workshop

where tutor Sally took them through the finer points of group collaboration. They were then treated to a guided tour of the NIDA campus where they received a raucous welcome from the Directing students courtesy of a Baz Luhrman trivia question.

No time to spare, back on public transport they arrived at the Railway Square YHA. Checked in, got changed and back out again to the Seymour Centre @ UNSW to see the best of the 2016 HSC Group and Individual Performances in the *OnStage* showcase. Feeling inspired, they retired to bed that night excited by the prospect of the HSC. Fast forward 12 hours and the group travelled to the NSW Department of Education Arts Unit in Lewisham where they undertook intensive 2 hour workshops in their chosen Individual Project field. Sufficed to say, gravity hit quickly.



After two days, Year 12 were feeling tired, expired yet very inspired. Now aware of what standards are required to achieve at the highest level. However, for the group that in 2016 performed David Williamson's *The Club* and brought you last year's *Dreamnight of the Decade* it is absolutely challenge accepted!

Surfest

This year's event was run over two days, with Day 1 being held at Nobby's Beach and Day 2 at Merewether.

All the teams displayed great efforts in choppy messy conditions that made paddling out and wave selection difficult. Swansea High was well represented with 5 teams entered in this years Surfest.

Day 2 moved back to Merewether, where once again all teams put in their best, with the boys team 1 reaching the quarter finals.



Boys team 1 – Jordan Liackman, Cooper Puttergill, & Ethan Hartge

Boys team 2 – Joel O'Callaghan, Kye and Zane Ballard

Boys Team 3 – Billy Huggins, Jake Parry-Williams and Jack Ruhan

Girls team 1 – Taylah Ellercamp, Cody Campbell and Amy Gosling

Girls team 2 - Jadye De Shannon, Emma Huggins and Lucy Walters



From the Principal

Robyn Leggatt

As you are hopefully all aware we are a Positive Behaviour for Learning School. Our core values of respect, responsibility and readiness to learn underpin all that we do. Each week the PBL team look at the data generated and develop interventions designed to support students through wellbeing programs and the implementation of consequences for negative behaviour. At this stage in the term we are very happy that our data from referrals given to students for not meeting our expectations is still very low. In an 'ideal school' there should be 85% of students who are in the green zone of 1 referral or less. Currently Swansea High has 93% of students who are meeting our very high expectations, which should be celebrated!

Another celebration we should share is the growth data from our 2016 HSC cohort. A number of students showed above expected growth in a number of subjects with Advanced English, General & 2 Unit Maths, Legal Studies, Geography and Drama being the highlights. I would also like to dispel a myth I heard the other day which seems to do the rounds every few years. Some people believe that when you are in a smaller school with a diverse ability range and a class sits for the HSC if there are students who do not achieve they will impact on the more able students results. I need to reassure you that student results are reflective of their ability and the work they put in and statistical computations ensure that any one, or more, students lack of motivation, commitment or ability does not impact the final result of other students. Our results bear testimony to this with our stronger students who work hard showing well above expected growth in their results and the majority working at their expected growth. There are a small minority that exist in all schools that unfortunately due to unexpected events, lack of commitment or motivation do not achieve expected growth and we endeavour to support them to prevent this but do not always succeed.

HSC Innovation

The Maths Faculty has an initiative of "we add 4" where we are implementing strategies to improve every student's HSC Mathematics mark by 4.

A key part of this strategy is for members of the Maths Faculty to offer senior students additional tutorial time before/after school at no charge (external tutors regularly charge up to \$60/hour). Many senior students are already taking advantage of this initiative. ***We are sure regular attendance at these before school classes will improve student results.***



Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening at Swansea High

Swimming Carnival FUN!



Our swimming carnival continues to be a highlight on the school calendar. A big CONGRATULATIONS! to all the wonderful participants in the school swimming carnival. It was a bright and colourful day with lots of great swimming and terrific fun. Special mention to the staff who defended their crown in the student vs teachers relay!

Iwala house were the eventual winners on the day followed by **Yerlonga**, **Aldura**, and **Kolora**. Congratulations to all the Age Champions.

| AGE | GIRLS | BOYS |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 12Yrs | Hayley Trives | Ethan Rota |
| 13Yrs | Hayley Walmsley | Jay Thompson |
| 14Yrs | Ally Boertje | Oliver Fox |
| 15Yrs | Makayla Gay | Cruz Kingston |
| 16Yrs | Cate Bolsover | Declan Hamilton |
| 17yrs | Grace Sedgman | Lachlan Dowsett |

Zone Swimming Success

A team of swimmers represented SHS at the Eastlakes Zone Swimming Carnival with the team finishing second in the Zone. Some outstanding individual performances were recorded by Hayley Trives, Alyssa Ingram, Hayley Walmsley, Stanley Smith, Tom March, Oliver Fox, Lucy Walters, Cruz Kingston and Declan Hamilton.

Congratulations to Oliver Fox who was the 14 years Zone Champion and Declan Hamilton the 16 years Zone Champion.



Just as important as the standout individual performances was the TEAM EFFORT displayed by our swimmers. Swansea High had two swimmers in nearly all events, what a great effort! Especially from those students who don't train and were happy to go along to represent our school. Also a big thank you to the swimmers who came along to make up a relay team, we had 5 Age Relays which was fantastic to see. Hopefully next year we will have an all-age boys and girls relay and maybe a medley relay or two?

Thank you also to Jay Stenner-Wall and Josh Bailey from our Year 12 SLR class who volunteered to time keep for the carnival, great school service and spirit boys.

HSIE Changes

The HSIE faculty is keen to continue delivering another exciting year with the biggest changes to our junior curriculum in twenty years.

Our Stage 4 students are busy studying Junior History (Year 7) and Junior Geography (Year 8) and may soon enthrall dinner conversations with tales about ancient civilisations or the issues about water in the world.

A reminder to our Stage 5 students (Years 9 and 10), that they must satisfactorily complete the course in History and Geography in order to meet the expectations of the Record of School Achievement.

We are pleased to be running International Studies for the first time in 2017. Mr Balzer and his class are keen to explore this interesting course and we will watch with anticipation as the course develops.

Congratulations also go to the current HSC students for their positive work ethic.

We would also like to welcome Ms Tracey Evans to our school.

Mathspace

Mathspace is a powerful online mathematics tutorial program that Swansea High has purchased for all Swansea High students.

Mathspace will be used in Maths classes but its real power lies in students (with the help of their parents) taking greater control of their mathematics learning.

Calculators

ALL students need to bring their own calculator (and NOT a mobile phone) to EVERY Maths lesson

Suitable calculators may be purchased from the school's office for \$30. Calculators can be borrowed from the Library.

Intense Volleyball Galaday

On Friday 17th of Feb, 9 young men headed to Broadmeadow Basketball Stadium to compete in the Hunter Region Volleyball. Our first game against Maitland High School got off to a slow start losing the first set and going down 8-0 early in the second but a valiant effort by Harrison Rapp, scoring 6 points in a row, rallied our boys and we narrowly lost the second set. The third set was tense, the consistent serve of Dean Pettit and the never say die attitude of Billy Huggins kept us in the contest. A number of match points to Maitland were saved before we finally found a way to win the set and keep the game alive. Unfortunately we were not able to maintain the intensity in the fourth set & went down to Maitland 3-1.



Players: Jye Phillips (captain), Josh Hartge, Dean Pettit, Harrison Rapp, Jack Olsen, Billy Huggins, Beau Hooey, William Jennings, Sam Kampas.
Coach: Matt Howarth

Two more consolation games were organised and both were tight contests. The 3-0 scoreline did not demonstrate how close a game was lost to local rivals Lake Munmorah, but it was becoming clear that our boys were having lots of fun while lacking the killer instinct required to finish off sets. A final loss against Wallsend College Callahan 2-0 rounded off the day. Though we only won one set for the day, the boys played more shots off their feet and heads than any other team and it argues well for any upcoming soccer tournaments.

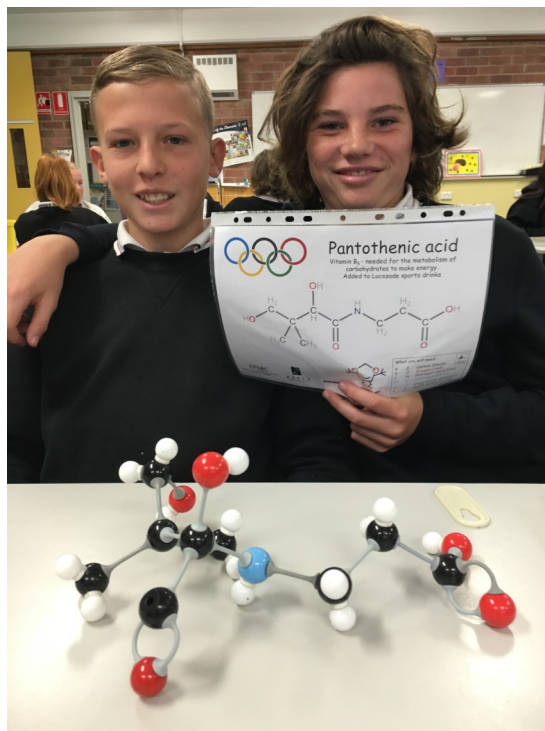
Words of Wisdom

A big congratulations to our HSC students last year for the excellent results they obtained. Our HSC Science teachers should be commended for preparing the students so well. I feel so proud and so lucky to lead a faculty filled with such dedicated and professional teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty every day. Go team!

Our Year 7 students are currently learning about working safely in the laboratories. Although it may seem a little tedious, it is vital that you know how to work safely in the labs and what to do if something does go wrong.

Preliminary courses have also started and it is important for students to know how their relationships with teachers change in senior school. Students shouldn't look at an "us against them" mentality with teachers. In senior school, we prepare you for the HSC exams at the end of Year 12 and for life outside of school. The years I have a Year 11 class, on the 1st day of year 11 I ask the same question that I want answered on the 1st day of Year 12: How fast did that year go? We only have 7 terms to prepare you for what is a fairly important bunch of exams.

We want you to do well. We want you to develop a "you and I against the rest of the state" mentality. For most students, this change is eagerly embraced. But for a small minority, there needs to be a small paradigm shift in thinking. Work with us, not against us. With the release of the new senior syllabuses to begin in 2018, there is much to do to. I have full confidence that we will be ready with exciting challenges ahead.



STRIVE Centre

Need help with schoolwork? Or just want to get better grades and have fun at the same time. Why not come along to the STRIVE centre.

STRIVE centre is open every Mon 3:30 to 5:30 and Wed 2.30 – 4:30 pm in the Library... and best of all it's FREE!



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Driving students to an excursion or sporting event for the school?

Due to recent changes in legislation if parents drive students other than their own child in their car on excursions or sporting events, parents will need to complete a Statutory Declaration available from the school's Administration Office with 100 points identification. This lasts for one year.

If parents think that they may help out this way on a regular basis they can apply for a Working With Children Check for Volunteers. This is also for adults who work with students at the school. It is free and lasts for 5 years. To obtain a Working with Children's check follow the link below.

<https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe.../working-with-children-check>

Please contact the school if you have any difficulties.