

SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL

Sea Horse News

Park Ave, CAVES BEACH
T: 49711944

E swansea-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.swansea-h.school.nsw.edu.au

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READY TO LEARN

Issue 2 Term 1 2017



Questacon Science Visit

Swansea High School was lucky enough to secure two days of free Questacon workshops for students. David and Daniel were our conductors for the two days. Three vertical wind tunnels were set up. This gave students the chance to explore design concepts inside the wind tunnels over the sessions.

The sessions centred around 90's cult hero MacGyver, where students had to construct flying craft using paper and tape.

Students worked on "protostorming", where they had to use a single A4 sheet of paper and come up with a prototype object that would float in a wind tunnel. Speed was the key as students had to make a prototype, toss it into a wind tunnel and see if it sank, flew out the top, floated or stuck to the side.

Depending on what it did, students had to construct a new prototype with some changes and see how it behaved differently. This gave students the chance to see that "failure" was part of the process and it still gave valuable information for next time.

Students also worked in small groups with specific tasks assigned, such as "design and make an object that flies out the top using only straws and paper clips". They would make, test, refine and re-test until they achieved their goal. Students liked the sessions as they were fast paced, with David and Daniel guiding the students every step of the way,

A big thank you to Questacon for visiting the students enjoyed this great educational learning experience.

From the Principal

Robyn Leggatt

WOW - we still have 90% of our students in the green of our PBL triangle on the last week of term. CONGRATULATIONS to our students on their behaviour! This means that the school is operating at 5% above what is expected as ideal in behaviour data!

We have also looked at our historical data and we have had a reduction in referrals of 30% over the same periods since 2015 – amazing. I am so proud of our students and how they are meeting the high expectations the school has set. As a community you should feel justly proud of your young people.

Year 7 students will shortly be introduced to our Growth Mindset approach where students are shown the relatively new concept of Neuroplasticity – that is the new science that shows the brain can and does change over time and the more you train it the better it works – just like training a muscle! It takes hard work, persistence and risk taking in learning. It is the mistakes that allow the brain to grow, not staying in the comfort zone of already acquired knowledge or skills.

To help your students at home – if they do not have assigned homework (which can often be the case), they should read something every night – whether that is for pleasure or reading over notes. They should also complete their numeracy homework on Mathspace – the online tutorial program provided for all students.

Important Dates

March

27th - 7th April Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams

April

7th - School Athletics Carnival

7th - RSA Course

27th - Construction White Card Course

May

3rd - Prelim Assess Task Eng Ext 1

4th - Hunter Girls Softball Gala Day

5th - Ass Task Eng Ext 2

5th - Eastlakes Cross Country

9th - 12th - Naplan Years 7 & 9

11th - Prelim Ass Task Early Childhood

12th - 3 Prelim Ass Task IT, SLR,PDHPE

Classic Catches & Falling Wickets

The Boys Open Cricket Team played against Toronto High at Chapman Oval Swansea. After losing the toss, our boys were sent into bat. Isaac Sedgman made a solid start to the innings but was caught behind for 9 runs, shortly after Dean Pettit came to the crease and embarked on a magnificent innings of 50 runs, including 7 fours. After a couple of quick wickets with the score at 4/14, Jehd Snape came in to steady the ship, combining with Dean for a valuable partnership of 62 runs. Despite some spirited batting from our lower order, Swansea High were bowled out for 87 runs.

Defending a small total was always going to be difficult for the Swansea boys, however Sam McLean proved that baseball pitchers really can bowl, knocking over the Toronto top order with 2 wickets in 3 overs. Three more wickets fell, one each to Dean Pettit, Brett Davis and Jehd Snape to have Toronto on the ropes at 5/25 at drinks. Jack Olsen, Jed Mount and Dylan Gregory took some classic catches in the field.

Unfortunately after drinks, the home team could only manage one more wicket, thanks to a Dean Pettit catch off Jed Mount's spin bowling, leaving Toronto to run down the target in the 24th over.

Although we didn't come away with a win, the Swansea boys can hold their heads high and be proud of their efforts. All students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and support of their teammates. Special mention to our non-weekend cricketers Sam McLean, Darcy Loretan, Harrison Rapp, Luke Walmsley, Josh Hartge and Sam Kampas for their great enthusiasm and efforts throughout the game. The team and a number of Year 8 and 9 students have been taking a lunchtime bowl and a hit twice a week since Term 4 last year. A big thanks must go to Mrs Charlton for her support of the team with a new kit for training and games, it has allowed a larger group of boys to join in at lunchtimes and participate in games.

It has been a pleasure to guide this team and I look forward to watching our cricketers continue their progress and most importantly enjoyment of the game.



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



Guitarist Set to Shine on the BIG stage

Congratulations to Jack Crouch of Year 9 who has been successful in gaining a position in this years' Star Struck Rockband. Jack had to audition 2 pieces of music. A set piece and one piece of his choice. Jack did a fantastic job in his audition. He was one of the youngest guitarists to audition - competing against many Yr 11 & 12 students from schools right across the Hunter Region.

Jack has been working really hard and is regularly in the music room during lunch time jamming and rehearsing on his guitar. He has been rewarded for his effort.

Jack now has his eyes set on performing a lead guitar solo which is believed to open part of the Starstruck show.

Future of Learning Spaces

Ever wondered what future classrooms would look like? In the Library, gone is the teacher teaching from the front of the class and the rows and columns of desks. Now students have flexibility in seating options and flexibility in the way they use technology in an appealing space designed to empower students to take more control of their own learning. Students of today learn through the 4C's - Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Communicating. Giving them skills for the future.

Pictured is a Year 8 Mathematics class. I'm sure it's very different from your memories of your Maths classes!



Eastlakes Netball Gala Day Proves Tough Competition

Congratulations to Swansea High Netball girls for being fantastic representatives of your school.

After a quick warm up the girls were ready to face the first team of the day - the team which also happened to be the overall champions of the carnival: Hunter Sports High. Following a break for the bye we had close games against Belmont High and Lake Munmorah, where Swansea High School held the lead in the first half of both games with stamina the only thing between us and the win (and a couple of goals, of course!). The girls became stronger as a unit as the day progressed, and by the last game against an extremely competitive Whitebridge High School, we demonstrated some nice flow down the court, and strong shooting from the attacking end.

Throughout the day all girls put in their best effort; Sophie Myers and Bianca Racsits took on particularly strong leadership roles on the court while Caitlin Hoff demonstrated her knowledge of the game through her strong defence and sideline tips.

The most consistent performer of the day goes to Holly Brown who showed grace and skill on the court as she made it difficult for the opposition everywhere she went. Upon an injury in the defence end Makayla Gay stepped up in the circle and played superb, while Bella Hooey and Heather McLeod proved a good combination in the midcourt. Our little team terrier Ally Boertje launched into every game fresh and full of energy, and Amy Tinsey and Marlie Baxter proved a strong team particularly in the last game against Whitebridge where familiarity developed.



It's Snow Time!

We are off to Perisher/Smiggins in August for 3 fabulous days of snow, sun and fun. Year 11 students who have registered must pay their deposit by the end of term to secure their spot.

Students who have not yet registered and would like to come, can put their name on a standby list.

See Mr Korsman in the library for permission notes and information packs, as well as registering for the standby list.



Tell Them from Me - Survey

This term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey.



The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them.

Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school. The survey is confidential and will be conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 27 March and 7 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

An opt-out and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey have been sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 24th March.

Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.

Rugby League Representatives

Congratulations to Ash Hancock, Caleb Pritchard, Cruz Kingston, Kye Ballard, Liam Booker and Zane Ballard on gaining selection into the U/15's Eastlakes Zone Rugby League team.

Well Done!

Response to the Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12) Maths tutorials has been amazing!

Most senior students are attending at least one before or after school Maths tutorial and some students are attending multiple tutorials every week.

It is so pleasing to see students keen to improve their Maths. Tutorials are run on Monday's immediately after school plus Tuesday's and Friday's from 8.15am. All Stage 6 students are welcome!

Aboriginal Education

The Aboriginal education group have been working hard in preparing cultural items for not only our anti-bullying day, but also for their upcoming NAIDOC celebration.

The group are experimenting with a variety of artistic forms that aim to highlight Aboriginal education. Some of the works include collages, decorative boomerangs, didgeridoos and cultural paintings. They can't wait to showcase some of the projects that they have been working on over the next few weeks.



Camping Fun & Games

Swansea High School Year 7 students recently participated in a 3 day camp at Morisset Outdoor Education. Students were challenged to overcome their fears to climb high ropes and battle through the thick mud obstacle course.

Teamwork activities posed the biggest challenge and student leaders emerged to help teams solve complex practical problems. Technical activities included canoeing and archery with tales of capsizing and bulls eyes.

The camp enabled students to mix with new and old friends and emerge with added confidence and self awareness. A big thank you to the camp staff for an excellent job as well as accompanying teachers Penny Buckley, Lauren Olsen, Matthew Howarth and Michelle Mitchell.



Starstruck



This year we have been successful in auditioning a team of 32 dancers to perform as part of StarStruck's 25th anniversary show "Shine On." Brittany Morrison has also been selected to be part of the student direction team which is a team of 6 students across the Hunter who have artistic licence for a segment of the show. Swansea High will also be on show with Jack crouch completing a successful audition to be part of the StarStruck rock band. We also have a few students awaiting dance ensemble audition results. Congratulations to all of our students for their hard work so far and we are excited to see them perform.

Star Struck shows are the 16-17th of June at Newcastle Entertainment Centre. Tickets available through Ticketek from April 6th 2017.

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!

