

SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL

Sea Horse News

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RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READY TO LEARN

Issue 5 Term 3 2017



Snow Trip HUGE Success

Year 11 students have just returned from an incredible 3 days skiing and snowboarding. 32 students were lucky enough to enjoy the best snow conditions in decades at Perisher. This year's excursion saw a mix of snow boarders and skiers, with most students being absolute beginners. After a tough first day of lessons in bucketing snow and blizzards, the weather gods shined providing 2 days of pure perfection, with students able to hone their skills at Blue Cow and Smiggins. The more adventurous students explored the more challenging slopes of Perisher, Guthega and Blue Cow Western slopes. We would like to commend all the students for being incredible ambassadors for Swansea High School and looking after each other as a team. Even the coach driver was genuine in saying this was "the best group of students he's ever taken away!"

So Year 10, start saving your pennies and making sure you have no referrals in term 4 to receive your invitation for SNOW TRIP 2018.

Don't Argue with Year 7

Over the last few months our two Stage 4 debating teams have been taking part in the 2017 Premier's Debating Challenge. During Week 3, both teams travelled to the Hunter School of Performing Arts to match wits with two opposing teams, each undertaking topics relating to the media.

Both Swansea teams argued skilfully, and our Year 7 team was victorious, after displaying some impressive skills of rebuttal. Our year 8 team was narrowly defeated by a very strong opponent, but will have the opportunity to face another Hunter School Performing Arts team in the upcoming round of the competition.

Congratulations to all students involved in the round - you have done the Swansea name proud!



From the Principal

Robyn Leggatt

We are moving forward toward new teaching practices at Swansea High focussing on students taking greater responsibility for their own learning. Students will work collaboratively with others to solve problems that are developed, to gain deeper understanding of syllabus outcomes. Students will then communicate their findings to others through a variety of multi-media options. The skills of collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication required to operate effectively in the employment opportunities of the future, will be enhanced in this process. To achieve this more effectively we need to ensure that students have access to technology.

The school has invested heavily in laptops to cater for the transformation of our learning landscape, however we have reached our limit and we believe we need to have an even higher ratio of laptops to students to be successful. To achieve this goal we are going to move toward the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) approach. We will be asking students to bring their own laptops to school to use in their learning. We will be holding a community meeting to discuss the options available and provide all of the information required to ensure the laptops meet the requirements of the school network. An email with the date and time will be sent out shortly and we hope that you can attend to explore the directions we are hoping to take.


Important Dates

Aug

- 15th - Yr 11 Ext 1 English Assess Task**
- 15th - Yr 11 English Studies Assess Task**
- 17th - Yr 10 Yearly Exam English Film**
- 18th - Yr 9 Yearly Exam English**
- 24th - Yr 11 Drama Performance Essay**
- 29th - HSC Standard English Assess Task**
- 29th - HSC Advanced English Asses Task**


Sept


- 1st - Yr 11 PDHPE Assess Task**
- 1st - Yr 11 Society & Culture Assess Task**
- 5th - Yr 11 Standard English Assess Task**
- 11th to 22nd - Yr 11 Yearly Exams**
- 21st - Year 12 Graduation**
- 21st - Year 12 Formal**



COME AND PLAY!


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GAMES NIGHTS RUN ALL YEAR ROUND
DURING SCHOOL TERMS

MONDAYS
CESSNOCK TOYOTA STADIUM
5:30 - 6:30 PM: AGES 6-12

WEDNESDAYS
SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL
5:30 - 6:30 PM: AGES 6-12
6:30 - 7:30 PM: AGES 12-15



Find us on
Facebook

Year 12 Graduation Assembly

Please join us to celebrate the
achievements of Year12 2017

Thursday 21st September
9:15am in the School Hall

More details available soon

Not Your Standard English Lesson



Our talented 7S working on a visual representation of the play "Dracula".

Students used their knowledge of the Super 6 reading strategies and gained some insight into Socratic Learning (also known as Project Based Learning) through their interpretations of aspects of the play "Dracula".

How can I help my student

Fortunately, there are many things a parent can do...

First and foremost is to regularly emphasise the importance of Maths in everyday life. This could range from talking about how you use Maths in your job, the Maths used in your household to manage your family budget, or the Maths used in your student's favourite sport.

Also, take an interest in the Maths topic your student is doing at school. In Maths students generally undertake a new topic every 3 to 4 weeks. Find out how your student is progressing and if they need any help. Of course, if you have any concerns please contact your student's Maths teacher.

These days Maths resources at Swansea High extend way beyond just a textbook. These additional resources include –

1. Free tutoring at the school's STRIVE tutorial centre. This is available to all Swansea High students. Please contact Jenny Fraser for further information.
2. For all senior students (Years 11 and 12) there is tutoring offered by Maths teachers on Monday after school plus Tuesday and Friday before school. In addition, many teachers of senior Maths classes offer tutorials for their individual class. Please contact your student's teacher for further information.
3. All Swansea High students have access to Mathspace, an online Maths tutor that provides a comprehensive resource for all high school students from Year 7 to Year 12. There are lessons, videos and question banks available to support either revision or those students who wish to 'get ahead'. If your student does not know their login please contact their Maths teacher.



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

NAPLAN School Readiness Trial

SHS Years 7 & 9 will be participating in a NAPLAN School Readiness Trial from 21st to 25th August.

Notes will go home to inform Parents about this test.

Wise Words

Our HSC students are coming to the end of their courses. The option topics are close to being finished with the trial HSC exams coming up fast. Now it is vital that students are going over the syllabus content and highlighting areas that they are not au fait with. This way during important revision time at the end of this term, they can target areas of weakness rather than going over areas they already know. The goal is to study smart, not study hard.

With the trial HSC exams, it is important for students to use the exams as a good hit-out before the real exams. Don't be discouraged if you don't get the marks you hoped for. Use it as a tool to focus areas of weakness. If you do get the marks you wanted, don't let up. There's always room for improvement.

If you don't think you have anything to do, you can always download previous years' exams and practise those.

For our Preliminary students, our courses are coming to an end also. Classes should be onto the 4th and final topic. Although the Preliminary marks have no bearing on the HSC mark, the courses do provide knowledge and skills that are built upon in the HSC courses. Also, with the RoSA, your Preliminary marks are recorded and follow you, which is something that never used to happen.

All our Junior courses are bubbling along nicely.

EASTLAKES YOUTH CENTRE INC

Engaging Adolescents Parent Course
Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems

a 3 session program for parents/carers
at **Swansea Youth Centre**
Monday 21st Aug, 28th Aug, & 4th Sept
6pm to 8pm
Cost: \$20, refreshments included

Fashion parade & Expo

FUNDRAISER
CAVES BEACH
Public School

Sunday
17th Sept at 12pm
Fashion Parade 2pm

Caves Beach Public School

Cost \$5 Adult (child-gold coin)

Fashions for all & Stalls

Live music – Patina Fender



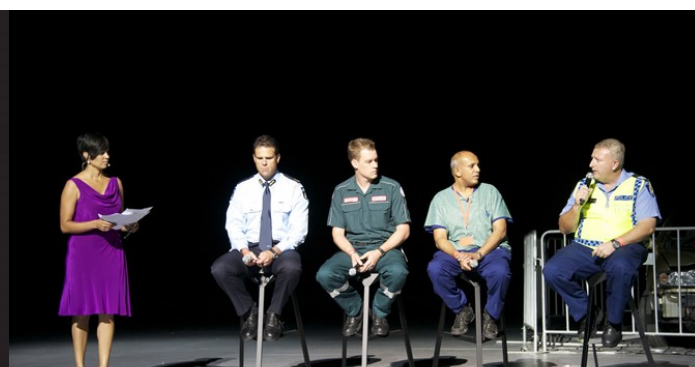
Chromatography



Science Topic - Mixtures Students cut up coffee filters and placed a hole in the centre, then they drew a dot or dots with a texta and then placed it in a cup of water.

The pattern develops as the colour separates into the colours that make it up.

Yr 9 Bstreetsmart Excursion



As part of Year 9 PDHPE program students are currently looking at road safe behaviours. Bstreetsmart is an inspiring initiative of the Trauma Service at Westmead Hospital. Westmead's Trauma Service is constantly reminded through their hands on work that young people aged between 15 – 30 are disproportionately represented in road trauma. As a result, they have a strong commitment to Road Safety Education.

The Bstreetsmart presentation aims to provide students with an understanding of their responsibilities as a driver and as a responsible passenger, information and strategies to avoid serious injuries and death and information on how to reduce risk taking behaviour through greater awareness of the consequences of distracted driving, inattention, speeding, drink and drug driving and driver fatigue.

All students in Year 9 will be required to attend this curriculum-based excursion to the Bstreetsmart presentation on Thursday 17th August. This will be a life changing experience and ALL students are encouraged to attend. Further information is available via the school website or Skoolbag app.

NAIDOC Celebrations

Aboriginal Education has been extremely busy over the last few months. Recently, the kids had the opportunity to perform for NAIDOC celebrations at Nords Wharf, Swansea Public, Marks Point Preschool and Pelican primary school.

The girls presented Aboriginal dance groups while the boys showcased some didgeridoo playing. It was a fantastic opportunity for both young and old to celebrate Aboriginal culture.



The Spirit of ANZAC

Recently, HSIE had a fantastic opportunity to take Year 9 students to the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience travelling exhibition. For the first time ever, students were able to examine more than 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial through highly experiential displays.

The experience offered students the opportunity to participate in this important commemoration, honouring our service personnel from all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations over the past 100 years.

This experience was a fantastic learning opportunity for both HSIE staff and students.



Changing Face of SRC



During the last 6 months the SRC has undergone some structural changes, with students taking on more responsibility and control over the direction and focus of the SRC within the school.

Students brainstormed and developed portfolios and corresponding role statements, with each group having a year 12 mentor. This has provided students with an opportunity to invest their time and efforts into areas they are passionate about, to work collaboratively across year groups. It has also provided them with the opportunity to work in a closer leadership role with the schools working party.

Portfolio responsibilities include areas such as coordinating fundraising events, development of a communication box within the school and an administration team that coordinate the various rosters fulfilled by our SRC students. It has been exciting to watch the students engage with the process and thrive with greater responsibility. The excitement by the team as the year progresses and they settle into their roles is inspiring.

Basketballers Fall Short

On the Friday 11 August, our under 15yrs boys Basketball team went down to Lake Munmorah High to play. Oliver Fox, Oliver Porter, Josh, Harry, Lachlan, Kynan, Jaxon and Angus all put in 100% effort but unfortunately our team came up short in the final minutes of the game and lost.

The final score was 42-26. However, the score didn't reflect just how close the game was, as they closely battled for much of the time. There were two standout players on the day, and that was Jaxon with his great ball skills and Josh who produced the block of the day. It was a great day and the team represented Swansea High School proudly.

