

SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL

Sea Horse News

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RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READY TO LEARN

Issue 3 Term 3 2018

FREEZING CONDITIONS AT SNOW



This year's snow trip was a great success. The weather was certainly not on our side, with 3 days of blizzard conditions. Twenty year 11 students braved the freezing temperatures and 90kph winds to learn and improve existing skills. The snow was 50 cm powder everywhere which is tough for skiers but heaven for snow boarders. The students continued the outstanding reputation of Swansea High, being organised like clockwork for 6.30am breakfasts and mature behaviour. The students were a pleasure to take away. Special mention must go to Bailey Norton who was a complete beginner yet showed incredible courage, resilience and good humour in tackling terrible conditions for the full 3 days. Well done to all.

Leadership on Display

At the end of Term 2, Swansea High School Captains, Oliver Baird and Kayla McSpadden were guest speakers at the Caves Beach Primary School celebration assembly. Oliver and Kayla reflected on leadership roles they have held in the past and enlightened students on the qualities that contribute successful leaders. They both spoke confidently and provided an honest reflection of what it took to be a leader.

Congratulations to Oliver and Kayla for their commitment to their leadership in a variety of contexts around the community. You continue to represent Swansea High School with great pride.



From the Principal - Robyn Leggatt

Where has the first half of the year gone? The good news is – it has been filled with our students doing great things in sport, music, drama and academically.

I have spent the last 4 weeks deep in the data of our school as we will be undertaking External Validation next week. For this to occur I have to make judgements about our school against a document called the 'School Excellence Framework'. I then have to justify the judgments using data analysis from the school. An external panel then reviews my judgements and the justifications and ratifies that I have given an accurate assessment of the progress and achievements of the school. This is definitely a lengthy and intensive process. It is however, an extremely valuable one. We ask our students to reflect and consider their strengths and weaknesses and as a school this process allows us to do the same. There are certainly many strengths to celebrate but there are also some areas where we can do more to support our students. One of the major areas is to ensure that the partnerships between the school and home are strengthened further. I know we have worked hard to improve and there has been significant progress, but this an area that can definitely lead to great shift in student outcomes.

One of the ways we are hoping to strengthen our partnerships will be through our parent information evenings. The next **parent information night** held in conjunction with the P&C will be held at the Caves Beach Hotel on WEDNESDAY 29TH AUGUST STARTING AT 6pm. The major areas on the agenda will be the literacy strategies we are using to support improved reading and writing as well as the numeracy strategies used to decode numeracy word problems. Finger food will be available on the night and we hope that parents will come along to learn how we can be a more effective team for our kids.

Important Dates

August

- 16th - 24th - HSC Trial Exams
- 23rd - Yr 9 English Assessment Task
- 28th - HSC Drama practice trial

September

- 10th - R U OK Day Yr 7
- 11th - R U OK Day, Yr 9 & HSC Advanced & Standard English Task
- 12th - SRE Yr 8 Conference
- 13th - Aboriginal Education
- 14th - Yr 11 English Extension 1 Presentation
- 17th - 28th - Yr 11 Yearly Exams
- 19th - Yr 12 Legal Studies Gaol Excursion
- 26th - Yr 12 BBQ Breakfast at Swansea Baptist Church
- 27th - Yr 12 Reports issued, Yr 12 Graduation & Formal

October

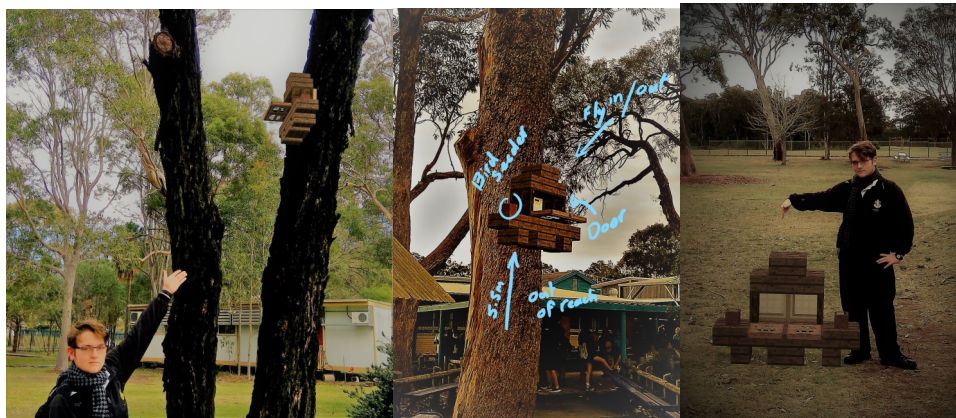
- 15th - School resumes for Staff & Students
- 22nd - 26th - Yr 12 Hospitality Work Placement
- 25th - Yr 7 2nd Immunisation

Minecraft EDU

As part of a state-wide Minecraft project with Mr Balzer before he left the school to take up his position with the Department for 3 years, a number of students were given scenario's where they could use their technological skills to solve real local issues.

Some examples included a bird feeder being created using minecraft by the students then they used editing software to embed the design into photos of locations they chose around the school to place the feeder. Other examples included the creation of a new toilet block and the design of the plane Enola Gay which was a WW2 bomber.

A great way of integrating technology and the students passion for learning.





JUMPstart Try-A-Trade

As part of the Yr 9 Jumpstart program, the students were given the opportunity to 'Try a Trade' during a visit to youth connections training venue in Kariong. They had a great day getting some first hand experience in the Hospitality, Horticulture and Beauty industries and had a taste of what workplace training is all about. This term the students are focusing on careers and have begun matching their interests and skills to potential career pathways using online career profiling tools. The group will be building their work readiness skills throughout the term with majority already having the goal of securing a casual job or some work experience by the end of this year.

Run of a Gun



Swansea High School students have enjoyed a very successful athletics season, with students representing at Zone, Regional and CHS level and many others striving to achieve personal bests. It started with a successful school carnival back in Term 1, which was taken out by an extremely strong Iwala House. From here, we provided one of the largest teams at the zone carnival, with 47 students attending a very wet, miserable carnival at Glendale Athletics Track. Despite the wet track, these 47 students did an amazing job, with 20 of them, along with 2 relay teams qualifying for the regional carnival. Of these 20 students, 5 have achieved the outstanding feat of representing the entire Hunter Region at the upcoming CHS carnival at Homebush, early in September. We would like to wish Kaylee Dowsett, Bella Ferfoglia, Tom March, Haylee Walmsley and Amanda Young the best of luck at this carnival.

A big thank you to all students and staff for your great efforts throughout the year. I'd also like to thank all of the parents for the support of your children in their achievements here at Swansea High School.



ATHLETIC AGE		CHAMPIONS	
Boys		Girls	
U12	Lochie Gray & Zane Johns	U12	Heidi-Paige Agius
U13	Callum Fox	U13	Amanda Young
U14	Zayne Potts	U14	Kaylee Dowsett
U15	Oliver Fox	U15	Ally Boertje
U16	Joshua Payne	U16	Bella Ferfoglia
17-19	William Morrison	17-19	Heather McLeod

You're invited to a Parent Information Session (provided by the P&C)

Presentations on
 -Literacy & Numeracy strategies used at school.
 -Tips on how to help support your child at school
 -Where are we at - Progress report

29th August
Caves Beach Hotel 6pm - 7pm
Finger food provided

RSVP by Tuesday 28th August, for catering by contacting the school - 49711944

Swansea Scale Model

Thank you to our Year 10 Jumpstart students who rejuvenated the scaled model of the Swansea area. The model was originally created by a group of students from Swansea High in collaboration with representatives from the Men's Shed at Pelican about 7 or 8 years ago. The model is designed to demonstrate the impact of various heights of sea level rise will have on our local environment. My house goes under at about a 1.5m rise. The model is back looking it's best and hopefully will add some realism to the discussions the Lake Macquarie Council is having with communities over the very challenging topic of climate change and the inherent rise in sea level.



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

Biraban Class in Action

Last term we completed work on the Biraban wall mural. Shane from UP&UP Inspirations helped design and complete the mural. Students from the class learned about and used various artistic techniques to put their ideas into a workable concept.

The project took us a day of preparing the wall and a day to apply our concept to the wall. We all had a fantastic time participating and contributing to the final product.

The theme for the wall revolved around geometric shapes that represent people and experiences that shape our lives. The wall moves from a black, dark, fixed mindset colour to a bright watery flow of positive growth mindset energy. We used words and phrases like frequency, humour, hope, truth, love, open heart and signature strengths are all values that underpin our learning journey.

We decided to use the immortal words of Michael Jackson from his song "Man in the Mirror", "I'm gonna make a change. It's gonna feel real good" to anchor our intention for each day. We'd like to thank our class teachers, Shane and Mrs Leggett because without them none of this would have happened.

Written by Joshua and Mr A



Quizlet Fun in Japanese

Recently we have been using a web-based collaborative strategy (quizlet.live) to consolidate our knowledge about the months, the days of the week and the day of the month (1st-31st) in small groups. The first team to 12 points wins. If you get an answer wrong, your score slides back to zero. So... students needed to COMMUNICATE with their group members to decide WHO had the correct answer for each question that was presented.

Year 8 Textiles!

This is a sample of some of the wonderful tie dye bags that have been made by Year 8 Textiles class. The students chose their tie dye colours, sewed their bags together and added a mixture of buttons to embellish the bags. Well done!



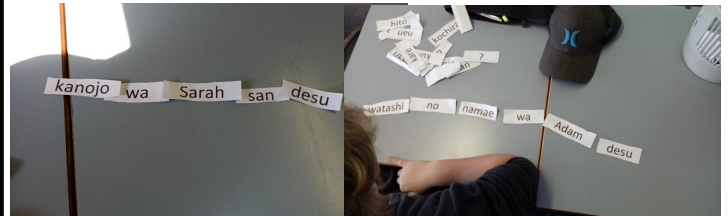


Art & About...

“Congratulations” to **Year 11 Visual Art student Jade Walsh** who recently completed a one week scholarship residential drawing workshop at the National Art School in Sydney during the last school holidays. Jade joined other talented visual art students from around NSW in drawing tutorials run by notable artists.

Year 7 Japanese

Yr 7 finished off Term 2 with some Question & Answer sentence structure development using cut out vocab. Mr. Pascoe would say a question or an answer in English and the students had to create the sentence by organising the vocabulary into the correct word order.



“She is Sarah.”

“My name is Adam.”

Denim for Life!

Congratulations Swansea High School. On Thursday August 9, the SRC ran a donation collection and a BBQ at lunch time. There was amazing feedback from teachers and students, raising a phenomenal \$540. What a fantastic effort from our school to support research, treatment and prevention strategies for students with genetic disorders.



To complete the puzzle of success for your student at school we need your help. A strong P&C is a great way for the school to find out where we need to improve and also for you to find out what is happening in your school.

WE DO NOT NEED VOLUNTEERS TO FUNDRAISE OR TO WORK AT SCHOOL – WE NEED YOUR VOICE!!!

Please come to the P&C meeting being held prior to the Parent Information Evening at 5.15pm on **WEDNESDAY 29th August** at Caves Beach Resort so we can hear you.

Year 12 Graduation Assembly

Please join us to celebrate the achievements of Year12 2018

**Thursday 27th September
9:15am in the School Hall**

More details available soon