

SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL

Sea Horse News

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RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READY TO LEARN

Issue 1 Term 1 2019



Making Waves

Swansea put on another perfect day of weather for our annual swimming carnival. This day has become one of the highlights of the school calendar and this year was no different. The competitive races were great to watch, with outstanding performances from a number of our talented swimmers with several school records broken on the day. The novelty events were a great chance for everyone else to cool off, have some fun and earn some points for their house. The house captains also had a chance to go head to head on our new 'Inflatabull' challenge, where they all realised that a career in rodeo is probably not for them. At the end of the day, the points were tallied up and congratulations go to the KOLORA house who took out this year's carnival.

Listed below are the students whose outstanding performances on the day resulted in them being crowned age champions.

BOYS		GIRLS	
12	Finn Coutts	12	Jayne Brooks
13	Jack Paterson	13	Keeley Smith
14	Callum Fox	14	Sunny Smith
15	Zayne Potts	15	Sophie McGeachie
16	Oliver Fox	16	Ally Boertje
17-19	Cruz Kingston	17-19	Makayla Gay

Swansea High Skoolbag App!

Swansea High Skoolbag mobile app is a great way to keep in touch, stay informed and get notifications of everything you need to know about school news, events, newsletters and much more.

To download the app, simply go to the AppStore or PlayStore and search for Swansea High School.

From the Principal - *Robyn Leggatt*

What a way to start the year with Year 7 2019 having no referrals for the first 4 weeks of term 1. That means that ALL of Year 7 have not put a foot wrong in their first weeks of high school. We know this cannot be maintained because Year 7 have lots of hormones and they are human, but this is a fantastic achievement! Also included in this good news is that we are still at 99% of students across the school who have 1 or less referrals.

As a result of the amazingly positive behaviour of most of our students we have had to revisit our commendation process to ensure that we recognise and celebrate this wonderful effort. Our Student Representative Council and our School Working Party have gathered information from all students via a survey to determine how students would like to be recognised. The first part of the new process that has been rolled out is the reintroduction of the BLUEY system. A Bluey is given to any student caught doing something positive and at the moment that is most students on a daily basis. They are able to accumulate the Blueys to access prize draws at various levels – 5 Blueys for a minor prize, 20 for a medium and 50 for a major prize. Many students have been excited to mention to me that they have received one or in some cases a number of Blueys already! The next stage of the Commendation roll out will incorporate our commendations for consistently high levels of performance – stay tuned!

Also a big congratulations to the students who showed respect to elderly members of our community over the past week. I have had two calls to say how impressed the people involved were by the politeness, respect and courtesy shown by our students – one on a bus and one at McDonalds. I will be mentioning this on assembly next week and the students involved will gain the recognition they deserve.

Important Dates

March

- 5th - 6th Representative Sport—Surfest
- 5th - Open Boys & Girls CHS Knockout Waterpolo
- 6th - 8th - Year 7 Camp
- 6th - Open Netball Eastlakes Zone
- 6th - HSC English Extension 1 Assessment Task
- 6th - Open Boys Basketball Years 10,11 & 12
- 6th - Eastlakes Zone Rugby League Trials
- 7th - STEM Workshop
- 11th - Open Girls Zone Touch Football
- 12th - Under 14's Buckley Shield Rugby League
- 12th - Boys & Girls Touch Football Competition
- 12th - Jumpstart Hair & Beauty
- 18th - Motivational Speaker Excursion—Newcastle
- 19th - Jumpstart Hair & Beauty
- 20th - Year 11 Maths Standard Assessment Task
- 20th - SRC Induction Ceremony
- 21st - Immunisation Years 7 & 10
- 25th - Year 12 Maths Standard 1 & 2 Assessment Task
- 26th - Year 11 PDHPE Core 1 Assessment
- 27th - Year 11 Legal Studies Assessment Task
- 27th - HSC English Standard & Advanced Assessment
- 27th - Parent Teacher Night—Years 11 & 12

April

- 3rd - HSC Modern History Assessment Task
- 3rd - HSC Business Studies Assessment Task
- 4th - 5th Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Hike
- 5th - HSC Legal Studies Assessment Task due
- 5th - Schools Cup Netball
- 8th - Smashed Production Years 8 & 9
- 9th - Year 11 Maths Advanced Assessment Task
- 11th - Anzac Day Ceremony
- 12th - Athletics Carnival



Teacher profile — Mr Appo

What subject do you teach? PE

How long have you been at Swansea High? I came to the school in July 2018

What did you do before becoming a teacher? I use to be a fulltime Sports Administrator for Wyong Leagues Club

If you had a cheque for a millions dollars what would be your first purchase? A packet of Zooper Doopers!

What is your favourite food? Anything—but would have to say Thai

Greatest sporting achievement? I coached the Australian U14 Women's Football Team—that was pretty cool

What do you want Swansea High Students to remember about you? I'd like them to think that I am always positive... that's it

What is the best advice you have ever been given? You've got 2 ears and 1 mouth — use it in that proportion

Starstruck Bound

Congratulations to Marnie Nebauer who have been successful in auditioning as a vocalist in this years Starstruck. This is the second year Marnie has achieved this huge accomplishment. Well Done!

Calculators

All students are reminded that they are to bring a scientific calculator to all of their maths lessons. If they do not have one yet, they can be purchased from the front office for \$25.



Valentine's Day Fundraiser

Valentine's Day at Swansea High School saw students (and staff) sharing the warm and fuzzies by sending Goodie Bags to people of importance throughout the day. It was a great opportunity to show appreciation to those who are a special part of our lives, and acknowledge the positive role they have. Thank you to the SRC for the creation and distribution of these gifts. Keep spreading the kindness Swansea High!

L.A.W. Program



This year at Swansea High we have introduced an additional subject for all students years 7-12; it is on a Wednesday and is called L.A.W. This stands for Learning, Attendance and Wellbeing and students and staff seem to be embracing it! In the 40 minute period our students have the opportunity to work on all those extra aspects of education that aren't necessarily timetabled in but are essential in being a well rounded person. Each stage focus's on different areas and cover topics such as decision making, individual growth, building positive relationships, career planning, growth mindset, goal setting and study skills just to name a few. This is combined with some mentoring from their L.A.W. teacher in regards to their attendance, goals and assessment task monitoring. The idea is that by the time students finish Year 12 their L.A.W. group will have become like their family at school as they work through team building activities, individual reflection and wellbeing topics together.



Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM)

The students of 7/8 Karakal have been investigating the scientific method by identifying the variables in a Science Experiment. A variable is any factor, trait, or condition that can exist in differing amounts or types. An experiment usually has three kinds of variables: independent, dependent, and controlled. Students incorporated aspects of STEM, using dynamic carts and inclined planes to investigate the effect of mass on distance travelled along a carpet floor.

On Stage Excursion Motivates Drama Students

On Monday the 11th of February they endured an early start as well as a 2hr train journey to Sydney, to begin the day with a Group Devising Workshop with practitioners from Belvoir Street Theatre. Here the emphasis was on using physical games and group activities to develop a sense of working as an ensemble. Some of us took a little time to remember the childhood skill of skipping involved in the first activity (Jed Mount)! Students also learned about the importance of using physical methods to improvise and build scenes for performance. It was an engaging and highly productive start to the day. Dimitri Rizk and Ben Watts produced a particularly intense scene using physicality and music.

Next came the power walk to the Seymour Centre to view exemplar group and individual performances from 2018 HSC Drama students. After a very quick lunch the *OnStage* performances began. This was a fantastic way for our students to visualise how performance marks are allocated and see the standard of work across the state. We were impressed with the detailed choreography of many of the group performances, as well as the cultural connections the individual performers obviously had towards their own pieces. Madison Le Marchant also drew inspiration from some of the exemplar Costume Designs on display in considering her own Individual Project for 2019.

The train ride back to Newcastle showed the impact that being an audience had on the students with much discussion about how we can incorporate aspects that we felt were particularly entertaining into our own HSC Group and Individual Performance. Zoe Russell detailed her observations immediately in her Drama logbook. Well Done!



Koori Room Mail

This term saw our Aboriginal Education Officers, Jarn and Rach work hand-in-hand with our PDHPE staff during our year 7-10 dance component of physical education. From storytelling to dance, students engaged in the significance of what Mt Yengo and Baiame plays to the Awabakal, Worimi and Darkinjung Aboriginal groups. It was fantastic to see this whole school approach to Aboriginal Education.

Swansea Slams the Lake

Recently, Swansea was represented by 12 talented basketballers at the Lake District Gala Day. Although the competition was tough, our boys stood tall, defeating Morriston, Cardiff and Warner's Bay to come top of their pool. This then put them in to the final against Toronto, winning 38-23 in a see-sawing match that saw Toronto put on the first 6 points. The boys are now off to the Regional Finals for the third year in a row where they will come up against the winners of the Hunter, Newcastle and Manning Districts. A very special thank you to Pelican RSL who came to our rescue by loaning us their courtesy bus at the last minute.



Deputy's Diary

Thumbs up to Year 7 and last year's Biraban students who have had an amazing start to Term 1 demonstrating our core values of Respect. Responsibility and Readiness to Learn.

Thank you to those families who have donated school uniforms to the school. If anyone has any second hand uniforms please give them to the front office. The school washes them and then gives them to students in need.

Making Appointments It is a good idea for parents wishing to see staff to ring before they come to school and make an appointment. This will ensure that staff are available and not out of the school or on class. If your wishing to see me in the morning please be aware that I do morning playground duty at 8.40.—9am.

Car Park Issues Kids and cars don't mix so please remember that the school car park on Park Avenue is not available for parking when students are catching buses even if the gate happens to be open. These gates are locked shortly after the school bell at 9am.

Welcome to Pru who is replacing James Norman as a wellbeing officer for the school. Pru will be organising wellbeing programs targeted specifically for the needs of our students.

Maths Tutorials a Hit!

Senior maths tutorial sessions are up and running again this year and all our senior students are encouraged to attend at least one session per week. These tutorials can be used simply to complete unfinished work from class, to get help with work they may be experiencing problems with or to get time to practice HSC examination questions in the lead up to assessment tasks. The tutorials run at the following times:

Monday lunchtime 11:50am – 12:30pm in Room 1.

Wednesday 8.15am – 8.55am in Room 3.

Remember, these tutorial sessions are free and are run by experienced maths teachers which will enable students to enhance their skills and achieve their personal best.



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



Top Marks in English

Year 11 and 12 students if you are feeling overwhelmed and unsure of how to revise, study and plan for English assessments and examinations then you need to attend the English study sessions on Thursdays.

The English Faculty are running study sessions every Thursday to support you in doing the best you can. Year 11 students meet in Room 6 and Year 12 students in Room 4. Bring your lunch with you!

Ensemble Making Noise



Swansea High Ensemble Band has started again this year. The band rehearses every Monday afternoon from 3:30-4:30pm in Music room 2. If you can play an instrument and want to perform, why not join the Ensemble.

We also offer music tuition. Anyone interested in playing and learning an instrument, come and speak to Mr Perry or Mr Darnbrough.

SHS Helpers Run NWPS Swimming

Swansea High Year 10 PASS students have represented our school in fantastic fashion, yet again, at the Nords Wharf Public School Swimming Carnival during Week 3. Receiving wonderful praise from the staff at Nords Wharf, our students could not be faulted, and were the "best group we have ever had!" Taking on various roles throughout the day such as timekeeping, marshalling and all-around student motivators, our students supported and encouraged the young participants. Congratulations to these students on their commitment to sport and willingness to assist future Swansea High School students.

What is PBL?

PBL stands for Positive Behaviour for Learning. It is a problem solving framework that addresses: social, behavioural and academic outcomes. It is a consistent and user friendly school-wide system of support that helps define, teach and support appropriate student behaviours, creating a positive school environment. To ensure the growth and awareness of the system we have clear reward structures in place to recognise students who demonstrate our values on a regular basis as well as an intervention structure to assist those experiencing difficulty.

All expected behaviours are mapped against our school vision and associated values of, Respect, Responsibility and Ready to Learn. Our Student Representative Council, Peer Mediators and student volunteers convene regularly to develop, consult and deliver expectations for student behaviour. Furthermore, our students are involved in the intervention process, conducting a peer interview with students who are identified as experiencing difficulty meeting our school values and associated behavioural standards.

This year we will be working on developing a clear positive rewards system. Stay tuned to more information.