

The Parkway



November 2015
Parkway Edition No. 09

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the HSC concludes this week, it is another sign that we are moving to the end of the school year. I have been really impressed with the studious attitude displayed by the students. All Year 12 students need to be formally signed out of school by Friday, 13 November. It is wonderful news that five Year 12 Visual Arts students, Maddison Adams, Noah Hamilton, Ella Dullard, Dean Hylands and Nehemiah Kamanda have had their work selected for "First Class", an exhibition of local HSC art works that will be displayed in Lake Macquarie City Gallery early in 2016.

Last week all Year 11 students were interviewed regarding their pattern of study for the HSC and provided with support and guidance. Mr Alexander, the Careers Adviser, played a key role in these interviews. Feedback received from the interviewers was overwhelmingly positive.

Recently the school was represented at The Junction Public School Spring Fair. Thank you to the P&C from both schools for making this event happen. It was great to spend the day with several of our hard working parents, Susanne Cafe, Kylie Bennetts and Karla Karinen, who coordinated the event. These parents spoke passionately to The Junction community about all that is great about Newcastle High School. The commitment of our school staff was evident as well, with seven staff in attendance running a variety of interesting workshops and demonstrations. I enjoyed catching up with several former students who have gone on to successful careers after completing their education at NHS. Thanks team for a great effort!

The incoming Year 12 students ran their first fundraiser last week to coincide with Halloween. The out of uniform day and cake stall raised almost \$1,500.00. Again, another great effort from a team of students working together and supported by their Year Advisors, Mrs Lidden and Mr Doherty and the prefect co-ordinator Ms Ellis.

I have been asked to remind parents that students are required to be at school until Wednesday, 16 December. Year 12 is the only group of students who actually leave school early. In exceptional circumstances, students can make application for exemption.

Reports will be distributed on Friday, 11 December.

Don't forget that Make Some Noise in on Tuesday, 17 November at the Town Hall. Tickets are on sale at the school office for \$15.00. This concert showcases performances from NHS and our partner primary schools.

In 2016 there will be significant changes to the issuing of bus passes. Please read the details included in this bulletin.

It does feel a little bit strange writing my second last Principal's Message. By now most people are aware that I am taking leave for 2016 pending retirement and have relinquished the position of Principal of Newcastle High School. This will allow a new principal to take up the principalship of this wonderful school from the commencement of the 2016 school year. Although this will mean a change, the operation of the school will continue as normal. More about this next time

Work hard; we are in the middle of the testing and reporting season.

Mark Hewitt
Principal



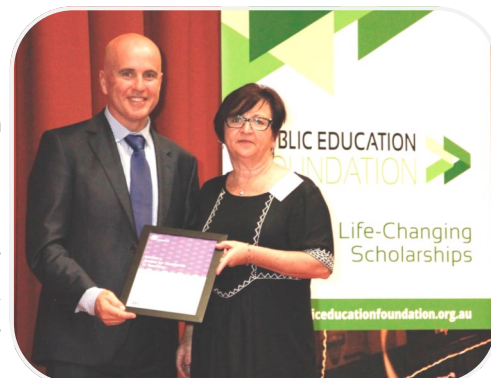
TAS Faculty Report

In 2015, two faculties combined to form the TAS faculty. The Industrial Arts staff of Mr Skinner, Mr Prior, Mr Coleman and Mr Johns joined with the Food and Textile Technology Staff of Mrs Munro, Mrs Ellis, Ms Maddalena, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Hines and Mrs Queenan. This has made the TAS faculty the biggest faculty in the school and the subject area that offers a very diverse curriculum for our students.

Ministers Award for Excellence in Teaching

I am very proud of the achievements of this faculty, in particular, **Ms Angela Queenan** received the **Ministers Award for Excellence in Teaching** in September of this year.

Ms Angela Queenan is an excellent TAS teacher who demonstrates exemplary professional behaviour in all aspects of her work and is a worthy recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Angela has been a teacher at Newcastle High School since 1984 and over that time has built relationships with generations of students and the wider community.



Angela has taught a large number of students from all socio-economic backgrounds and has always got the best out of them. From her consistently high achieving HSC students to Year 7 students requiring extensive differentiation Angela is able to “turn her students onto learning.” Angela has taught Years 11 and 12 Design and Technology for many years and students studying this subject consistently score significantly above state average and Design and Technology is always one of the best performing HSC subjects in the school. At least half her students score Band 6 or 5 each year. On several occasions students’ work has been selected to be showcased in Design Technology. Angela is an experienced HSC marker and her expertise is recognised by colleagues.

As a Year Advisor Angela and her co-advisor built a cohesive and supportive year group that last year scored the highest HSC results that the school had achieved for many years. Angela supported and nurtured her year group through the six years they were at Newcastle High School and built strong relationships with all the students.

We are so very fortunate to have Angela Queenan as a member of our amazing TAS faculty.

2014 HSC Results

HSC results in TAS in 2014 were outstanding, 9 out of the 13 Band 6's achieved at Newcastle High School were in the TAS area, with our dux three TAS subjects. As this newsletter goes to print, our HSC students of 2015 are currently sitting their exams. The major projects for both Design and Technology and Industrial Technology have been marked by the HSC markers.

2015 Industrial Technology Timber Projects

Congratulations to Joshua Richardson for completing his treasure chest inspired coffee table and Caleb Thompson for his Tasmanian Oak TV unit.

Student Handbooks

Stages 4 and 5 programs and student booklets have all been revamped over the last year to incorporate literacy, numeracy and quality teaching strategies to engage our students. All the TAS staff has been responsible for this revamp and the work that has been produced is outstanding.

Good Food and Wine Show

Hospitality students have been involved in volunteering at The Good Food and Wine Show in Sydney and Newcastle. At these events the students gained invaluable experience by working with Australia's top chefs. Our Hospitality students continue to cater for Ronald McDonald House each term and have done a magnificent job in supporting this very worthwhile and valuable support service.



TAS Faculty Report

2015 Design and Technology Projects

This year's Design and Technology class worked really hard both as a team and individually to produce some fabulous innovative end products.

Maddison Adams' project was a DIY book on a range of crafts, each one painstakingly made and photographed in detail so she could pass her skills onto others. She also extended the concept to include an e-book variation and website.

Mimi Ellicott created a beautiful memory quilt that was inspired by a family's sad experience with a SIDS loss. Her quilt was creatively made with baby wear and family memorabilia.

Chelsea Hollings took her love for the family dog to a higher level by designing and creating a range of dog coats, one for each month of the year and each one inspired by a calendar event. A doggie photo shoot and calendar topped off her submission.

Dean Hylands, our dedicated male class member, took on the role of a skate wear designer to produce an innovative bag and a range of printed skate wear. Dean hopes to extend this idea as a possible career path.

Laura-Rose Nicholson produced her own range of children's wear for her band of nephews and nieces. Featuring a range of garments for the new born through to a kindergarten age group Aunty Rosie's Designs were a real hit. A family photo shoot and gift album complimented her quality end products.

Mercedes Wildschut created a black and white wearable art outfit that was inspired by the high rate of divorce in today's society. The outfit featured a large number of handmade flowers in a monochrome palette, each one carefully sewn in place.

Such creativity and dedication. A wonderful group of students all with a bright future ahead. The sky is the limit.

Subjects Offered In TAS

Year 7

In Year 7 students undertake four units of work over the year:

Carried Away – students design and make a carry bag whilst learning about safety in the textile room, the use of the sewing machine and the different pieces of textile equipment.

Just for Fun – students design and make an aspect of a theme park such as an entrance or ride. In this unit students learn about the built and natural environment and man's impact on the environment.

Model Making – students make a model aeroplane out of radiata pine whilst learning about different wood working hand tools, timber terms and techniques for joining and finishing timber.

Metals – students learn about different types of metals, different metal hand tools and the safe use of the drill press through making a pot plant holder.

Year 8

Food – In this unit students are given the chance to design, make and taste their own recipes as they tackle three selected design briefs – A Great Start to the Day, Snack Attack and Teenage Tucker.

Fashion -This Fashion unit is a hands on course to further develop the skills learnt in Year 7. Students create and manufacture a sleepwear item.

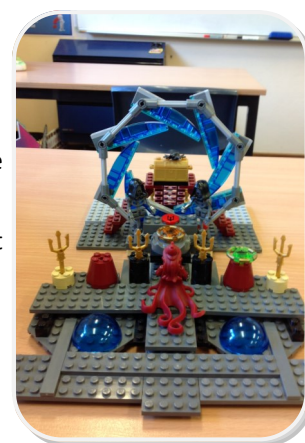
Sweet Delights – Tickle your taste buds by planning and preparing a variety of sweet foods for a number of occasions.

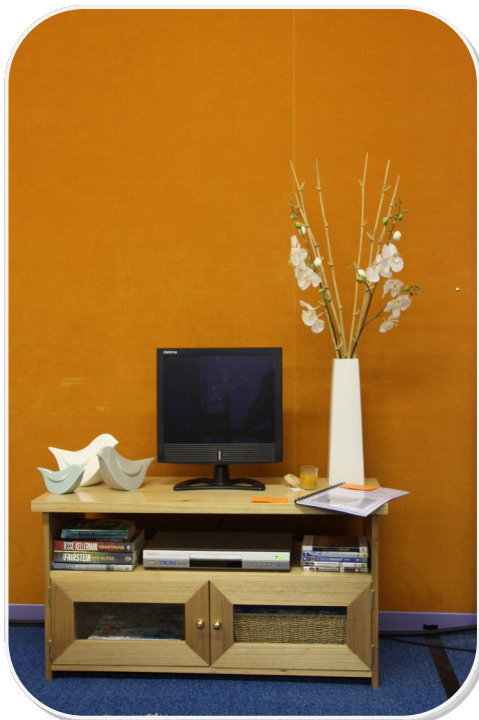
Food Around the World – Travel the world with food, preparing and tasting dishes from a variety of other cultures. Year 8 Food around the World went on an excursion to Guzman y Gomez Mexican Restaurant in Hamilton this year.

Timber – students build on their knowledge of timber from Year 7 and further enhance their skills in cutting, joining and finishing timber by making a mug tree and foot stool.

Metals – students learn to research, design and manufacture a number of articles using sheet metal, plate, rod and bar material. By making a junior hacksaw and brass screwdriver students learn skills in cutting, shaping, forming, joining and surface finishing.

Electronics – students gain knowledge of safe working practices with electronic components and soldering techniques through making a skill tester and decision maker.





TAS Faculty Report

Years 9 and 10

Child Care

Students with an interest and concern for the welfare of young children enjoy this course. Topics include the unborn child, infancy, food for toddlers, children's health. Practical applications involve both food and textile activities.

Food Technology

Food Technology involves students investigating food through practical hands on applications and processes. A range of themes for study includes food trends and food fads, food for special needs and food service and catering.

Textile Technology

Textiles Technology provides students with a broad knowledge of the properties, performance and uses of textiles; fabrics, colouration, yarns and fibres are explored. Completion of projects is integral to developing skills and confidence in the use of textile materials, equipment and techniques. Students undertake projects that involve learning to sew with stretch fabrics, fine fabrics as well as designing and making garments and completing interior design projects of their choice.

Industrial Technology – Timber

Students will use power tools and machines such as the woodwork lathe, handsaw, and sander to construct such practical projects as a mirror frame, dart board unit and timber waste paper bin.

Industrial Technology – Metals

Students develop skills in designing, planning and constructing practical projects such as a folding camp BBQ and exercise dumbbell. Instruction in MIG and Electric Arc Welding is given.

Industrial Technology – Electronics

Students learn about basic electronic and electrical principles and how to apply their knowledge and skills to completing practical projects such as a die and roulette wheel.

Senior Preparation Courses

Events and Hospitality introduces students to the Hospitality Industry by developing skills in food preparation and presentation.

Engineering our Future – this course is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge and understanding of engineering focused careers. Students use new and emerging technologies such as 3D printers, CAD drawing programs and design and make their own balsa wood Co2 powered race cars.



TAS Faculty Report

Senior School Subjects

Community and Family Studies

This course develops an understanding about society and its complex nature. Community and Family Studies draws upon selected components of family studies, sociology, development, psychology and students' general life experiences. It can have a direct and positive influence on the quality of students' lives, both now and in the future, by

- allowing students to explore and form positive attitudes about themselves and others;
- developing an understanding of their relationship within their families and other groups;
- learning to work cooperatively and to appreciate the importance of effective communication;
- encouraging students to become proactive members of society;
- developing students' knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to effective decision making leading to confidence and competence in solving practical problems in the management of everyday living.

Design and Technology

This is a course for designers of tomorrow. This course provides creative and innovative students with the opportunity to study design and production as they face design challenges. Students are required to develop, manage and complete a major design project where a design folio and practical project are undertaken. This contributes to 60% of their final HSC result.

Food Technology

An innovative program of activities involving students in many practical applications while developing an understanding of food issues in today's society. Production, processing and consumption of food and an appreciation of its impact on health, the economy and the environment are areas addressed in this course.

Exploring Early Childhood

The foundation of society depends on children's experiences. Studies in this course highlight the importance of the early childhood years. Students are really made to think about the responsibilities of parenthood as they care for *Baby think it over*, a computerised baby that simulates a new born child.

iSTEM

The iSTEM program is a Board endorsed course that utilises a practical integrated approach to engineering and technology. It is being used to drive interest in science and mathematics, new and emerging technologies such as 3D printing through the development of technical skills and mechanical engineering knowledge. Through problem solving and project based learning activities students are engaged in manufacturing a fully functional mechanical robot arm.

Engineering Studies

Year 12 Engineering Studies students started this course in Term 4 2015. Already students are engaged in learning about Civil Structures that involve historical and societal influences, mechanics, materials and communication. Their first assessment task due at the end of term is well under way which involves designing and building a model bridge out of just paddle pop sticks and glue. Students need to complete an Engineering report that includes mechanical analysis of their bridge design before testing their models. The models are tested by loading bricks on to them to calculate the loads they can withstand right up to destruction.

Industrial Technology – Timber

Industrial Technology has been developed to incorporate content related to current and developing technologies. It offers students the opportunity to study the interrelationships of technologies, equipment and materials used by industry and to develop skills through the design, planning and producing of their own piece of timber furniture. Students are able to advance their practical experiences, as well as study the management and organisational side of the timber industry. The practical component of the course accounts for 60% of the total marks where the folio and theory accounts for 40%.

TAS Faculty Report

VET – Vocational Education and Training Courses

Hospitality

Students complete Assessment Events that are made up of a practical and theory component. Across the two years of the course, students complete eight Assessment Events. These events are assessed by the teacher on the skills and knowledge a student demonstrates to the level required by the industry standards. When students successfully demonstrate a competency against a particular standard the student will be judged as **'competent'**. There is no pass or fail. **The students are either 'competent' or 'not yet competent'**. Pictured are some of the outstanding food dishes that students are producing to very high industry standards.

Metals and Engineering

The Metal and Engineering course is designed to enable students to acquire a range of technical, practical, personal and organisational skills valued both within and beyond the workplace. They also acquire underpinning knowledge and skills related to work, employment and further training within the manufacturing, engineering and related services industries. Through the study of this subject, students will gain experiences that can be applied to a range of contexts, including work, study and leisure that will assist them to make informed career choices. Some of the practical projects include a drill angle gauge, clamp assembly, G-clamp, and bench vice.

Work placement – Continues to be an integral part of Vocational Training

Work placement is a mandatory component of all vocational framework courses. At Newcastle High School students study Certificate II in Hospitality Kitchen Operations, Certificate II in Retail Services and Certificate I and II in Metal & Engineering.

Students work in a related industry for a minimum of 70 hours over the two years. This opportunity provides insight into the industry and assists students in making informed decisions about future training, employment and education.

Congratulations to all VET students who have participated in the highly successful work placement programs in the preliminary and HSC year.

Thank you to the participating businesses in the Newcastle and Port Stephens area who support the work placement program by accommodating students.

Sondra Munro
Head Teacher TAS



HSIE Faculty Report

This year has seen a number of changes to the teaching staff of the HSIE faculty at Newcastle High School. A new Head Teacher, Mr Nicholas Davies, commenced in Term 4 and a new classroom teacher, Mrs Louise Dark (commencing Week 9) have joined the faculty and bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to a team of teachers who deliver quality learning experiences for all students.

In the Classroom

In our classrooms this year students have participated in a range of exciting opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of course concepts and to develop the knowledge and skills required to develop academically and socially. Some of the activities have included:

Year 9 Commerce business day – where students planned and developed a business idea for a market day held at school. The day provided students with the opportunity to put into practice the concepts covered in class activities. Students covered aspects of running a business such as budgeting, market analysis, promotion, product development, human resource management and financial reporting. The day was extremely successful and funds raised were donated to charity.

Year 7 HSIE have been utilising our iPads to enhance their learning experiences of a broad range of skills and content from the HSIE syllabus. Apps include Wild Australia, Google Earth, Stop Motion, Rainforest Heroes, My Community and Pyramid Explorer. Students have been provided the opportunity to make decisions and experience environments through these interactive Apps enhancing the learning experience and deepening the knowledge and understanding of concepts being covered.

Year 8 HSIE has undertaken a broad range of learning experiences, a highlight being the Viking Feast which was attended by Mr Hewitt and Mr Towney. Students planned and participated in a feast fit for a Viking to create connections with classroom concepts and real life experiences. Students and staff had a memorable time.

Year 7 and 8 GATS students participated in a full mummification of four chickens to simulate the processes undertaken by Ancient Egyptians. To enhance their knowledge and understanding students participated in a mock archaeological dig and an excursion to the NSW Museum to see the Aztec Exhibit. Students are challenged by this variety of learning experiences and are encouraged to develop personal learning experiences and reflection throughout.

Nick Davies
Head Teacher HSIE



Student Wellbeing

Uniform Donation

As your child outgrows their current uniform, please consider donating them back to the school. We have a constant need to assist families in providing clean uniforms and any support you could provide would be greatly appreciated.



Student Support

Students who require assistance at school should communicate these with their Year Advisor. The Year Advisor is the key support person who works closely with each year cohort. The Year Advisor will communicate any concerns to the Schools Welfare Team or Learning Support Team as appropriate.

Please contact the school and a Year Advisor will call you back as soon as possible, to assist you with any concerns.

Year 7

Jessica Melehan
Martyn Skinner

Year 8

Deanna Longobardi
Craig Main

Year 9

Joanne Myers
Glenyce Oswald

Year 10

Karen Hines
Guy Hewitt

Year 11

Bronwyn Lidden
Andrew Doherty

Quinn Robertson
Head Teacher Welfare



YOUTH FRONTIERS



Careers

Year 10 University of Newcastle Tour Excursion

As part of the Careers Tertiary Awareness Program students will have the opportunity to visit the University of Newcastle for a day on Thursday December 3. Student ambassadors and academic staff from the university will provide Year 10 with information about courses, tours of the campus facilities, careers and what to expect as a future student.

Pictured are Newcastle High School Year 10 students touring the Newcastle University Union Building and the Auchmuty Library late last year.



Year 11 Transition Interviews

To support our up-and-coming HSC students, all Year 11 were treated to a Transition Interview in late October. These interviews discussed issues of study habits, goals, career pathways and well being and aimed to give students strategies for juggling the demands of coming year. The interviews were organised and conducted by Ms Leigh-Gordon (ex-principal), Mr Alexander (Careers Adviser) and Ms Kadarusman (HT Students) and were well received by the students.



Chris Alexander
Careers Adviser

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Sport Report

Hockey

Mrs Dennis took a team of “inexperienced but very keen” Years 7-9 girls to play in the city zone gala day at the end of last term. The girls had a great day, coming away with a win from the four games they played. Mrs Dennis said that “the girls showed lots of promise and potential. Natalie Cox ran non-stop all day scoring plenty of goals. Matilda Brame was rewarded for all her hard work with her first ever goal in the last game of the day”. Well done girls. Hockey was the winner on the day!

Rugby Union

Our U/14 and U/16 boys Tennis played in the Coast to Country Cup one day round robin in late Term Three. Both teams played three games each, but unfortunately the opposition were too strong. Mr Skinner and Mr Coleman said the boys were excellent representatives of Newcastle High School. Josh Field was named “Player of the Day” for the U/16 team and Jack Piper was “Player of the Day” for the U/14 team.

Year 12

Congratulations to our twelve Year 12 Sports Award recipients at the Year 12 presentation day at the end of Term Three. These students have all been acknowledged during the year for their achievements. Special congratulations to Jarrod Sansom who was named Newcastle High School Sportsman of the Year.

2015 Round – Up

At this stage of the year most sporting events have been completed, apart from U/14 Boys Cricketers, who participate in a competition run over Term 4 this year and Term 1 next year.

This year we have had 49 teams represent our school in 18 different sports. Approximately 30% of the Newcastle High School students body have represented the school in a sporting team, as well as many students participating in a number of different teams during the year. Whilst the range of success has been varied, it is pleasing to see so many students keen to represent our school in a sporting activity.

Teams that deserve a special mention this year include:

- ◆ U/15 Boys AFL – Hunter Region Champions and made it through to Round 5 of the NSW CHS knockout competition (final 16 in the State)
- ◆ Open Girls Basketball – Round 4 NSW CHS knockout
- ◆ Open Boys Basketball – Round 3 NSW CHS knockout
- ◆ U/19 Futsal – Northern NSW Finalists
- ◆ Open Boys Football (soccer) – Round 3 NSW CHS knockout
- ◆ Open Girls Football (soccer) – Round 4 NSW CHS knockout



As well as NSW CHS knockouts, we participated in three city zone gala days. These gala days are an opportunity for Years 7, 8 and 9 students to participate against the other six zone schools in competition.

Congratulations to the 32 students (20 boys and 12 girls) who have represented the Hunter Region in the sports of Cricket, Baseball, Diving, Swimming, Basketball, Football (soccer), U/15 AFL, Netball, Hockey, Rugby Union, Cross Country and Athletics. Congratulations also to the three students who were selected in NSW CHS Teams in Cricket, Rugby Union and Diving.

As this is our final bulletin for the year, we would like to congratulate all the students who have represented Newcastle High School in sporting teams in 2015. Many of these students represented on numerous occasions in many different teams.

As well as being an enjoyable and valuable opportunity and experiences for the students, they have been wonderful ambassadors for our school and represented Newcastle High School with pride.

Special thanks to the 21 staff members who have volunteered to coach the teams and the many staff members who covered their lessons and the parents who supported and transported these students. Without this support these opportunities would not be available to our students.

Thank you.

Mr P Wagner and Mrs N Blatchford
Inter-School Sports Co-Ordinators

Student Support

During the Month of October, our school joined with the wider community with numerous initiatives high-lighting Mental Health Month.


During Week 1 this term we had a free information evening for parents – “Navigating Teenage Depression” - with guest speakers from the Black Dog Institute and also a clinician from Headspace coming to offer their perspectives for the benefit of staff and parents.

In Week 3, our Positive Behaviour for Learning lesson gave students a chance to participate in a mindfulness meditation from Smiling Mind. (We have posted a link to a short video explaining the benefits of mindfulness on our school Facebook, so you can take a look if you wish.) This activity uses focusing on breath as a form of relaxation and focusing on the present, without worrying about the past or the future. Smiling Mind is a free app that can be used at home or on the bus – anywhere you have your phone or tablet with you, so a great strategy for young people to use at home or school. Smiling Mind meditations would also be a great tool to use as a family. Perhaps a weekly mindfulness exercise after dinner might be a great new activity to try as a family? Students were also given postcards with ideas to try to stress less.

On Thursday Week 4 we offered a free lunchtime yoga lesson for students who might like to see what it is like to use stretching and intentional thought about your body as a way to build a sense of wellbeing. We had a great group of students come along, all but one were trying yoga for the first time. There were lots of giggles as students learnt new ways to stretch and relax and a lovely quiet came over the room as the session went on. It was beautiful to see these students demonstrating enthusiasm, optimism and inclusion in this activity. (And thank you to Tahnee and Lisa from Yoga for All for running the class for us.)

Coming up this month, will be the Youth Arts In Recovery excursion. We take young people to the Newcastle Art Space to participate in a day that utilises the creative arts as a way of enhancing wellbeing and connecting with local Youth Services. I look forward to showing you some of their creations in the next *Parkway*.

Amy King
Student Support Officer

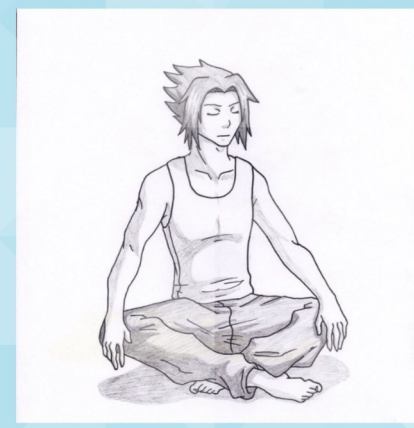


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artwork by inky.net.au

Matilda - The Musical

“Sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty” – Matilda Wormwood

On Wednesday, Week 3 of Term 4, fifty five Newcastle High School students and staff travelled to Sydney to see *Matilda the Musical* written by Australian Tim Minchin based on the book by Roald Dahl.

When we arrived in Sydney everyone sang Happy Birthday to me and we all shared the birthday cake that my mum made. We all then walked to Darling Harbour to eat lunch. I bought a kebab for my birthday lunch and then played “Transformers” in the EB Games store.

Afterwards we returned to the Lyric Theatre where we watched a loud, fun and very exciting musical about a super-smart little girl looking for love, friendship and an education in a school with the worst headmistress in the world.

We then travelled back to Newcastle singing songs the whole way home. It was the Best Birthday Ever!

Isaiah Gollan
Year 8



Electric Vehicle Race Day

Newcastle High School competed in the August 2015 Electric Vehicles (EV) Race Day, held at Cameron Park race track. This event is an integral part of the Hunter Valley Electric Vehicle Festival, organised by the University of Newcastle Tom Farrell Institute, Faculty of Science and IT.

Sponsors included Port Waratah Coal services, Lake Macquarie City Council, Orica, NRMA, Singleton Solar and Rotary Team Spirit.

Eight Newcastle High School students consisting of two teams of four, supported by teachers Ms Wells and Mr Johns competed in both the Hub Class and Chain Class events. The participating students were Zackery Aislabie, Camron Alley, Sebastian Deegan, Nathan Humphrey, Luke Hunt, Dylan Kamines, Kristian Madsen-Higgs and Robert Stanley.

In total, 37 school teams from 19 high schools represented and competed in the Hub and Chain class events. The race requires students to travel as far as possible in one hour on a 10Ah 36v battery powered electric bike, built to strict vehicle compliance requirements. Newcastle High School teams, Nova 1 and Nova 2, proved highly competitive in both events taking out second place in both the Hub and Chain Class. A fantastic result, backing up last year 1st place in the Hub Class.

Full race results including fastest lap times and finishing positions of all teams from the 2015 EV Prize race program can be found at www.mylaps.com/en/events/1063165.

Note: A special thank you to all the **students’ parents/carers** who assisted with the event, including Mr **Peter Wallace**, our number one bike mechanic.

Transport for NSW

Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who's eligible?

To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?

Most students or parents won't need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016.

However, a new application is required if:

- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply

Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.

Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required.

If the student doesn't qualify for free travel

They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Find out more

For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.

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IMPORTANT

HEALTH INFORMATION:



Health

Whooping Cough

Whooping cough information for schools

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for [information for childcare and schools about whooping cough](#).



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