



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

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### CALENDAR TERM 1 & 2 2010

**30<sup>th</sup> March** - School  
Athletics Carnival

**1<sup>st</sup> April** - Last day of  
Term 1

**19<sup>th</sup> April** - First day of  
Term 2

**26<sup>th</sup> April** - Anzac Day  
Public Holiday

**27<sup>th</sup> April** - Start of Year  
11 Assessment week

**3<sup>rd</sup> May** - Start of Year  
7 & 8 Half Yearly  
Assessments

**10<sup>th</sup> May** - Start of Year  
9 & 10 Half Yearly  
Assessments

**11th May** - Naplan  
Language Conventions  
& Writing. Year 7 & 9

**12th May** - Naplan  
Reading. Year 7 & 9.

**13th May** - Naplan  
Numeracy. Year 7 & 9.  
Calculators needed.

# LINK-UP

TERM 1 WEEK 9 2010

## Principal's Message

The 2010 school year has commenced in the same outstanding fashion as 2009 finished. No sooner had the celebrations for our outstanding HSC and School Certificate results finished than we were in the midst of more exciting news for the school. A visit by the Deputy Prime Minister heads the list of many events in what has been an excellent beginning to the year.

### Plumpton High Students Excel in 2009 HSC and School Certificate

Our Year 12 2009 HSC students achieved some of the very best results ever at Plumpton High School. The stunning improvements made by the group stand out when compared with the 2008 results.

Band 6 Results (scores in the 90s):	2008 HSC = 2	2009 HSC = 12
Band 5 Results (scores in the 80s):	2008 HSC = 28	2009 HSC = 60

So we have gone from having 30 HSC scores in the 80s and 90s to having a phenomenal 72 in 2009!!

Our Year 10 2009 School Certificate students achieved our best ever results. Again the improvements are amazing when compared with the 2008 results.

Band 6 Results (scores in the 90s):	2008 SC = 6	2009 SC = 21
Band 5 Results (scores in the 80s):	2008 SC = 41	2009 SC = 73

Similarly, we have doubled our School Certificate scores in the 80s and 90s, from 47 in 2008 to an incredible 94 last year!! This is a great credit to all of our students and to their teachers who work together to produce such high quality learning outcomes. Congratulations also to parents for your constant encouragement and support.

Continued on next page

### ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

Please pay fees between the office hours of 8:30am and 1:30pm.  
Enquiries regarding school matters between the hours of 8:15am and 3:00pm.  
Thank you for your consideration.

## Principal's Message Continued

### Deputy Prime Minister Visits Plumpton High School

As I mentioned in the introduction, a real highlight for this term was the visit by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Julia Gillard. Plumpton High School was one of only two schools that she visited in Western Sydney and she showed considerable interest in the achievements of students and staff and particularly the strong links that we have developed with our partner schools in the Plumpton Educational Community. Students and staff from across PEC were able to share with the Deputy Prime Minister stories about the success of our schools and the strong partnership we have established in working together for a better future. Ms Gillard was highly complimentary about the outstanding developments taking place at Plumpton High School and the innovations occurring right across PEC.

### Technology Technology Technology

Our students are really benefiting from an unprecedented amount of technology being made available to them as a highly valuable tool to assist with their learning.

- ◇ We are currently installing 24 new data projectors and 11 interactive whiteboards into classrooms. By the end of the year we hope to have 27 interactive whiteboards in classrooms across the school. Much of this has been made possible by the generosity of parents in paying the general contributions of \$40 as part of student's school contributions. This is greatly appreciated.
- ◇ A company called KeePad have provided us with 6 class sets of infrared hand-held devices for students to use in their lessons as part of a pilot study. This allows students to select answer A, B, C or D in a question by pressing a button. Answers are recorded and graphed immediately to provide immediate feedback to students and to the teacher. The use of this technology has brought about big improvements to results for students in many schools in USA.
- ◇ Year 9 students will receive their new laptops next term to go along with the laptops currently being used by Year 10 students. This is part of the Federal Government's Digital Education Revolution rollout. It also includes wireless internet access in most classrooms across the school.



**Eric Jamieson**  
**Principal**

### FULL VERSION OF LINK-UP

To access the full version of Link-Up for Term 1, please either

- go to the Plumpton High School website at [www.plumpton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.plumpton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)
- collect a printed version from the front office at the school

# DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The term is quickly drawing to an end and once again the events and achievements that have been accomplished by the staff and students of the school have been amazing. It has been extremely encouraging to see how quickly and how well students have settled in to making the most of this school year.

Recently we hosted our Year 6 information night for prospective Year 7 students for 2011. This was a very enjoyable and successful night. The large contingent of parents that attended were provided with an overview of our school by several students and staff and were also given an opportunity to visit and ask specific questions at various stalls organised by each faculty. I would particularly like to take this opportunity to thank our Head Teacher of Science, Mr Domingo, for organising the night. Congratulations must also go to our newly appointed 2011 Year 7 Adviser - Ms O'Connor and Year 7 Assistant Adviser - Ms Landon. Both Ms O'Connor and Ms Landon will be heavily involved in a number of future events that will benefit the students and families of the 2011 year 7 cohort.

Last week's parent-teacher-student night was also very well attended. The night provided a wonderful opportunity to consolidate the partnership between the school and home so that student learning is maximised. It was very encouraging to hear that many staff members reported a full evening of interviews. Congratulations to Ms Downey and the staff who organised the evening and to the students of year 10 and 12 who ran the BBQ and the year 12 leaders who assisted parents on the night.

In the area of sport our students have once again excelled not only through their achievements but also their outstanding sportsmanship in a wide variety of events. The school swimming carnival was one of the best that has ever been held, this culminated in our representatives coming third at Zone level and producing 5 out of the 12 zone age champions. Both Emmalee Saaghy and Brittany Good have both qualified for the NSWCHS swimming championships at Homebush and we wish them all the best of luck. Both of these girls have displayed tremendous dedication and ability for their chosen sport and were responsible for breaking six school records which have stood at the school for over twenty years. A lot of the success needs to be attributed to our sports co-ordinator, Mr Nicholls, who has done a tremendous job organising our sporting carnivals and we all look forward to the school athletics carnival in the last week of this term.

Five students; Sonja Taumaialo, Theresa Hunt, Wyanonna Pisa, Leta Aunese and Leinati Aunese represented Sydney West Region for volleyball at the CHS championships at Armidale and did extremely well. As a result of this tournament Sonja Taumaialo was selected in the NSWCHS open team to play against New Zealand and Queensland. This is an extraordinary effort for a year 9 student. Sonja is a very quiet, modest and unassuming young lady who shows enormous potential and is set to have an outstanding future in representative volleyball. Congratulations must also go to Mr Lowe who has worked tirelessly to coach and develop our Open Girl's Volleyball team into one of the most respected teams in NSW.

Looking forward to the beginning of term two there will be two Kiowa helicopters from the 6th Aviation Amy Regiment will be landing on the school's back oval. This is a result of a former student who now flies with the regiment and it also coincides with our Anzac assemblies. It will provide an outstanding opportunity for students to talk to army personnel.

## ENERGY DRINKS

It has come to the attention of staff that some students have been consuming energy drinks such as Mother, V or Red Bull at school. These drinks are unsuitable for children as they are high in caffeine and contain guarana, and therefore are not appropriate for school. We ask that you discuss with your child the health risks associated with consuming these drinks, especially in large quantities.

Thankyou Claire Downey ( Head Teacher Student Welfare)

# DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## School Building Program

Numerous building projects continue to change the environmental landscape of Plumpton High School. We have witnessed the completion of the all weather covering of the ramp that services the English/History/Mathematics/PE classrooms and the school's Learning Centre. Already we have seen the advantages of this long awaited modification to the school, especially with the inclement weather that we experienced earlier this term.

During the school holidays work will commence on the complete refurbishment of our science laboratories. The process will only involve the transformation of two laboratories at a time. This will allow practical science lessons to continue throughout the process. All six laboratories should be complete prior to the end of term 3. On completion the students of Plumpton High School will experience the most modern school science facilities in NSW.



The final agreement for the new \$2.3 million School Performing Arts Centre is near completion. Final decisions on the seating and audio/visual/data requirements have been discussed. As soon as these requirements are amended in the original plan the phase of tendering for the project will begin. By this time next year, we hope to have the building ready for use.

## Special Dates

The last day of term 1 at Plumpton High School for all students and staff will be Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April. School will resume for all students and staff on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April**.

When students resume school next term years 7 to 10 begin their half yearly assessment period from week 3 and years 7 & 9 will undergo NAPLAN examinations in week 4. Years 11 & 12 will continue to have assessment tasks as per their assessment guides. Therefore it would good advice for all students to spend at least part of the holidays to revise and consolidate the material that has been taught to them throughout term one.

On behalf of the staff of Plumpton High School I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter Holiday break.

Peter Ezzy  
Deputy Principal

# ENGLISH FACULTY

## English and History at Plumpton High School 2010

Welcome all to 2010, wow what a year it is going to be. We hope all the year 7 students and the new students and families to Plumpton High School are feeling the buzz. We have a huge and dynamic group of educators amongst us at Plumpton High and a huge portion of them in the English and History team.

### The team

Mr Warren Fisher, Mr Adam Rodriguez, Ms Jodie Doran (aka Karan), Mr Keith Papa, Ms Belinda Judson, Mr Scott Mittwollen, Ms Carly Macpherson, Ms Kerrie Wood, Ms Cara O'Connor, Mr Brett Adamski, Mr Damian Baker, Ms Rosa Montana, Mr Daniel Gardner, Ms Suzan Erenbay, Mrs Salochna Reddy, Mrs Virginia Matthews (HT Mentor), Mrs Rachel Devlin (Deputy Principal), Mrs Maria Trimmis (HT English/History)

### The goal

This year the English and History team have been looking at ways to improve student responses in extended writing tasks and in particular in developing critical writing skills. This specific area of your child's literacy development will be one of our core focus points this year. In order to ensure that we have the best possible information about our students' progress we have been busy analyzing past exam papers and student results in order to set specific teaching and learning tasks. We ask your assistance in ensuring that all assessments and study or homework tasks are completed. Sometimes it can be as easy as requesting to see your child's diary or workbook for each subject they had that day.

We would value your feedback in regards to how you are seeing your child progress in this area. If you feel that you would like to come and talk to the head teacher or your child's teacher we would be happy to hold an interview or phone conversation with you.

Another area that we request your assistance in is in the promotion of reading for pleasure at home. Please encourage your child to spend a minimum of 15 minutes reading each day. We are of course very happy to hear about those students who spend a great deal of time reading each day. If you cannot access a library please feel free to ask your child's teacher for a book from our vast collection. We would be only too happy to lend novels to our students if it means that they will be working on developing their vocabulary.

### Extras

It is also exciting to highlight some of the competitions and other events currently occurring through English and History. At the moment we have debating teams and public speaking competitions for year 7-10 and we have a variety of writing and spelling competitions on offer for all students. Please feel free to ask an English or History teacher for information about these opportunities.

### Finally

Once again I would like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone to 2010 and to thank the English and History team for their extraordinary efforts in creating meaningful and enjoyable teaching and learning opportunities.

I wish you all the very best success in the wonderful challenge that is educating our young.

Maria Trimmis

Head Teacher English and History

# SOCIAL SCIENCE FACULTY

## SOCIAL SCIENCE NEWS

The 2010 school year has started off well for the Social Science Faculty. The faculty offers subjects such as Geography, Commerce, Legal Studies, Business Studies, Economics and Business Services which are taught by some of the most experienced teachers in the school.

The use of laptops in the classrooms and technology workshops has led to extensive use of 'moodle' and 'notebook' to deliver quality and engaging lessons to the year 10 students. Teachers are looking forward to the year 9 students receiving their laptops soon.

The faculty is doing its utmost to promote positive mental health amongst students as this can be seen as an excellent motivational tool for student learning. A helpful website for both students and teachers is [www.mindmatters.edu.au](http://www.mindmatters.edu.au). Some exciting excursions for year 8 and 9 Geography students, year 11 Business and Legal Studies students and for Commerce students are being planned for this year.

More information regarding this will be given by various subject teachers. The faculty wishes everyone at Plumpton High School a rewarding year of teaching and learning.



# SCIENCE FACULTY

Welcome to all, particularly the year 7's at Plumpton High for 2010. We also welcome Mr Aguiar who will be with us on a temporary basis this term.

## Your Science Faculty in Term 1

Mr Domingo ( Head Teacher )  
Mrs Tanti ( Biology )  
Mr Abraham ( Biology/ Senior Science )  
Mrs Maharaj ( Chemistry )  
Mrs Shukla ( Physics )  
Mr Smith ( Senior Science )  
Mrs Khin ( Physics )  
Mr Aguiar  
Mrs Langham (Laboratory Manager )

## General News

The Science Department has a fun batch of new topics to begin with this term.

- Yr 7's** - All Mixed up and Separating Substances ( Start up Science )
- Yr 8's** - Lego Matters ( States of Matter )
- Yr 9's** - Nuclear Training/ Atomic Theory ( Periodic table and Atomic particles )
- Yr 10's** - Chemistry ( Reactions, Chemicals etc )

## Science Laboratory Information



Your Plumpton High Science faculty is stressing safety in the laboratory in 2010. During science experiments we must be aware of our surroundings and be safe. Watch all glassware carefully and strictly cut out all playful activity during lab work.

### Important

Cover Science exercise book with contact to prevent damage in the lab.  
Covered shoes to be worn at all times in the laboratories.

### Cool Science Fact

The world's smallest rodent is the **Pygmy Jerboa** - measuring only a couple of inches in length - and can run as fast as a horse.

# HOME ECONOMICS FACULTY



## CHILD STUDIES – BABY THINK IT OVER!

Over the last 4 weeks the Child Studies students have been taking home the Infant Simulators for the Baby Think It Over program. The students return to school the next day, or after the weekend, looking tired. Before taking the “babies” home the students are often very excited and keen to look after the “baby”. When they return many make the realisation that they are just not ready for parenthood.

The infant simulator is computerised to cry at random intervals and the students need to insert a key into the simulators back for a care session. The simulator has 3 settings easy, normal or cranky. These settings determine the frequency and length of care sessions. The computer records 3 lots of information:

Abuse – if the simulator as had a harsh blow or drop.

Neglect – if the simulator has been left to cry for longer than 60 seconds.

Minutes crying – a tally of the total minutes the simulator has cried for periods longer than the original 60 second.

The students who have taken the simulators home so far in 2010 are:

Year 9 Jamie-Lee Young, Deni-Marie Jones, Shannen and Krystle O’Toole, Tiarne Amidy, Shante Kurtz, Brittany Masters.

Year 10 Andrea Smith, Amanda Doe.



## HOSPITALITY

The new Year 11 Hospitality students are working very well to ensure they have the skills for their 1<sup>st</sup> catering function of the year. In week 10 the students will prepare and serve food to the staff at a morning tea. They will be assessed on some elements of competence including safety, hygiene and organisation of food preparation. Some students will be preparing the food while others will serve the food. In Term 2 the preparing and serving teams will swap so all students have the opportunity to display their skills.

The menu for the function includes:

Bruschetta

Crepe Suzette

Marinated chicken wings

Vegetable frittata

Fish cocktails and chips

Fruit salad



# LIBRARY NEWS

A big welcome to all the new students of PHS. The library has been very busy this year each lunch time. Many Year 7's have been borrowing books now that they have their library ID cards and it is good to see that the reading of books is still in fashion with so many. To all these readers we extend an invitation to join our Reading Circle every Wednesday Lunch 2. This is a time to reclaim the library for reading and it is a wonderfully quiet and restful time to remember the world of books. Anyone can participate, they just need to have a book in their hand as they come into the library on a Wednesday Lunch 2.

We also run a voluntary Book of the Month Club where we all read the same book and discuss it over biscuits or cake at the end of each month.

All students are reminded that to use the library facilities – games and computers - they must have a library card on them. Bring it to school every day as you never know when you might need it. Seniors please take note: the library offers special privileges to them, in freedom to use the study room, bringing bags into the library and having 3 dedicated computers for their use in study periods. The privilege does not extend to using the computers without a library card or eating/drinking in the library.

## Inter-School Chess League 2009 Report

Last year we participated in the NSW Junior Chess League Metropolitan Secondary School Competition. Our junior team (Yr 7-8) came second in their division, losing to Girraween Selective. Daniel Obra of the Intermediate team lost only one game the whole tournament. These students have done PHS proud out there in the world of private and selective schools: Junior : Roslyn Obra, Nicholas Davey, Marshall Sivies, Taylor Wilson, Avi Kumar and Keinan Brown. Intermediate: Daniel Obra, John Labiano, Joseph Tamayo, Sharul Kumar, Dean Wright and Avi Kumar.

## PHS Junior Chess Championship 2010



This term from 10-12 March we held the Junior Chess Tournament. The students all behaved very well as usual. It seems there is some new talent amongst the Year 7's who had to take on the Year 8 and 9's. It was nice to see a few girls this year testing their skills. The Junior Champion for 2010 is Nicholas Davey (Yr 9) and the runner-up is Keinan Brown (Yr 9).

Other prizes were given as follows:

Top Girl -	Taylor Holloway
Top Yr 7 -	Jeremy Sayer
Top Yr 8 -	Taylor Wilson
Good Effort -	Caitlin Bridges-Hunt
	Sarah Murray
	Jarod McCarthy
Dark Horse/Outsider -	Yas Ozyurtkan

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Penrith RSL Interschool Chess Contest 2009



On Wednesday, 5 August last year we had 12 students representing our school at this event, playing 4 other high schools from the Penrith area. This is the first time we have participated, and our top team came second on the day, beating Penrith Selective in the semi-final. The overall winner for the day was St Dominic's College. Very well done to all players on the day as not only did they play well but they conducted themselves in a very sportsmanlike and praiseworthy way.

Team A: Daniel Obra, Roslyn Obra, Laurenz Obra, Dean Wright

Team B: Nicholas Davey, Joseph Tamayo, Daniel Saville, Todd Martin

Team C: Kyed Baqueyee, Sharul Kumar, Marshall Sivies, Taylor Wilson

## Book Week Fun 2009 – 'Book Safari'

The library program for Book Week last year included book discussion over a specially home-made ice-cream book cake, a visit from the author of the popular Doofuz Dudes series of books, watching a DVD called "Jock of the Bushveld", a legendary story set from gold rush days in the savannah of what has now become the famous Kruger Park in South Africa, 'hunting' for new books to buy for the library and a view with actual DVD footage of Mrs Pitt's own 'safari' to the Kruger Park early last year.



Hopefully this year there will be many Year 7 students taking an interest in this event which occurs every August. Listen to the Monday morning bulletin to find out about the many contests and reading activities that the library holds through the year.

We have a Readership Trophy each year which is awarded to the student who shows the best reading habits and participation level in the reading and research activities in the library. Last year this trophy and prize was won by Sarah Murray.

Who will win it this year? Come to the library to find out how to achieve this.

Have a Happy Easter and safe holiday!  
Mrs Pitt

# GENERAL NEWS

**ATTENTION: YEAR 10 AND YEAR 12 PARENTS**

## **Special Examination Provisions for the HSC and School Certificate Exams**

Special examination provisions attempt to overcome the disadvantages students may face if they struggle with reading and writing, or have a medical condition that impacts on their ability to sit the tests. If you think your child may be eligible for Special Examination Provisions please contact the Learning Support Faculty to discuss the matter.



## **CALCULATORS – CALCULATORS - CALCULATORS**

Calculators are an important tool that your child needs to successfully participate in Maths classes at school from Year 7 to Year 12, without one your child's learning will be affected.

Calculators are also required for the YEAR 7 AND 9 NAPLAN Numeracy test in May. Calculators can be purchased from the school office at a cost of \$17.00.

If you have any questions regarding calculators in Maths please contact Ms Devine, Head Teacher Maths.

# **PARENTS HELPING WITH PBL**

**HOW CAN PARENTS OF PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
HELP TO REINFORCE OUR SCHOOL-WIDE PBL EXPECTATIONS?**

## **BE SAFE**

- ◇ **DROP OFF AND PICK UP CHILDREN IN AN AREA FREE FROM MOVING CARS AND BUSES**
- ◇ **GIVE THE SCHOOL YOUR EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS AND UPDATE INFORMATION**
- ◇ **KNOW YOUR CHILD'S AFTERSCHOOL /TRANSPORTATION PLANS**
- ◇ **MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS BRINGING APPROPRIATE ITEMS TO SCHOOL**

## **BE RESPECTFUL**

- ◇ **PLEASE USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE AND TONE IN THE BUILDING**
- ◇ **TRY TO SCHEDULE YOUR CHILD'S APPOINTMENTS AND VACATIONS DURING BREAKS**
- ◇ **PLEASE USE THE APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS TO ADDRESS A PROBLEM**
- ◇ **ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO HAVE A GOOD DAY**
- ◇ **REWARD GOOD GRADES AND BEHAVIOR**
- ◇ **WORK ON HASSLE/STRESS FREE MORNINGS**
- ◇ **DEVELOP A MORNING/EVENING ROUTINE**
- ◇ **MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL WELL RESTED**

## **BE A LEARNER**

- ◇ **CALL, EMAIL OR WRITE TO THE SCHOOL TO REPORT AN ABSENCE**
- ◇ **KNOW YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS AND FRIENDS**
- ◇ **KEEP UP WITH YOUR CHILD'S ASSIGNMENTS AND HOMEWORK**
- ◇ **COMMUNICATE ANY CONCERNS TO THE ADMINISTRATORS, COUNSELLORS  
OR TEACHERS**
- ◇ **MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS GOOD ATTENDANCE AND ARRIVES ON TIME**
- ◇ **ENFORCE THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE**
- ◇ **REMIND YOUR CHILD OF SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS**
- ◇ **COMMUNICATE THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL AND EDUCATION**