



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

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CALENDAR TERM 1 2012

12th March
Immunisation Yrs 7 & 10

13th March
Year 6 Information Night

27th March
Parent/Teacher Night

4th April
School Athletics Carnival

5th April
Last Day Term 1

TERM 2

23rd April
First Day Term 2

24th April
School ANZAC Ceremony

25th April
ANZAC Day Public Holiday

8th - 11th May
NAPLAN

11th June
Queen's Birthday
Public Holiday

18th - 28th June
Year 12 Trials

29th June
Last Day Term 2

LINK-UP

TERM 1 WEEK 8 2012

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The start of the year has been incredibly smooth especially when considering the unprecedented amount of rain that has fallen in 20 of the last 24 school days. Our students have been incredibly accepting with the confines in which we have had to operate. The water retention has inundated our nature trail and around the two portable classrooms. The bus shelter has certainly been a welcome acquisition with frequent thunder storms occurring at the end of the school day.

The weather has also created significant delays to the construction projects that commenced just prior to the school holidays. While the concrete driveway/pathway from the Performing Arts Centre to the Agricultural farm has been completed the lift to service all 3 levels of the school library and the upgrading of one of the kitchens are yet to be completed. Likewise the ramp into the Agriculture Portable classroom is still in its final stages. When complete these building improvements will make a tremendous difference for all of our students but especially for our students with disabilities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our General Assistants Mr Les Rayner and Mr Larry Southall for their extraordinary efforts to ensure that the school grounds have been maintained to a high level during very difficult weather conditions.

The GONSKI Report

In amongst the recent Federal Government turmoil an incredibly significant review on the state of national education was released on 20th February by a review panel headed by Sydney businessman and philanthropist Mr David Gonski.

The highlight of the Gonski report is its well-founded and important recommendation that Australia needs to spend an additional \$5 billion a year on schools, with at least \$3.8 billion devoted to public schools, so that they can address the issue of disadvantage. When all the figures are finalised, more may be needed, but as the reports says:

Australia must aspire to have a schooling system that is among the best in the world for its quality and equity, and must prioritise support for its lowest performing students. Every child should have access to the best possible education, regardless of where they live, the income of their family or the school they attend. [p. xiv]

There is no denying the significance of this report and its recommendations but we now need to wait and see when and how our federal government will respond to the recommendations from this review. I have attached a letter at the end of my report from our local Federal Minister Ed Husic MP which outlines an initial response to the Gonski report.



Continued on next page

Principal's Message Continued

Record of School Achievement (RoSA)

The NSW Board of Studies has recently announced that the RoSA will replace the School Certificate credential. The RoSA will not have a written external examination but will provide an ongoing list of achievements for students that leave school prior to the HSC.

The RoSA will provide grades for all completed courses from Year 10 through to the point a student leaves school.

The RoSA will use school based assessments as the basis for grades.

The Board of Studies NSW will provide teachers with information, online resources and workshops to support professional judgement and to monitor and moderate grades.

From next year, students will be offered optional, online literacy and numeracy tests. Schools will receive more details on these tests, and how they will be implemented, throughout 2012.

The Board of Studies NSW will also pilot an optional, online tool for students to record extra-curricular achievements.

Students will be able to view and download a copy of their transcript of study at any time.

More information can be accessed at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

HSC Recognition Assembly

The 2011 HSC Recognition Ceremony was held in the GWSPAC in the second week of term 1. The ceremony was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the wonderful achievements of the 2011 yr 12 cohort. It also served as an inspiration for our current year 11 & 12 students who were audience members on the day.

Students who achieved a band 5 or 6 in their HSC were presented with special awards. Andrew Farrugia, Sharriff Rahman and Kavishay Prasad had extra reasons to jump for joy because they filled the top three places in Year 12. Andrew Farrugia earned an ATAR of 93.3 while Kavishay Prasad achieved an ATAR of 95.0. Andrew will be studying for a Bachelor of Science at the University of Sydney while Kavishay will be studying for a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of NSW. Sharriff Rahman achieved an ATAR of 97.3 and was awarded Dux of Plumpton High School for 2011. Sharriff's result earned him a \$20 000 UWS scholarship as well as one of only five Jim Anderson scholarships worth \$5 000. Sharriff will be studying Economics and Law at the University of Western Sydney. Other exceptional performances were credited to Samrah Malik - ATAR – 93.0, Ben Gerard - ATAR – 89.0 and Manpreet Banwait - ATAR - 87.14.

Crisanto Hipolito and Andrew Farrugia were once again outstanding with their amazing musical performances which captivated the audience. The ceremony concluded with four of the top five students forming a panel. This was an opportunity for audience members to ask them questions in relation to their HSC journey, their study habits, how they achieved a balance with all of their commitments and to hear their advice on tackling the Higher School Certificate.

We are all very proud of the entire 2011 Yr12 cohort and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.



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.

Beacon Breakfast

2012 Beacon Foundation program was launched with a breakfast at the Rooty Hill Novotel. Apart from the representatives from Beacon there were a number of local business and community representatives present. Our school was also very well represented by year 10 student ambassadors and our school captains, Dean Wright and Josan Gulliab. The purpose of this event is to gain a commitment from those in attendance to support the program throughout 2012.

The exceptional planning and coordination of the event by Ms Tanti paid dividends with local businesses pledging their support in virtually all of the Beacon events throughout the coming year. The other significant factor that came from the event was the accolades that all of our students received for their outstanding representation of the school.

The Beacon program targets year 10 students and assists them to map out a meaningful pathway to further study or employment. I am extremely optimistic that this year will be just as successful as our first year in the program where we were awarded best new school in Australia to the Beacon Program.

Student Achievements

- ◇ Dean Wright (Year 12) and Rhys Tolliday (Year 10) were both successful in gaining 'Two Ways Together Scholarships for Aboriginal Students 2012'. These scholarships are valued at \$1 000 and will be used towards their studies at Plumpton High School.
- ◇ Peter Foster's passion with local history has been recognised with a wonderful story about Peter's contributions to the local historical society in the Mt Druitt Standard Newspaper. Peter, a member of our current Year 12 cohort, has also been an outstanding ambassador for our school in a number of areas and it is no surprise that he is being recognised at a community level.
- ◇ Shani and Jayden Cartwright were presented with special awards at the Angel Bank Celebrations for their volunteer work at Food Within Ltd. This organisation is an established health promotion micro-enterprise which works to help people who are disadvantaged with access to fresh, healthy food. It is always very encouraging to see our students selflessly contribute and make a difference to our local community.
- ◇ Josan Gulliab and Rozelle Gallon will be competing in the NSW Vocational Education Worldskills Tourism finals on 16th and 17th March. This is an outstanding achievement to have the top two contestants representing Western Sydney at the NSW finals, come from our school. We wish them both all the best of luck.

Occupational Health and Safety Award

Under the leadership of Head Teacher Nigel Shakespeare the Industrial Arts Department have developed a strong partnership with the '*OnGuard*' Safety Training Organisation. The programs provided by this organisation present safety instruction, training and testing of workshop machinery and other equipment typically used within technology based secondary school curriculum. These resources are designed to be **preventative in nature, protective in practice** and **proactive by design**. The training products assist with the delivery of safety information, and help to protect staff and students against possible injury. Each year *OnGuard* recognises the top 1000 schools in the program. In 2011 Plumpton High School was ranked 29th overall. This is an outstanding result and congratulations must go to Mr Nigel Shakespeare and the Industrial Arts staff.



NAPLAN

Yrs 7 and 9 Literacy and Numeracy NAPLAN examinations will be held on the week commencing 15th May to 18th May 2012.

MESSAGE FROM ED HUSIC

School Newsletter Message from Ed Husic MP

As the local federal member for Chifley, I would like to update you on the independent review of school funding conducted by eminent businessman David Gonski, recently released by the Australian Government.

I believe that all Australian parents should be confident their child will get a world class education. This should be the case no matter where they live or the school they attend.

But this isn't always happening at the moment. While we have a great education system, we can do better for students and schools. We need to do more to lift performance.

Since 2007, the Federal Government has driven a strong national school reform agenda to do this and has invested in teacher quality, giving more powers to local principals, and building new classrooms and science labs in schools across the country.

The next important step is to make sure schools have the funding they need to teach our children. That is why we have done the first full review of school funding in almost 40 years.

We said when we started the review that no school would lose a dollar of funding per student as a result of any changes. That is a rock solid promise. Indexation will also be a feature of any new system.

The Government wants to be sure that any change will deliver the best result for our schools. We want to hear from parents, schools and the community about what you think works.

I will be in contact with your school over the coming months to get feedback on how we can improve our schools. We want all of our students to get the best start in life.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at ed.husic.mp@aph.gov.au or 9625 4344 or visit www.schoolfunding.gov.au.

Attendance SMS

- ◇ **The SMS system is now in place and parent/carers will receive an SMS when their child is absent for a whole day, late to school or absent in one or more periods.**
- ◇ **Replies to these text messages will be considered as valid explanations and the child need not bring a note to school. Please remember to reply with child's FULL name, reason and year.**
- ◇ **Parent/carers are encouraged to have their mobile contact details updated, please obtain an orange change of details form from the school office.**

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE UPDATES Via EMAIL & SMS




Dear Parents / Carers


If you would like to develop an email link with our Head Teacher Administration, Mr. Gordon regarding your child's ATTENDANCE at Plumpton High School, please just send him an email at:


philip.j.gordon@det.nsw.edu.au

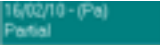
The email should state your name and your child's name and year. He will then add you to his Parent / Carer contact list. This will enable him to send you a graphic (as shown below) displaying your child's attendance record for the term. The graphic will be sent as an email attachment (Word file). This will be a quick form of communication if he has any attendance concerns regarding your child

Wk	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Wk 1			27/01/10 Staff Development Day Yet To Start	28/01/10 - (EX) Yet To Start	29/01/10 Present
Wk 2	01/02/10 Present	02/02/10 Present	03/02/10 - (S) Sick - Whole Day	04/02/10 Present	05/02/10 Present
Wk 3	08/02/10 Present	09/02/10 Present	10/02/10 - (Pa) 09:11 Late Unexp.	11/02/10 Present	12/02/10 - (a) Unexplained
Wk 4	15/02/10 - (Pa) Partial	16/02/10 - (Pa) Partial	17/02/10 - (Pa) Partial	18/02/10 Present	19/02/10 - (EX) Strength
Wk 5	22/02/10 - (Pa) 08:54 Late Unexp.	23/02/10 Present	24/02/10 Present	25/02/10 Present	26/02/10 - (EX) Strength
Wk 6	01/03/10 Present	02/03/10 Present	03/03/10 - (Pa) Partial	04/03/10 - (Pa) 08:48 Late Unexp.	05/03/10 - (EX) Strength
Wk 7	08/03/10 Present	09/03/10 Present	10/03/10 Present	11/03/10 - (EX) Mt Druitt Cup	12/03/10 - (a) Unexplained
Wk 8	15/03/10 - (Pa) Partial	16/03/10 Present	17/03/10 - (Pa) 08:49 Late Unexp.	18/03/10 - (Pa) 09:15 Late Unexp.	19/03/10 - (Pa) Partial
Wk 9	22/03/10 Present	23/03/10 - (Pa) Partial	24/03/10 Present	25/03/10 Present	26/03/10 Present

 05/02/10
Present
Green cell means **present** all 4 lessons that day.

 12/02/10 - (a)
Unexplained
Red cell means **unexplained absence** all day.

 11/03/10 - (EX)
Mt Druitt Cup
Purple cell means a **school activity**; eg. excursion.

 16/02/10 - (Pa)
Partial
Blue cell means at least **one lesson missed** that day.

Remember that there is a very close relationship between high attendance and student success. To encourage students to set high standards for attendance, gold, silver and bronze attendance awards will again be issued at Presentation Day & Graduations in 2012:

Gold Award – 100% attendance (zero days absent)

Silver Award – 99% attendance (1-2 days absent)

Bronze Award – 98% attendance (3-4 days absent)

Note: students may be deemed ineligible for these awards if they are regularly late to school.

SMS NOTIFICATIONS

The school apologises for not being able to send SMS notifications from the beginning of Term 1, 2012. Unfortunately we have had some technical issues that were unavoidable. These issues should have been resolved by the time you are reading this publication and you will now be receiving SMS notifications if your child is either absent from school or late to school. Please reply to these SMS notifications promptly so that your child's attendance record can be updated.

If the school does not have your most recent **mobile number**, could you please contact the school on 9625 7020 or 9625 7525.

ATTENDANCE



Education &
Communities

Public Schools NSW

Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents



Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?

The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

ATTENDANCE

What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent's explanations for their child's absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

- Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences

Parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a meeting with school personnel and other regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree.

If the school and other regional officers have tried to help improve a child's attendance, without success, parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a compulsory attendance conference. The conference will be run by a trained conference convenor. The aim of the conference is for the school, parents (and sometimes their child) and other identified agencies ("the parties") to further identify the issues which are impacting on a child's attendance.

The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.

- Applications to the Children's Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order

Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

If all attempts by schools and regional support staff fail to improve a student's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of \$11,000.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address:

http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help_with_translating/

PLUMPTON EDUCATION COMMUNITY LEADING THE WAY IN W.A.

Eighteen months ago, the schools of the Plumpton Education Community—Glendenning, Plumpton and William Dean Public Schools and Plumpton High School were visited by 15 principals of schools in Western Australia.

As the schools in Western Australia are now required by the Department of Education WA to form networks with schools in the same area, the purpose of their visit was to investigate a number of learning communities that were already functioning in NSW in preparation. They wanted to learn how these communities of primary and high schools operated in providing the highest quality education for their students. They wanted to explore the capacity these communities have in working together to more effectively build upon the learning of their students and they wanted to see the impact these communities were having on student learning and well being.

This group visited learning communities from the Northern Beaches and the inner city also, but they were so impressed with our Plumpton Education Community model that they have since begun laying the foundations for establishing the same structure and processes within their own learning community in an endeavour to not only provide professional support but to improve student learning in their schools.

As a result, two representatives from the Plumpton Education Community, Mrs Janice Azzopardi—relieving Principal William Dean PS and Ms Amanda Cook—Plumpton Education Community Coordinator Plumpton HS, had the privilege of being invited on behalf of PEC, to Perth, Western Australia to present to approximately 350 staff members of the 8 schools within the Darling Range Learning Community for their staff development day on January 30th this year.

We were able to share our journey, our experiences, our successes and our vision for building a learning community—that is to be innovative in our approach to working together to provide your child with the best education possible that will more effectively prepare them for their futures.

This has come about as a result of the countless hours, the incredible commitment, perseverance, passion & enthusiasm that staff, students and the community have contributed to building PEC to what it is today. It is a great compliment to us all to have another group of schools from the other side of the country respect so highly respect what we are doing that they are copying our model so closely! That is something we can all be extremely proud of.

It was an absolute honour to represent the incredibly talented students, professionals and families that make up this wonderful community.

Thank you to all members of the Plumpton Education Community and congratulations to you all for this recognition that is so deserved.

Amanda Cook
PEC Coordinator



LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome to all the new students of PHS.

It has been an unusual start to the term with the library being partly a construction site while the new lift was installed for wheel-chair access to the top and bottom levels. It will be great to get back full use of the fiction area. It seems that we have a good number of Year 7's who enjoy reading, who have been looking forward to checking out the fiction shelves all this time.

Wednesday Reading Club

All new students to the school, senior or junior are invited to join us on a Wednesday at Lunch 2 when we have a special time in the library for quiet reading. All you need is the book you are busy reading in your hand when you arrive at the library door. You are allowed to eat your lunch while reading quietly. We also have a **Book of the Month** Club that you can participate in. Find out about this and other reading challenges by coming to the library on a Wednesday at Lunch 2. Maybe you will be our Reader of the Year 2012 – who knows?

Junior Chess Tournament Wednesday 28th March (Year7-10)

This will decide our PHS junior chess champion, so get practising now. We have several chess sets in the library for you to use at lunch times. If you wish to learn how to play, there is still time. Come and see me to arrange a tutor for you. It is pleasing to see that there is some good talent among the new Year 7's. In the second term we will enter the Met West Secondary Schools' Chess league if there is enough interest from students and parents in this interschool contest. The matches take place on a Friday after school.



Library Cards

All year 7 will be given their photo library ID cards next term. Meanwhile, you can use your temporary one to borrow books, computers and games. Year 11's who wish to get their new photo library card must ask at the library front desk. We will only make them on request. Please take good care of these cards as they will cost \$5 to replace when lost.



Library Activities

It is very useful for students to keep track of what is going within the library so they don't miss out on the fun/social activities that we arrange for them. There are chances to have some fun and to win small prizes throughout the year. I will announce/advertise these in plenty of time, so...

- ◇ Check the library notice board and foyer area.
- ◇ Listen to the Student Bulletin on a Monday.
- ◇ Check their portal emails frequently.

We wish everyone a great 2012 and look forward to seeing you all in the library.

Mrs Pitt (Teacher-Librarian)

Mrs Hollingworth and Mrs Vincent (Library Assistants)

PEER SUPPORT

Peer Support 2012

The Peer Support program is a program where year 10 students lead groups of year 7 students. The program focuses on encouraging students to feel a part of a group and to help them cope with change. The students learn skills of resilience to help them with the change from Primary student to Secondary student.

The following groups and leaders have been set up to work together for semester 1.

7 Benn 1

Leaders: Ashley Dominey & Ciara Parker

Rupert Arocha, Ava Bieg, Taylor Bradbury, Liam Brewer, Jamie-Lee Brooks, Angela Buttigieg, Britney Buttita

Leaders: Mohamad Darwiche & Rodrigo Gonzales

Billy Buttriss, Brittany Clark, Jamielea Crofts, Jitarna Ellis, Madelyn Gibbons, Robert Goodwin, Ty James Hilton

Leaders: Grant Slingerland & Cameron Weidle

Hani Jamous, Kyle Janes, Maria Lui, Tiana Mansfield, Ryan Muir, Kirsten Nugal, Toelau Paese, Godofredo Perez Jr

Leaders: Jessica McCubben, Emma Geering & Chloe Baker

Jahi Pritchard, Jacob Rendall, Tahlia Sampson, Kaydi Scott, Courtney Snape, Connor Steere, Taniela Tuipulotu, Sanel Yusuf

7 Benn 2

Leaders: Kerri-Anne Kendrick & Sarah Murray

Crystal Archibald, Julianna Aunese, Tori Lee Baker, Chloe Benson, Leonie Cox, Alicia Dance, Brandon David

Leaders: Alyssa Williams, Ann-Marie Jarrett & Joshua Kovacs

Tyla-Lee Farrell, Brandon Gill, Brittany Grover, Samir Hasani, Cameron Honeysett, Jayson Kersten, Adrian Lim

Leaders: Taylor Gibbons & Danielle Perry

Terina Mercia, Volkan Mert, Isabella Mirian, Danielle Mitchell, Joshua Nathan, David Nichols, Bryaleigh-Joan Ogier, Amy-Lee Perry

Leaders: Ashley Hughes & Jessica Flood

Brittney Reid, Renz Sinchongco, Angus Sloane, Lachlan Smith, Damon Sutton, Charles Taumaialo Chantelle Treharne, Jacob Weyman

7 Benn 3

Leaders: Grant Brooks & Kyle Langfield

Shaleen Ali, Kayleen Andrews, Jacob Aquilina, Corey Chandler, Jamie Collacchi, Isa Darwiche, Sonua Dorizas

Leaders: Tayla Firth & Arooj Javed

Gaviola Shannen, Gentles Joel, Godoy Enrique, Halasz Nathan, Jamous Vanessa Jeffery Blake, Karailias Damon

Leaders: Brittany Muller & Tayla Meath

Lillian Kava, Pio Misa, Melanie Mosley, Maykala Muller, Mariam Mzazkak, Reece Podeschwa, Jarrad Ryan, Christian Sigua

Leaders: Jessica Flynn & Lisa Huntington

Chantel Stenner, Chelsea Sullivan, Emily Sundstrom, Joshua Tupu, Amina Usman, Brooke Zammit, Abdul Zraika

PEER SUPPORT

Peer Support 2012

7 DaVinci

Leaders: Jamila Bawani, Sacha Prasad & Deena Halim

Zohal Abawi, Sara Amir, Jennifer Asma, Joshua Azzopardi, Emily Briggs, Gavan Calleja, Jacob Coutman

Leaders: Jake Cullen & Brodie Routh

Dean Devine, Madeleine Duggan, Matthew Egelton, Abigail Foster, Deniz Jaberiyani Far, Griffin Jacobs, Cloe Jensen

Leaders: Jacob Lambert & Rhys Tolliday

Prabhjot Kaur, Mal Lavemai, Shinia Le Miere, Yeng Luo, Tia Manukau, Hadeze Mason, Jessica McDonald, Corey McGorm Powell

Leaders: Chloe Cunningham & Blake Toogood

Jessica McMahon, James Nash, Sonia Pillay, Zohaib Popal, Nathan Pritchard, Jade Shelton, Tenneill Wade, Katrina Wall

7 Mabo 1

Leaders: John Trinidad & Adeel Shams

Jayden Cartwright, Maddyson Chapple, Maddeha Farooqi, Brayden Furneyvall, Taylor Goggin-Edwards, Alec Gonzalez, Blake Harsh

Leaders: Stanley Gorrie & Julie Reynoso

Kyeisha Himor, Christian Hipolito, Kinza Ilyas, Mathew Jarrett, Tayla Kovacs, Kye Lean, Angel Marfil

Leaders: Rebecca Gomez & Rhona Gallon

Breannah Murtagh, Jed Obra, Christina Rathod, Joshua Ross, Irvan Salindeho, Tyler Shearer, Alicia Sivies

Leaders: Roslyn Obra & Fitria Rashid

Daniel Slager, Baden Smith, Joel Stein, Taylor-Ann Thompson, Jordan Van Baars, Joma Velasco, Maria Warren

7 Mabo 2

Leaders: Shaylee Clark & Lauren Chapple

Marc Austria, Mitchell Bland, Priya Chand, Raajal Chand, Anthony Collier, Jaime-Lee Davies, Brittany-Jade Davis

Leaders: Montanna Ceh-Stone, Jessica Honeysett & Kiara Fittler

Hayden Dobson, Shantae Fedrick-Lupica, Antonio Fungavaka, Corryn Gafa, Christian Gatchalian, Jonathon Inman, Blake Isenberg, Muhammad Javed

Leaders: Jaidan Grech & Hayden Whitehouse

Afifa Kausar, Brendan Lal, Blake Loveday, Kasey Loveridge, Mariah Marfil, Kelli McAnespie, Harrison Moise, Luke Murray

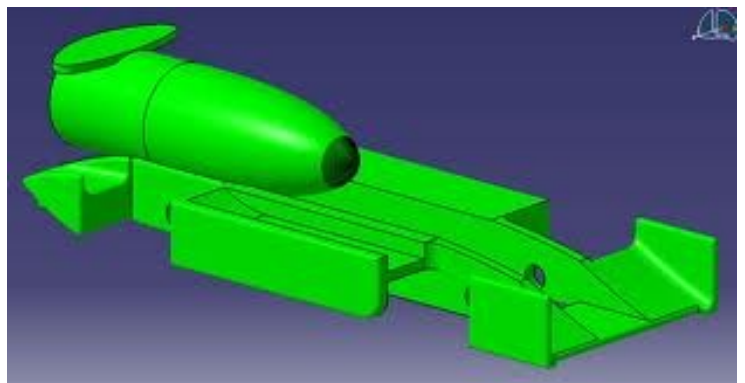
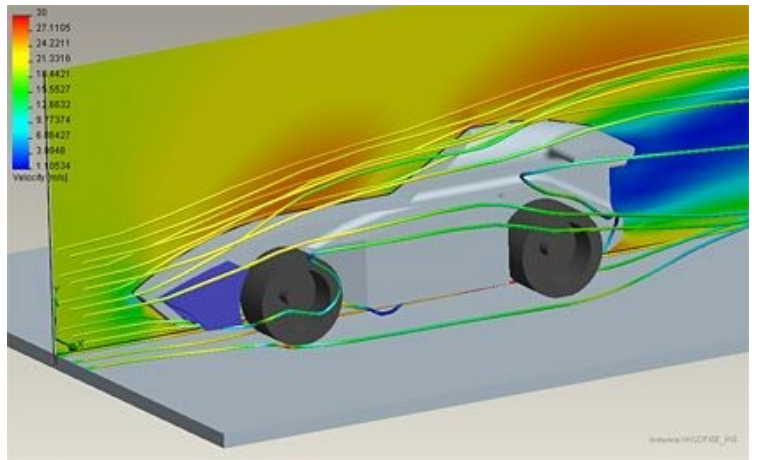
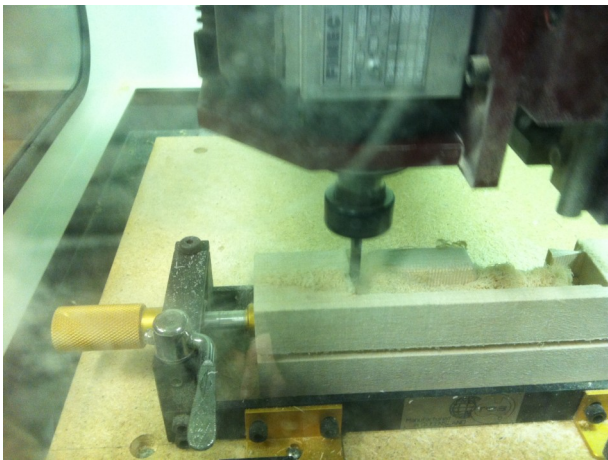
Leaders: Kristina Vernon & Tiahne Hilton

Joey Muscat, Sanjeevni Nand, Joshua Plackett, Bradley Robinson, Christopher Sansom, Joy Tedeschi, Lachlan Whitehouse, Jasmine Rose Williams

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

F1 in Schools

F1 in Schools is an international competition for Engineering students in Year 9 and Year 10, in which groups of 3 to 5 students have to design and manufacture a miniature "F1 car" out of balsa wood using CAD/CAM design tools. The cars are powered by CO₂ cartridges and are attached to a track by a thin wire. The cars have to follow specific guidelines (e.g. the wheels of the car must be in contact the track at all times). The cars are raced on a 24m long track with two lanes, to allow two cars to be raced simultaneously. Students use CAD software called Pro Engineer to design their F1 cars and then F1 Virtual Wind Tunnel to simulate air resistance on the "cars" made in using CAD. The next stage requires each student to machine out their cars using Plumpton High Schools very own CNC machine, this enables the students to build F1 cars that they designed in CAD to extremely close tolerances. Finally students then must assemble their cars, wheels, axles and paint them in team colours in order to race against each other and to compete regionally against other schools. If the students do well at that stage they may even battle against other states at a national level and then at the World Championships, which are often held in conjunction with a real Formula One event. Last year's world champions are called the Pentagliders and are from Brooks High School in Tasmania. Despite its name, the style of the competition makes it more similar to drag racing rather than Formula One, yet the whole process has been designed to closely resemble the real world of design and innovation in Formula One.



GUIDANCE

Year 10

Year 10 Guidance classes will be taking part in Clean up Australia Day. They will be weeding and mulching the gardens near Bottles Rd and the Nature Trail as well as removing rubbish and recyclables from the quad, nature trail and back oval areas. Taking part on Clean up Australia day will help to give the students a sense of pride in their school and community.

Also as a sense of community Blacktown City Council has donated to the school a compost bin that will be used to compost the weeds collected on Clean up Australia Day. It will also be used for green waste from Agriculture lessons and Food Technology lessons.

During Guidance in 2011 the student were asked to design and develop a fund raising project to raise money in support of World Vision. The 9 Guidance classes raised a grand total of \$570.00. World Vision has a gift catalogue where you can choose gifts for underdeveloped families or communities to help improve their lives. The students have decided to spend their money on:

- ◇ A water and sanitation package for a village
- ◇ Immunisations for a village
- ◇ A food for life package a family
- ◇ Tools for trade package for a village
- ◇ Pencils, school material and sports equipment for a school
- ◇ Toys
- ◇ Emergency food for children package
- ◇ Training a teacher

I am very proud of the students and all the effort they have put into their class fundraising projects to ensure others can have a better quality of life.



World Vision[®]

Building a better world for children

ENGLISH



This term Year 10 English students are studying a picture book entitled The Red Tree by the very talented artist, Shaun Tan. Students are developing skills in visual literacy and gaining further practise in writing quality paragraphs and essays. This unit is taught through the concept of 'Hope'. Below are some of the clever 'hope' metaphors and similes created by students in the Year 10 da Vinci class.

Hope is the hurl over life's brutal mountain. The core of the struggle is not the immense fall, it is the fragile crawl back to the peak of your success."

Taylor Meath

"Hope is... the poison that intoxicates the existence of two lovers willing to stay with each other for eternity."

Montanna Ceh Stone

"Hope is a dim light trapped in a shadow of fear."

Sarah Murray

"Hope is like the radiant north star guiding our distressed souls.

Hope is like a sunken seaweed shrouded in the midst of sand.

Hope is the distant light which lures my distressed soul."

Adeel Shams

"Hope is the echo across a river of silence."

Alyssa Williams



ENGLISH

Hope...

“Hope is the momentary illumination emerging through the cracked bleakness of life.”

Alvin Kumar

“Hope is the momentary light disrupting the dreary shadows.”

Kerrie Anne Kendrick

“Hope is the fragile star that soars through the deep, dark regions of our cracked and poisoned dreams.”

Lachlan Douglas

“Hope is a glimmering, twinkling star always in its periphery, a beacon for the homecoming lost soul- a guide to a sojourner in darkness...”

Rosalyn Obra

“Hope is... as fragile as a feather.

Hope is... momentary, leaving behind radiance and courage.”

Arooj Javed

“Hope is like a fragile flower, waiting for the sun’s warmth to gently rest upon it.”

Tayla Firth

“Hope is the fragile glimmer off light illuminating through the crack.

Hope is the momentary echo resonating in the bleak abyss.”

Mathew Brock

“Hope is the echo behind our vulnerable heart.”

Jessica Honeysett

“Hope is the journey which forces us forward to find what’s at the end of the path.”

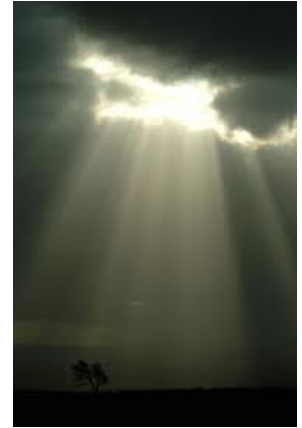
John Trinidad

“Hope is the bright light shining through the darkest hours.”

Fitria Rashid

“Hope is the rose in a bush of thorns.”

Hayden Whitehouse



PDHPE

PDHPE News!

Congratulations to all those students who achieved success in PDHPE in the HSC last year and a special mention goes to Ben Gerard who achieved a Band 6 in PDHPE!! Great work!

We have had a busy start to 2012 in the PDHPE faculty!

School Swimming Carnival

The swimming carnival was a huge success, we didn't let the weather rain on our parade! The teachers' race saw Mr Clowes defend his place as the fastest in the pool and Miss Sinderberry, Emmalee Saaghy and I were able to teach Mr Mortimer that cheaters never prosper, when they were still able to win the novelty teacher student triathlon. Year 12 dressed up for the occasion in an orange themed fancy dress and successfully got their Year Advisers into the pool. Well done to all the students who attended on the day and to the students who had a go!

A special mention to our Age Champions:

12 Years Girls:	Cloe Jensen	13 Years Boys:	Jamie Collachi
13 Years Girls:	Tayla Martin	14 Years Boys:	William Andrews
14 Years Girls:	Georgia Lambert	15 Years Boys:	Joshua McKay
15 Years Girls:	Jessica Flynn		Wakkurri Ellis
16 Years Girls:	Brittany Good		Jacob Lambert
17 Years Girls:	Emmalee Saaghy	16 Years Boys:	Blake Toogood
		17 Years boys:	Todd Martin

Attendance numbers were slightly down although the performances in the pool were still of a very high quality and the spirits of the crowd were not dampened. Numerous records were broken, especially in the girls events. Emma Saaghy, Brittany Good and Tayla Martin were exceptional with their individual performances and continued their success at Mt Druitt Zone Carnival. Our school won the Senior School division and placed second overall. We wish all of our representatives good luck at the Western Sydney Region championships.

A huge thankyou to Mr Nicholls for excelling in the organisation of the carnival and to all staff and parents who helped out on the day.

We have a number of knockout sports starting this term, please see the PDHPE noticeboard if you are interested in joining a team! Any year 9 and 10 girls interested in playing Rugby League please see Ms Lawson.

Students who are interested in representing the school or the zone in any sport, need to check the sports noticeboard outside the PDHPE staffroom regularly. Currently there are opportunities for basketball, touch football, rugby league, cricket and soccer. Check the noticeboard or see Mr Simonovski in the PDHPE staffroom for more details.

Ms Lawson
HT PDHPE Faculty

Continued on next page

PDHPE

Plumpton Knockout Basketball

Plumpton Boys Basketball team will be playing against Cambridge Park High School in the first round. Congratulations to the following students who have made the team:

Wilson Junior Blanco	Nico Banting	Roger Bernado
Wilson John Blanco	Naethiel Lumbera	Anpherny Manese
Nicco Santos	Ofiu Manukeu	Jhade Tудtud
Junaid Ahmad		

Zone Football (Soccer)

Congratulations to the following students who have made the Zone Football (soccer) team:

Amanda Palka	Jessica Parodi	Jillian Zarate
Amelia McKay	Pheara Ban	Shanice Lagaaia
Mikayla Mantouoglou	Natasha Young	Rebekah Kidd

They will be playing at the Sydney West Football Trials at Hills Sports High School on Monday 5th of March.

Zone Rugby Union

Congratulations to the following students who have made the Zone Rugby Union team:

Sasha Pansacala	Jodecy Dunlop	Charlie Nisa
Ofiu Manukeu	Nise Taulimo-Tofoeno	

They will now be attending the Penrith trial at Nepean High School.

Mr Simonovski Sports Organiser

Plumpton High Knockout Volleyball

The Plumpton High Girls Volleyball team are through to the second round in the knockout tournament where they will play Granville South. Congratulations to the whole squad which includes the following players:

Sophia Petelo	Martha Soakai	Kaleioni Soaki
Shontei Felice	Ahavakaia Pinomi	Setaita Manukeu
Leta Aunese	Sonya Taumaialo	Gloria Loto
Daejiahn Fuimaono	Rose Nasio	

NSW CHS Girls Volleyball Championship

Congratulations to Sonya Taumaialo, Leta Aunese and Shontae Felise who represented Mt Druitt Zone in the Sydney West Volleyball Trials on Friday 17th February. All three girls displayed an outstanding level of skill and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Mt Druitt finished in second place in a very competitive final.

From the Sydney West Volleyball Trials a team was selected to represent the Sydney West in the NSW CHS Girls Volleyball Championship on the 13th-15th March 2012. Congratulations to Sonya Taumaialo and Leta Aunese who were both selected in the team.

Mr Salt PDHPE Teacher

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics

Every student can do maths!

I hear and I forget
I see and I remember
I do and I understand

Ancient Proverb

This proverb is particularly relevant for achieving understanding in Mathematics! It is critical that students listen, watch and practice new concepts in order to master them. **Studies have shown that if a new skill is not practised within 24 hours, up to 50% can be forgotten.** If it is not practised within 72 hours, up to 85-90% can be forgotten! This means that it is critical that students complete some maths homework within 24 hours of the class, otherwise the skill might be lost. At Plumpton High School, **students will be given homework most lessons**, relating to the topic done in class. When homework is not specified, it is expected that student will revise what they have learnt in class and catch up on any missed exercises. Only by doing this will your child achieve better results in Mathematics.

Equipment

A reminder, that calculators are a critical piece of equipment in maths classes from Year 7 to 12. Many students are coming without calculators to class and are unable to complete the work being covered. The level of calculation needed to do the more complex Mathematics means that it takes too long for students to do the working out in their head and thus, miss out on new information. **Calculators are available at the front office for \$17.** If any student requires financial assistance to purchase please come and see me.

Year 10 Gifted and Talented Day

On the 21st February, 4 students: Joshua Douglas, Alvin Kumar, Adeel Shams and John Trinidad went to Doonside High School to participate in a Gifted and Talented Mathematics Day. They participated in a number of challenging activities, both mental and applied, competing with students from other Western Sydney schools. The students represented the school admirably and had an interesting and rewarding day. Thanks to Mrs Shammi Prasad for working with the students on the day.

2012 Mathematics Competition

We will shortly be giving information about the 2012 Mathematics Competition. Students in the daVinci classes are encouraged to participate and compete with students around Australia. This is a great activity to add to your Citizenship Continuum!

Ms Devine

Head Teacher Mathematics

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Two Ways Together Scholarship

It was a proud moment for the Plumpton education Community when Dean Wright Year 12 and Rhys Tolliday Year 10 were awarded individual scholarships of \$1000. Under “Two Ways Together Scholarships” initiative each year a number of Aboriginal students are encouraged to apply for the scholarship; last year 46 applicants from various schools around the western region applied for this prestigious scholarship and only 16 students were chosen according to their academic excellence

In the presence of the Aboriginal community our students represented themselves in a mature manner and gave our school tremendous pride. We congratulate them and wish them good luck in their further academic endeavours.



Uncle Wes with Dean Wright and Rhys Tolliday

HOME ECONOMICS

Textiles Technology

Home Economics faculty is running **Textiles Technology subject** for Year 9 and Year 10 in 2012. It is a 200hr course. Textiles Technology will contribute to the overall education of students by enabling them to confidently use a range of technologies and create an awareness of related career pathways and leisure pursuits. The course encourages students to be proactive, competent, creative, responsible and reflective learners able to take part in further study, work or training.

A study of Textiles Technology provides students with a broad knowledge of the properties, performance and uses of textiles in which fabrics, colouration, yarns and fibres are explored. Project Work that includes investigation and experimentation will enable students to discriminate in their choices of textiles for particular uses.

Students will be participating in practical activities focusing on various areas for example furnishings, apparel, textile arts, costume and non-apparel. Students should pay their \$40 fees for materials and supplies to the front office as soon as possible.

Mrs A Narayan
Textiles Teacher

COMMUNITY NEWS

Learner Drivers



Some of your students may have their Learner driving licence and their parents and family may have some questions about helping complete the 120 hours of supervised driving.

The next **free** workshop for people who are assisting a Learner drivers is:

When: Tuesday 13th March
Time: 6pm till 8pm
Where: The Hub, Room 4, Dawson Mall, Mount Druitt
Phone: 9839 6014...



GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEAD START!

GKR Karate is conducting classes for children, adults and families in your area.

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- ✓ Learn Self Defence

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NETBALL PLAYERS

Hassall Grove Netball Club is looking for players.

Do you know someone who is between the ages of 5yrs and 8yrs?

Do you think that they would like to play netball?

Call Sharon: 0478 179 694

First Game: Saturday 21st April - Blackett
First Training: Monday 5th March - Hassall Grove



SOCCER PLAYERS

Plumpton/Oakhurst Soccer Club is looking for players.

Are you in the following age group?
Would you like to play soccer?

Boys U15, U13, U11, U10, U8, U7, U9, U6, U5
Girls U14G x 1, U16G x 1, U18G x 1, AAL x 2

Call Katrina Ena (Registrar) : 0409 564 104