



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

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CALENDAR 2011

TERM 2

13th June - Queens
Birthday Public Holiday

14th - 15th June
Staff Development Days

20th - 30th June - Year 12
Trial Examinations

1st July - Last Day Term 2

TERM 3

18th July - First Day
All Students

26th July - Senior Subject
Selection Night

27th- 28th July
Sydney West Athletics

2nd August
Year 12 Photos

16th August
Parent/Teacher Night

29th August
Year 7 Immunisation

5th - 13th September
Year 11 Yearly Exams

16th September - Year 12
Excellence Ceremony

22nd September - Year 12
Farewell Assembly

23rd September - Last
Day Term 3

LINK-UP

TERM 2 WEEK 6 2011

Principal's Message

Principal's Report:

Already we are close to the half way point of the year. The amazing programs and the achievements of our staff and students give us good reason to be proud.

Year 7 Camp

It seemed like *déjà vu* when gale force winds and rain were predicted in the Illawarra region for the first day of camp. This was exactly the same scenario as the 2010 camp and just as it did last year the following two days could not have been better.

At the Stanwell Tops venue over 100 students participated in a myriad of activities that tested their fears and built confidence. The behaviour of Year 7 was faultless and many new friendships were forged. The leadership of the Year 10 peer support leaders was exemplary and their contributions were a significant factor in the overall success of the camp.



The giant swing, high ropes, go-karts, survivor and abseiling provided non-stop action during the day while karaoke (led by Mr Domingo) and trivia completed the evening time slots. It was no wonder that everyone looked like they were looking forward to a well earned rest when they returned Friday afternoon.

Congratulations must go to Ms O'Connor for the enormous amount of time and effort that she devoted to such meticulous organisation and to Ms Landon, Ms Montana, Mr Simonovski and Mr Domingo for their outstanding contributions and supervision.

Each year the camps appear to just get better and better.

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

Examinations

Year 12 will be commencing their HSC Trial examinations on Monday 20th June. These examinations form a significant proportion of the overall HSC assessment mark for each subject. I am confident that every student has prepared well and we can look forward to many positive results. We wish them all the very best of luck.

Blacktown Youth Ambassador Program

Each year for the last twenty nine years Blacktown Council has called for nominations from all students between the age of 15 and 18 to represent the youth of Blacktown by way of public speaking at events such as civic ceremonies and to attend the National Sister Cities Conference. It is open to both public and private schools and there are only two ambassadors chosen. When you consider that the population of Blacktown is approximately 350 000 this is quite an honour.

After the culling of applications the final selection process involved an interview, a written quiz, and a five minute presentation on this year's theme "to highlight the benefits of Sister Cities Agreements to the people of Blacktown".

Since 1999 the students of Plumpton High School have developed a strong reputation within this event and this year was no exception.

I was privileged to be at the finals night where year eleven student Dean Wright made it to the final four positions. Dean was outstanding with a very well delivered speech that made everyone proud. Blacktown City Mayor, Councillor Alan Pendleton stated that the results were the closest that he had ever witnessed. Although Dean's name was not announced as one of the ambassadors for this year he can be extremely proud of his exemplary efforts and the manner in which he represented himself, his family and the school.

Beacon Foundation

On Thursday 19th May the inaugural charter signing of the Beacon "No Dole Program" took place. We witnessed every student in Year 10 sign a charter that will be permanently displayed in the Performing Arts hall. This will provide a reminder and permanent motivation towards 'no dole' and signify a commitment to a positive future employment pathway after school.

Ms Tanti did an amazing job organising this very successful and professional ceremony. Amongst the special guests was Mark Geyer, former Australian Rugby League international and MMM radio announcer. He was very impressed with the program and spoke highly of the school and the program on air during his radio segment.

Continued on next page

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
- collect a printed version from the front office at the school

Principal's Message Continued

Building Program

The new hall is making outstanding progress with the interior now giving us a real indication of how the finished product will look. The tiling of the toilet walls and the interior block work for the tiered seating and the individual rooms are almost complete. The floating ceilings are in place and the painting of walls and the laying of the stage floorboards are commencing as this article is being written.

Staff and students are already rehearsing for the opening sPECtacular that will involve students from all Plumpton Education Community (PEC) schools.

The school sporting facilities have also had some welcome improvements with the resurfacing of the outdoor basketball courts with a special rubberised compound. This was thanks to a grant that was successfully attained by the wonderful work of relieving Head Teacher PDHPE, Mr Mortimer.

The cricket nets have also had the two concrete pitches extended to full length pitches thanks to the work of Mr Phillips, the Work Studies class and the Construction Elective students.



Staff Development Days

As has been the practice in previous years Plumpton High School does not have staff development days **on the first day of Term 2 & 3. These days are reserved for the first two days after the Queen's Birthday** long weekend. On Tuesday 14th June and Wednesday 15th June all staff from Plumpton High School, Plumpton Public, Glendenning Public and William Dean Public will participate together in numerous professional development workshops. The keynote speaker for the event is Canadian Ms Lane Clark, an international expert on teaching and learning. There will be no classes for students on these days and school will resume for all students on Thursday 16th June.

Uniform

On a final note congratulations to the vast majority of students that wear their uniform every day. This is extremely important as it develops school pride and helps to provide a safe and secure environment where all students can be easily identified.

Peter Ezzy
Relieving Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

Library News Term 2



Our library

GENERAL

Our library monitors for 2011 are as follows:

Sarah Murray, Rikki-Lee Balcombe, Maryam and Aaima Kausar, Christa Schmitt, Amy Simpson, Alex Bulan and Kate Walker.

Wendy McMillan as a Year 11 student has been given Honorary status as she has given service for the past four years. She offers help whenever her senior studies allow the time.

We have a number of Year 7 apprentices 'in training'. We will know who has been successful quite soon.

This year we have introduced **new library ID cards**. All seniors, Year 7 and 9 should have them by now. If not, please come to the library to collect yours. Take good care of them. To replace them will cost you \$5. Your card is a tool needed

for efficient learning, along with other class equipment and should be brought to school every day. It is no good to anyone kept at home. Year 8 and 10 will get their new cards **next year** – be sure to keep your yellow one until then.

Before the Easter holidays we created an Easter display of student work (mainly monitors). This included an Easter cake created by me as a reward for good Term1 monitorship.

The photo is of some of the monitors around the display.



LIBRARY NEWS

CHESS

After a successful school chess contest last term we have our teams for the Interschool Tournament. The **Junior team**, all in Year 7 this year, are as follows: Ayush Kumar, Tyrone Stanley, Vikash Maharaj, Nicholas Douglas and Jacob McHale.

The Intermediate team of Year 9 and 10 is as follows: Nicholas Davey, Marshall Sivies, Josh Douglas, Keinan Brown and Yas Ozyurtkan. Many thanks to the parents who are helping with the transport to other schools, it is much appreciated as there are some long distances to travel.



Junior

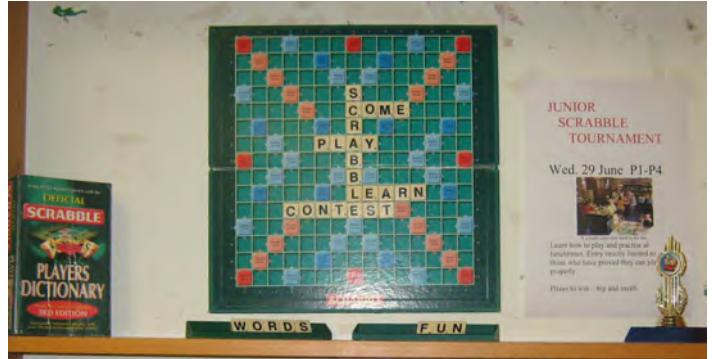


Intermediate (Absent – Yas Ozyurtkan)

SCRABBLE

This term we will be holding the Junior Scrabble Tournament on Wednesday 29 June. Several Year 7 and 8 students have been learning how to play properly during lunchtimes whilst striving to get the highest score possible with the handy techniques and strategies that they have learnt.

All Year 7-10 students are welcome to come along to these Scrabble sessions. Entry to the tournament is limited to those who have shown that they have learnt to play a proper game. We have a really good time. New students to the school should come along and meet other students while having some fun. Scrabble is a great way to develop the literacy side of the brain.



READING CLUB (Wed. Lunch 2)

It is good to see that several Year 7's have taken advantage of this quiet time in the library for reading and some are participating in the Book of the Month Club. Anyone can join us – all years - as a regular, or just occasionally, so long as they **have a fiction book in their hand as they walk through the library door**. In Winter it is lovely to read quietly in the warmth of the library while eating your lunch. This is another opportunity for new students to meet others and feel a sense of belonging.

Books of the Month for June are:

Juicy Gossip (Yr 7-8) - Jenna is editor of the school newspaper and is sooo embarrassed when her parents open a juice bar at the local mall.... A fun, fresh, quick read.

Sea Dreamer (Yr 8+) – an absorbing novel of friendship and shifting loyalties and those who dare to be different, like Cassie.

English Extension 1 Study Day

HSC English Extension 1 students in 2011 are studying the crime fiction genre.

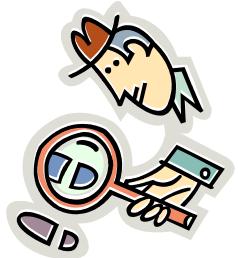
Crime stories reliably contain the following conventions:

- * an isolated setting
- * a detective or investigator
- * the accretion of evidence/clues
- * the denouement or solving of the crime
- * red herrings
- * the suggestion of other underlying social concerns or issues.

Read below to see how our study day measured up to these conventions.

The Facts:

- ⌚ Deceptively busy and yet also very isolated setting:
Newington College, Stanmore
- ⌚ Sunday, 15th May 2011. 8:45am - 5:00pm
- ⌚ 6 clever students
- ⌚ 1 erudite teacher
- ⌚ Topic: CRIME WRITING



The Evidence:

- The speakers presented us with 'clues' that will help us with our compositions and that expanded our knowledge about the examination.
- We practised being detectives in our own way - finding the nearest McDonalds restaurant and embarking on a land search for missing students Sharriff and Robert.
- The denouement: All agreed the day was valuable in helping to refine or cement their understanding of the requirements of the English Extension 1 course.
- Subtext/underlying social commentary: Miss O'Connor is a good driver, despite her random moments of spoken interior monologue. Also, the Herald promised they would deliver their newspaper for free to every student - surely a reason to be suspicious about their hidden agenda.
- The red herrings, you ask? Well, after a day of furiously writing down all the information provided by all the speakers, it was revealed in the final, dying minutes that all the presentations would be available online. How did that trick pass by our exceptional detecting abilities? Ah, until the next mystery emerges...



*Special thanks to
Mr Farrugia and
Mr Rahman for helping us
with transport on the day!*



HOME ECONOMICS

Year 7/8 Home Economics

This term students in Home Economics performed well and participated in the many practical tasks. In the Technology Mandatory course year 7 students participated in the Blacktown Show.



They baked and decorated the cakes which were entered into the competition and were *highly commended* for their efforts.

The following students participated in the competition:

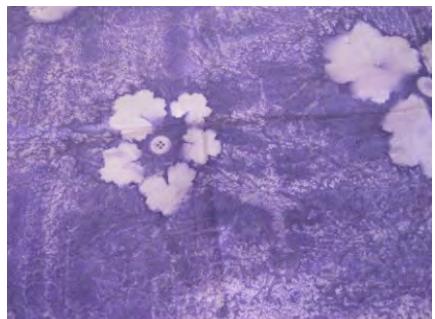
Rose Nasio, Shivneel Kumar, Hayden Sundstrom, Chantelle Mackin

In the Textiles component of the Technology Mandatory course, students were shown various fabric decoration techniques by a guest artist. Every student in 8 Tech 10 and 8 Tech 4 participated in this workshop which was run at school.

Guest Artist running the workshop.



End product of heliographic printing



Year 12 Hospitality

During Week 3 of term the Year 12 Hospitality students completed their Industry work placements. They were given various cafes and restaurants in the St Marys, Blacktown and Mt Druitt areas. One student even travelled to the Reserve Bank in Martin Place.

While on work placement the students were able to utilise the skills that they had learnt in class, within an industry setting. Brendan Brims, Vanessa Sanchez, Rowen Gallon, Jay Cummings and Gabriela Barbor were all offered employment by their employers and Jay was also awarded 2010 Employee Workplace Award from his 1st work place. This means he was nominated by his employer for being the best student to work with all year.

I am very proud of all of the students. They all received wonderful comments from their employers. The skills they have learnt will be useful in the future.

Mrs O'Neil

Peer Support Camp - 2011

When: 25th - 27th May, 2011

Where: Stanwell Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops

Who: 86 Year 7 students, 14 Year 10 Leaders, Ms Montana, Ms Landon, Mr Simonovski, Mr Domingo and Ms O'Connor.

Why: To have fun!

Our start to the 2011 camp wasn't fantastic to begin with. We arrived Wednesday morning to a freezing, fierce wind that threatened to keep everyone inside. Shortly after it rained and many found themselves wanting to curl up under their blankets in their cabins. Especially the teachers!

Night 1 saw a face-off between the teachers and students in a classic game of trivia. Unfortunately the teachers lost, but we're fairly sure it was due to some dubious cheating by the hosts.

Thankfully day 2 proved to be beautiful and meant we could all continue with our activities for the day - abseiling, giant swing, Survivor challenge, Go-Karts and high ropes. All students had a fabulous time getting in and out of harnesses, helmets and high-heels...and that was just the boys!

Day 2 also saw a surprise visit from infamous paparazzi stalker, Mr Ezzy, who was caught red-handed hiding in the bushes trying to take photos of the ever-elusive Ms O'Connor and Ms Landon on the high ropes course.

Of course, no camp could go by without some drama or excitement, and that came with poor Mitchell Guthrie who broke his leg playing touch footy. He seemed to be in good spirits by the time Ms O'Connor arrived back from the giant swing, but then again, he had been given a dose of morphine to help with the pain. (see photo)



Despite the loss of Mitchell, night 2 saw the students put on their Sunday best to enjoy a dance-off at the disco. Who could forget the Year 10 girls surrounding Jayden Mallinson?

The final day was sunny and warm as the groups headed out for the final two activities. Jumping rocks, lost mobile phones, deceitful instructors, sore legs, bursting bladders, tired eyes and utter exhaustion were not enough to slow this year group down! The teachers, well, they told a different story...



Ms O'Connor



YEAR 7 CAMP



YEAR 7 CAMP



YEAR 7 CAMP



CAREERS

Engineers Without Borders Visit

On Thursday of Week 1 Term 2 Year 11 Mathematics participated in a workshop run by 'Engineers Without Borders'.

This group of highly enthusiastic university students from UNSW, UTS USYD and Macquarie Uni, conducted an enthralling presentation and simulation on the challenges of fresh water provision for communities.

Our students became thoroughly engaged in the simulation as the sequence below illustrates.



CAREERS

teach.NSW

Two year 12 students Suelynn Petrella, Sharriff Rahman and our Careers Coordinator Ian Egan attended the teach.NSW presentation at Parramatta Town Hall on 23/05/2011.

The event was hosted by well known speaker, author and comedian Anh Do.

Ahn's intense narrative skills and deft interview work with the students and guest speakers was inspiring. Sharriff Rahman, represented PHS in an excellent manner, being the first student to ask questions in the hall and surviving several rounds of "heads and tails".

Suelynn as always presented herself in a sophisticated and intelligent manner and bought credit to the school.

One of the guest speakers Mr David Smith from our own Science Staff related his decision process in becoming a teacher, so well that there wasn't a dry eye in the house. Please see presentation below.



BEACON FOUNDATION

Beacon No Dole Program Update

Working together for a better tomorrow.

This year Plumpton High has been fortunate to receive funding and support from two organisations, Beacon Foundation and United Way, to assist in the support of Year 10 students in finding suitable pathways for the future. Students in Year 10 will be given opportunities to meet with business people, attend training programs, prepare for job interviews, participate in work experience and attend career expos.

In Term 1 2011, the Beacon No Dole Program was officially launched with a successful breakfast attended by over 20 local and national businesses. From this launch we were able to form many highly successful partnerships with business who have pledged their support to Plumpton High.

Plumpton hosted the ambassador training for Beacon ambassador students who were trained in networking and public speaking. This has led to greater confidence and leadership for our student ambassadors. Plumpton High also hosted the prestigious "Lunch with the Girls" event which allowed 20 of our female students to work in small groups with our business mentors, the topics included happiness, self esteem, history of women in the workforce and public speaking. The day was concluded with a brief presentation of certificates and self awareness bracelets. The last event held in Term 1 involved Toll Logistics who sent 20 representatives to mentor 20 students one on one. This event involved mainly male students and achieved positive outcomes for the students involved.

Term 2 has been busy already. The first event was the Charter Signing. It is a charter which the students, business representatives, community leaders and parents were invited to sign, pledging the student's commitment to either further study or employment. All Beacon schools hold this event and the charter once signed is hung on the wall and kept as a reminder. Each year a new charter will be added to the wall as a symbol of the Plumpton High's commitment to achieving the best possible future for our students. Mark Geyer, from the Triple M Grill Team was a guest at our charter signing and he spoke very highly about the program and the students at Plumpton High School on Monday 23rd May.



BEACON FOUNDATION

Other events in Term 2 include industry visits to the following:

- Greens Food for students interested in food production, marketing or transport
- Westfield Shopping Behind the Scenes Tour for students interested in retail and marketing
- Komatsu for students interested in the automotive industry
- Park Royal Hotel Uncovered for students interested in hospitality and food preparation

There will be many more events in Terms 3 and 4. These events include mock interviews, speed careering, further industry tours, BBQ with the Boys and blackboard events in the classroom.

Students will be invited to attend each event based on the career goals that they have indicated. I am working hard to provide our students with more opportunities than the events listed. If you or your workplace are able to provide assistance please contact me.

Dates to remember:

- Friday 22 July 2011 – Speed Careering day – all Year 10 students will attend the career expo
- Thursday 1st September 2011 – Mock Interview Day – all Year 10 students will be interviewed by employers to practice their interview skills

Hayley Tanti
Beacon Coordinator



KOMATSU

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

What's on in Industrial Arts?

There have been a lot of exciting things happening in Industrial Arts this term. Apart from the usual completion of practical projects and plantings at the Ag Plot, we have received a new and exciting machine, a CNC Router, and a new and exciting calf (Holstein Friesian).

The CNC Router

The CNC router is major piece of equipment that will substantially enhance the way IA subjects are run and it will bring greater industry relevance to our courses.

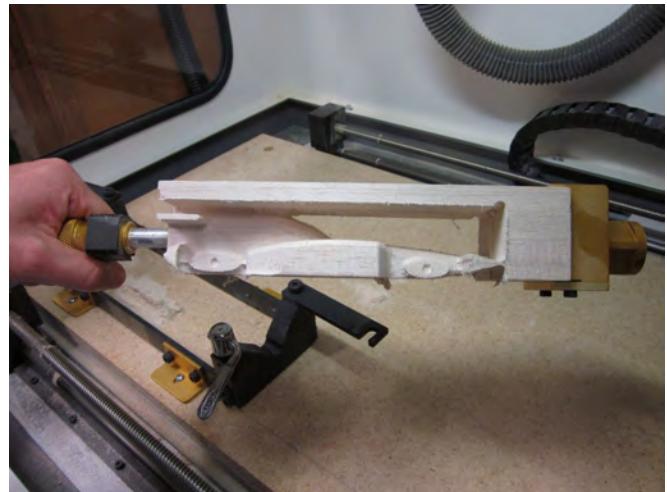
The CNC machine that we have received is a 3-axis router. It is capable of machining all non-ferrous materials. This means that is able to machine card, plastic, timber, brass, aluminium and copper amongst other things. The machine uses some special tools called "End Mills" and "Slot Drills" but it is also possible to use any standard router bit.

In addition to the standard machine 2 special components were purchased—an F1 in Schools jig and an Engraver head.

The F1 in Schools jig is used to machine cars that comply with the F1 in Schools regulations. The F1 in Schools competition is run on an International scale and competitors can compete and become a world champion. These cars are similar to the CO2 dragsters made last year, but the competition also looks at marketing, design and many other features. Stage 5 Engineering Studies will be building these cars this year with a view to compete in the following year. The pictures show Mr Thompson's design being machined on the CNC Router.

The Engraver head is designed for more delicate operations and will generally be used in Stage 5 Electronics. This will allow circuit boards to be made without the need for chemicals which could be harmful to the environment. It will also allow students to see a process that is closer to that which is used in industry.

And that is not all. It is envisaged that all IA subjects will use this machine. There are so many applications for this machine that it will be useful for Year 7 to Year 12. It will help students to develop ICT skills through the use of CAD and then relate the computer models to the real world. The students will also be exposed to Industry Standard coding and practices on a slightly smaller scale.



INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Oreo and Pebbles

In early March our new calf, Oreo, arrived at the Ag Plot. This was an exciting time as Oreo became used to us and we became used to her. As Oreo has grown we have seen her personality come out. She enjoys lazing in long grass, particularly in the afternoon, nibbling on plants and licking people. She is more shy than Pebbles was last year, but this is down to each cow's personality. Oreo is on loan to the school and she will be exhibited at the Penrith Show this year. After the show she will be returned to the farm where she will be bred and milked providing milk for the local dairy industry.

In March Ms Burton was lucky enough to visit Pebbles (our calf from last year) at the farm. Pebbles is now 1 year old and is considered a Heifer. She is certainly looking healthy and much larger than when we first saw her.



PEBBLES



OREO

Winter Harvest

The gardens at the Ag Plot are coming into season. We will soon be harvesting our winter crop of herbs and vegetables. We will be harvesting Silverbeet, Lettuce, Broccoli, Chives, Parsley and Basil. This is a product of all year groups from 7 to 12 and we hope they enjoy the harvest.



INDUSTRIAL ARTS

The View from IA—as seen by Mr Attard (With help from Ms Burton, Ms Neota and Brooke Leary)



COMMUNITY NEWS



BCI westmead
breast cancer
institute

**Mum, you always look after us,
but are you looking after yourself?**

Free BreastScreen mammograms

A mammogram every two years can save your life.

**MYER Blacktown - MYER Castle Hill - MYER Parramatta
MYER Penrith - Auburn Hospital - Mount Druitt Hospital
Katoomba Blue Mountains Hospital - Lithgow Hospital**

If you're 50 or over call **13 20 50** during office hours today for your
FREE BreastScreen mammogram.

Appointments for July and October school holidays are
going fast.



BreastScreen
NEW SOUTH WALES



KIND MOMENTS

Rayan El Masri and Melissa Gabriel devoted the better part of a whole lesson to help a new student, Harold with the Business Studies assessment task.

Many students are practising their kindness on a daily basis by just being their wonderful selves. At Plumpton we pride ourselves on being Safe and Respectful - attributes at the essence of kindness.



COMMUNITY NEWS

LEARN KARATE



KIDS and ADULTS

Hassall Grove Neighbourhood
Centre, 25 Melanie Street
Thursdays 6:30pm



Other classes at Glendenning, Quakers Hill and Ropes Crossing
Also Tiny Tigers 2-5years Wednesdays 5:30pm at Glendenning

First lesson FREE

No appointment necessary, Free uniform upon joining.
Self Defence - Respect - Leadership - Self Esteem - Traditional Karate

Call 0412 447 911

www.kyoukeikarate.com karate_email@yahoo.com.au
Member of JKF, IMA, AFTK and IMG

Dear parents,

Stage Door Promotions is offering the school community
\$55.00 A-Reserve Seats to see
"HAIRSPRAY" the musical at the Star City Lyric Theatre.
A-Reserve seats are normally \$120.00!!!
The \$55.00 ticket offer is valid for any Wednesday or
Thursday performance.

Bookings can be made via:
www.stagedoorpromotions.com



If you have any questions please contact Damien Chambers at stagedoorpromotions@bigpond.com