



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

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TERM 3 **2012**

16th July

School Returns
(All Students)

18th July

Prefect Assembly

19th July

Year 7 & 10 Assembly

26th July

Year 9 Beacon
Leighton Unlocked

7th August

Senior Subject Selections

10th August

Bully Busters Year 7

14th August

Parent/Teacher Night

15th August

Year 10 Beacon
Speed Careering

3rd - 7th September

Year 11 Exams

7th September

Year 12 Excellence
Ceremony

13th September

Year 10 Beacon
Lunch With The Boys

20th September

Year 12 Assembly

**Have a Safe and Happy
Holiday**

LINK-UP

TERM 2 WEEK 10

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Principal's Report

There have been a number of significant events and achievements to report since the last newsletter.

At the end of Term 1 the Greater Western Sydney Performing Arts Centre was officially opened by the Hon. Peter Garrett AM, MP.

The event was an extraordinary success, starting with the welcome to country by Uncle Greg and then the Aboriginal dance group, the Freeman Dancers, entertaining the audience with a dance and didgeridoo performance that drew accolades from Peter Garrett and many others.

Our senior students were outstanding ambassadors on the day. The school leaders excelled as they welcomed the official guests, our Hospitality students were superb with their efforts in producing and serving refreshments and our school captains Dean Wright and Josan Gulliab, were highly professional and faultless throughout their entire role as MCs. Year 11 student Taylor Spinks was outstanding with her vocal rendition of Delta Goodrem's song *Born to Try* and Year 12 student Ofui Manukeu was magnificent with his guitar solo which he played in unison with a slide show depicting the evolution of the building.

Local Federal member for Chifley, Ed Husic, MP then introduced Peter Garrett, AM, MP to officially open the centre.



Jim Anderson Scholarship

Plumpton High School Dux of 2011, Sharriff Rahman, was officially presented with the Jim Anderson \$5000 scholarship at Rooty Hill High School.

Regional Director of Schools, Mr David Phipps, presented Sharriff with his cheque and an official plaque.

This is an outstanding achievement especially when you consider that there are only five of these scholarships given each year throughout the entire Western Sydney Region.

Sharriff has commenced a double degree in Economics and Law at the University of Western Sydney.



Continued on next page

Principal's Message Continued

Blacktown Youth Ambassador

Year 11 student, Emma Stylli proved to be an outstanding candidate at the 2012 Blacktown Youth Ambassador Program.

She managed to secure one of six positions in the final speech night after her written application and a rigorous interview by council representatives was considered.

Her speech on sister cities was exceptional and she was duly awarded one of only two Blacktown Youth Ambassador positions for 2012.

Emma is to be congratulated on this amazing achievement and has further strengthened the wonderful reputation that former students of Plumpton High School have forged. Emma is now the eighth Blacktown Youth Ambassador to come from our school.



Representatives from Educational Institutions visit Plumpton High School

A large contingent from Hong Kong visited Plumpton High School to see and hear first-hand the wonderful programs that are being carried within our school by our outstanding teaching staff and students. They were especially interested in how data was used in analysis and the design and implementation of these programs.

The Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong also sent a number of representatives from both schools and their head office to gather an insight into the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program and hear about our journey instigating and modifying the program over the last seven years.



Plumpton High School Staff Development Days

On the 13th and 14th June more than two hundred staff from Plumpton High School, William Dean, Plumpton and Glendenning Public schools came together in the annual Plumpton Education Community (PEC) Conference entitled "Sit and Cogitate".

It was a chance to share our professional experiences at the many workshops that were available. 'Tips for teaching persuasive writing', 'Planning for authentic scientific investigations', 'A 4 step problem solving model for numeracy and more' and 'Moodle making' were amongst the numerous sessions that were provided over the two days. However, the highlight was our international guest speaker, Lane Clark. Her insight in the delivery of Teaching and Learning was highly engaging and motivational.



Mr Peter Ezzy (Relieving Principal)

WELFARE

Young Women's Leadership Seminar

This year, on International Women's Day , Thursday 8th March 2012, Mikayla Mantouroglou and myself (Emma Stylli) of Year 11 had the opportunity to attend a Young Women's Leadership Seminar which was held at the Parliament of NSW in Sydney.

Venturing through the city in the pouring down rain wasn't the best start to the day though we were able to overcome quite a wet start and arrived exactly on time at the Parliament House of NSW. We were greeted by security guards, our bags were checked and we went through metal detectors (just to convey how important this place is)

Along with another eighty from approximately 40 different schools, we were then assembled in the Theatre of Parliament House. The day consisted of inspiring speeches from inspiring guests such as *Dr Jane McAdam, Professor of Law University of Sydney, Rhonda Miller-Clerk of The Legislative Assembly and Julie Langsworth Clerk Assistant* .

We were taken on a tour of the Parliament and visited the media room in which press conferences are held. We also were able to witness a legislative assembly presentation and legislative council chambers in which politicians expressed their views and opinions. Mikayla and I were both very shocked at how rude some politicians were towards others, especially women. They often spoke over the top of others and many were on their phones and laptops whilst people presented.

To conclude the day, a panel of three women Members of Parliament: The Hon Cate Ferhmann MLC, Ms Tania Mihailuk MP- Member for Bankstown and Ms Melanie Gibbons MP- Member for Menai, introduced themselves and their journey from high school to where they have now ended up. Time was allocated for questions to be asked and we were able to receive invigorating advice to follow our hearts and stand for women's rights in each workplace.

We received compliments from fellow members of the seminar about our flamboyant yet smart uniform. Overall the day was very beneficial for Mikayla and I, we were able to witness politicians in action and received motivating advice to pursue our future ambitions. Lastly, we would like to thank our Year Advisor, Ms McPherson for informing us about the seminar and allowing us to be a part of a wonderful day.

By Emma Stylli
(Year 11 Student)

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.

WELFARE

Welfare Report

Many Plumpton HS students have been excelling and improving in the class room and in other extra-curricular activities this year. Many of these students have been recognised at Formal Assemblies with attendance awards, improvement awards and personal best awards. The following students have been recognised by their teachers across all subject areas as the “Students of the Month”. Congratulations!

	February	March	April
Year 7		Zohal Abawi	Cameron Honeysett
Year 8	Princess Allen	Nicholas Antonio	Felicity Bell
Year 9	Eunice Flores	Shanal Chand	Kristyn Friesendorff
Year 10	Jake Cullen	Tasmin Hopper	Alyssa Williams
Year 11	Samantha Lim	Ronalyn Tagra	Kevin Orellana
Year 12	Umair Shams	Mason Grech	Rebecca Abou-Chacra

Year 11 Newspaper

During Guidance lessons this year Year 11 students have taken the challenge of producing a school newspaper, named *The Plumpton Watchtower*. The first edition was produced and sold at the end of Term 1. Most students submitted articles for inclusion in the newspaper, with Ms. McPherson selecting the best and most engaging pieces to be included. The newspaper covered a wide variety of topics. For example, there was a piece investigating what has happened to Mr Jamieson, fashion tips, jokes, sports news, cross words and student profiles. Year 11 students have been busy this term working on the second edition of *The Plumpton Watchtower*, which I am sure will be as interesting and as informative as the first edition.

Year 7 Camp

For three days during Week 5 some 65 Year 7 students, 20 Year 10 Mentors and 6 staff went on an outdoor recreation camp to Stanwell Tops. At the camp Year 10 students were afforded the opportunity to develop their leadership and mentoring skills while Year 7 students participated in a range of outdoor activities. Some of the activities included abseiling, a high ropes course, the giant swing, team building activities and archery. A couple of highlights of the trip were the disco, where all students and teachers danced for hours, and the very large red-belly black snake that interrupted some groups on their way to different activities. Year 7 should be congratulated on their exceptional behaviour and attitudes on this camp. Congratulations also go to Brodie Routh, John Trinidad and Hayden Whitehouse who were all recognised at a recent Year 10 Formal Assembly for their outstanding leadership throughout the camp.

Western Sydney Region SRC

Three Plumpton High School students have been participating in Regional Student Representative Council workshops and meetings throughout semester 1. Kristian Jimenez, Jessica Abdul-Ahed and Montanna Ceh Stone have had an opportunity to work with a variety of students from a broad range of schools to share ideas of what students are offering in their schools. They are able to develop strong leadership skills and practice public speaking while building strong friendships and learning about what is happening in other schools from throughout Western Sydney.

WELFARE

Student Assistance & "The Schoolkids Bonus"

The Student Assistance Scheme is a fund which has been made available to schools in NSW in varying amounts, by the Department of Education to assist students whose families are legitimately expressing financial hardship, with various costs of schooling.

However, **FUNDS ARE LIMITED** and each application is considered on merit. It also must be noted that General School Fees are NOT covered by the Student Assistance Scheme.

With this in mind, it is an opportune time to recognise the recent Federal Government announcement that Australian families with children at school will get a new cash payment to help with educational costs. It was announced that this payment will start to roll out in June.

Each year, families will receive a new Schoolkids Bonus worth:

- ◇ \$410 for each child in primary school
- ◇ \$820 for each child in high school.

This new guaranteed payment will help the families pay for uniforms, books, school excursions and stationery.

Because the payment is automatic and upfront, it means:

- ◇ Parents don't need to keep receipts for months and months – it's a guaranteed payment.
- ◇ Parents will receive the full amount every time, so families won't miss out if they lose receipts.
- ◇ Parents don't have to pay out of their own pocket, and then wait months to get paid back - the payment will be paid up front, twice a year, before the start of Term 1 and Term 3.

No paperwork is required.

May I also remind you that participation in elective practical lessons is limited to those that have paid relevant fees as these fees cover the cost of materials and resources required. Furthermore, wearing incorrect footwear to practical lessons in workshops and Science labs is against Occupational Health & Safety regulations, meaning that those students are also excluded from important practical lessons.

If you have any queries regarding the Schoolkids Bonus please visit the following websites:

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

<http://www.familyassist.gov.au/>

If you require information regarding fees or uniforms please contact the school.

Mr Daniel Footit

Head Teacher Student Welfare

WELFARE

School Uniform

It is the expectation of our school community that all students attending Plumpton High School will be dressed in the school uniform. It should be the aim of every student to wear the uniform with pride and to take care of it. Another advantage of having all students in uniform is that it assists teachers to distinguish between intruders and students, thus making the wearing of school uniform an issue of increased safety.

PE or sports uniforms should only be worn for PE / Sport classes – not to and from school.

Year 7-9 Girls

White Plumpton HS crested polo
Black skirt or black $\frac{3}{4}$ shorts or black pants (*not leggings or jeans*)
Red Plumpton HS crested jumper
Enclosed leather shoes

Year 7-9 Boys

White Plumpton HS crested polo
Black shorts or black pants (*not jeans*)
Red Plumpton HS crested jumper
Enclosed leather shoes

Year 10-12 Girls

White Plumpton HS crested senior blouse
Tartan skirt or shorts or black pants (*not leggings or jeans*)
Red Plumpton HS crested jumper
Enclosed leather shoes

Year 10-12 Boys

White Plumpton HS crested senior shirt
Black shorts or black pants (*not jeans*)
Red Plumpton HS crested jumper
Enclosed leather shoes

Daniel Footit

Head Teacher Welfare



WELFARE

FREE Homework Support at Our Library @ The Mount Druitt Hub

Our Library @ The Mount Druitt Hub will be offering free homework support for high school students each **Wednesday between 4pm – 6pm.**

The free homework support is presented by S4S Coaching and will see a qualified coach available to offer support, exam tips, essay writing skills, time management tips as well as career and University advice.

In addition to the free homework support on offer from S4S Coaching, the Blacktown City Libraries also offer the 'Your Tutor' service which allows primary and secondary students to connect online with expert Australian tutors for homework help in maths, science, English or assignment research.

The Libraries also offer special HSC Resources to assist students in achieving HSC success and numerous HSC Lectures and study groups throughout the year.

For more information on all the resources available to help your child with their studies visit

www.libraries.blacktown.nsw.gov.au or visit one of the local branch libraries today.

For further information about S4S Coaching, visit www.s4scoaching.com.au or email tutoring@s4scoaching.com.au or call 0422 083 266.



Looking for a bargain?

**Come along to the Community Markets on Saturday 23rd June
Between 9am and 1pm
at the Dean Park Community Development Project
9 Yarramundi Drive Dean Park.**

(just 5 mins west of Blacktown around the corner from the Plumpton Hotel).

Clothes, craft, baby goods, plants, bric a brac, sausage sizzle, entertainment and more!

For more information please call Karen on 9626 5128

ATTENDANCE

ABOUT ATTENDANCE 2012

Student attendance continues to be a key focus at Plumpton High School. We have many exciting programs running at the school and a dedicated and talented staff. To take advantage of this, the students need to ensure that they maximise their time in class. They need to get to school on time, be prompt to class and try and minimise the number of days that they are absent from school.

Already in 2012, there are many students who have developed an excellent record of attendance. The following is a list of students with a perfect 100% record of attendance for the first 70 school days in 2012 (including attendance at both the swimming and athletics carnivals):

Year 7: Julianna Aunese Angela Buttigieg Abigail Foster Jonathon Inman Jessica McDonald Ryan Muir Tyler Shearer	Year 9: Sean Foster Kristyn Friesendorff Brendan Muir	Year 11: Joshua Flores Sean O'Brien
Year 8: Christine Bloomfield Matthew Cunningham-Jackson Jack Gerard Mitchell Guthrie Dennison Ingal Georgia Lambert Tegan McIntyre Kaitlen Phali Ellen Slingerland	Year 10: Roger Bernardo Jessica Honeysett Tasmin Hopper Lisa Huntington Kerri-Anne Kendrick Jacob Lambert Tayla Meath Grant Slingerland Rhys Tolliday Blake Toogood	Year 12: Nico Banting Gabriel Barbor Seong Choi Jaisen Felstead Josan Gulliab Michael Madera Jerome Torculas Akio Tumbaga

There are another 60 students who have only been absent one day this year. All of these students with an attendance rate between 98 & 100% are very well placed to achieve Plumpton High School's annual gold, silver or bronze attendance awards, and for the 100 percenters, even the prestigious Regional Attendance Award, if they continue their outstanding patterns of attendance. They are all to be congratulated for their attendance achievements this year-to-date.

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 there are any attendance concerns regarding your child

	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 - (Pe) 09:11 Late Unexp.	11/02/10 Present	12/02/10 - (a) Unexplained
Wk 4	15/02/10 - (Pe) Partial	16/02/10 - (Pe) Partial	17/02/10 - (Pe) Partial	18/02/10 Present	19/02/10 - (EX) Strength
Wk 5	22/02/10 - (Pe) 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 - (Pe) Partial	04/03/10 - (Pe) 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 Drift Cup	12/03/10 - (a) Unexplained
Wk 8	15/03/10 - (Pe) Partial	16/03/10 Present	17/03/10 - (Pe) 08:49 Late Unexp.	18/03/10 - (Pe) 09:15 Late Unexp.	19/03/10 - (Pe) Partial
Wk 9	22/03/10 Present	23/03/10 - (Pe) 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 Drift Cup

Purple cell means a **school activity**; eg. excursion.

16/02/10 - (Pe)
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:

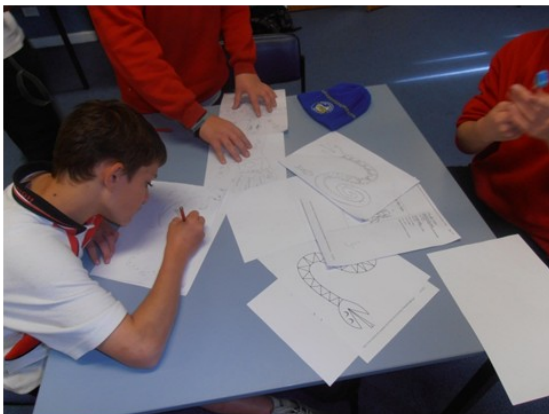
http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help_with_translating/

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION



UWS Indigenous School Student Mentoring Program

Year 10 Aboriginal students participated in the Indigenous cultural awareness workshop at UWS Penrith Campus; our students met Elders and learnt traditional skills. On the day students rotated through five workshops for story-telling, traditional woodcarving, Aboriginal art, basket-weaving and didgeridoo.



Year 8 Aboriginal Boys Mentoring Program

Presenting the future music stars of the Didgeridoo!

This program runs every Friday for 8 weeks. This program approaches the boys in a unique way; the boys learn about life choices, education and culture.

This program builds strong relationships between community and school.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

GWS Giants Visit

Even though Mr Ezzy is an avid NRL follower, even he took time to check out our AFL stars! The GWS players spoke to the Indigenous students about their own life journeys, healthy choices, barriers, and their life styles. They also talked about the AFL programs that are available for the kids to play. The students then had the opportunity to get photographs and autographs.



PLPs

Throughout the term we have also completed many of our Indigenous student's PLPs (Personalised Learning Plans). This year we have had great parent support and have been witness to some excellent goal setting. It is vital that every Indigenous student has a PLP as both motivation and acknowledgement of success. It has been awesome to hear our students' talk about goals, their achievements and involvement in both school and the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents that were able to attend and set goals with their children.

Mrs Karlene Rex
Aboriginal Education Officer

BEACON



BEACON Polish Event Tuesday 29th June 2012

This year once again 22 Year 10 students were involved in a one-day, dynamic and highly interactive program tailored for students by the Beacon Foundation which was supported and catered by Park Royal Parramatta one of our schools business partners. The Polish program is a one-day workshop that has been put into action by the Beacon that helps young people prepare for their careers through personal presentation and communication training, providing students with the skills to conduct themselves appropriately when entering the world of work throughout their employment.

The program ran from 9am to 2:45pm where students went through a series of activities dealing with work ethic, grooming, employers' expectations, mock interviews, manners and etiquette. The day was broken up with an exquisite sit-down lunch which was catered by Park Royal Hotel with the schools local business representatives who were invited to attend. The students had the opportunity to mingle with the business people and use their newly developed skills which they learnt throughout the day and put them into practice.





Beacon annual report stated:

Of the **22** students who completed Polish **21** students recognized that the skills and knowledge they had learnt would *make a difference to their lives*. Below are some testimonials that capture what the program has meant to the students.

'I will definitely try to achieve my 3 goals and get a better understanding of what I would like to do.'

'I will be more confident in any interviews in the future and look after myself better than I have been.'

'I will take what I have learnt today and use it in my life and be confident.'

'What I do differently after today is keep up my positive attitude and have good manners and to do well with my music.'



'It is a rewarding experience which adds great value to the students – very hands on.' (Teacher)

Plumpton High School students and teachers would like to thank Beacon, United Way and Park Royal for their ongoing support and making the day such a fun, exciting and beneficial experience.

Ms Athina Pendespiti



YR 7 CAMP

Year 7 Camp

Year 7 students attended their Peer Support camp in Week 5 from 21st May to 23rd May. These 65 students were accompanied by 20 mentors from Year 10. This great mentoring program was enhanced by the presence of six skilful Plumpton High staff. Excellent weather during the three day period, contributed to making the camp a huge success.

A great team of staff included the school counsellor Ms Jennie Landon, Mr A Rodriguez, Ms L Wegrzyn, Mr D Footit, Mr R Aguiar and Ms D Maharaj.

The students participated in various challenging team building activities including abseiling, cart racing, giant swing, archery, high ropes and survivor program. Students also participated in other activities including bush walking, basket ball and soccer games. Most of the activities were instructor led and hence students learnt and were motivated from the best.

The cold nights were equally colourful with trivia and disco nights organised for each consecutive evening. Both activities were two hour long sessions, made warmer with hot chocolate and yummy food.

Never the less our return to Plumpton High School was a joyous moment for both staff and students as tired, weary yet excited students made their way back home with memorable experience.



Chloe Cunningham showing her archery skills

Britney Buttita, Enrique Godoy, Tahlia Sampson excelling in the Survivor program under the guidance of Peer Support Leaders – Kiara Fittler, Blake Toogood and Brodie Routh.

As the Year Advisor, I wish to thank all students and staff for their presence at the camp. My appreciation also goes out to all students who motivated their team members to achieve their personal best in each activity. Students are to be commended for displaying excellent behaviour and positive attitudes.

Ms Doreen Maharaj
Year 7 Advisor

LIBRARY

Library Monitors 2012

We are pleased to welcome back to library monitorship the following Yr8's and 9's: **Eunice Flores, Maryam Kausar, Aaima Kausar, Rikki-Lee Balcombe, Reya Rohina Roy, Kate Walker, Sana Dehsabzi, Luke Hancock, Sarah Warren** and, returning to the team with renewed determination, **Tazien Mahmood**. It is great to see my experienced monitors return for another year's shelving duties in the library. It is not easy work to do, it takes time and careful effort to be a good library monitor. There has been a keen response from our new Year 7's, and so we welcome into our special library team: **Isabella Mirian, Amina Usman, Afifa Kausar, Maddeha Farooqi** and **Kinza Ilyas**. Thank you to all these students who voluntarily give some of their time at lunchtime to help me. We have an attractive, large library and their assistance in keeping order is greatly appreciated.

Interschool Chess 2012

We have one team of Year7 and 8's that are involved in Friday afternoon interschool chess matches around Western Sydney. Our team members are: **Jed Obra, Yeng Luo and Volkan Mert** (Year 7) and **Nicholas Douglas, Ayush Kumar and Joel Williams** (Year8). Thanks to the parents who have offered to help with transport. This year we are playing schools in the area between Plumpton and Parramatta. We seem to be the only comprehensive state school in this area participating in the NSW Secondary Schools Competition – all our competing schools are selective or private – and our teams hold their own. In the first match last Friday PHS won all the games against Baulkham Hills HS. Well done, team!

Disabled Access

The elevator installation is now complete. The lift fits in with the décor, and works smoothly to enable our disabled students to access the top and bottom levels for the first time.

Junior Scrabble Tournament

At the end of this term we are having a scrabble tournament. If you do not know how to play, come to the library at lunchtimes to learn. If you can play already, come to get hints for improving your game. You have a whole term to practise. Scrabble is excellent for developing the verbal side of the brain: reading, spelling and vocabulary. Your literacy levels will improve as you play.

Wednesday Reading Club

It is good to see our Year 7's taking advantage of the chance to read quietly at **lunch 2** on a **Wednesday** and participating in our **Book of the Month** so enthusiastically. These are voluntary activities that encourage and reward good reading habits. It is an enjoyable time of quiet reading while eating lunch. Any students are welcome to join us, even only occasionally, so long as they have a book they are already reading as they enter the library.

Library Cards

Everyone in the school should now have a library **ID card**. If you have not received one, come and find out why in the library. This card lasts for TWO years: Yr7-8, Yr9-10 and Yr 11-12. Look after it as it cost **\$5 to replace** when lost. Year 11's must come and apply for their senior one. Get into the habit of keeping this card **in your school bag**, NOT your wallet.

Mrs Pitt
(Teacher-Librarian)



AGRICULTURE

The term has started off very well, considering last term was extremely wet. The students have been very busy making improvements to house three calves. One of the calves is called Paris and came from Emu Plains Correctional Centre. It will be trained to walk on a halter and handled by the students so that it can be judged at an Agricultural schools competition at the Penrith Show. The other two called Cindy and Marsha were donated by local dairy farmer Brett Hader. They also will be handled to give students who study agriculture additional skills in teamwork, animal husbandry and cattle handling. As the calves will become cows in the future it is necessary for them to be people friendly and the students certainly give the calves plenty of attention.



We also had two recent additions of two lambs called Patrick and Pippa and one very recent addition born on the 22nd May, Milly May.



AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture classroom welcomed the new ramp this term as well as the new hen house at the farm.

Agriculture students have also been very busy this term with landscaping projects, farm improvements and management of meeting personal goals and learning outcomes. Students have been able to make some noticeable changes around the school and the farm.

These include:

- ◇ Weeding and adding mulch to the PAC Portable garden bed. Mrs Jacka was very impressed when she came to class.
- ◇ Whipper garden areas
- ◇ Remove garden borders to allow for ploughing
- ◇ Plough garden beds with the tractor
- ◇ Laid turf in hen house
- ◇ Paris the new calf doing well with weight gains, and being paraded by many students
- ◇ Cows Create Careers calves arrived 14th May
- ◇ All animals Animal Health and Welfare up date including vaccinations, drenching, tail docking and castration for the male lamb
- ◇ All paddocks are weed and thistle free
- ◇ New hens are laying and we are selling eggs for \$4.00 dozen



Any parents or grandparents or volunteers that would like to assist in an Agriculture Farm Working Bee please contact Plumpton HS and leave your name and number for MS Burton. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Ms Tracey Burton
Agriculture Teacher

PDHPE

Plumpton vs. Springwood.

Plumpton High Open Girls soccer team played Springwood High in the Quarter Finals on May the 23rd at Heber Park, Hebersham. A long awaited kick off arrived an hour late for the highly anxious Plumpton team. As we lined the field, the green and gold opposition finally arrived by the truck load. Let the game begin!

Pheara Ban opened up the score board early in the game, giving Plumpton a 1-0 lead! Only for the opposition to soon follow. The rough first half concluded with 3 less players, 2 of them being off with injuries.

In the second half Plumpton showed their dominance claiming another 2 goals. A devastating blow to the Plumpton team, losing one of their star defenders, Jillian Zarate, to a suspected broken wrist. Injury bound, the girls played on. Pheara Ban was unlucky to not score another goal! Unfortunately the persistent opposition scored 2 lucky goals, forcing us into Extra Time.

In extra time the game resembled a tennis match rather than a soccer game, with both teams attacking fiercely. Cramps, rolled ankles, and very feisty opposition were obstacles throughout the game, but the Plumpton girls held on. Natasha Young made several blistering breaks down the right wing, unfortunately they didn't result in a goal. Jessica Parodi, Mikayla Mantourogrou and Bianca O'Toole were an unbreakable wall, giving it all they got.

The referee blew the final whistle. Penalty Shoot-out! The unconfident Plumpton Girls struggled to find anyone to take the kicks, but finally 5 were selected: Natasha Young, Pheara Ban, Sela Piu, Mikayla Mantourogrou and Amber Sultana. Rebekah Kidd played an astounding game, but sadly the Springwood girls used smart tactics and scored 4 out of 5 of their goals. Sela Piu from Plumpton scored a great penalty, leaving the final score at 7-4! A controversial decision made by the referee, left the girls feeling disheartened, but never the less, proud of their achievement. Great work, Plumpton!

Panther Trophy Rugby League

Plumpton High's under 15's rugby league team recently progressed to the Panther Trophy Finals Day. The team played at Whalan Reserve on May the 23rd and won their pool, remaining undefeated after three games. Plumpton High beat St Columbus, Jamison and Glenmore Park on their way to finishing on top of Pool B. The boys showed great skill and outstanding endurance after they were left with only one substitute due to injury and other issues. All members of the team played magnificently, with energy and great sportsmanship.

Plumpton High then progressed to the finals day on May the 30th at St Mary's Stadium to decide who would represent the Penrith District at the NSW All Schools Carnival. Our opposition was Erskine Park High School. The boys played really well in a very close match, where neither team had scored with only two minutes remaining. Unfortunately, Erskine Park soon crossed over for the only try of the game.

As coach, I would like to congratulate the boys: Nick Betar, Ahmad Zraika, Corey Reynolds, Alfred Afele, Josh McKay, Sasha Murray, Nise Taulima-Tofoeono, Brayden Green, Julian Singh, Sean Foster, Todd Cheshire, Isaia Tone, Robert Afele, Lima Misa, Jack Sloane, Benhurt Graham and Nikodemo Pureariki for a great performance over the two days. They showed great enthusiasm, skill and courage to finish second in the Penrith district. Hopefully, the team will remain together to play in many more tournaments in the future.

State Rugby Union Championships

Two of Plumpton High School's senior students have represented the Sydney West region at the State Rugby Union Championships which were held from the 23rd to the 25th of May in Dubbo. Ofiu Manukeu and Jodecy Dunlop made the Mt Druitt zone team and then were chosen to represent the Sydney West region. The Sydney West team came third at the tournament and Ofiu Manukeu was selected into the Combined High Schools (CHS) team. A massive congratulations to the boys for their outstanding achievement.

Mr Daniel Simonovski
PDHPE Teacher

MATHS

PEC Numeracy Day

On May 30th 2012, the Plumpton Education Community held our third Numeracy Day. This year our theme was The Amazing Race - a passport to the world of numbers! We took 60 year 7 to 10 students to Plumpton Primary School and William Dean Primary School to act as Tour Guides for their journey through the world of numbers.

At the primary schools, each classroom was a different country. Many classrooms were decorated in their country theme, from Kenya to Japan to Bali! The primary students moved through three different countries doing maths activities that were stage specific and related to the particular country. Our students went with their allocated class and helped the students solve problems using the Solve It Model. We trained them in how to use this model earlier in the week. The steps for solving maths problems are:

Read It (stop and slowly read the questions)

Think/Discuss It (work out ways to approach the problem and come to the answer)

Transform It (do the maths to solve the problem using a variety of tools)

Reflect on It (check and look for other ways to solve the problem)

Our students did a great job helping the younger students use this model, without doing the problems for them. The primary students also completed a reflection journal to think about what they learnt in each country

At Plumpton High School each faculty chose a country and created an activity in each lesson they went to on that day. When students completed the activity, their passport was signed. At the end of the day, the passports were collected and will go in the draw to win a great prize!

A fantastic and enlightening day was had by all involved!

Ms Tess Devine

Head Teacher Mathematics



BRING IT ON



‘Passion Excellence and Connection’ was the theme for the Bring It On community project. As part of the ‘Bring It On’ high energy dance competition students led the organisation of a disco for our PEC primary school students. BIO students proudly displayed the values of PEC by sharing their passion and enthusiasm towards ‘dance’ with our younger generation. They also created connections with the students through a positive and caring disposition. Under Mrs Scollen’s guidance we had a very successful community project. A mention must go to Mr Bagus, the cameraman, Ms Young, Ms Viscontini and Mr Holmes who assisted in the smooth running of this project throughout the night.

Ms Keerti Shukla
Bring It On Organiser

GUIDANCE

Year 8 BUST Cyber Bullies!

On Friday the 15th of June, Year 8 students attended a performance by Class Act Theatre called 'Cyber Bullies' at the Greater Western Performing Arts Centre. As a part of their Guidance program in Term 2, students learnt about the many issues surrounding electronic bullying and the appropriate uses of technology and social media. Actors Lisa and Josh from Class Act Theatre put on an amazing show about the significant impact of cyber bullying on teenagers. Throughout the performance, Year 8 students proved their maturity and respect by displaying exceptional behaviour. They were encouraged to ask questions and engage in the performance which helped to enrich their learning experience. Year 8 students should be incredibly proud of their conduct and will no doubt have the opportunity to participate in other exciting events in the future.



COMMUNITY NEWS



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