



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

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**TERM 2
2013**

10th June

Queens Birthday

18th June

Yr 7 & 9 Boys

Vaccinations

28th June

Last day of Term

TERM 3

22nd July -2nd

August

Yr 12 Trials

6th August

Prefect Assembly

14th August

School Captain

Selection

2nd-6th September

Yr 11 Exams

13th September

Yr 12 Excellence

Ceremony

19th September

Yr 12 Farewell

Graduation Assembly

20th September

Multicultural Day

Last Day of Term

LINK-UP

TERM 2 WEEK 2013

Principal's Message

We have only just entered our sixth week of Term 2 and it is amazing to reflect on how much has happened within such a short space of time. There were our two staff development days which focused on the new National Curriculum for 2014, NAPLAN for years 7 & 9, the First Semester Assessments for years 7 to 10, SRC selection assemblies, Yr 10 to Yr 11 subject selection information night, Year 7 camp, Year 8 *cyber bullying* assembly, Beacon *Polish* program, zone cross-country and a myriad of other sporting events and connections with outside agencies.

Eric Jamieson

At the end of last term Plumpton High School Principal, Mr Eric Jamieson was duly appointed as Director of the NSW Department of Education and Communities High Performance Unit. Eric came to the school in 2004. Since then he has made an enormous impact and his initiatives have been cutting edge. The Plumpton Education Community of schools has been the blueprint for school communities across Australia and his ability to adopt and make pilot programs a success has meant that the students of Plumpton High School have always been the first to experience the benefits of these programs. The process of connecting classrooms via video conferencing to enable teachers to teach students in other schools, the Local Schools Local Decisions pilot program and the outstanding leadership of the Beacon program are just a few examples. There have been countless intrastate, interstate and international delegations that have visited the school to witness these successes. Eric was awarded the Director General's Award for outstanding Educational Leadership and was listed in the Sydney Morning Herald's list of top 100 most influential people in Sydney in 2008. While it is a sad time to see Eric leave we extend our best wishes and realise that his vision, influence and unquestioned ability will now have a far wider impact across all DEC schools. The position of Principal will now continue to be filled by myself in a relieving capacity until an advertisement is formulated.



Improving National Literacy and National program

Our school has been selected in the program entitled *Improving National Literacy and Numeracy National program*. This means that the school will be eligible for a significant amount of federal funding to address either literacy or numeracy or both. The decision was made to address both of these key learning areas with the students in years 7 & 8 being the target group of the program. We have already conducted significant base line data collection. Students have been withdrawn from class for individual assessment to determine their positioning on the National Literacy and Numeracy continuums.

Continued on next page

Principal's Message Continued

Bring It On

Over the last three years Plumpton High School has competed in the 'Bring It On' dance competition. In comparison to previous years the team this year is relatively small in numbers and quite young. However, the enthusiasm and commitment to rehearsals and training has been just as impressive. The team competed in the heats and unfortunately did not gain automatic entry into the finals. A key component in the Bring It On program revolves around community projects and a wild card entry to the finals was made available to the school that could raise the highest number of canned food for the Salvation Army. Guided by the team's amazing coordinator, Ms Shukla, our students took up the challenge with extraordinary energy and drive.

Together with the whole school's backing they were able to collect over three thousand cans, win the challenge and book a place in the finals. Congratulations to everyone involved.

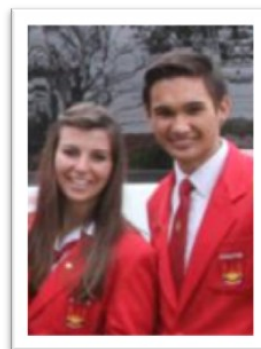


School Captains represent the students of NSW at the 2013 Global Leaders Education Program

The Global Education Leaders Program (GELP) is an international event with education leaders from 13 jurisdictions including Finland, China, India, USA, Korea, Canada, New Zealand, Brazil and Australia. The program occurs bi-annually and this year it was hosted in Sydney.

Our school Captains, Emma Stylli and Kristian Jimenez formed part of a panel of four representatives of today's youth. The other two panel members were both in their mid to late twenties whom are currently making their mark in today's business world. The session in which Emma and Kristian featured was entitled Learner's Voice. It focused on what approach young people need to best respond to both learning and school. It involved a personal reflection on what aspects of schooling have worked well for them and what hasn't worked well. It explored what young people valued for their future.

Both Emma and Kristian did an exceptional job of speaking in front of such a high profile international audience and I received many acknowledgements of how wonderful they were and how well they handled both the interview questions and the questions from the floor. They were wonderful ambassadors for themselves, the school and the youth of today.



Energy Drinks

There has been a growing concern over the number of students that have been bringing energy drinks to school. Studies have shown that there are numerous health risks associated with the consumption of these drinks and they have a significant impact on effective learning. Some of the reported side effects are insomnia, dizziness, headaches, difficulty in concentration, mood disturbances, rapid heart rates, dehydration, hypertension and hyperactivity. All NSW DEC school canteens are not permitted to stock or sell energy drinks, a number of schools have now totally banned these drinks at school. After speaking to a number of parents who share our concern with students consuming these energy drinks, Plumpton High School will also be placing a **total ban** on bringing these drinks to schools. This will take place as of **Tuesday 11th June**. Energy drinks will be confiscated from any student who brings them to school. Our aim is to work together with all parents so we can encourage healthy eating habits for all of our students and reduce health risks and maximise their learning opportunities.

Peter Ezzy
Relieving Principal
Plumpton High school

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.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE UPDATES VIA EMAIL & SMS



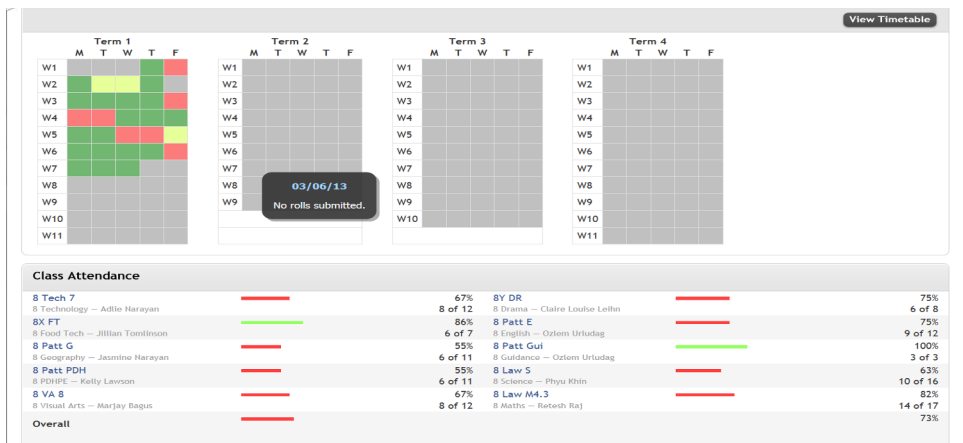
Dear Parents / Carers

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

anil.c.sharma@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.

In 2013, the school has introduced a new attendance tracking system, that has removed the need for paper rolls and runners to collect the rolls. Teachers are now marking rolls electronically in class, giving the school instant data on student attendance in class (as shown below). The new system has been an instant success giving all staff access to an excellent attendance profile of all students, so that any concerning patterns of attendance can be addressed promptly.



Remember that there is a very close relationship between high attendance and student success. To encourage students to set high standards for attendance, 3 awards will again be presented at Presentation Day & Graduations in 2013: the Gold, Silver & Bronze Attendance Awards.

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

In 2013 you will have been 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/

WELFARE



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND MP3 PLAYERS

General principles

At Plumpton High School, while the increasing use and importance of mobile phones in our lives is recognised, processes have been well established over a long period of time to assist parents and caregivers to deliver messages to their children, which are of an urgent or important nature, without the need for students to have a mobile phone. **For parents who need to contact their child during class time, a call to the office is appropriate and always welcomed. Messages are delivered to students in a prompt manner.** A pay phone is available in the office foyer for use during lunch breaks if required. Students are also able to use office phones in the event of an emergency.

In general, mobile phones are not necessary for communication to and from students during school hours and we ask that this is respected by all. At times before and after school, however, mobile phones offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. For this reason, the school respects the need for students to carry mobile phones, provided students observe the following conditions and courtesies.

Mobile phones and MP3s should not be used during class time for making or receiving calls, sending or receiving text messages, taking photographs or videos, recording conversations, to listen to music or any other unauthorised purpose. Mobile phones and MP3s may be used at lunchtimes, provided such use is appropriate.

At times, teachers may instruct or allow students to use mobile phones or MP3s for specific educational purposes, such as recording an experiment, using music in a dance composition or using an app specific to a subject. At these times students may use their phones but **only when instructed to by their teacher.**

As with all valuable items, students are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones and MP3 players to school due to the potential for loss, theft or damage of the item. Plumpton High School accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to such items including mobile phones.

Should a student have a mobile phone or MP3 at school it must be turned off or placed on silent during lessons and other school activities. It also must be kept securely in the student's bag and not taken out during lessons or other school activities. This will ensure that there is no disruption to the school's learning environment.

Students must not have any material stored on their mobile phones or MP3s which is offensive, harmful or illegal. It is an offence to have images of illegal acts, such as fights, to have pornographic images, to bully or intimidate others through the use of mobile phones or to record people without their consent, on these devices. In such cases the school is required to confiscate mobile phones and refer the matter to police.

Any student who brings a mobile phone or MP3 to school will be responsible for ensuring the above conditions and courtesies are observed. Incidents involving students failing to respect these conditions will be treated in accordance with the Plumpton High School Discipline Policy. The consequences for such cases are shown on page 2 of this policy. Students should remember the school's important expectations which apply to all school members:

Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be A Learner.

WELFARE

Consequences for Unacceptable Use of Mobile Phones and MP3 players

Following are the consequences which apply to the inappropriate use of mobile phones and MP3s, as is consistent with the school's discipline policy.

Unacceptable Use	Consequence
A student who has a mobile phone or MP3 out during a lesson or other school activity.	The student will be reminded to put the phone in their bag immediately.
A student who has a phone in their bag which rings or beeps during a lesson or other school activity.	The student will be reminded to turn the phone off or to silent immediately.
A student who uses a mobile phone or MP3 without specific permission or for an unauthorised purpose during a lesson or other school activities.	The device will be confiscated immediately by a teacher. This will be recorded in the school's mobile phone register. The device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.
A student who repeatedly has their phone or MP3 out during lessons or other school activities, or fails to have their phone turned off or on silent.	The student will be placed on after-school detention or will be required to complete after-school community service.
A student who does not follow the direction or instruction of a teacher in relation to the inappropriate use of a mobile phone or MP3.	This is a serious offence. The student will be referred to the head teacher who will record the incident on the school's behaviour referral system. The student will be placed on after-school detention in the first instance. This will be much more severe in the case of repeat offenders.
A student who repeatedly uses a mobile phone or MP3 during lessons or other school activity. This will be apparent in the school's mobile phone register.	The student's parents will be contacted and the student will forfeit their right to bring the mobile phone or MP3 to school. The student will be required to complete after-school community service.
A student who uses a mobile phone or other device to record an illegal act, to bully or harass another school member, or to record people without their consent.	The device will be confiscated immediately and may be referred to police. The student's parents will be contacted and the student will forfeit their right to bring the mobile phone to school. The student will be suspended.
A student who has a device containing material which is offensive, illegal or pornographic.	The device will be confiscated immediately and may be referred to police. The student's parents will be Contacted and the student will forfeit their right to bring the mobile phone to school. The student will be suspended.

WELFARE

2013 VACCINATION PROGRAM

The first round of vaccinations will take place on Tuesday 18th June for all Year 7 students and Year 9 boys. If your child has yet received their information pack please direct them to their Year Advisor.

The Top 10 Questions *Parents/Guardians* ask (and their answers!)

1. **I'm looking in my son/daughter baby Blue Book and he/she has already had 3 or 4 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, will they require any further doses?** "No, they should have enough protection from these doses, there is no need for a booster dose" (even if the Blue Book says a booster is due between 10 and 16 years – updated research since your child's Blue Book was printed confirms that further vaccination is not required).
2. **I've lost my child's vaccination records/Blue Book, what should I do?** "You can contact Medicare and ask for your child's Immunisation History Statement which is recorded on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register [ACIR] on 1800 653 809, or contact your previous immunisation provider. If you have no written documentation of previous vaccinations it will be OK for your child to be vaccinated against these diseases."
3. **My child has already had the chickenpox disease/or the vaccine. Do they need this vaccine?** "It will be of no benefit for your child to get a vaccine if they have already had the disease. A booster vaccine is not required if they had the vaccine as a child but may provide additional protection."
4. **My child had diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine when they were aged 4, will he/she need the one offered at school?** "Yes, this is a booster dose that all students need to receive, it used to be given in Year 10 or at 15 years of age, but due to the high number of adolescents developing whooping cough, the program has been moved to Year 7 students only. This vaccine will not be available free when they are 15 years old."
5. **Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) is being given to boys and girls this year, why?** "The vaccine used in Australia called Gardasil is very effective in reducing the incidence of cervical cancers in women and genital warts in both men & women caused by an infection called Human Papillomavirus. This virus also causes cancers in other parts of the body, including the vulva, vagina, penis and anus. As the infection is spread through sexual contact, the Federal Government has introduced this vaccine to boys to try and reduce the effect of these diseases amongst all males & females during adulthood. The vaccine works best if 3 doses are given prior to sexual activity. The vaccine is recommended for use from 10 years of age and is only provided free for male and female students who commence the course in Year 7 or males in Year 9 for 2013 and 2014."
6. **My daughter who is in Year 9 this year missed out on getting her vaccines for HPV in Year 7, can she receive them this year with the boys or join in with the Year 7's?** "Unfortunately, the HPV vaccine was only available free of charge to girls in Year 7. If you wish your daughter to now receive this vaccine, your local doctor will be able to assist, although the vaccine will not be free."
7. **I've heard that the HPV vaccine causes bad side effects – everyone faints, I'm worried about these side-effects on my child. How can they be prevented?** "HPV vaccine is generally well tolerated. Common side effects are mild and usually involve pain, swelling and redness at the injection site. Serious side effects are extremely rare. Fainting can occur after receiving any injection, and is a fear response to a situation; this response may increase within the school environment due to the response of friends. The nurses are very experienced in dealing with this situation and all students are observed for a short while following vaccination. You can assist your child by ensuring they have a good breakfast before leaving home and provide them with ample food and water to consume during the day."
8. **My child is very nervous about having needles and the potential pain, I want him/her to use an Emla® patch or numbing cream, is that OK?** "Sure, if you ask your child to bring the

WELFARE

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Distr
Western Sydney Local Health District

patches into school on the morning of the clinic, I will organise for the nurses to put the patches on for your child 20 to 30 minutes

before your child gets vaccinated. This way, the patches will be in the correct position and the nurses will be able to slot your child in at the correct time."

9. **Will I know what vaccines my child has received?** "Yes, all students are provided written documentations of each vaccine given, which includes the date, time, and batch number of each vaccine given. Please retain this document for future reference, ideally in the back of the child's baby Blue Book. You should also inform your local doctor of all vaccines given at school."

10. **I would like more information about all these vaccinations, where can I look or who can I call?**

NSW Ministry of Health website:

http://www0.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Immunisation/school_prog/new_index.asp

This website will provide information on all the vaccines given and also in 22 other languages.

Cancer Council Victoria Website: <http://www.hpvvaccine.org.au/>

This is an excellent website for schools, parents and students to browse, including a short 4 minute movie on the HPV vaccine.

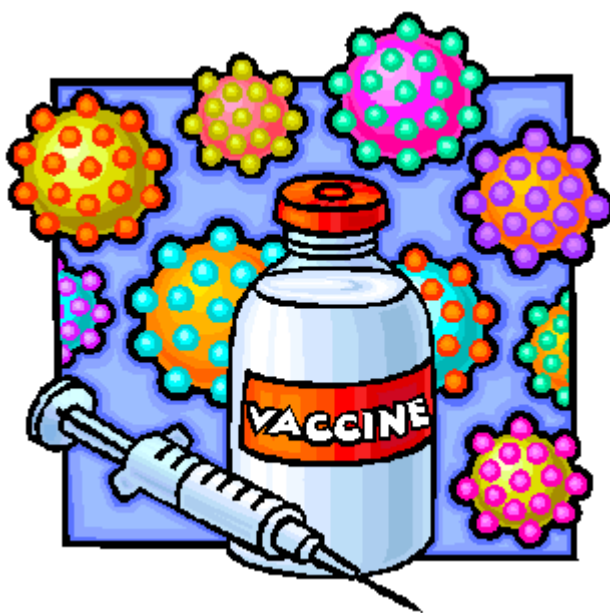
National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance [NCIRS] website:

<http://www.ncirs.edu.au/immunisation/fact-sheets/index.php>

The fact sheets provide greater depth of information on HPV vaccine, Hepatitis B and other information on vaccines that parents may require.

Parramatta Public Health Unit: (02)9840 3603

Nepean Public Health Unit: (02)4734 2022



WELFARE

UNIFORM

Plumpton High School is a uniform school. There are a number of reasons why students are expected and encouraged to wear school uniform. Some of these include:

Safety - it is essential staff can differentiate between PHS students and who should not be on school grounds. Leather enclosed shoes are also necessary for safety reasons, particularly in workshops and labs.

Citizenship and pride - being a part of a school community and having pride in the uniform is important aspect of school uniform. When all students are dressed in their uniform it creates a positive environment and gives our school a positive vibe around the wider community.

Discipline - as we are preparing our students for life outside the school gates, we are teaching them to be disciplined and to follow a set of expectations. An expectation of PHS is that they are dressed in the designated school uniform, just as particular professions also require a particular uniform. The following is a reminder of some of the uniform expectations we have for PHS students: Pants – black pants, shorts and skirts. Senior tartan skirt/shorts for years 10-12 female students. **Jeans and leggings are not acceptable.**

Shirts – white polo for junior students and the senior shirt for years 10-12. The red sport polo should only be worn for PE or sport lessons. Students must change before and after their lesson.

Jumpers – red PHS hoodie, V-neck jumper or knitted sweater. **Black or grey cardigans are not acceptable.** Year 12 students only are allowed to wear their senior jackets.

Shoes – leather enclosed shoes. These can be sport style leather shoes and do not have to be black.

If you have any questions regarding school uniform please contact Mr. Footit (Head Teacher Welfare). If you require financial assistance students may get a student assistance form from the front office. All uniform is available for purchase from the Uniform Shop located on school grounds on Tuesday (9-12) and Thursday (12-3).

Student of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who have selected as the student of the month in their respective year groups. These students are nominated by their teachers:

	February	March	April
7	Georgia Smith	Emily Spring Marsh	Reice Mannell
8	Brooke Zammit	Isabella Lucas	Francheska Cortez
9	Emily Inwood	Brielle Ellis	Vikash Maharaj
10	Karen Cosme	Glen Estrella	Deslyn Sinha
11	Anee-Marie Jarrett	Tamieka Archibald	Wayne Calleja
12	Mikayla Mantourolou	Dean Robinson	Courtney Smith

WELFARE

LEARN HOW TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

A true taste of the Cumberland Plain
Adults need education

Susanna Freymark Cyber bullying is considered illegal when illegal threats and behaviour occur. Check your child's legal rights at lawstuff.org.au. Privacy and blocking settings vary on each social network. CHILDREN have their own brand of abbreviated tech talk they use on their phones and computers, and it is parents who need to be educated in the new ways children communicate, Sydney cyber safety mum Leonie Smith says: "As an ambassador for the Federal Government's National Cyber Security Awareness Week" Ms Smith wants parents to understand how to protect their children. She wants to see a nationwide campaign on cyber safety, including TV ads. One of the problems was what Ms Smith called the "conspiracy of silence". "Schools can't block apps and they are covering up cyber safety incidents," she said. "Only 10 per cent of kids are telling if they have a bad experience online." She is concerned about a mobile-phone app called KICK, with its video-based posts. "Check this app after 4pm and you will see hundreds of school children on it."

Stacy Thomas PLUMPTON High School is fast becoming known as an environmental haven. The most recent addition at the school is a bush tucker garden, which was created with the help of Blacktown Council and Greening Australia. Agriculture teacher Tracey Burton said Years 7, 9 and 11 helped plant some of the species that grew on the Cumberland Plain. "This is vital as it is a critically endangered vegetation community and only 9 per cent remains today," she said. "Greening Australia supplied all the bush tucker seedlings and demonstrated how to plant and take care of them, post planting." Later, students will be planting at other sites.



Greening Australia's Leonie Phillpot helps lav Isenera plant the garden.

Picture: JEFF HERBERT

WELFARE

ENGAGING ADOLESCENT PARENT COURSE

A **three-session** program for **parents and carers** at the **Western Area Adolescent Team (WAAT)**
Buran Close, Mount Druitt, NSW 2770

THURSDAY 4:30pm till 6:30pm
25th of July / 1st of August / 8th of August
(must attend all 3 sessions)

An end to the arguing and yelling! • It saved our lives • Simple, sane, effective

Things you will learn:

- Things parents have in common
- New understandings of your teenager and what to expect from them
- Know how to talk and make decisions with your teenager
- Building relationships with your teenager
- Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can't ignore

Registration Fee

This course is free, afternoon tea included

To register for this course, contact Sarah at WAAT on 9881 1230 before Thursday the 4th of July 2013 Priority is given to parents living in the Blacktown/Mount Druitt area

What parents have said...

A step dad recalled an incident at the weekend with his 12 year old step daughter. He said that the input he had received the previous week from the course helped him keep his cool and brought a more favourable outcome. A single Mum who had presented as quite anxious on the first night told the group in week 2 that she had made an appointment with her 15 year old son during the week and had had a far more favourable discussion with him than would previously have been the case.

Who's running it?

Sarah and Andre will be facilitating the group. They have completed the relevant Engaging Adolescents training

For more information contact Sarah on 9881 1230

MATHEMATICS

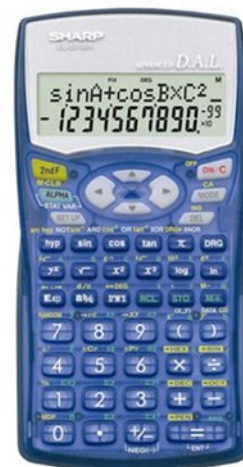
MATHS UPDATE

Calculators and Homework – critical for maths success!

During the recent round of exams and NAPLAN, it has become evident that a large number of students either do not own or are not bringing their calculators to school. Calculators are a critical tool in high school mathematics. Students can complete difficult arithmetic calculations quickly, enabling them to focus on the problem rather than the mental maths. In years 9 and 10, topics such as trigonometry can only be done with the calculator. When students don't bring them, they are unable to participate in the lesson and can become frustrated with maths. More importantly, students cannot complete a maths test without a calculator.

iPods and phones have calculators but they are not approved by the Board of Studies for use in exams and are a distraction in class, so we don't allow students to use them. We do not have enough calculators in the maths faculty to cater for all the students who do not bring them. So we ask that parents and caregivers check that their students have calculators in their bags at all times. They can be purchased at the front office for \$17. It has been clearly shown that students who do maths homework on a regular basis do better than those who don't. Generally classes are given some homework to complete but if they don't, then there is a huge benefit in just going over what was done in class and practising these concepts for 15 or 20 minutes.

Moodle has many links to games and other sites with practise activities – ask your teacher for some ideas!



PDHPE

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

On the 17th May a group of committed and enthusiastic Year 8 boys ventured down to Olympic Park Sports Hall in the Plumpton High School mini bus to take on the best volleyball teams for their age in the state. This was the first competition these boys have entered since they began training in November last year. The first game of the tournament the boys had their first ever victory against Sydney Boys, which was an outstanding result. Unfortunately the boys went down in their next two games in very close scores. As a result the boys finished third in their pool and equal fifth overall, which for a first tournament is an outstanding result. The boys are already looking forward to the next tournament which will be held Week 2, Term 3 and they are hoping to improve on their fifth place finish.

The following boys should be congratulated:

The athletic **Griffin Jacobs**

The outstanding leader **Harrison Moise**

The massive blocker **Joel Stein**

The big spiker **Tyler Shearer**

The enthusiastic **Jayden Cartwright**

The passionate **Josh Ross**

The gun server **Brayden Furneyvall**

The excellent spiker **Blake Loveday**

The great all-round volleyballer **Blake Harsh**



Cheers
Mr Nicholls
Boys Volleyball Coach

LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

Year 7's should all have their library cards now. If you have not collected yours, please go to the library front desk and ask for it. Remember that if you lose it you will have to pay \$5 to replace it. **This card is for both Year 7 and 8.** Bring it to school every day – in your school bag or pencil case – as you do not know when you might need to use it. It is no use to you sitting at home, so bring it with you to school. **Year 9 and 11** will get a new card **on application** for one. You need to come and ask and it will be made for you with an updated photo – at no cost. Each card is for 2 years use. Once you have your new card the other one should be cut it up or thrown away (if it is not lost already).

JUNIOR CHESS CHALLENGE

The PHS Junior Chess Contest was well attended last term and the students all behaved co-operatively and we had a great day here in the library. Our Champion was again Jed Obra (Year 8), with Runner-up being Nicholas Douglas. Top Year 7 was Najeeb Farooqi and Top Girl, Isabella Mirian of Year 8. Top Girl, Sana Dehsabzi Year 9 Well done!

SCRABBLE CONTEST

Calling all students in Year 7, 8, 9 or 10! At the end of this term we will hold our **Junior Annual Scrabble Contest**. There is time to learn how to play and practise to bring up your skills level. I am happy to teach you at lunchtimes how to play this excellent game **PROPERLY**, with hints and tips you can learn even if you **think** you know how to play already. It is a great game for fun and for improving your literacy level as it involves spelling, vocabulary and maths for scoring. While you might now end up champion of the day there are prizes for top Year 7 and 8 and other small prizes throughout the match for unusual and/or longest words on a board. It is just a day of good fun to end the term off, but you must be able to play the game. So, maybe I will see you at lunchtimes!

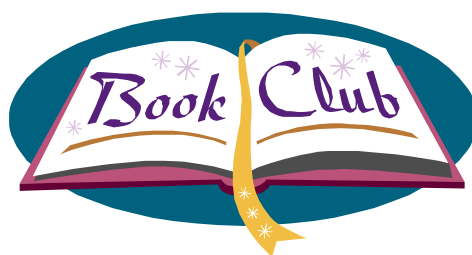
WEDNESDAY READING CLUB

I have been happy to see several new members of our quiet fiction reading club on a Wednesday at Lunch 2. Anyone is welcome, but you **must have a fiction book in your hands** as you come through the library door. This is how I know that you are or want to be a serious reader of fiction. So make sure that you organise this by bringing a book from home or borrowing one at Lunch 1. (This is the only time that you are allowed to bring in your bags and eat your lunch in the library.) Find out what our **Book of the Month** is for this month and join us for our next discussion group. We chat about these books at the end of each month over some drinks and biscuits. If you are a home reader you can still aim for the **Readership Trophy** at the end of the year, but you need to see me to find out what and how. There are many challenges you can participate in to show me a good reading record.

I hope to see you all some time or another in the library this year.

Mrs Pitt

(Teacher-librarian)



COMMUNITY NEWS

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