



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

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#### TERM 4 2012

**8th October**  
Term 4 begins

**15th October**  
HSC Begins

**18th October**  
PEC Numeracy & Gala Day

**23rd October**  
UWS Year 9 Skills Day

**13th November**  
BEACON Charter Signing

**13th & 14th November**  
ESSA

**8th November**  
HSC Ends

**21st November**  
Year 11 Driver Awareness

**29th November**  
Year 6 Information Night

**5th December**  
Year 6 Orientation Night

**6th December**  
Year 12 Formal

**December 7th**  
School Presentation Day

**December 19th**  
Last Day (students)

**20th & 21st December**  
Staff Development Days

**Have a Safe and Happy  
Holiday**

# LINK-UP

TERM 3 WEEK 10

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Principal's Report

As Term 3 draws to a conclusion Year 11 have just completed their yearly examinations, and are preparing for their first term of Year 12 which will start after the coming holidays. Our current Year 12 students are preparing for their Excellence Award Ceremony on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September in the GWSPAC and the Farewell assembly in the Tivoli Showroom at Rooty Hill RSL on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Both of these assemblies will celebrate the achievements and memories of students within our 2012 Year 12 cohort. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to attend these very important celebratory events.

During the Excellence Ceremony we will also witness the newly elected school leaders being inducted into their positions and the announcement of School Captains and Vice Captains for 2013. This year the election process was very difficult due to the large number of high quality applicants.

The school leaders being inducted are: Jessica Abdul-Ahed, Brittany Good, Madison Pizzilli, Emmalee Saaghy, Tonishia Schevenhoven, Rachel Stanley, Emma Stylli, Jillian Zarate, Sulaiman Abawi, Junaid Ahmad, Jake Carling, Michael McCurdie and Kristian Jimenez.

We are very confident that these young men and women will continue in the fine tradition of leadership that has been set by all of our previous student leadership groups.

### NSW Minister's Award for Excellence in Education

Our school captain, Dean Wright, was one of only 34 students throughout NSW who received the NSW Minister's Award for Excellence in Education for 2012. This was a well-deserved award when you reflect on Dean's achievements.

He has consistently achieved high results in his HSC subjects, he was chosen in the U/18 Western Sydney Giants AFL team, selected as School Captain of Plumpton High school, placed in the top 4 candidates of the Blacktown Youth Ambassador Program in 2011, was awarded the Two Ways Together scholarship, the University of NSW Winter scholarship and the NSW Premier's ANZAC scholarship. He was also in the inaugural intake for the AFL Indigenous Academy when he was in year 7. Since then he has represented and spoken on behalf of the Academy numerous times.



Continued on next page

## Principal's Message Continued

### NAIDOC Week Celebrations

This year our NAIDOC week celebrations were an outstanding success. A whole day was devoted to an awareness and celebration of Aboriginal culture. The day included traditional dance, art, Bush Tucker, artefacts and a didgeridoo demonstration.

A great deal of gratitude must go to our Aboriginal Education Officer, Ms Karlene Rex, Ms Tess Devine, Head Teacher and coordinator of the Plumpton Aboriginal committee and its members for their organisation of the day.

All events were of a very high standard and the comments from participating students were extremely positive especially with the experiences that our special guests provided.

The AFL Indigenous Academy also ran a separate day of celebration at the Blacktown GWS AFL ground for all members of the academy. This day also focused on Aboriginal culture and culminated in friendly games of AFL.

This is just another example of the outstanding support that the AFL Indigenous Academy has provided for our Aboriginal students since the inception of our partnership in 2007. They currently run a number of programs within the school, including a boy's program which involves making, designing and learning to play the didgeridoo. Aboriginal students who are graduating year 12 this year have been measured up for business attire and are invited to the Deadly Awards at the Sydney Opera House.



### Science and Maths Exposed

Approximately fifty students from Plumpton High School attended the Parramatta campus of the University of Western Sydney to enjoy a day organised by the Lachlan Macquarie College which focused on mathematics and science. We were very fortunate to secure a place amongst the 800 other students from all schools in the Western and South Western Regions. I was told there was a waiting list of over 400 students.

The program was opened by the NSW chief Scientist, Professor Mary O'Kane, followed by a multimedia presentation by Lachlan Macquarie College, an interactive session by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), various displays, and a chance to experience the campus of the university and network with other students.

Congratulations must go to Mr Domingo and Ms Prasad for their organisation of such a wonderful event that was very well received by all of the students.



## Principal's Message Continued

### Mt Druitt & Minchinbury Education Week Concert

Plumpton High School was well represented at the 2012 Education Week Concert held in the Tivoli showroom at Rooty Hill RSL. The concert is the major event within the Mt Druitt & Minchinbury Education week calendar and always attracts a capacity audience. Our school captain, Dean Wright opened the program with the Acknowledgement of Country.

Former Plumpton High school captain, Damien Samuel, and current Head Teacher, Ms Marnie Taylor, were two of the three guest speakers. They both were highly inspirational as they spoke about their experiences as students in the district of Mt Druitt and of their current vocations.

Ms Pleffer was a student and school captain of Rooty Hill High School. Since being appointed as Head Teacher at Plumpton High School she has been outstanding in leadership of her wonderful staff and for developing the da Vinci centre to a standard of learning support which other schools aspire. The centre has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of countless students over recent years.

Mr Damien Samuel was school captain of Plumpton High School and Blacktown Youth Ambassador in 2006. Damien had always displayed a great passion and talent for dance. Since graduating year 12 he has appeared on both the Australian and American TV versions of '*Dancing with the Stars*' as an instructor. He also made it to the top ten places of the Australian TV Dance competition entitled '*So You Think You Can Dance*'. Damien is currently touring the world in numerous dance productions.

It was a very proud moment to see and hear all three of these outstanding Plumpton High School representatives at such a major event.



### Plumpton High School Annual Music Night

This year was the first time that the annual school music night was held in the GWSPAC. The support from the community was amazing with almost all seats sold out.

This was testament to the tradition of musical talent that has been synonymous with Plumpton High School. This year the depth and variety of talent was quite extraordinary. Students from years 7 to 12 showcased their expertise as keyboard and vocal soloists and as members of vocal groups or bands.

Once again the night cemented itself as one of the highlights of the school calendar.



## Principal's Message Continued

### School Programs Community Partners

On behalf of the school I would like to extend our gratitude to a number of organisations that are providing invaluable experiences for the students of our school.

- ◊ **Basketball Australia** sponsors of last year's very successful 'No School No Play' program has recommenced this year. It provides an avenue for positive a outlook towards school and at the same time promotes a healthy lifestyle. This program is also generously supported by **Plumpton Woolworths** whom provide healthy food options for the participants.
- ◊ **ONE55 health & fitness gymnasium** in conjunction with **Rooty Hill RSL** is offering a selected group of year 8 & 9 boys specialist fitness programs.
- ◊ **Plumpton Bakers Delight** continue their unwavering support by donating their products to our breakfast program.

### School Administration Staff (SAS) Recognition Week

The week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> September was SAS Recognition week. Our school is blessed with an outstanding group of people who make up our School Administration Staff. They perform extremely valuable roles within the school. These include the wonderful welcoming atmosphere that is generated in the front office, the scanning of nearly 4000 class rolls a day, providing photocopying for over 1100 students and staff, countless clerical and financial duties, enrolments, first aid, the administration of over 800 student laptops, providing support and coordination of Aboriginal students and programs, specialist assistance in the subjects of science and hospitality, providing support for students with learning disabilities, maintaining the library, maintaining the agriculture plot, school maintenance, repairs, reports and liaising with DEC and outside companies. This is just a brief summary from a list that is too extensive to generate for this newsletter. On behalf of the Plumpton High School Community I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for all of the work that the school administration staff perform on a daily basis to ensure the efficient running of the school.

In conclusion as the term draws to a close I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful holiday. In particular I would like to wish Year 12 the best of luck for their pending HSC examinations commencing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Year 12 make sure that you utilise the time that is left productively and access the expertise of your teachers.

The NSW Board of Studies <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/> is also a valuable reference, in terms of practice questions, HSC timetable and how to obtain your HSC results.

I look forward to seeing everyone back at the beginning of term 4 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Peter Ezzy  
Relieving Principal

# WELFARE

## INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES ABOUT MEASLES

Sydney is currently experiencing an outbreak of measles which began in April 2012 and is centred in the South Western Sydney and Western Sydney regions. Many of the cases have been high school students, with a smaller number in primary school. There is potential for the measles outbreak to spread further given young people have large social networks both within and outside of school.

NSW Health advises that measles is a serious viral illness that mainly affects unvaccinated children, teenagers, young adults, and babies too young to be vaccinated. Measles is highly infectious and can easily spread through the air.

Immunisation is effective in preventing the disease. In Australia, infants and young children are vaccinated with measles-mumps-rubella vaccine at 12 months and 4 years of age.

People who are at risk of measles include:

- ◊ Infants <12 months who are too young to have been routinely vaccinated
- ◊ Older children who have not received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine
- ◊ Adults born during or after 1966 who have not received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine and haven't had measles infection in the past.

Immunising older siblings and non-immune adults will help prevent the spread of infection to infants who are too young to be vaccinated and who are at risk of severe disease.

The first sign of measles is a high fever which usually begins about 10 to 12 days after exposure to a person with measles (range 7-18 days). A runny nose, cough, red and watery eyes (conjunctivitis), and small white spots inside the cheeks can develop in the initial stage. The rash appears around 14 days after exposure, usually starting on the face and upper neck and spreading over the body, hands and feet. The rash lasts for 4-7 days.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

People with measles are usually infectious from just before the symptoms begin until four days after the rash appears. If you have had contact with someone who has had measles and develop **a fever, runny nose, cough, red and watery eyes**, it may be measles and seek medical advice.

If you suspect measles, see your doctor, clinic or hospital. It is important to **ring before your consultation** so you can be seen as soon as possible and arrangements can be made to avoid contact with other patients in the waiting room who may be susceptible to measles.

A person with measles should remain at home until four days after the rash appears to reduce the possibility of spreading it to other people.

Further information about measles can be found on the NSW Ministry of Health website at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/measles.html>

# WELFARE



*Photo of Caitlin Prevett and year advisers Mr Chris Holmes and Mr Brett Adamski.*

Plumpton high School is proud to announce that Caitlin Prevett of yr 9 was selected as Junior Winner of the Rotary 4 Way Test event, which saw her having to read a speech she wrote out at the awards evening held at Blacktown Workers Club last Thursday night.

Caitlin's Year Advisor Mr Holmes and Assistant Year Advisor Mr Adamski as well as her proud family attended the awards night on behalf of the school and community.



*Photo of Caitlin and Maureen Buust– Mt Druitt Rotary club president*

***Congratulations, Caitlin***

# WELFARE

## Welfare Report

### **Uniform**

A few reminders regarding uniform at PHS:  
Black shorts, pants or skirts are acceptable – black tights/leggings are inappropriate for school, as are jeans.  
Students timetabled for sport or PE, must wear their white shirt and change into their red shirt for their practical period only.  
Leather enclosed shoes are required for OH&S reasons.  
Students will miss out on practical activities if they have incorrect footwear.

**Students with awards – don't forget to see your Year Adviser so they can keep track of your progress.**

### **Nutrition**

Good nutrition is important to ensure we are able to function at our optimum level throughout the day – including period 4! Some points to consider:  
Have breakfast everyday to kick start your metabolism.  
Eat fruit regularly for snacks instead of sugary or less nutritious snacks.  
Bring a sandwich or something similar for lunch.  
If you forget your lunch, see Mr Footit in the Welfare office to make a sandwich.



### **National Youth Leaders Day**

Students are being offered a wonderful opportunity to attend this gathering of future leaders. All students interested in leadership are encouraged to attend. To register their interest, students should see Mr Footit for further information. Previous speakers at this conference include Delta Goodrem, Wally Lewis, Catriona Rountree, various politicians and other well-known athletes and musicians.

### **Students of the Month**

Congratulations to the following students who have been recognised by staff as Students of the Month:  
Year 7 – Abigail Foster & Christian Gatachalian  
Year 8 – Harley Munns & Sunia Maile  
Year 9 – Avishay Prasad & Nhi Thi Tran  
Year 10 – Shayal Prasad & Reehaan Jalil  
Year 11 – Ibrahim Bah & Kelly Laing  
Year 12 – Yousaf Khan & Tamara Sheens

### **Motivational Media**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August all PHS students had the great opportunity to view the latest production from Motivational Media, titled “iRisk”. The production followed a series of stories of various experiences, benefits of and consequences of risk taking. Students were able to discover the benefits of taking positive risks and what we can get out of taking on challenges, and also the consequences that are often associated with taking negative risks.  
All year groups responded positively at each screening and many students were overheard in the playground talking about the various scenarios. We are already looking forward to next year's production.

# 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



## 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 <b>reminded to put the phone in their bag</b> 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 <b>reminded to turn the phone off</b> 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.	<b>The device will be confiscated immediately by a teacher.</b> 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 <b>after-school detention</b> or will be required to complete <b>after-school community service</b> .
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. <b>The student will be referred to the head teacher</b> who will record the incident on the school's behaviour referral system. The student will be placed on <b>after-school detention in the first instance</b> . 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.	<b>The student's parents will be contacted and the student will forfeit their right to bring the mobile phone or MP3 to school.</b> 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.	<b>The device will be confiscated immediately and may be referred to police.</b> 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.	<b>The device will be confiscated immediately and may be referred to police.</b> 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.

This policy has been initiated by the Student Representative Council and has been endorsed by the staff of Plumpton High School in August 2008. Updated June 2012

# WELFARE

## BUSTED

'Bully Busters' is a musical theatrical performance by Class Act Theater which is aimed at tackling bulling issues in schools.

This excellent performance took place on 10<sup>th</sup> August on Friday during guidance lesson at Greater Western Sydney Performing Arts Centre.

Students were given an insight into bullying through role playing where different situations were acted which enhanced students understanding on different perspectives of bullying.

The performance was very entertaining with roars of laughter erupting now and then as actors engaged the students and took them on a journey with Ms Karma, Jake and Sally. The exceptionally well behaved Year 7 cohort responded well to the actors as they clapped and cheered as each conflict was resolved.

The performance was greatly enjoyed by all year 7 students with thought provoking questions asked by students at the closure of the performance.

The exceptional behaviour was duly noted by the actors and they complimented the exuberance of the students and excellent behaviour that was displayed throughout the performance.



# Bring It On

16  
dance competition

Bring It  
OOOOOOOOON!



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the BIO students for making it into the grand final!  
**A big THANK YOU** to the parents and the community for their ongoing support!



See you all in the grand final!

# ATTENDANCE



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

# 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](mailto: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

Student Details - KALAL, Harry					
Student Card		Attendance		Student Log	
Student		Year		Settings	
Wk 1		27/01/10 Staff Development Day	28/01/10 - (Ex) Yet To Start	29/01/10 Present	1st Term 2nd Term 3rd Term 4th Term
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 - (Ex) 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) 08:46 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 - (Ex) 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 - (Ex) Partial
Wk 9	22/03/10 Present	23/03/10 - (Pe) Partial	24/03/10 Present	25/03/10 Present	26/03/10

Green cell means **present** all 4 lessons that day.

Red cell means **unexplained absence** all day.

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

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.

# AIME

## Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)

In term 2 and 3, Miss Lawson, Mrs Rex and Mr Rodriguez took 5 students to Sydney University to be part of the AIME program.

Bryceson Griffin participated in the senior mentoring where he worked with mentors from the university and AIME staff to look at career planning and creating a passport to connect with the connected companies and assist in career pathways.

Shannon Smith, Wakkurri Ellis, Shayne Toms and Ashleigh Hickey participated in the Year 9 and 10 program where they looked at goals, what impacts their life and what is important to them. The students then created an artwork that interprets this (see below).



Left to Right: Ashleigh Hickey, Wakkurri Ellis, Ms Lawson, Shannon Smith, Shayne Toms

# ABORIGINAL EDUCATION



Aboriginal students and Elders enjoying Naidoc Week celebrations

# ABORIGINAL EDUCATION



Aboriginal students enjoying NAIDOC Week celebrations

# HISTORY

## Ancient Egypt's Next Top Model!



In Year 8 History this term students are currently studying Ancient Egypt. Students in 8 Curtin 1 have been exploring everyday life and the weather in Ancient Egypt.

Students were given a task to investigate what a variety of people wore, including their makeup, wigs and clothing for men, women, rich people, peasants, nobles and pharaohs.

They were given a design brief and they had to nominate one person from their group to model the clothing. They had only one lesson to design the outfit and justify their choices and decisions. Students were given three materials to create their outfits: sticky tape, aluminium foil and newspaper.

Their investigation culminated in a fashion parade to the sound of The Bangles, 'Walk Like an Egyptian'. The results were fantastic

### OUR MODELS:

Joel Williams  
Samantha Quinton  
Nicholas Douglas  
Ryan Huntington



# HISTORY

## Ancient Egypt's Next Top Model!



# AGRICULTURE

## PENRITH SHOW

Agriculture students in the Show Team participated again this year in the Penrith Show. Students were able to gain valuable experience in calf preparation and parading, sheep judging for meat and wool, sheep handling and parading and poultry judging.

Students entered the categories of eggs, jam, horticulture and Waterfowl. We are pleased to report that our eggs won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, and both our Indian Runner Ducks won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

Christine Bloomfield came 2<sup>nd</sup> in a Sheep Handling heat and overall 5<sup>th</sup> place. The students are to be congratulated on their excellent behaviour while representing the school at the show and their commitment to agriculture.

The dedicated Agriculture students that attended this year's show included:

### Saturday

#### Year 10

Jessica Flynn  
Tayla Meath  
Tayla Firth  
Grant Slingerland  
Sarah Murray

#### Year 8

Ellen Slingerland  
Christine Bloomfield  
Ken saville

### Sunday

#### Year 10

Jessica Flynn  
Grant Slingerland  
Ann-Marie Jarrett  
Kerrie-Anne Kendrick  
Lisa Huntington

#### Year 8

Christine Bloomfield  
Tegan McIntyr



*Tayla Meath with the calf (Paris)*

This year our school participated in the annual Penrith Show. Tayla and I were speakers for the display. Our display was celebrating 20 years of schools involvement with the Penrith Show. I also participated in calf parading with Paris and I won a 5<sup>th</sup> place ribbon for my handling. This was a positive experience because for the second time at the show I won a ribbon and I was given the opportunity to speak on behalf of Plumpton High School and represent Plumpton at the show.

**By Sarah Murray**

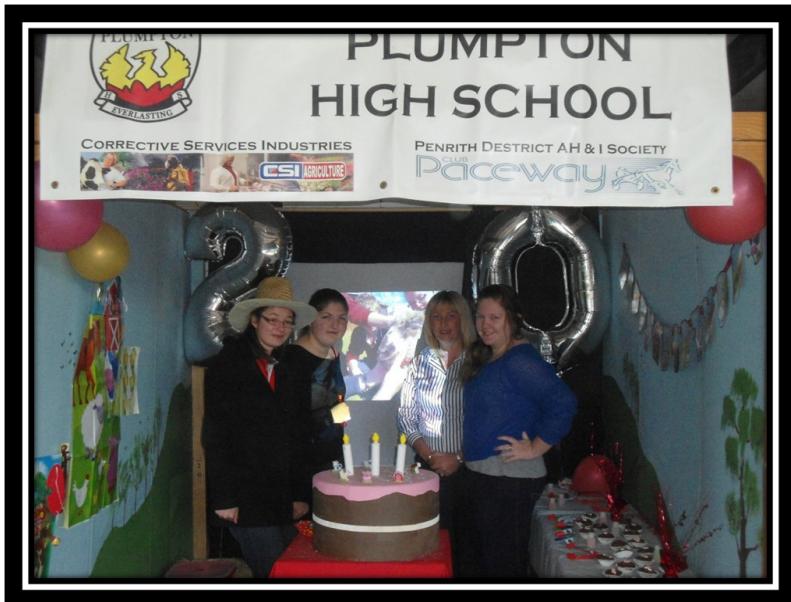


*Left: Our Male Indian Runner Duck who came 3rd in the Waterfowl category*



*Right: Sarah Murray with her 5th place ribbon for Calf Parading*

# AGRICULTURE



*Lisa Huntington, Ann-Marie Jarrett, Ms Burton and Kerri-Anne Kendrick at the school display.*



*Left: Tayla Meath, Grant and Ellen Slingerland*

*Right: Mrs Scollen, Jessica Flynn, Sarah Murray, Tayla Firth with Paris the calf*



*Ken Saville competing in the Calf Parading event*



*Christine Bloomfield with her 2nd place ribbon*

# SCIENCE

## Mythbusters

Mythbusters of Year 8 have been working diligently to investigate myriads of myths and are now capable of supporting their arguments based on scientific research.

Identifying the myth and creating a problem to be investigated has been the norm for the students. The students then create a suitable hypothesis and devise a method to investigate the myth. Upon completion of the investigations students are encouraged to analyse the results and explain the myth based on their findings.

Some of the investigations undertaken in Mythbuster class are listed below.

- ◊ Taco sauce is the best brass cleaner
- ◊ Mass of sugar in range of fizzy drinks
- ◊ Reaction between mentos and coke
- ◊ Small kites fly further than big kites

Students researched and meticulously put together the kite which they were able to fly. The winning kite as per hypothesis of most of the group was quite small.



# PDHPE

## Safety at Plumpton High School

In week 6 of Term 3 Miss Lawson and Mr Simonovski's Year 11 PDHPE students participated in their First Aid Course. The students had been studying first aid as part of the course and we had an external assessor come out and assess them so they are fully qualified!

Congrats to those students who participated, this is a valuable qualification that is required for some jobs, so it may help you in future job hunting, however, ultimately it could save a life!



# SPORT

## Zone Athletics

Towards the end of term 3 more than thirty Plumpton High School students participated at the Mt Druitt Zone Athletics Carnival. The day saw some excellent performances from numerous Plumpton High School athletes.

This year was one of the most successful carnivals with Plumpton High School leading the point score early on, only to be just pipped at the post by Rooty Hill High School. There were some outstanding results from the following athletes:

Joy Tedeschi 12 Years Female Age Champion

Brendon Lal 13 Years Boys Age Champion

Brooke Harrison 14 Years Female Age Champion

Other commendable results came from the following athletes who have qualified to represent the Mt Druitt Zone at the Sydney West Athletics Carnival:

Jahi Pritchard Jamila Bawani

Joy Tedeschi Sally Lewington

Cloe Jensen Nick Douglas

Brooke Zammit Tim Scruse

Brendan Lal Albert Davis

Josh Ross Sonia Taumaialo

Griffin Jacobs Sela Piu

Lachlan Smith Leta Aunese

Baden Smith Jake Cullen

Chloe Mallinson Luke Hutton

Gloria Loto Courtney Snape

Tayla Martin Jayden Jensen

Liahona Talataina Hayden Sundstrom

Natasha Young Tristan Smith-Jones

Kaala Hutton Brittany Good

Jessica Flynn Maria Lilo

All students who represented Plumpton High School should be highly commended for their demonstration of excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. Congratulations to all!!!

# SPORT

## Basketball

On Tuesday 31st of July, the Plumpton High U15's girls basketball team played against Chifley College Mt Druitt in the first round of the Sydney West knockout. The game was played at Emerton Leisure Centre. The girls put in a great performance to dominate the first half. Mt Druitt started to catch up in the second half however, the Plumpton girls defended well and never gave up the lead. Special mention to Liahona Talataina, who was the top scorer. Final score 25-20. Plumpton now meet Richmond High in the second round.

Team list - Liahona Talataina, Setaita Manukeu, Kharlee Rangitonga, Maria Numia Lilo, Martha Soakai, Tanaya Te Koi, Lottie Numia Lilo

The Plumpton High U15's boys basketball team also recently played their first round game away against Northmead High School. The boys produced a dominant display from start to finish, where the result was never in doubt. Final score 37-14. Congratulations to the boys who are now scheduled to play Greystanes High School.

Team list – Anoop Sagoo, John Blanco, Mike Manalo, Ryan Dumaguit, Christian Hipolito, Venz Banting, Nelson Maula, Aman Akber, Lima Misa

## Rugby League

The Lewis 7's rugby league gala day was held at The Kingsway, St Mary's on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August. Plumpton High entered a year 9 and a year 10 team into the competition which contained 16 other teams. The year 9 boys played well to beat Erskine Park, however, lost by 2 points to Bede Polding and to Dunheved. As these boys were the youngest team on the day, they will definitely be back bigger and better next year.

The year 10 boys went through their pool against Chifley College Mt Druitt 2, St Columbus and Blacktown Boys undefeated. This enabled them to progress to the semi final where they met Cambridge Park. The boys put in a huge performance to win and advance to the grand final. The final was played against the Chifley College Mt Druitt 1 team. The two teams went try for try and the score was level at fulltime. This meant the first team to score in extra time would be declared the winner. Plumpton realised that they could not afford to give possession to Mt Druitt as they were so strong and difficult to tackle. Plumpton maintained possession and after a great play down the side line, a kick was put through which forced a line drop out. From this, the boys made Mt Druitt work and defend their own line. Once they got tired, it allowed Plumpton to throw the ball around and run around their tired players. Kimi Filihi then made a break and scooted across the field and scored the winning try. This is an outstanding achievement for the boys and a very well deserved win after finishing runner up in the Panther Trophy last term.

Year 9 team list – Corey Reynolds, Nise Taulima-Tofoeono, Sean Foster, Todd Cheshire, Lima Misa, Nikodemo Pureariki, William Andrews, Tai Vaivase Nouata, Joseph Howard, Jerome Misa, Isaia Tone, Jeffersen Iro Valoa

Year 10 team list – Nick Betar, Ahmad Zraika, Josh McKay, Brayden Green, Julian Singh, Nooroa Pureariki, Hayden Whitehouse, Yasin Ozyurtkan, Kimi Filihi, Jordan Chapman, Jack Sloane

Mr Simonovski (Coach)



# LIBRARY

## CHESS

We have had two interschool chess tournaments this term and our teams have done us proud again. The first one was at St Dominic's on 27 June. This was a heat for the Sydney Academy of Chess Interschool Challenge, and our team made it through to the semi-finals, along with St Dominics and Penrith Selective. Our team will be competing on the 19 September at the Kings School at this next level. Well done to **Nicholas Davey, Marshall Sivies, Yas Ozyurtkan, Nicholas Douglas and Yeng Luo** for this excellent achievement.

On the 25 July we participated in the Penrith RSL Interschool Contest with two teams. This event has grown in prestige and this year there were twenty schools and 30 teams, mostly made up of private and selective schools. Our A team came 4<sup>th</sup>, another great achievement against the tough competition of private schools new to the tournament. The top 4 teams were separated by only 1 point each.

**A-Team: Nicholas Davey, Marshall Sivies, Jed Obra and Nicholas Douglas –see photo below**



**B-Team: Yas Ozyurtkan, Yeng Luo, Volkan Mert and Eunice Flore**

## SENIORS

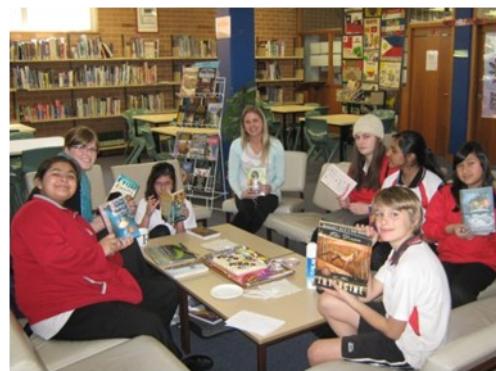
Don't forget to check out the **HSC study guides** that we have in stock in the library to help you with your holiday studying. Not long to go before your exams, so give yourself the best chance of revision with these books. Ask me where they are hiding.

Continued on next page

# LIBRARY

## BOOK WEEK 2012

This year the theme for Book Week was '**Champions Read**'. The idea of Book Week is to promote the love of books and reading and the Book of the Year is decided in various different categories. At high school we look particularly at the shortlist of books for teens, younger and older. Students are encouraged to read and review as many short listed books as they can before Book Week. Over the whole of Book Week there are activities and competitions for students to enter and win small prizes. The student who collects the most points for participation in this way become **BOOKWEEK CHAMPION**. This year's champion is **Eunice Flores** (Yr 9) and the runner-up is **Sana Dehsabzi** (Yr 8). They not only entered many of the activities but also read, between them, in just a few weeks TEN of the short listed books. This is GOOD READING! Well done, girls the Wednesday of Book Week we had a **special Shortlist Discussion and Cake** with the students who had read a short listed book. Special guests were Ms MacPherson and Ms Scollen who also participated by reading and offering their opinions on a short listed book. The choice of Books of the Year were very surprising this year – none of us predicted the right ones: 'The Dead I Know' and 'Crow Country'. If you like a rather dark and different book to read then these are for you!



We also had our annual Grabble contest during Book Week. Our Champion for 2012 is **Rodrigo Gonzalez**, and runner-up is **Mohamad Darwiche** (Yr 10). Top Yr 8 is **Sana Dehsabzi** and Top Yr 7 is **Alec Gonzalez**. Grabble is a word game requiring quick-thinking and speaking and is great for improving one's spelling and vocabulary skills. Anyone wishing to learn has only to come to the library at any lunch time.

Thanks to all the students and teachers who participated in Book Week this year – it is good to see in this **National Year of Reading** that there are enthusiastic readers among us. Whether one reads a conventional book or an E-reader or Kindle it is all still reading – and I believe that good reading habits create good citizens who never have time to be bored and discontented. I hope that parents out there are encouraging their children in Year 7 to 10 to read fiction books as this is the time to develop their concentration levels for reading which will be helpful to them when they get to their senior studies. Next term we will hold a Trivia Contest and one of the categories will be Reading/Authors/Books and another will be Spelling and Vocabulary so as to continue to celebrate the **National Year of Reading**.

So everyone, come and find a book for some springtime holiday reading or HSC study. Having trouble finding the 'good stuff'? Ask me so that I can help you. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Mrs Pitt

# INDUSTRIAL ARTS

## Year 9 Industrial Tech Metals

A group of Year 9 students were selected to be part of a co-ordinated Panel Beating TAFE course every Friday in Term 3. These students were introduced into the type of schooling that is available when they leave school. They began to undertake workshop tasks that included Occupational Health and Safety regulations, labelling parts of a car and finding small dints and cracks (picture below). Students then began to use basic workshop hand tools and machines to create a small modelled bonnet (picture below). Students will then be taught how to use spray painting equipment to design and colour these bonnets.

This has been an extremely successful course which has further helped these students' skills and confidence in the Industrial Arts classes.



## Industrial Technology- Timber, HSC Major Projects



# INDUSTRIAL ARTS

## Industrial Technology- Graphics, HSC Major Projects

In 2012 8 students have been busy at work completing their Major projects for Industrial Technology Graphics. These major projects range from the product design of a Fighter pilots helmet (Edward Gomez), a new Polaroid digital camera (Joshua Gonzalez), new sports car designs (Shirazz Ali and Abdul Dubloo), a device for holding an Apple iPhone on a bike (Naethiel Lumbara). Additionally Dean Wright designed a new stadium for the GWS AFL team and Jono Tumbaga created a Japanese inspired house. All students had to use CAD programs to design and present their ideas to the HSC markers; some even produced models using high tech CNC process, like those in the manufacturing industry. On the whole the projects demonstrated the student's keen sense of design and use of CAD programs like Google SketchUp, Pro Engineer, Solid Edge and Adobe Photoshop.



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## ROOTY HILL RAPTORS JUNIOR RUGBY UNION CLUB

PLAYERS AND COACHES WANTED FOR THE 2012  
SEASON

BOYS AND GIRLS FROM Under 6's to Under 16's  
SPECIAL FAMILY RATES FOR 2 CHILDREN OR  
MORE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
Email [rootyhillraptors@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rootyhillraptors@yahoo.com.au)

Telephone: Bill [0421 733 788](tel:0421733788)

Ben [0431 670 489](tel:0431670489)

## NIGHT COMP

MIXED (Male & Female)  
LADIES ( 10Yrs and Over)

Mount Druitt Netball Association are planning on running a night comp (including MIXED teams) for a 6-8 week period on Monday nights from October 15th at the Popondetta courts, Blackett..

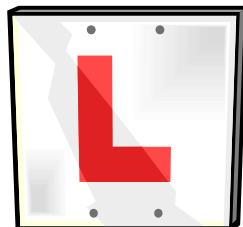
Please let us know if you are interested individually or if you would like to enter a team.

Let us know via our facebook page:  
[facebook.com/mountdruittnetball](https://facebook.com/mountdruittnetball) or by email:  
[mdnanetball665@hotmail.com](mailto:mdnanetball665@hotmail.com)



*Join Us*  
from  
**20th March**  
**\$15**  
Tuesdays 7:30pm - 8:30pm  
Plumpton Neighbourhood Centre  
337 Rooty Hill Rd Plumpton  
(enter via Bottles Rd)  
contact Teresa 0425 310 724

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