



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

(02) 9625 7020 / 9625 7505
Fax: 9832 1582

www.plumpton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
email: plumpton-h.school
@det.nsw.edu.au

TERM 4 **2012**

19th December
Last Day Students

20th & 21st December
Staff Development Days

TERM 1 **2013**

29th January
Staff Development Day

30th January
School Returns
Years 7, 11 & 12

31st January
School Returns
Years 8, 9 & 10

12th April
Last Day Term 1



Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
Have a Safe and Happy
Holiday

LINK-UP

TERM 4 WEEK 7 2012

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Principal's Report

Year 12 has now completed their HSC examinations and we now look forward to their results when they are made available on Wednesday 19th December.

Their Excellence and Graduation Ceremonies, held at the end of last term, were outstanding.

The range of talent and achievements in the areas of leadership, community, academia, performing arts and sport was astounding. Their final function will be their formal which will be held at Penrith Panthers on Thursday 6th December.

On behalf of the entire Plumpton high school community I congratulate the year 12 cohort of 2012 on their extraordinary contributions to the school over the last six years and sincerely wish you all the very best in each and every one of your future endeavours.

We are all very proud of you, especially your year advisers Mr Sharma and Ms Prasad.



The Beacon partnership is an invaluable program that provides outstanding experiences for our year 10 students.

Ms Hayley Tanti, together with the assistance of Ms Athina Pendespiti have done an amazing job coordinating the program at school level. Through their efforts we were acknowledged as the best new Beacon school at the National Awards last year and the best overall school at the NSW awards this year.

One of the most significant events in the program is the *Charter Signing*. This event symbolises a pledge for all students to pursue a pathway that will consist of further study or employment.

This year's Charter signing was an extraordinary success with approximately 250 parents and family and a large number of business and political partners whom were all present to support our year 10 students with their pledge.

Valuable messages were also delivered by our three guest speakers, Mr Nathan Cayless, former captain of the Parramatta Eels and New Zealand Rugby League teams, Mr Roger Miller of Colliers and Ms Maria Nordstrom GM of Fuji Xerox.

Ms Jane Artup, the Beacon State Manager, summed up the night very well with the following excerpt taken from an email that she sent to the school.

"I know the amount of work you poured into the event and it was all worth it. There was a great sense of occasion around the event, the signing of the charter was significant to everyone in the room, and the students were made to feel special. The parental involvement was incredible, the night event definitely worked, there were more parents at the event than I have ever seen at a Charter, and it was such a powerful image of them all walking down in mass to sign the charter, I loved it".



Continued on next page

Principal's Message Continued

Empowering Local Schools (ELS) National Partnerships

As of 2015 all schools in NSW will be required to operate under the new NSW Department of Education and Communities school management model. It is envisaged that this model will give greater flexibility in the areas of finance and staffing. This will enable schools to be more effective in meeting the needs of their school communities. Although there will be greater staffing flexibility there will still be a number of industrial agreements in place that will ensure that certain staffing structures are maintained.

Plumpton High School is one of the 229 ELS pilot schools which will trial the process prior to the state wide roll out. As a pilot school we will enjoy a high degree of support in our transition and we will be among the first to benefit from this new degree of flexibility.

Staff have been undergoing extensive training in budgeting and finance so that we will be equipped with the necessary skills to manage our Resource Allocation funding in 2013. To support the Local decision making process the school has been given a Federal Grant of \$50 000

The Year 8 online ESSA examination and Years 7 to 10 Yearly Examinations have just been completed and staff are currently very busy marking and preparing for reports. Many of our staff have commented on the commitment that students have displayed throughout all of the examinations and hopefully this will be reflected in their results.

It is an extremely busy time of year for our staff as many are involved in the marking of HSC papers, which involves a significant number of after-hours commitment that extends late into evenings and on weekends. We are very fortunate to have such a significant number of HSC markers at our school because this provides invaluable insight to the HSC marking requirements and the standards that are displayed by students across NSW.

The AFL Indigenous Academy has been a highly valued partner to the school over the last 6 years. To celebrate the year 12 graduation of their first intake of students the academy purchased suits for all of the year 12 students in the academy schools of Rooty Hill, Doonside and Plumpton High Schools. They were also given special invitations to the *Deadly Awards* at the Sydney Opera House where Dean Wright was chosen to be interviewed by SBS on the night.

Congratulations to Dean Wright, Patricia Young, Leilani Connolly and Bryceson Griffin.

The Academy is currently conducting Aboriginal art classes. The students are taught all of the intricate techniques by renowned aboriginal artist Daren Dunn. Daren has been commissioned by Nike to design various sporting items and clothing. Below is a photo of a pair of Ben Baba's boots painted by Daren and one of the yet to be completed paintings by our students.



Principal's Message Continued

During the last week of October the **President of the Philippines Benigno Aquino III** visited Australia. We were privileged to have four of our students invited to be part of a special Filipino community audience at John Therry High School in Rosemeadow. Other than students from the host school we were the only other school invited to this prestigious function. It was a wonderful occasion and a very memorable event for Kristian Jimenez, John Trinidad, Jillian Zarate and Erica Cruz.

Our appreciation must go to our Beacon business partners Mrs Tess Sayas & Mr. Arturo Sayas (President of the Philippine Community Council of New South Wales) for organising our invitations.

The F1 in Schools Technology Challenge is the world's largest secondary school technology program. It involves over nine million students from 17,000 schools in 31 nations.

Each year the program engages more than 40,000 high school students in Australia

This year our school entered the challenge for the very first time. Four year 10 students and one student from year 9:

Adeel Shams, Alvin Kumar, Muneeb Zahid, Samarth Gorwardia and Cameron Huf-Watt entered as the Phoenix 5 race team.

The challenge involves a high degree of technical ability in research, design, construction and testing, extensive portfolio development - the building of community partners and a strong understanding by all of the boys in every aspect of the project's development and of course racing the car that they have constructed.

Their commitment, passion and enthusiasm have been absolutely astonishing. They not only won the regional championship they then qualified for the state titles and have now qualified for the National championships which will be held in Geelong at the beginning of next year.

Congratulations are also in order for Mr Chris Holmes and Mr Stuart Thomson who have devoted countless hours guiding the boys through this process.

The **Citizenship Continuum** is a program that gives students an opportunity to create a quality portfolio which provides evidence of the following criteria

- ◇ Academic Endeavour
- ◇ Self Improvement
- ◇ Self Directed Learning
- ◇ School Community & Contribution
- ◇ Problem Solving & Decision Making
- ◇ Effective Communication
- ◇ Cooperation & teamwork

Students from Plumpton Education Community (PEC) schools present their work to an interview panel which adjudicates on the quality of work submitted. Many parents, students and staff enjoyed a very special night on Wednesday 14th November to acknowledge those who have been exceptional in this process.

Our special guest speaker, former school captain Belinda Zammit was very eloquent in her presentation and our Chairperson Madison Pizzilli did a wonderful job. A big thank you must go to both Mrs Claire Leihn and Ms Amanda Cook for the coordination of the entire process and congratulations to all of the award winners.



Mrs Claire Leihn and Madison Pizzilli

Principal's Message Continued

Another event that Plumpton High School has gained a formidable reputation is the **BRING IT ON dance competition**. We first entered the competition three years ago and were placed third in the Sydney finals. Last year we were finalists once again. At the this year's Sydney finals our students were virtually faultless in their presentation and certainly rose to the occasion in front of an amazing audience (in excess of 2000 people) at the Hillsong Convention Centre at Bella Vista. They achieved their best result ever and were placed second overall. This team of over 30 students has put in a tremendous amount of time and effort throughout the last three months and thoroughly deserve this result. Special thanks must also go to Ms Shukla who coordinated the whole process and all of the staff who volunteered their time to supervise during lunch times and after school.

During the last October holidays

- ◇ The **GWS Performing Arts Centre** had further modifications. It was fitted with high quality stage lighting, extra stage audio inputs and with a combination of split and ducted air conditioning. This was made possible by the remaining funds that were left within the initial building grant.
- ◇ A number of trees had to be cut down due to Work Place and Safety issues. Our Grey Box Eucalypts have been decimated by insects known as lace lerp psyllids. A number of trees were dead and branches had been falling in student recreation areas. We are hoping that the remaining trees will recover.
These psyllids have had a devastating effect on the Grey Box Eucalypts throughout the entire Cumberland plain forest area.
- ◇ The school cricket nets were refurbished with new wired mesh sides and the deteriorating treated pine safety railing around some of the school garden area was replaced with new galvanised piped fencing.
- ◇ A new 23 seat bus was delivered to the school. The bus is the result of a partnership with Sunshine Coaches and was negotiated through the Variety Club. It has wheel chair capability and will be used for excursions, PEC initiatives such as numeracy, literacy, science and sport mentoring at our feeder primary schools and grade sporting teams. It will be housed in a new garage that was completed at the end of last term. Currently there are a number of staff who are acquiring the appropriate licence so they will be able to drive the bus. This is going to make an enormous difference to the flexibility and efficiency of programs that we are able to offer the students of our school and our PEC primary schools. There will be an official handover in the not too distant future. This will be reported in the next newsletter.



In conclusion as the term draws to an end I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful holiday.

Mr P Ezzy (Relieving Principal)

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE UPDATES Via EMAIL & SMS



Dear Parents / Carers

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

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

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

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wk 1 | | | | | 27/01/12 Staff Development De |
| Wk 2 | 30/01/12 - (B) Yet To Start | 31/01/12 Present | 01/02/12 Present | 02/02/12 Present | 03/02/12 - (a) Unexplained |
| Wk 3 | 06/02/12 Present | 07/02/12 - (Pa) 08:57 Late Unexp. | 08/02/12 Present | 09/02/12 - (Pa) 08:57 Late Unexp. | 10/02/12 - (Pa) 08:47 Late Unexp. |
| Wk 4 | 13/02/12 - (PU) 12:42 Parent Permiss | 14/02/12 - (Pa) 09:32 Late Unexp. | 15/02/12 Present | 16/02/12 Present | 17/02/12 - (a) Unexplained |
| Wk 5 | 20/02/12 - (a) Unexplained | 21/02/12 - (Pa) 08:49 Late Unexp. | 22/02/12 - (Pa) 10:42 Late Unexp. | 23/02/12 - (Pa) 09:23 Late Unexp. | 24/02/12 - (a) Unexplained |
| Wk 6 | 27/02/12 Present | 28/02/12 - (Pa) Partial | 29/02/12 - (Pa) Partial | 01/03/12 - (Pa) Partial | 02/03/12 - (B) Runners |
| Wk 7 | 05/03/12 Present | 06/03/12 - (S) Sick - Whole Day | 07/03/12 - (Pa) Partial | 08/03/12 - (Pa) Partial | 09/03/12 - (S) Sick - Whole Day |
| Wk 8 | 12/03/12 - (Pa) 08:55 Late Unexp. | 13/03/12 - (Pa) 10:18 Late Unexp. | 14/03/12 - (Pa) Partial | 15/03/12 - (Pa) 09:16 Late Unexp. | 16/03/12 - (Pa) 10:00 Late Unexp. |
| Wk 9 | 19/03/12 | 20/03/12 | 21/03/12 | 22/03/12 | 23/03/12 |

05/02/12
Present

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

12/02/12 - (a)
Unexplained

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

11/02/12 - (Ex)
Midnight Cup

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

16/02/12 - (Pa)
Partial

Blue cell means at least **one lesson missed** that day.

Remember that there is a very close relationship between high attendance and student success. To encourage students to set high standards for attendance, 3 awards will again be presented at Presentation Day & Graduations in 2012: 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 2012 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. |

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

ENGLISH

"SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF...*PENRITH*!"

Hamlet's tale of revenge is one of the best known plays in the English language. Murder and intrigue are tearing apart Hamlet's ruling family, and something must be done to restore order but how is truth and inner peace to be found by the undergraduate prince, in this morally grey world of Elsinore?

On Friday, 16th November, Ms McPherson and 18 Shakespeare lovers ventured to the Joan Sutherland Centre in Penrith to see the latest production of *Hamlet*. It was a great opportunity for Advanced English students to see and experience the play that they will be studying in Term 3, 2013 and which they will be required to write essays on in their upcoming HSC.

The Emu Heights Productions performance was set in a modern context and drew on elements of Film Noir and the demise of the Weimar Republic in order to heighten the play's dark and foreboding atmosphere. In the Q & A session after the performance, director Ian Zammit highlighted that in essence, *Hamlet* is a story of murder, corruption and a King being brought to justice and thus, felt that the gritty, shadowy underworld of the 1920s was the perfect backdrop for capturing the core themes of the play.

A highlight of the performance was the ethereal and truly spooky ghost of the King moving between audience members whilst the tortured Hamlet peered through the city smog and shadows to see his father once more. A chilling performance was also given by Louise Lamella who played Ophelia. From her introduction as playful, naive sister to Laertes, playing with his sword while she thinks no one is watching, to her alcohol-fuelled descent into madness, Ophelia's performance was vivid and heart-wrenching. Students were enraged by the loose morals and seeming unconcern of Hamlet's mother, Gertrude, and appalled by her abusive and deeply disturbed husband, King Claudius.



ENGLISH

"SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF...*PENRITH*!"

During the Q & A session, students **Jillian Zarate** and **Madison Pizzilli** queried the cast and crew on the set design, staging, rehearsals and contextual research that was involved in putting such a production together while other students enjoyed their first ever visit to the theatre.

All in all, students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will be able to draw invaluable insight from this production in order to inform their own interpretation of the play. If you have the opportunity, I sincerely suggest getting out to see Ian Zammit's *Hamlet*. It is a creative masterpiece that will chill you to the core.



2013 HSC Advanced English / Shakespeare lovers:

Tayla-Lee Gale, Kelly Laing, Sheena Garillo, Jessica Parodi, Kristian Jimenez, Nathaniel Morrison, Emma Stylli, Mikayla Mantourogrou, Rachel Stanley, Ayesha Singh, Jillian Zarate, Madison Pizzilli, Jessica Abdul-Ahed, Junaid Ahmad, James Doan, Avleen Roy, Sulaiman Abawi and Tayla Gerard.

HISTORY

History news : Trench Warfare

Year 12 Modern History students were in for a real experience recently when Miss Young and the class decided to stage their own version of trench warfare.

Students created trenches in the classroom using desks and chairs, with 'no-man's land' in the middle. They designed, built and reshaped their barricades and trenches to create an atmosphere similar to wartime France.

They then engaged in full battle by throwing plastic balls at the opposing team. They had to learn to be strategic and assist the injured where necessary. They practised battle tactics, sent out "storm troopers" and acted out the roles of generals, lieutenants and artillery bombers. They learnt about the dangers of shelling, going "over the top" and trying to cross "no-man's land". It was certainly an experience they won't forget soon!



Year 12 Modern History students:

Emma Stylli
Madison Pizzilli
Sulaiman Abawi
Sela Piu
Jessica Abdul-Ahed
Kelly Laing
Clement McLennan
Samantha Lim
Nicco Santos
Tayla-Lee Gale
Kristian Jimenez
Marian Velasco

SPORT

Zone Presentation Day

On Wednesday 24th October students from Plumpton High School attended the Mt Druitt Zone Presentation Day held at Ropes Crossing Community Centre. It was a very successful day with our students collectively receiving a total of 30 awards with a number of students receiving 2 or more awards. Plumpton High School also received the award for Champion Senior School at the Mt Druitt Zone Swimming Carnival. The following students should be congratulated for their efforts this year.

| STUDENT | AWARDS |
|-------------------|---|
| Joy Tedeschi | 1 st -12 years girls age champion Cross Country 1 st -12 years girls age champion Athletics |
| Cloe Jensen | 2 nd -12 years girls age champion Swimming 2 nd -12 years girls age champion Cross Country 3 rd -12 years girls age champion Athletics |
| Jahi Pritchard | 3 rd -12 years boys age champion Cross Country |
| Tayla Martin | 1 st -13 years girls age champion Swimming 1 st -16 years girls age champion Cross Country |
| Griffin Jacobs | 1 st -13 years boys age champion Cross Country |
| Brittany Good | 1 st -16 years girls age champion Swimming 1 st -16 years girls age champion Cross Country |
| Albert Davis | 1 st -17 years boys age champion Cross Country |
| Tim Scruse | 2 nd -17 years boys age champion Cross Country |
| Taylor Nutt | 3 rd -13 years girls age champion Swimming |
| Georgia Lambert | 1 st -14 years girls age champion Swimming |
| Jessica Flynn | 1 st -15 years girls age champion Swimming 3 rd -15 years girls age champion Athletics |
| Emmalee Saaghy | 1 st -17 years girls age champion Swimming |
| Jamie Collacchi | 2 nd -13 years boys age champion Swimming |
| William Andrews | 2 nd -14 years boys age champion Swimming |
| Todd Martin | 1 st -17 years boys age champion Swimming |
| Edward Gomez | 2 nd -17 years boys age champion Swimming |
| Brooke Zammit | 2 nd -12 years girls age champion Athletics |
| Brooke Harrison | 1 st -14 years girls age champion Athletics |
| Liahona Talataina | 3 rd -14 years girls age champion Athletics |
| Natasha Young | 2 nd -15 years girls age champion Athletics |
| Sonya Taumaialo | 2 nd -17 years girls age champion Athletics Zone Blue- Girls Volleyball |
| Brendan Lal | 1 st -13 years boys age champion Athletics |
| Lachlan Smith | 3 rd -13 years boys age champion Athletics |

SPORT

Wheelchair Basketball

This morning 2 of our Year 8 students, Maryanne Latu and Leonard Disbray took part in a wheelchair basketball workshop with 2 of the stars of the Australian Olympic team. Jerry Hewson is a veteran of 4 Olympics as both a coach and a player, winning a gold medal in Atlanta. Kylie Gauci has represented Australia in Athens, Beijing and London, winning silver in Athens and London and Bronze in Beijing.

Ms Hooper and Mrs Melohn met Maryanne and Leonard and their parents at the Kevin Betts Stadium in Mount Druitt. None of us had any idea what a brilliant day we would have, the wonderfully talented sportspeople we would meet or how much we would learn! Watching Maryanne and Leonard fly around the court developing some fantastic skills and having a ball (make that, basketball) was sheer joy! Both students made some fantastic goals and we all now know of some fantastic opportunities to be had in the local area.

A sincere thank you to our two Olympians, Gerry and Kylie and to Megan Rossato, Sports Development Officer of Wheelchair Sports NSW. Also a thank you to Delmas Green of Kevin Betts Stadium. All of these great people and our students added up to an excellent and very special excursion.



SPORT



Wheelchair Basketball



Basketball

In August, the Plumpton High U15's boys basketball team played their second round game against Greystanes High School. Once again the boys completely dominated their opposition. All members of the team played extremely well and contributed to the final score of 69-31. The boys then progressed to the final 8 gala day Penrith Sports Centre on 14/9/12.

Parramatta, Evans and Glenmore Park in the pool stage. The boys defeated all 3 teams to finish top of pool A and progress to the finals. Plumpton met Winmalee in the semi-final where they lost a close game, mostly due to the huge difference in height between the players.

Congratulations to the boys on their huge achievement of coming 3rd in Sydney West.

Team list – Anoop Sagoo, John Blanco, Mike Manalo, Ryan Dumaguit, Christian Hipolito, Venz Banting, Jeffersen Iro Valoa, Aman Akber, Lima Misa, Sasha Murray.

Mr Simonovski (Coach)

AGRICULTURE

Latest Agriculture NEWS!!!!



Students Wakkurri, Kerri-Anne, Brendan, Shayal, Nicole and Rhiannon were very excited to meet and greet our new lamb 'Zoe' born on Friday 23rd November, 2012



So was Ms Burton, the amazing thing was the ewe had only recently given birth to a lamb in May. As it takes 5 months gestation for a lamb to be born, this makes this ewe very productive.

AGRICULTURE

Annual Sheep Shearing Demonstration

The annual Sheep Shearing demonstration was held at the Agriculture Plot on 16th October. Year 7 students were invited to attend and learn about wool, shearing and drenching sheep and lambs.



The Shearer at work





PEC



PEC Literacy Day was *Definitely* a Huge Success!

On Tuesday, 30th October Plumpton High School hosted the inaugural Plumpton Education Community Literacy Day.

The day involved 36 students from the high school and two local primary schools, William Dean Primary School and Plumpton Public School. The students acted as secret agents as they worked together in completing their mission.

The students' mission on the day was to explore the mysteries of persuasive writing and begin to write their own persuasive paragraphs that are designed to bring about change in their community.



The day was in response to a survey conducted by the PEC Student Well-Being Team that found students, their families and community members were concerned about the amount of littering and rubbish in playgrounds and in the community in general.

Students visited several 'Immersion Centres' in the morning. At each centre they investigated the clues for persuasive writing and recorded their learning in their Detective's Handbook. By the conclusion of the immersion centres students had a solid knowledge and understanding of:

- the structure of a paragraph
- the TAP Dance metaphor for exploring a text type, audience and purpose
- the persuasive techniques they could use, including rhetorical questions, using opinions as fact, appealing to emotions, high modality and using statistics.



After lunch, students explored the 'ingredients' of high quality paragraphs by reading and comparing two samples. They then spent time planning and organising their own persuasive paragraphs to satisfy their mission statement.



PEC



The day was hugely successful! Students from Year 1 through to Year 8 were involved in the process, where the older students acted as mentors and helpers for the younger students in the learning journey.

The day was structured according to the principles of International Educator, Lane Clark, through an 'Inquiry' learning model. Essentially this meant students were responsible for recording and internalising their learning throughout the day, and all activities were self paced and self directed.



Overall, students were fully equipped to write convincing, persuasive paragraphs about serious environmental concerns. Watch this space in future Link Ups for students' paragraphs from the day.

A special thanks to all our student helpers, Ms Cook and Ms Devlin!



Our Year 7 and 8 helpers:

Top Row: Taylor Goggin-Edwards, Afifa Kausar, Maddeha Farooqi, Christina Rathod, Abigail Foster, Kinza Ilyas, Lachlan Cummings, Chloe Zaharia and Dennison Ingal

Bottom Row: Georgia Lambert, Hayley Thompson, Katherine Aggett and Brielle Ellis

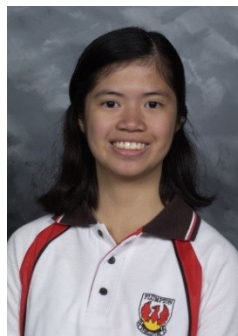
LIBRARY

Library News

The **National Year of Reading** is now coming to an end. Thanks to Mr Papa and Ms Wood who supported library efforts to promote reading within the new Year 7 community at the beginning of the year with their English classes, 7 Mabo 2 and 7 Da Vinci who produced some great book reviews. Our CBC Book Week activities were enjoyed by a selection of enthusiastic students. There were some excellent power point displays on Olympic champions. No-one predicted the Book of the Year – certainly was not any of our choices and came as a surprise. Our **Book Week Champion** this year was Eunice Flores of year 9 for gaining the highest points – well done!



Book of the Month discussion group



Eunice Flores



Reading Club Discussion Cake

Our **Wednesday Reading Club** is still going strong with each week seeing about 10-15 students quietly reading in car corners of the library as they eat their lunch. Once a month we get together to discuss the **Book of the Month** over biscuits and cool drink with everyone offering an opinion on the chosen book. I look forward to welcoming many new Year 7 students to our reading club next year.

All these library activities, plus reviewing personal reading, the Premiers Reading Challenge, MS Read-a-thon and the Principal's Reading Challenge go towards achieving the Reader of the Year trophy which is handed out at the formal assembly at the end of this term.

To celebrate the National Year of Reading all the way through this year we have been writing raffle tickets every time a student borrows a fiction book. This will be drawn in the week before the presentation assembly where the winner will be awarded his/her prize.

We had a large team of **library monitors** this year. Each one had a section of the library shelves to maintain. For responsible attention to duties and showing initiative some have received Phoenix Awards over the year and Lucky Draw prizes. Not all have managed to keep their role as this role requires consistent dedication. But thanks to all those pictured here and we will see who returns next year as a library monitor.



LIBRARY

We had some big success with our chess teams this year, making it all the way through to the finals in a new Sydney Academy of Chess Contest which was NSW wide. Only 4 schools made it through and the competition was tough against the best of Newington, Sydney Boys and Penrith Selective. We were only narrowly beaten by the latter into 4th place. We have some strong chess talent in the junior years right now and look forward to continuing to holding our heads high in the chess fields in western Sydney next year.

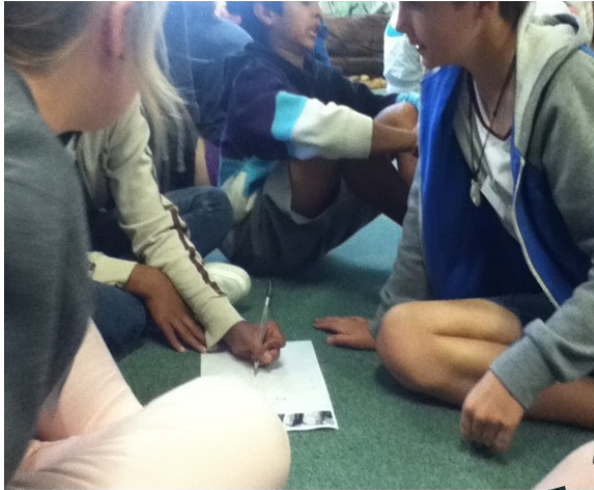


The library had a change at the beginning of this year with the installing of an elevator so that disabled students can access all levels. We will be undergoing a big change next year in library usage, modernising its aspect and purpose. I wish to thank all the students, past and present, who have been regular library patrons over the years. I aimed and can only hope that I succeeded at providing an oasis of cool peace and harmonious scholastic industry for the quiet achievers of our school and a place to develop chess or scrabble skills, somewhere to do research and reading or quiet study and escape the hubbub outside at lunchtime. I really appreciate all those students who supported my attempts to maintain this atmosphere by respecting the school uniform, being polite and co-operative. These students are the important backbone of our school and they maintain our good reputation in the community. I hope that I will see you all again in the 'new and improved' library next year. Here are some photos of the library as it is now, just for archival and sentiment sake. Next year we will show the modernisation program your library will undergo.

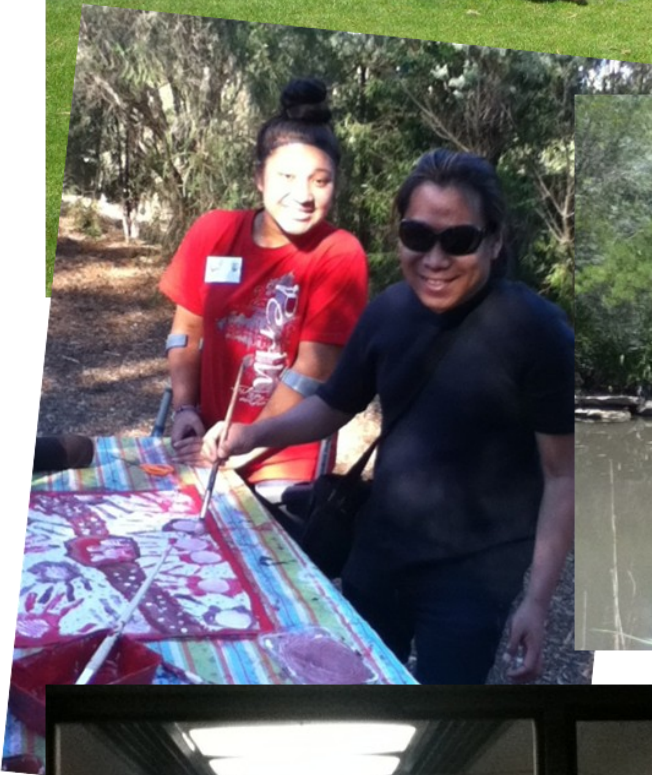


ZOO SNOOZ

Science -Year 8 Zoo SnooZ Endanger Ranger Camping at Dubbo



ZOO SNOOZ



BRING IT ON



**Congratulations to all
students, staff and parents
for an outstanding effort &
teamwork
Bring It OOON !**



BRING IT ON



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

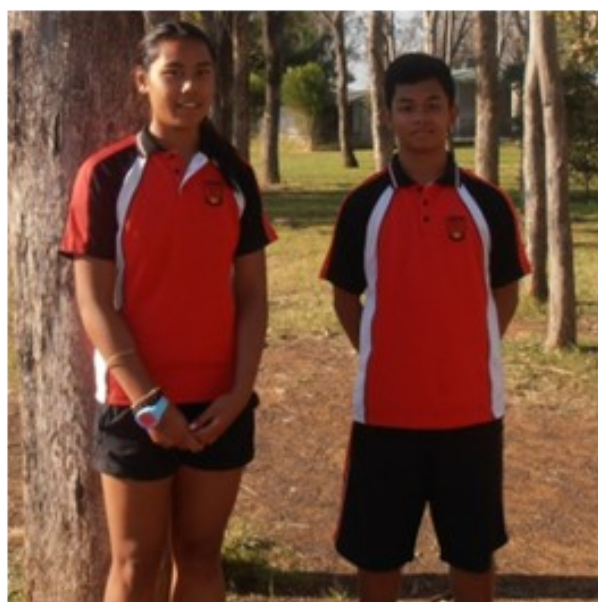
White Plumpton HS crested senior blouse
Tartan skirt or shorts or black pants (*not leggings or jeans*)
Red Plumpton HS crested jumper
Enclosed leather shoes

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

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>

ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

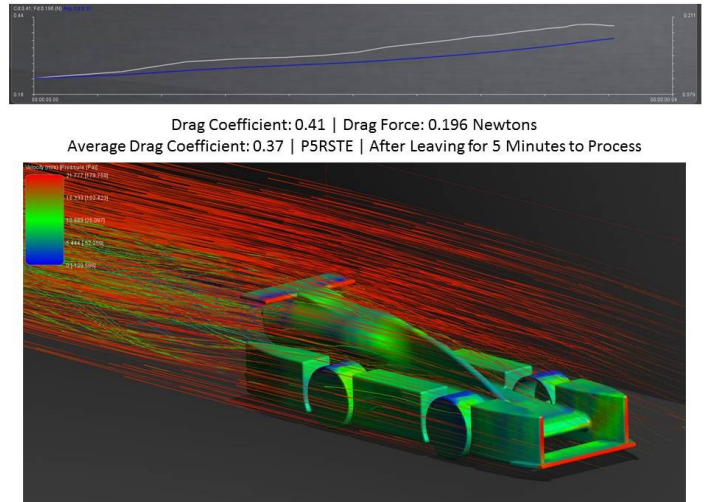
Please pay fees between the office hours of 8:30am and 1:30pm.
Enquiries regarding school matters between the hours of 8:15am and 3:00pm.
Thank you for your consideration.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

F1 in Schools Technology Challenge

Congratulations to Phoenix 5 Racing - Adeel Shams, Alvin Kumar, Muneeb Zahid, Samarth Gorwardia and Cameron Huf-Watt. Phoenix 5 Racing have qualified for the National Championships to be held in Geelong at the beginning of 2013.

The team is on the lookout for sponsors to help with travel and accommodation costs. If you are interested in sponsoring the team please contact Mr Holmes or Mr Thomson at the school.



Phoenix 5 Racing Team tested their car in wind tunnel software for it's aerodynamic efficiency.

Perfect finish on the race cars that raced at the F1 in Schools state finals at UTS on 13th November 2012.



INDUSTRIAL ARTS

F1 in Schools Technology Challenge



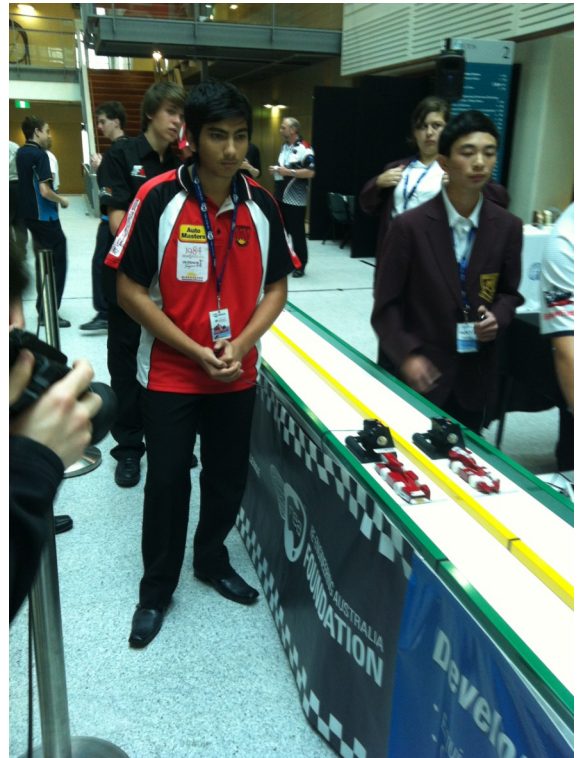
Auto Masters at Mount Druitt are a major sponsor of Phoenix 5 Racing Team, they donated \$500 for the manufacturing of the cars.



Phoenix 5 Racing Team went on the road to visit Plumpton Public School to demonstrate F1 in Schools to Year 6 students.



The Pit display was set up and ready for presentation at the state competition. Samarth Gorwardia, Alvin Kumar, Cameron Huf-Watt and Muneeb Zahid. (Left to Right)



Phoenix 5 Racing only lost one race at the state finals, the result of a well engineered car and a great driver. Muneeb Zahid

COMMUNITY NEWS

Diabetes Awareness Forum

You are invited to a
community diabetes
awareness forum

These local forums will cover information on healthy eating, exercise tips and general advice. Guest speakers will include experts from WentWest, Kildare Road Medical Centre's on-site diabetes clinic and Australian Diabetes Council.



Plumpton

Friday 30 November 2-3pm
Greater Western Sydney Performing Arts Centre
Plumpton High School, 141 Hyatts Road Plumpton 2761
RSVP by Thursday 29 November

Mount Druitt

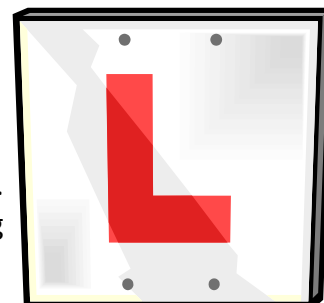
Tuesday 4 December 12-1pm
Mount Druitt Hub
9 Ayres Grove, Mt Druitt
RSVP by Monday 3 December

**RSVP: Contact Ed Husic MP
on 9625 4344 or news@edhusic.com
Refreshments provided**

FREE EVENT

COMMUNITY NEWS

Free Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops for Learner Driver Parents in the Blacktown City Area



Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That's why the Roads and Maritime Services has introduced a new licensing scheme with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the Roads and Maritime Services has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents that offers practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

A **FREE** parents' workshop will be conducted by David Riches and hosted by Blacktown City Council on Tuesday December 11th at Blacktown City Council Offices from 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm.

Early bookings are essential, by phoning 0434 964764 now to reserve your place, or email parentworkshop@optusnet.com.au

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
Circuit Fitness Boxing

IT'S ALL GOOD DRIVING SCHOOL

Experienced Male & Female Instructors

Manual/Auto cars

Rewards Program

1 hour lesson equals 3 hours in log book

Ask about the free **Keys 2 Drive** lesson

For further details contact: Connie or

Vince

PHONE: 9831 4663 9831 GOOD

MOBILE: 0439 255 483 or 0416 048 008

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing you all
safe and happy holiday



From The Staff at
Plumpton High School