

Monday 18th June 2012

Term 2 – Week 9



MHS Newsletter



A Member of the
Cudgegong Learning
Community

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR
THE FULL CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Coming Events:

This issue:

- Principal's Message
- Local Environmental Forum
- Library News
- Senior Tut
- Sponsor
- Community Notices

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"Providing high quality education in a stimulating and caring environment."

Principal's Message

Last week may have been a short week, but what a big week it was for Mudjee High students and staff.

On Tuesday, our Buchan Shield boys led by Mr Hatch travelled to Cowra and in a hard fought contest went down 32-29, a slender margin in a game of Rugby. On the same day, Mrs Spinner and her Year 12 Business Studies students were investigating the world of finance in Sydney.

The Futsal Regional Championships for boys were held on Wednesday and four teams led by Mrs Bennett and Mrs Maynard made the trek over to Katoomba. One of the MHS teams won their pool and went into the semi-finals, only to be narrowly defeated by McCarthy Catholic College from Emu Plains. Two quite separate teams made their respective ways to Wellington on that same day. Ms Windeyer's Mock Trial appeared on the benches and in the dock at Wellington Court House. Barristers Kate Millar and Henry van Laeren fought the good fight, ably assisted by solicitor Frances Johns, witnesses Libby Lawson and Maddy Blackman and court officer Maddy Fletcher, but were outmanoeuvred on the day by St Mary's Wellington. Our students reportedly learnt a salient lesson in law but not a great deal about justice...

In another, quite separate part of Wellington, Mr Giammarco led a fit team of Cross Country Regional hopefuls. Of the students who went, eight have earned the right to compete in the State Cross Country championships. On the day, Melissa Wisbey finished first in the 12 girls, Joel Bodiam finished first in a large field of U14s boys, while Macy Morely, Rebecca Bailey and Peta Travers-Jones finished second in their respective age groups; 12s, 16s and 18s girls. That same Wednesday evening, those students selected from the LINK program to be a part of the *Legends of Origin* excursion to Sydney this past week found themselves in a corporate box at Homebush to see *the Blues* sure up their chances with a win over Queensland in round two of the State of Origin. At the time of writing, those students had yet to return to school, but when they do they will surely have some stories to tell!

On Thursday evening students were treated to the winter social. The theme for the social was "Pirates". The willingness of SRC students, under the guidance of Mrs McGonigle, to make time available to organise this event is commendable. Of course, a school social would be impossible without the assistance of those teachers who are prepared to come out into the cold and supervise such an event and they too are deserving of thanks. In many schools, socials are an unknown event as the co-operation needed doesn't exist in sufficient quantity. The co-operation demonstrated by our students at our socials has allowed them to continue and for that, all of those students who made Thursday night's social a success by being respectful, responsible and safe should feel proud of their efforts.

On Friday, it was the girls' turn in the Futsal Regional Championships, where we fielded three teams. Further east, 76 students from Year 10 made their way to the Sydney Jewish Museum to flesh out a study they have undertaken of the historical fiction novel *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, as well as add depth to their History studies.

Our school captains, Tom Bambrick and Monique Bremner, were also in Sydney on Friday representing Mudjee High. They were guests of the NSW Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. As guests, they were able to view proceedings in "the bear pit" of parliament from the gallery, before being escorted to Government House where they met with the Governor, Professor Marie Bashir.

In addition to all of these events, more than 1400 lessons were provided in those four short days and it's also report writing time. A busy, busy week for all at Mudjee High.

Wayne Eade
Relieving Principal

Year 9 Local Environmental Forum

On the 22nd of May Mr Fitzgerald took a group of 16 Year 9 students to an environmental forum held at the Mudgee Shire council chambers. The forum was organised by Christine Cooke and her staff at the Red Hill Environmental Centre which is located in Gulgong. The day started at around 8:55 AM, when students met at the bus. Once inside the council chambers, the students signed in, joining Gulgong and Dunedoo High Schools.

After introductions, the forum began with a presentation on the connection between water and energy. This presentation was very informative and showed how you cannot have energy without water and often, you cannot have drinkable water without energy. The students were able to interact with the guest speaker and ask questions, some of which were quite challenging. Once the presentation had ended, the forum moved on to the 'Matters of Public Importance' segment. Christine explained the rules of this segment. The general aim of this part of the day was to give the students an insight into how matters of public importance are raised and discussed in state parliament. All participating students had pre-written speeches which covered their view of a chosen solution to an important local issue. During these speeches, the audience was able to interject saying things like 'hear, hear!' or 'rubbish' to agree or disagree with statements made. The first 'public importance' topic was a proposal that students in Year 9 should take the lead and be responsible for finding leaking taps and broken pipes within their school. Fortunately for Year 9, the students from Mudgee High School arguing against the proposal far outnumbered those arguing for it. Afterwards, a vote was made as to whether or not the proposal should go ahead, in which both students and teachers participated. This vote taught students more about how a bill would be passed in parliament. When the first 'matter of public importance' was finished, the students were treated to a morning tea break with scones and juice.

The day continued with the next 'matter of public importance' which stated that students in Year 9 should adopt an animal in the local area and make sure that its water requirements were met. The general agreement was that students should adopt an animal and a vote afterwards showed that this view extended to the audience. The third 'matter of public importance' included a proposal that students in Year 9 should do a weeks' worth of work experience in an energy and water related industry to get a better understanding of the energy and water connection. Speakers for both positive and negative had valid points but the general consensus showed that students didn't think this proposal was a good idea. The final 'matter of public importance' stated that students in Year 9 should do a compulsory 100 hour agriculture course on environmental sustainability. This was another idea that was argued valiantly by all participating students and a final vote showed even numbers supporting both sides. The 'matters of public importance' speech segment was a good experience that will aid students later in the year, when they speak at Parliament House in Sydney.

Before lunch, a member of the Putta-Bucca Wetlands rehabilitation team spoke to the students about on-going maintenance in the Putta-Bucca Wetlands area that will make it a better asset to the environment and community. This talk included aspects of the wetland's history, from it when it began as a quarry to when the council took it on as a rehabilitation project a few years ago. She also spoke of the work that has gone into improving the area, such as pulling out and burning willow trees, planting Australian flora and making the area safe for the public.

Students were delighted to find that there was an impressive array of food provided for their lunch. They enjoyed a variety of wraps, sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres such as spring rolls and prawn skewers. Thanks must go to the staff of the MHS canteen for providing this delicious lunch.

The afternoon was taken up by a trip to view the Putta-Bucca wetlands, which was a first time for many. The students were surprised by the amount of effort and time spent so far in the rehabilitation of the area. As the students were taken on a tour through the wetlands, they were shown current projects and signs of the wetland's history. It was obvious that a lot of careful planning had gone into the construction and maintenance of the wetlands. The council plans to open up the wetland area to the public for their recreational enjoyment.

The visit to the wetlands concluded the environmental forum, but for Mudgee High School students, the days' exciting events were still not over. A big thankyou goes to Mr Fitzgerald for the organisation and for accompanying us on the day. A further thankyou is extended to members of the local council and environmental teams who ran the day and made the experience possible.

Matilda Russell and Joanna Endacott

Library News

Year 12 are now approaching the end of their Secondary Education at Mudgee High School. Many senior students utilise the Library space in their study periods and also at lunchtimes.

Starting next week, during lunchtimes, we will be opening the Library computer room for senior students to use.

If students need a quiet place to study during their study periods; please see the Library staff, who can organise a place for them to use. Spare DEC laptops are also available.

Senior Tutorial Assistance:

Each Wednesday afternoon between 12:56pm and 3:25pm, excluding lunchtime, tutorial assistance is available in A3 (back of the library) for all senior students.

SPONSOR

COFFIN CREEK ANGUS STUd

Wollar Road, Mudgee

Telephone 63733838 or 0414669494

Proud Sponsor of Mudgee High School Steer Showing Team

Community Notices

(Please note that Paid Advertisements and Community Notices do not carry the school's endorsement)



ICE SKATING

Mudgee Showground Main Pavilion

Experience the magic of winter these holidays!

30th June to 15th July 2012

OPEN DAILY

10.00 am to 11.00 am
12.00 noon to 1.00 pm
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

EVENING SESSIONS

Mon, Tue Wed, Fri, and Sat
7.00 pm to 8.00 pm

Friday & Saturday Disco**
9.00pm to 10.00pm

Note: For all sessions, doors open 20 minutes before start, to fit skates!

Bookings Recommended
Visit www.wintermagic.biz for booking details.
(no telephone bookings)

ADMISSION PRICES

Over 14:	\$18
Children (6 to 14 yrs):	\$15
Children (3 to 5 yrs):	\$9
Skate Hire	\$3
Spectator*:	\$2

Helpful Hints

- Arrive 20 minutes before start to fit skates
- Quieter session 4.00pm.
- Wear a bike helmet or thick beanie, and gloves.
- Please restrict spectators (parent / guardian

Telephone: 0421788605 **Email:** manager2@wintermagic.biz

Internet: www.wintermagic.biz

*Spectator: parent or guardian (ice rink inside pavilion; limited space)

** Recommended for skaters over 11 years.

Showground located at cnr. Nicholson & Douro Sts, Mudgee



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.

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/