

Monday 10th September 2012

Term 3 – Week 9



# MHS Newsletter



*A Member of the  
Cudgong Learning  
Community*

**SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR  
THE FULL CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

## **Coming Events:**

- Sept 6-14: Y11 Exams
- Sept 19 – T3 Gold & Silver Awards
- Sept 19 – Y12 Farewell Social
- Sept 20 – Y12 Rainbow Day
- Sept 21 – Y12 Presentation Day
- Sept 21 – Last Day Term 3

## **This issue:**

- Principal's Message
- Yr 11 Exploring Early Childhood
- Mathematics News
- Community Notices
- Sponsor
- Xsel
- Laptop (Year 12)
- Parents of Learner Drivers

**Mudgee High School – Locked Bag 2004, MUDGEE NSW 2850**

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**Website: [www.mudgee-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mudgee-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) Email: [mudgee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mudgee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)**

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

## **Principal's Message**

The coming of spring here at Mudgee High and across our district is always associated with the final few weeks in the school careers of our Year 12 students. This wonderful group of young Australians are currently trying to stay focused on their last minute preparation for the HSC and trying to balance those commitments with thoughts about the very enjoyable end of school activities that will occur next week.

We ask everyone in the community to join in the spirit of Rainbow day as Year 12 mark the end of formal schooling. This wonderful initiative was begun at this school. It has since been copied in many locations across the state as increasingly year 12 students move away from the tradition and sometimes destructive "muck up day" activities. Now they focus on enjoyment and community service. This year the majority of our student's efforts will go towards supporting the Mudgee Volunteer Rescue Assoc.

One of the many reasons that our school is held in high regard within the community and across the state is because of the traditions established by our students at Rainbow Day.

One of the most enjoyable tasks for a School Principal is to participate in interviews for Principal's Gold Medals. This is a very prestigious award and recently our soon to depart Yr 12 students put themselves forward to be considered for a Principal's Gold Medal. The quality of their applications was outstanding. It gave the staff great pleasure to hear these young Australians speak about their aspirations and contributions to Mudgee High. It was obvious that they value their time at Mudgee High.

As one group of students and their leaders depart so we welcome our next set of student leaders. Students who wish to be considered for school captain deliver a speech to their year group before voting takes place. Once again the quality of those presentations was outstanding. A large group of girls and boys presented themselves for election. Any one of them would have made an excellent captain.

I have great pleasure in announcing that for 2013 our school captains will be – Rebecca Bailey and Harry Ottley. Supporting them will be Vice Captains – Lauren Hodgetts and Connor Jones. A very talented group who will lead Mudgee High with distinction.

As the weather warms we expect that the standard of and compliance with the MHS Uniform Policy will increase. The vast majority of our students wear school uniform and do so with pride. The school has worked hard with local uniform suppliers to have a range of uniform in stock to suit all students. Once again we appeal for your support in insisting that every student at Mudgee High wears the correct uniform. Assistance can be provided to any family who needs help to outfit their children in correct school uniform.

*Steve Jones (Relieving Principal)*

## **P & C Awards week 8**

Year 7 – Sarah Williamson; Year 8 – Aaron Jackson; Year 9 – Amy Young; Year 10 – Bradley Golden; Year 11 – Bianca Crooks; Year 12 – Nathaniel Smith.

### Yr 11 Exploring Early Childhood Developmental Milestones Study.

The Yr 11 Exploring Early Childhood class is studying the developmental milestones of children and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to recognise the milestones that children achieve. It proved a very busy time with nine active children playing and having fun, mostly oblivious to being observed.

Thank you to all of the parents who willingly gave up their time to bring their children to the school on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August so Yr 11 could observe the development of children under 5 years of age.



### MATHEMATICS NEWS

#### Australian Mathematics Competition

Back in August Mudgee High School had a small but very talented group of students who accepted the challenges involved in this competition. The competition involved 30 quite difficult problem solving multiple choice questions to be answered in 75 minutes. There were 34 students who took part, with some excellent results. The certificates are yet to arrive in the school but Mudgee High School students achieved 4 Distinction awards, 7 Credits, and 15 Proficiency awards.

Congratulations to all students who took part. You are reminded that your question papers can be picked up from Mr. Lynn in the Mathematics staffroom. Certificates will be awarded on assembly once they have arrived in the school.

#### HSC Students

The mathematics teachers at Mudgee High are currently putting the finishing touches to their respective courses. Each of the Extension 2, Extension 1, Mathematics, General Mathematics, and Applied Mathematics courses are approaching completion. All students are encouraged to continue to seek assistance in the weeks leading up to their HSC Examinations. After the upcoming holidays we expect that students have completed some more revision and they are welcome to drop in to clear any areas of difficulty.

Mathematics students will be offered a variety of seminars during the break. They are reminded to keep in touch with Mr. Lynn in the last 2 weeks of school to discuss times and to collect permission notes for these sessions.

The Mathematics teachers of Mudgee High School wish all of our students great success for the HSC Examinations and for all future plans.



Mudgee Indoor Swimming Club is now taking registrations for the 2012/2013 swimming season. Swimming Club is an ideal way to prepare for school swimming carnivals. At Mudgee Indoor Club nights are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday night and include handicap events periodically which are fun for all ages and abilities. During the 2012/2013 season club members will also have the opportunity to compete at various interclub meets throughout the western region. **Mudgee Indoor Swimming Club Registration**- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 4pm – 6pm at the pool 87 Short st, Mudgee. Cost is \$65 per child for the season. Phone 63722138 for more information.

#### **Mudgee Softball Association Registration Days**

This year all rego days will be held at Westend Softball fields Crn Lang and Menchin Sts Mudgee on Saturday day time and Wednesday evenings for the following dates:

Wed 12th Sept - 6pm - 7pm; Sat 15th Sept - 9am - 12 noon; Wed 19th Sept- 6pm - 7pm;

Final Rego day Saturday 22nd Sept - 9am - 2pm. Divisions for all ages turning of age before December 2012: Benny Ball 4 - 6 years; T-Ball 7 - 10 years; Junior B grade 9 - 11 years (Modified Softball)

Junior A Grade 12 - 14 years; Youth 14 - 18 years; Opens 16+ All inquiries [mudgeesoftball@gmail.com](mailto:mudgeesoftball@gmail.com) or ph 63740288

#### **MUDGEE AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB**

*Do you want to join a club with a great family atmosphere?*

*The 2012-2013 season is offering the opportunity to compete in weekly club nights, regional carnivals, development squads and learn to swim classes.*

*Come along to Mudgee Pool Clubhouse to register your children on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 4-6pm.*

#### **NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE ADVISES**

##### **There is a Grass Fire Threat**

An abundance of grass growth from last summer's rains have now dried out and has created a very real risk of damaging grass fires. Grass fires run very quickly generating large amounts of heat.

They can destroy homes and can kill.

##### **PREPARE – ACT – SURVIVE**

- keep grass short around houses and sheds -slash or plough fire breaks around boundary fences
- clear to bare earth around any pile burns – don't burn off if conditions are windy
- undertake slashing or mowing in the cool of the morning or evening – don't drive through long dry grass
- only use angle grinders and welders in mild conditions with the area damped down

**For more information contact: NSW Rural Fire Service on 6372 4434; [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)**

#### **ANGLICARE**

Anglicare are offering a No Interest Loan for people who cannot access mainstream credit, eligibility criteria exists.

Small loans of up to \$1200 are available for new household items, such as white goods and furniture.

Loans will also be approved for essential services such as dental care and optical care.

There are NO charges. NO setup fees. NO interest on loans.

You only repay what you've borrowed.

Repayments are tailored to suit individual circumstances.

For more information about the No Interest Loans Scheme please call Anglicare on 1800 644 556

#### **MUDGEE PCYC – Dare to be Aware Young Driver Program**

Free Program for Young Drivers aged 16 to 25 at Mudgee Airport

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept or Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 9am to 4pm – Lunch provided

Booking of limited places Mudgee PCYC 63721367 or [mudgee@pcycnsw.org.au](mailto:mudgee@pcycnsw.org.au)

#### **SPONSOR**

##### **COFFIN CREEK ANGUS STUD**

Wollar Road, Mudgee

**Telephone 63733838 or 0414 669494**

*Proud Sponsor of Mudgee High School Champion Steer Showing Team*





### Residential schools

Term 3 residential schools were a resounding success as much for the powerful sense of belonging that was visible among students and teachers as for the achievement of learning outcomes.

The xsel shirts and sweaters were distributed and added to the feeling of community and the photos in this edition are proof of the enjoyment we all had working with each other. Next term's residential school will bring us even closer together with all years and the whole teaching faculty on the same site in one event (November 7 – 9). Importantly, we will have our first whole school development day immediately prior during which time xsel staff will finalise curriculum structures and whole school initiatives for 2013. It promises to be an exciting and busy time. More details and recommendations for student travel will be sent to families as we draw closer to Term 4.

### xsel grows

The 2013 academic year is beginning to take shape with the regional selection panel offering places to a number of student applicants entering Years 8, 9 and 10 next year and the state Selective Schools Unit managing the placement for our intake of Year 7. In 2013 xsel will operate in 33 regional school sites with a student body of 120 and at least 34 teachers. As part of our staff and student intake for next year, I am delighted to welcome Coonamble High School to our learning community. We are still recruiting teachers in all three curriculum areas and interested English, mathematics and science teachers are invited to make enquiries through the xsel office.

### Technology

This week we have transitioned into a new version of our web-conferencing tool, Adobe Connect, which we use for synops. Last week at residential school, teachers were given training in the new features and we “went live” for synops on Wednesday August 29.

**Technology (cont.)**

Now a tool provisioned for all DEC schools, Adobe Connect 8 has full DEC technical support. We tested that support to its limit in the first three days of the transition. Being the only large-scale user in schools, xsel inevitably became the guinea pig for the full production environment.

Thanks to the patience and determination of Barbara Bannister and xsel teachers working with the Adobe support officer, issues were diagnosed and resolutions found which will provide invaluable for other users across DEC. Operational glitches aside, students reported enjoying the new, cleaner interface and the additional communication features for their synops.

**Co-curricular activities**

Behind our philosophy of encouraging students to express their talents in many ways is xsel's capacity to enable gifted and talented students to study in a challenging learning environment while remaining active members of their local school and communities. On occasions those co-curricular talents are especially evident. This term we missed working with a number of students whose diverse interests and talents have taken them in many sporting, cultural, community and musical directions, some with outstanding success. I recently had an opportunity to ask a few Year 9 students about their non-xsel activities. Below is just a sample of the astounding things they do and have achieved in a few weeks:

The state-wide Mind Marathon for Selective Schools was held Friday August 31 in Sydney and is another co-curricular activity I'd like to celebrate. Being a Boys' Education strategy only our young men were eligible to participate and this explains the gender anomaly you see in the lists below. We look forward to bringing you the news of their outing in a future edition.

**Year 7**

William Boyd

Cooper Crowe

Joseph Hodges

Keegan Hunt

Abdellah Islam

Christian Presslaber

**Year 8**

Chayan Deb Nath

Morgan Flynn

Alan Read

Samuel Vail

Jacob Ware

Cooper Watson

I look forward to celebrating the achievements of our far-flung learning community again soon. I will be on leave from week 10 for eye surgery. I will return at the beginning of Term 4, hopefully with something approaching 20/20 vision.

**Pauline Freeburn**

<b>Lachlan Campbell</b>	NSW State and Western region Student Representative Council delegate
<b>Tom Duggan</b>	Defending his Australian 13-16yrs Dirt Bike title in Newcastle in September
<b>Shannon Finch</b>	Cadet with the NSW Rural Fire Service
<b>Will Hodges</b>	Achieved a personal best at NSW State Cross-country after his 3 <sup>rd</sup> place at Western Region
<b>Charlotte Hoynes</b>	Achieved 7 <sup>th</sup> grade piano
<b>Merrin Isbester</b>	Achieved 6 <sup>th</sup> grade piano
<b>Victoria Smith</b>	Cadet with the State Emergency Service
<b>Elijah Stanger-Jones</b>	Won a total of 14 first place awards for dance at the Sydney, Dubbo & Orange eisteddfods and achieved 4 Firsts for piano AND 7 <sup>th</sup> grade piano
<b>David Tighe</b>	Lead in Coonabarabran HS musical; competed NSW State cross-country; North-Western rep soccer player
<b>Jed White</b>	Rep in U14 Rugby League; success at Great Engineering Challenge

The attendance at our residential schools over the last two weeks has been a highlight for all staff and students. We never lose our fascination with the joy that face to face communication provides us all. As we move to our single residential next term with all Year 7/8/9 students at the one residential in Week 5 (November 7th 6pm to Nov 9th 1.30pm) the excitement at being together as a whole school for the first time will be quite palpable. The chance to have a whole school staff development day on Wednesday Nov 7th is also a first for xsel. As the teaching and learning team leader in xsel I am looking forward to this event with great anticipation. To be able to pull together, in a more formal manner, all the wonderful ideas and actions of our staff and integrate these with our gifted education strategies will be an outstanding opportunity. It will also allow xsel to be on the front foot for the roll over to the National Curriculum which will happen in 2014 for some Years.

#### Sugar

Whilst speaking about excitement I need to ask that parents do not send any lollies with their students to residential. For a couple of reasons: I entered a room to say goodnight and switch off the light to find nearly 3 kg – yes you read correctly 3 kilograms - of lollies ready to be devoured overnight by just six students. Each one had bought a packet to share – very thoughtful – but when they all ended up in the same room overnight it was xsel staff that had to deal with the sugar high that night and the inevitable sugar low the next day. The other reason is that some students bring even more lollies to residential, but then they don't share with anyone. Yes, those large bags of "share with your friends" lollies are in some cases being eaten by just the student who has them! I know you will all agree that this is an extremely unhealthy way for students to behave and is setting them up for some possible problems in later life. Thanks in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

#### Communication

xsel has a unique digital manner for communicating with our learning community. We choose this system for a number of reasons not the least of which is so parents can experience a little of what xsel staff and students do on a daily basis. It is essential that parents inform the xsel office when details change so we can remain in constant contact with parents. Replying to emails by the due date also assists our office considerably. We are a small but highly effective management team in Dubbo and your cooperation makes it all the easier for us to manage all we need to do.

#### Semester 2 Exams

All Years and all subjects will complete their Semester 2 exams on November 1<sup>st</sup> this year. I have been in contact with all xsel schools to seek the cooperation of xsel Support People to enable this. Exam papers will be in the schools ready for students to complete in a supervised environment. Once complete xsel Support People will scan and email the completed exams back to for distribution to staff for marking.

#### Bouquets

xsel is supported by a whole raft of unseen people. When possible it is lovely to be able to recognise the work of these people. This time I would like to acknowledge the support of the Technical Support Officers (TSO's) in schools. With the migration to Adobe Connect 8 TSO's had to swing into action with very little notice. As always they did this with no fuss. The second bouquet needs to go to Shaun Garcia from Adobe who walked us all through the migration and was on the end of several hundred emails (yes it really was that many) to reach solutions for staff and students in double quick time. Without the actions of these people xsel would not be where we are today.

**Barbara Bannister**



### Mathematics

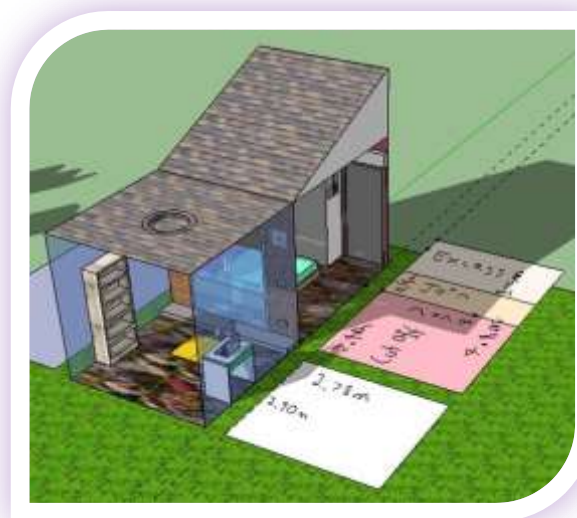
Year 8 Mathematics students have been enjoying the topics studied this semester, and last residential camp saw the presentation of their bedroom makeovers “xsel Cribs” and the staging of the first “Fast and Furious” maths competition. It was such a resounding success we are looking forward to staging this event again in 2013.

Dean, Alex and Grace were runners-up by the closest of margins, Alice, Jack and Bryan were judged Best Working Group and Emily, Tarryn and Quintin were the inaugural winners. Pictured below are the winning teams, looking very pleased at the idea of exchanging their well deserved merit awards at their home schools.

Congratulations to all in the assessment task. There were certainly some entertaining renovations, with downstairs “mad scientist” dungeons, glass conservatories and dance studios being created with all the necessary additions to make it a mathematical study centre. Kieran’s design is below.



Sophia produced an eye-catching bedroom renovation:



As you read this, students are preparing for the Australian Mathematics Challenge, an event testing student’s skills in numeracy using Mathletics. This will take place on Tuesday 4th September from noon onwards. Last year we came first in New South Wales and second overall in Australia.

There isn’t much time left until the yearly examinations, with **Data** and **Percentages** being the last substantive topics to cover before the exams. Good luck to all students with all of your work and congratulations on the effort and results shown so far this year.

**Mr Jay Quince**  
Parkes High School  
xsel Maths Faculty



Hi and welcome to the English Report.

We've had a busy time this year looking at various aspects of the Stage 4 English Syllabus. Presently we are completing a unit on **Virtual Worlds** and to assist Year 7s with their 'creations' (due Sept 10, hint, hint) we had time at Residential School to explore the uses of Photo Shop and Premiere Elements. Lots of us began the 'experience' with trepidation but by the end of our session there were some wonderful 'masterpieces' on display.



*Grace and Sarah working intently in their Year 8 class*

Our teachers were also kept very busy at the residence. In between their classroom teaching and fine tuning the planning for upcoming topics, they took the opportunity to mark student work and provide them with their all important feedback.



We are about to go from the future back to the past! To William Shakespeare and the wonderfully comedic world of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". For many of our students this will be their first taste of Shakespeare and his world.



If you're asked who said: "It's raining cats and dogs" or "to be lion-hearted" or "to strike while the iron is hot" or "to lead a dog's life" or "it's Greek to me" or "you are more sinned against than sinning" or trying to answer these questions has caused you to "sleep not a wink" then blame the Bard. And of course...if anyone can name a famous actress from Shakespeare's time then it will be chocolate all round. Now that should "set your teeth on edge" (and yep....he coined that phrase too!)

**Ms Jo Ryan**

**Denison College Kelso High School Campus  
xsel English Faculty**



At residential school the Year 9 xsel students were introduced to the Space to Grow Science program by visiting astronomers Dr Michael Fitzgerald and Dr Lena Danaia. Launched in 2009 (International Year of Astronomy) the Space to Grow Science program innovatively combines rural and city schools, astronomers and technology-focused educational researchers in studying astronomy. In Western NSW region the program is being assisted by Anne Marceau out of the Orange SEA Office.

First the xsel students discussed what opportunities there were for them post high school, and how even after completing a bachelor degree they could then undertake honours and further post graduate research leading to doctorates and eventually becoming professors at university.

The students then researched different stellar objects, like dark nebula, and presented their findings to the visiting astronomers. They were then given the opportunity to learn how to process astronomical photographs using computer programs, a skill which will enable them to process their own images taken with the Faulkes telescope. As Josie's image below shows, the results were quite stunning.



*Alistar and Daniel collaborate on their image*



*Ben and David chat with Dr Danaia*

Year 9 xsel students will be offered the opportunity to control powerful \$30M, robotically operated research-grade telescopes via the internet while directing educational research into astronomy.

The students also learnt about the research that students at Denison College Bathurst High Campus have carried out with the Space to Grow program, making new discoveries which have been published in scientific papers.

It was a fabulous day where the students gained valuable research skills and made progress towards undertaking their own unique astronomical research that will perhaps one day be published in scientific journals.

**Ms Melissa Pomeroy**  
**Condobolin High School**  
**xsel Science Faculty**

# You're **Leaving School** and so is your **Laptop**

Be prepared for the exciting opportunities ahead of you with your unlocked laptop.

Get a 'Transfer of Ownership Acknowledgement and Acceptance' form from your school TSO, fill it out and hand it in with your laptop to be unlocked.

## Starts NOW!



### Your unlocked laptop will...

- Allow you to manage your own laptop including installing software
- Provide you with unfiltered web access including access to Facebook and Twitter
- Give you access to your own copy of Microsoft Windows 7 Ultimate and Microsoft Office 2010
- Still contain the Adobe Creative Suite



Education &  
Communities

Public Schools NSW

# Attention Year 12


## Free Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops for Parents of Learner Drivers

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 and Mudgee High School has set up a FREE one & a half hour workshop for parents that offers practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

The session will be conducted by David Riches on Tuesday September 18 in the Mudgee High School Library from 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm. (entry via Horatio St)

Please phone the school office on 6372 1533 or email [mudgee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mudgee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) to indicate your interest in attending.



**Helping learner drivers become safer drivers**

FREE workshops for parents and supervising drivers

**To provide practical advice about:**

- Current laws for L and P licence holders.
- Completing the Learner driver log book.
- Supervising learner drivers.
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.

**The next workshop in your area will be held:**

<b>Time and date:</b> Tuesday September 18 7.00 pm to 8.30pm	<b>Venue:</b> Mudgee High School Library	<b>Book now on:</b> Phone School Office: 6372 1533
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