



A Member of the
Cudgegong Learning
Community

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR
THE FULL CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Coming Events:

- April 3 to 11 – Y12
½ Yearly Exams
- April 9 – Japan
excursion begins
- April 11 – Last Day
of Term 1
- April 28 – Staff
Development Day
- April 29 – Students
return to Term 2
- May 5 to 9 – Y11 ½
Yearly Exams
- May 23 – Athletics
Carnival
- May 26 –P&C
Meeting, Library
7pm

This issue:

- Principal's Message
- P&C Awards
- Maths News
- Community
Announcements

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

Principal's Message

I don't get to write these Principal's messages all that often and two in as many weeks is unprecedented. These are indeed interesting times.

Last Monday evening's P&C Annual General Meeting and regular scheduled P&C meeting were both well attended. Congratulations to those office bearers elected; John Laidlaw as President, Susan Reinhard as Secretary and Judy Hickey as Treasurer. Congratulations too to Suzanne Donnelly, Belinda Roach and Lorraine Stewart who have all been elected to the position of Vice-President, prepared to step in when the President is not available.

On Wednesday, the "Welcome Year 7" social was quite successful, even if numbers were a little down, seemingly in response to the inclement weather. That said, few of us would lament the return of rain; there's money in mud! Student behaviour was commendable.

Thursday's Parent/Teacher evening for Years 8 – 10 was well attended, evidenced by the disappearance of all of the biscuits by 4.30pm! Not a bad yardstick for measuring success. We'll need to look into the adequacies of our current provisioning for next time...

If a week runs Sunday to Saturday, then last week ended on a very positive note. On Saturday, a professional learning opportunity was taken up by more than 40 teaching staff from Mudgee High – forming the lion's share – Gulgong High and a couple of representatives from Tamworth High. The course offered concerned itself with an innovative teaching and learning strategy called ALARM: A Learning and Responding Matrix.

Max Woods, a teacher possessing more than 40 years' experience in public schools, provided a thought-provoking and informative five hours on developing the skills within students that make them better learners and, more particularly, adroit responders. When you consider that the HSC by and large remains a pen and paper set of quizzes, the ability to interpret and respond appropriately to the demands of each question asked – whether a 1 mark question or a 20 mark question, and knowing the difference – is essential to success.

The day demonstrated for many of those present that what they already do in the classroom to guide students in developing their skills in both learning and responding is certainly on task, but there are ways in which each can sharpen their personal teaching practices. Best of all, the process has a proven track record of success in the schools where it has been introduced. Max spoke of Freshwater High where he began it all. In a school of 1000 students – not dissimilar in size to Mudgee High – in the space of five short years the school moved from having just fifteen students achieve Band 6 results in the HSC to more than 150. What ALARM promises to do for those students of ours prepared to invest the time and effort is to provide a structured framework that will allow them to maximise their results in all areas.

Finally, did I tell you? I think I may have last week. The Japanese excursion kicks off on Wednesday, April 9. Fuji and the Shinkansen beckon! This teaching game is no 9.00 to 3.30 deal as some suspect. Sometimes it can be a real ordeal. But I'm not looking to trade it for anything else anytime soon.

Yours in the greatest endeavour of them all... public education.

Wayne Eade
Relieving Principal

P & C AWARDS Term 1 Week 9 – Congratulations to: Year 7 – Ethan Reinhard; Year 8 – Brooke Doherty; Year 9 - Elizabeth Laidlaw; Year 10 – Eric Monger; Year 11 – Grace Armstrong; Year 12 – Dacoda Endacott

MATHEMATICS NEWS

Australian Mathematics Competition

On the 7th of August this year Mudgee High School students will once again be invited to attempt the Australian Mathematics Competition. This is a test of mathematical, logical and problem solving skills involving 30 multiple choice questions. All students are encouraged to enter this competition, especially those with talent in the subject or who enjoy a challenge. All entrants receive a certificate of participation, with higher credentials for different levels of success also on offer (great certificates for resumes and CV's). Exceptionally talented students may also be in line for some of the many cash prizes available.

Although the competition is on later in the year our school entry needs to be finalise early next term.

Entry fees are \$6 and are to be paid at the front office. See Mr Lynn if you have any questions.

Super Rule

The HSC is a demanding time for students and it is essential that students are well-prepared for lessons with the right equipment. Students who are completing the HSC this year must have an approved scientific calculator. Students are asked to check with their teacher in case their calculator is not approved. Those students sitting the General Mathematics examinations can also take in an approved graphics calculator and we ask that students notify their teacher if they are intending to take such a calculator into the examination. Being unfamiliar with a calculator can severely affect a student's result.

Besides a rule, students in the Mathematics and Extension Mathematics courses can purchase a mathematics template which has been approved for use in their examinations. The template is referred to as a Super Rule and can be purchased for \$8.00. Pay at the front office and bring the receipt to the Mathematics Staffroom.

Calculators

All students in years 7 to 12 need to use calculators in their Mathematics classes. The Mathematics courses are designed to make use of calculator technology to assist students to develop more difficult concepts without becoming bogged down in manual calculations. Mental calculations skills are also practiced as part of the course.

It is important for students to have a calculator of the type approved by the Board of Studies. In the past some students have disadvantaged themselves by not practicing their skills on a calculator that they can use in their final exams. Students are advised to check with your Maths teacher that your calculator is an approved model.

Approved calculators can be purchased from the front office for \$20.00 which is cost price to us.

If families have calculators which are no longer needed by ex-students they can be used. It is not necessary to buy the latest model. If students look after their calculator it will last throughout their time at school and beyond.

Mathematics Homework Room

The Mathematics Faculty understands that many of the concepts taught in this subject are demanding and difficult. So homework, which is an essential step in retaining this important information, is a problem for many students. To help alleviate students stress the Mathematics staff will provide their expertise in a Homework room.

This has been operating very successfully each **Monday afternoon** in **room B09 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm** and will continue to operate for the rest of the year.

Students are also encouraged to seek help during breaks if they are having concerns with their work. There is always someone in the office that is willing to help.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUDGEE JUNIOR GOLF

Junior Golf and competition will be held on Sunday 6th April, 2014. For all ages, boys and girls, 5 to 15 years. 9am for 9.30am start to approximately 12 noon. \$5 for each golfer – sausage sizzle provided. Clubs will be provided if required. Just come on the day with your hat and drink bottle for a few hours playing golf in a fun way.

Telephone Peter at the Pro Shop - 63722686

Community Announcements continued

Mid-Western Regional Council – YOUTH WEEK 2014

Visual Art, Creative Writing and Photography Competition

Delivery of works by tomorrow 3.30 Tues April 1

Battle of the Brains Trivia Night – Thursday 10th April – Registration by April 4

Keep updated on all Youth Week activities by checking the Mid-Western Youth Council page on facebook

www.facebook.com/midwesternyouthcouncil

or logon to the web site www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au/CommunityServices/YouthServices.html

LAW WEEK ART COMPETITION – Win prizes for your School

The Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW is holding a design competition encouraging all students in NSW primary and secondary schools to design their own Indigenous art (dot painting) postcard. The three entries which best illustrate the theme 'My Community' will receive prizes, and will be published and circulated throughout NSW.

Entries close on Wednesday May 21 2014.

Three prizes of \$500, \$200 & \$100 book vouchers – half of each is for the student and half for the school.

LAKE BURRENDONG SPORT AND RECREATION CENTRE

LADS, DADS AND GRANDADS PROGRAM

Get back to nature and enjoy a boy's only weekend away!

16th to 18th May 2014

\$160 – 18 years and over : \$140 – 7 to 17 years

Bookings close 2nd May 2014

For more information phone: 02 6846 7403

BUSH DANCE - 'STRINGY BARK BAND - SATURDAY 5TH APRIL

7.30 TO 10.30pm in Mudgee Public School Assembly Hall

Cost: \$7 per head or \$25 per family – Children under 10 free

Light refreshments on sale.

This is being organised by the MCEA as a fundraiser for our SRE (Scripture Teacher) Justin Field at Mudgee High School

All Very Welcome

KOKODA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

Club Mudgee is taking applications from community members to participate in the Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge 2014. Suitable applicants must be aged between 17 and 24 years, applications close 31st March 2014.

The Kokoda Challenge will take place from 20th September 2014 to 1st October 2014.

Further information is available on Club Mudgee website www.clubmudgee.com.au or the

RSL and Services Club website www.rslservicesclubs.com.au