

Monday
1 June 2015
Term 2 – Week 7



MHS Newsletter

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A Member of the
Cudgegong Learning
Community



SEE OUR WEBSITE
FOR THE FULL
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Coming Events:

- June 8 – Public Holiday
- June 16 – Gold & Silver Year 11 & 12
- June 16 Mini MAD Concert
- June 25 – P&C Meeting, Library 7pm

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- Principal's Message
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- Jim Moore
- Email addresses
- English News
- Marine Studies
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- Sponsor - Glencore


PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Consider the "sicky."

Time was when a "sicky" was considered by many to be an Australian tradition, right up there with football, meat pies, kangaroos and Holden cars (please don't sing that last bit). Nowadays, football and kangaroos would appear to have a reasonable future, although last week's State of Origin match was a bit flat, but most of us are a whole lot more health conscious these days. As a result, the meat pie doesn't feature too often at meal times. And as for car manufacturing in Australia, the future would appear very bleak. Bleak would also seem the future of the "sicky." Work absenteeism is at record lows. Not bad in a nation that has fewer public holidays than the vast majority of western nations. Average attendance at Mudgee High over the last five years has sat on about 89%, putting it slightly ahead of the average for all state schools in New South Wales. The worst terms for attendance are Terms 2 and 3... the influenza season. In Term 2 so far, average attendance has dropped to 85%, which is 2 percentage points below our historical attendance figures for this time of year.

Some of it can be explained by the changes made in February to the ways in which attendance is recorded. We are now obliged to keep students who are old enough to leave school on our rolls until they are officially enrolled elsewhere or until they enter full time employment, TAFE or a combination of the two.


To lift our attendance, we have begun a trial system of sending an SMS to parents and guardians of students who arrive late. This promises to sharpen the attendance patterns of several of our students who've struggled in the past to disentangle themselves from the eiderdown. We have also begun sending emails to parents and carers of students who are regularly absent, with plans to expand the SMS service to this area of attendance. Each SMS costs 60 cents, which in a school of more than 900 will almost certainly be an expensive operation in the short term. But it is worth it if we're to better assist you, the parents and carers of our students, in short-circuiting the development of a "sicky" culture. Good educational outcomes which lead to longer, more prosperous lives, are rendered almost impossible by poor attendance. I look forward to your support for this initiative.

 **EVERY DAY COUNTS....**
A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Give your child every chance to succeed...

Every day counts!



Wayne Eade
Principal

TERM 2 WEEK 6

P & C AWARDS: Year 7 – Lachlan George, Year 8 – Sinead Matheson-Gayford, Year 9 – Ryan Innes, Year 10 – Hannah Webster, Year 11 – William Baird, Year 12 – Temika Hayes

SRR AWARD – Congratulations to: Daniel Kurtz (Yr 8)

2014 OUTSTANDING GRADUATING STUDENTS AWARDS TAFE WESTERN

Last year's TVET Automotive Student and ex Mudgee High Student, Jim Moore, received the Young Learner of the year award for the 2014 Outstanding Graduating Students Award.

Jim commenced his Automotive mechanical TVET course as a part of his Senior studies in Year 11. He attended TAFE at the Cassilis Rd campus once a week. The Mudgee High School students were so committed to the course that it was decided to offer it in Year 12.

This is an excellent achievement for Jim and he is commended on his dedication and commitment to his Automotive studies. Jim is now employed at Ulan West as a mechanical/fitter apprentice.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Mudgee High is in the process of using emails more often as a tool to communicate with parents. If you are aware that we do not have your email address or you need to update it, please email the school.

ENGLISH FACULTY NEWS

Term Two has been a busy time for the teachers and students of the English faculty. On top of the numerous quality lessons taught each week, we have been delighted to offer the fantastic students of Mudgee High a wide variety of extra opportunities to extend their learning and engage their interest. Students have embraced these activities with enthusiasm and it has been wonderful to see the number of young people at this school who are actively seeking out ways to be more involved in their learning and in the community as well.

Foremost on the list of these are a number of excursions that have been run, including the Hamlet Symposium organised by Mrs Daniels and Mr McNeil which gave senior students the chance to experience Shakespeare as presented by experts in the field. Mrs Daniels also co-ordinated the team for the Lithgow Festival of Speech, where public speakers and debaters from across all year groups tested their powerful rhetoric skills against the best young communicators in our region. It was a tough contest; however, Mudgee High has an outstanding reputation at this event, not just for the quality of our speakers but also for fairness, good humour and positive participation. Tayla McCarthy (Yr 11) came first in the senior prepared speech section, while our other speakers and debaters had some wins, some losses, and learned a great deal from the experience.

Further afield, Mrs Davies travelled to Sydney last Sunday with Year 12 Extension One English students, where they participated in a full day workshop on their key HSC topic of Science Fiction; a dedicated effort for both teacher and students! Miss Heckendorf is also excited to once again be offering keen students the opportunity to develop their cultural awareness and spirit of fair play through the three day Goodooga Indigenous Games Excursion to take place in August.

Along with the wonderful events taking our students beyond the gates, there are fabulous learning opportunities which we are proud to offer in-school as well. The English Competition is running again for interested students. Last year we had over one hundred participants in this competition with many individuals receiving excellent results. This year we are confident of similar successful achievement from the strong candidature that has put its hand up to be part of this test. In a less formal setting, a core group of students have given up their Wednesday lunch times to run the Fiction Addiction book club. This is an open group and we encourage anyone who loves reading, books and engaging discussions about teenage literature to come along and join the fun.

Recently, our numbers have also been added to by Miss Dang, a teacher on practicum placement from Sydney University, whose enthusiastic delivery and quality teaching have energised both students and teachers alike. The willingness to extend their learning beyond the classroom and participate in the opportunities offered at Mudgee High is a real strength of our students, and the English faculty is very proud to be able to offer them many ways to do so this term.

YR 10 – WHY NOT STUDY 2 UNIT MARINE STUDIES FOR THE HSC in 2016 - 2017!!! Mandarinfish - The Most Colourful and Charming Fish in the Sea!!



Why mandarinfish? Actually, the name comes from its bizarre and extreme coloration, which resembles the robes of an Imperial Chinese officer (mandarin). They grow to about 6 cm in length.

Dusk is the moment when one of the most fascinating events in the marine world occurs; the mating of mandarinfish. And sitting on a chair watching the sun set is a no-no for keen divers, especially if you find yourself in somewhere like The Philippines or the Lembeh Strait!

Scientifically known as *Synchiropus splendidus*, the mandarinfish, is also one of the most stunningly beautiful and interesting fish in the ocean. They could well be the most distinct patterned creature you have ever seen when you dive.

The mandarin fish is a popular photographic subject due to its striking beauty and interesting habits. An extremely small and shy tropical fish, it can be a tricky photographic subject, coming in and out of view, appearing only briefly at dusk to mate and seemingly wishing to avoid any bright light.

They are highly reclusive during the day, but may be seen perched on or hopping between coral branches. They swim with a rapid pulsating of their fins which tends to make them look like they are hovering much like a hummingbird.

Reproduction

Just before the sun sets, 3 to 5 females will make their way to a particular region of the reef and gather where males visit and display courtship behaviour, hoping to attract the females.

A successful male will then be joined by a female that will rest on his pelvic fin. The male and female mandarin fish will align themselves belly-to-belly and together, slowly rise about 1 metre above the reef. Once they are at the peak of their ascent, they will release sperm and a cloud of eggs (usually up to 200 eggs). The fish then disappear in a flash. The fertilized eggs are from that point at the mercy of the current and normally take around 18-24 hours to hatch into 1 mm long larvae. For a period of up to 2 weeks, they will remain plankton with no parental involvement before finally settling on the reef and choosing an appropriate habitat where they will live for the next 10 to 15 years.



Distribution

Mandarin fish are shy and mostly passive. Normally they are found inhabiting broken coral rubble beds or under dead coral. They are so shy that any heavy breathing or movement will scare them away back to their shelters. They are usually found in groups or in pairs on reef crests and slopes in sheltered lagoons throughout much of the Western Pacific and in the Coral Triangle of biodiversity, which includes Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia.

Learn all about this and other amazing fish, by choosing to study 2U Marine Studies in Year 11 and 12. See Mr Willetts in the TAS staffroom for more information.

Community Announcements

TOWN HALL CINEMA
 *** SHOWING JUNE 5th, 6th and 7th 2015 ***
 Tickets on sale Monday 1 June at all Council offices

SESSION TIMES	TICKET PRICES
THE LONGEST RIDE Friday June 5 7.00pm Saturday June 6 4.30pm Saturday June 6 7.00pm Sunday June 7 4.30pm	Adults: \$14.00 Children/Concession: \$10.00 Children under 5 years: Free
HOME Saturday June 6 11.00am Saturday June 6 2.00pm Sunday June 7 11.00am Sunday June 7 2.00pm	Tickets available at Mid-Western Regional Council offices from Monday 1 st June 2015 or at the door (if not sold out prior). For more information, visit www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au like Council on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
 Mid-Western Regional Council
 MWRRC Youth Council

Rotary New Zealand Exchange 2016 (Year 8 & 9)
 Rotary New Zealand exchange is all about new experiences and fun.
 The exchange is six months, three months living with you in Australia and three months living with a family in New Zealand. Rotary Aus/NZ exchanges build life-long friendships between students and whole families. Students attend school both here and in NZ. Take the Kiwi to see your Australia and when visiting NZ the NZ family takes the Aussies to see their New Zealand. And everyone has fun.
 More information and application info can be found at www.ranzse.org or check out our Facebook page – RAZNSE District 9670 **Rotary has organised these exchanges for 40 yrs**

June 5, 6 and 7 – more information see www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

SPONSORSHIP

**MUDGEES HIGH SCHOOL - LINK PROGRAM
 GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY**

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TO BE WON



We are searching for NSW's best high school teachers to be part of an exciting new project that will change the face of teaching resources.

To nominate your teacher fill out the entry form at www.nswteacheroftheyear.com.au and answer in 100 words or less why you believe your teacher should win the title of NSW Teacher of the Year.

Competition closes: Friday 19 June 2015 at 23:59 AEST. Our ABN: 261 939 077 91. Full terms and conditions can be found at www.nswteacheroftheyear.com.au/competition-tcs

Cudgegong Valley Mathematics

Mathematics Everywhere, Everyday

Meets Every
Second Wednesday of the Month

6pm
At Club Mudgee

Program includes:

A Speaker (or guest speaker) talk about application of Mathematics, History of Mathematics, statistics, technology and other matters relating to mathematics.



Contact:
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cudgegongvalleymathematics.wordpress.com

Forum on mathematics topics

Maths trivia

Group forum/activities for students

Everyone is invited

Details:

Cudgegong Valley Mathematics is a not for profit organisation, aimed to support members who may have difficulty in Maths, provide award for excellence in Maths, a forum and further learning for adults who want to extend their previous knowledge in Mathematics, invite guest speakers for specific topics and conduct regular social activities.

CVM will conduct Numeracy projects:

- Group forum/activities 1 (year 1 – 6)
- Group forum/activities 2 (year 7 –9)
- Group forum/activities 3 (year 10 –12)

These three programs are a type of group tutoring to help families from various demographics to promote basic numeracy and analytical skills. This will change their lives, particularly around our local community who are left behind.

One on one tutoring is also available for anyone who is interested.