From the Principal… Janette Scott

Great news!

We received a grant of $50,000 this week from the Minister of Education that recognises the excellent work we have been doing in with primary schools in Science. As a Specialist Science School, we will be able to expand what we have been doing to increase the challenge and continuity of learning in years 6-9 Science, and work with more local schools. I would like to acknowledge the work with primary schools that Carolyn Naumann, one of our outstanding Science teachers, has done and the work that Dr Rhett Swanson, our Science Coordinator, has done with the whole team to build our successful Science program.

I have written about the importance of attending school before but it became even clearer to me when I met with each of our Year 11 Maths teachers to review our students’ achievement this week. We checked each student’s semester 1 results so far to see whether they were on track to achieve a C grade or better in this compulsory subject. It was great to see evidence of hard work and many excellent results but it was sad to see that some students are struggling to achieve the minimum requirements. The reason was always the same: their attendance was poor. If students don’t attend school regularly, they miss out on their teachers’ and friends’ help, and the opportunity to work with our Maths tutor, or get 1:1 help from a Maths teacher after school at the homework club.

The Department of Education and Child Development has set 95% as the 2016 target for school attendance. The target would be reached if all students were absent less than 2½ days per term, or around 9.5 days per year. When analysing our attendance data so far this year (see below), we can see that some students have already had in excess of 2½ days absent per term and they are not on track to reach the 95% attendance rate. Also at times, we have not received communication from home authorising the absence.

Please contact Leonie Roberts, our Student Counsellor, or any of the school’s leadership team, if you need support to improve your son or daughter’s attendance at school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
<th>Authorised Absence Rate</th>
<th>Unauthorised Absence Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 8</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 9</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 10</td>
<td>86.5%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 11</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 12</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>87.2%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Thursday 19th of May a number of our students attended the Math Olympics competition at Elizabeth Civic Centre. The evening was filled with mathematical thinking, problem solving, number crunching, wuzzle cracking and of course laughter and friendly competition. So how did we go? Absolutely fantastic! The regular score checks often shed light on our high achieving, well-trained PHHS Maths Olympians. Out of over 20 teams, we achieved a deserving place on the podium with a bronze Medal. On top of the podium placing, we had 100% success with students all leaving proud and overjoyed from an awesome night that they shared with their friends in the Maths Olympics battlefield. A couple statements from our Maths Olympians:

“The night was a great use of my night. It was fun, challenging and I got to hang out with some of my mates and compete against other schools. I will definitely be doing it again next time (Euan Johnston, Maths Olympian 2016)”

“Well, overall the night was good, with our poll position finish especially. I can’t wait for the next one so my team can go for Gold (Scott Burton, Maths Olympian 2016)”

“I had a fantastic time, they should be on every week” (Anonymous Maths Olympian, 2016)

Mat Rotolo (Maths Teacher)

CHEF IN RESIDENCE

During week 3 of this term Para Hills High School was very fortunate to host a Chef in Residence. Sebastian Bitter spent the whole week working with Home Ec students in Years 8-11 to share his knowledge and skills, challenge them to try new food sensations and to cook new things. Sebastian also ran a Master Class for staff after school.

Sebastian has been working with Maggie Beer for over 9 years and has contributed towards product development, managing the Farm Restaurant and hosting food demonstrations.

Our Year 8 students learnt how to make fresh pasta from scratch and used PVC piping to present a salad while the Year 11 Catering Concepts class made ice cream and panna cotta.

Sally Stewart (Senior Leader & Catering Concepts Teacher)
On Wednesday, May 25th, 2016, the Year 11 and Year 12 students from the Disability Unit attended Positive Futures, an annual event organised by Playford Council at Elizabeth City Centre. The work expo showcased exciting opportunities for further education, training, volunteering and social inclusion available to people with a disability. The students participated in seminars and interacted with lots of professionals. This is what some of the students said about the day –

“It was fun as they teach you how to find a job on the internet”
“It was good with all the talks”
“It was unreal and we learnt how to make a resume and practice a job interview”
“I felt satisfied because this was something I can learn from and get a job”
“I was kind of excited as it looked interesting. With Barkuma, I felt confident and interested in what they were saying”
“It was good to see Tom from the Barista Course and Cess from the Construction Course”
“It was alright. The free stuff was great and educational”
“It was very educational and fun for young people with a disability”
“I enjoyed it because I got to learn more things, such as how to be a volunteer and write an application to get another job”

POSITIVE FUTURES WORK EXPO

28 year 9 students were selected by the year 9 Care-group teachers to attend the ‘yLead Altitude Day’ held at the Playford Civic Centre on Thursday 2nd June. Altitude Day is a leadership event held across Australia specifically for students in year 9 who display potential for becoming future leaders. It was an inspirational and extremely enjoyable day where our students were taught how to unlock their potential to achieve their dreams and become empowered leaders. We were fortunate enough to have some fantastic ambassadors for the day who spoke to the students about their stories. Barnaby Howarth, stroke survivor and ex Sydney Swans player, and Rowie McEvoy, who is an internationally sought speaker whose positivity just radiated throughout the room! The day was filled with energetic group activities including games, networking with students from different schools and of course, LOUD music which meant plenty of dancing! Thank you again to those students who attended and engaged so well in the day.

Just one of the many quotes of the day to remember: “Fear of failure has squashed more dreams than failure itself!”

Congratulations to these students who were selected: Caitlin Manning, Karoline Stanic, Ben Gibson, Zach Hillier, Stephen Lewis, Cooper Martin, Jazmyn Wise, Gloria Poni, Chantelle Nottle, Hayley Burchell, Annalise Waterhouse, Megan Johnson, Bailey Spackman, Alex Hockey-Kuyomba, Britanny Ward, Zac Baker, Keenan Kartinyeri, Talea Smith, Jasjot Bhatwal, Caleb Holme, Rajveer Jadeja, Hope Martin, Chloe Milera, Andrea Oluic, Isaiah Rigney, Hayley Sammut, Stevielee Scott, Chris Stronksyj, Siobhain Wright.
Para Hills High School
Open Night 2016

On Tuesday 17 May the school held its annual Open Night for 2016. Families were able to come in and tour the school, meet with staff, and see what is offered due to interactive activities that were prepared by the various learning areas. Parents were also able to speak to Janette Scott, our Principal, who also shared recent achievements of the school, and were able to hear from the current year 8 students about their experiences as they have transitioned in to the school.

Approximately 45 families toured the school with most of them not having another child already at the school and therefore they will be new to the school community. Thank you to staff and in particular the many school students who stayed after the normal school day to help staff show exhibits and participated in activities to show families how things work at Para Hills High School.

Aaron Struck
Year 8 Level Manager

Biggest Morning Tea

On Thursday 26th May staff and students came together to share a cuppa and a biscuit to raise money for the Cancer Council’s Biggest Morning Tea in the Library. The staff association and the Year 11 Catering Concepts class provided the morning tea. A big thank you to everyone for contributing.

Sally Stewart (Senior Leader)

Year 9/10 Drama

In term one the year 9/10 Drama class focussed on exploring the history of storytelling through different cultures and diversities. The students created original scripts to promote Harmony Day which were based around anti-bullying focusing on themes such as acceptance, self-identity and cyber bullying. Each performance was catered to Primary year levels ranging from reception to year 7. The performances were taken to Karrendi Primary school and were well received by students and teaching staff. I would like to thank the year 9/10 students on their performance as they created awareness and were a positive influence and ambassadors of the school.

Cleonikki Kefalas
Drama Teacher

From the Finance Team

School Card

Reminder to all families who apply for school card – a new application is required every school year at each school your children attend. Please don’t assume that if you fill an application for school card at a primary school that Para Hills High School students will be covered. These forms are available from the school and should be filled in and signed as soon as possible. Closing date for applications is the 11th November 2016. Please contact Andrea Nemeth, should you require any further information.

2016 Materials & Services Charges

The M&S Charges for 2016 are now overdue. Please contact the finance team at the school to organise payment, collect a School Card Form or negotiate a payment plan. Outstanding charges will be sent to the DECD Debt Recovery Unit at the beginning of term 3.

Heather Long
School Administrative Officer