

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Year 12 Graduation 2016

On Thursday 18 September we will celebrate the Year 12 graduation. This most important event on our school calendar marks one of the last formal occasions that our Year 12 students will be together as a year group; as such it is seen as a rite of passage. As I take this opportunity to congratulate Year 12 on not only this significant achievement, but on the successful completion of 13 years of schooling.

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

When Alan Herring retired at the end of last term Lisa Selsby took over the role of our aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for the school, which includes custodianship of the Aboriginal Resource Room. In a short time Lisa has worked hard to revitalise the role and to make strong connections with students and the community. From term 4 Lisa will be introducing an aboriginal student leadership program in which the schools 42 Aboriginal students will meet as a distinct roll call group each day. This will allow Lisa to get them together in one place each day, build on connections with them, organise parent meetings, share information about opportunities and coordinate a leadership program.

School Plan Update – Student Resilience and Wellbeing Team

One of the key areas of our School Plan is in Student Wellbeing and Resilience. Tracy Smith is leading a committed team of 14 staff who are researching a range of interventions focussed on improved student wellbeing. These include;

- The Rock and Water program;
- Reviewing our student rewards system;
- Explicit teaching of student resilience through the Year 7 HR programs and the Years 8-10 PDHPE course.
- Positive partnerships program supporting the learning and social needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Parent and community liaison raising awareness and empowering parents to support wellbeing initiatives.
- The Safe School Coalition supporting students who are gay, lesbian, transgender, gender diverse and inter-sex.

The team presented these exciting initiatives at our after school staff meeting last week where they were excitedly and positively received.

Duke of Edinburgh

We have recently reintroduced the Duke of Edinburgh scheme with two of our younger staff members, Carly Brien and Luke Banks putting themselves through the required training. Last weekend they took 10 students on a 12 hour hike through northern Sydney, camping overnight. This challenging endeavour taught the students much about endurance and team work, and resulted in significant blisters for two teachers.

Andrew Backhouse
Principal