

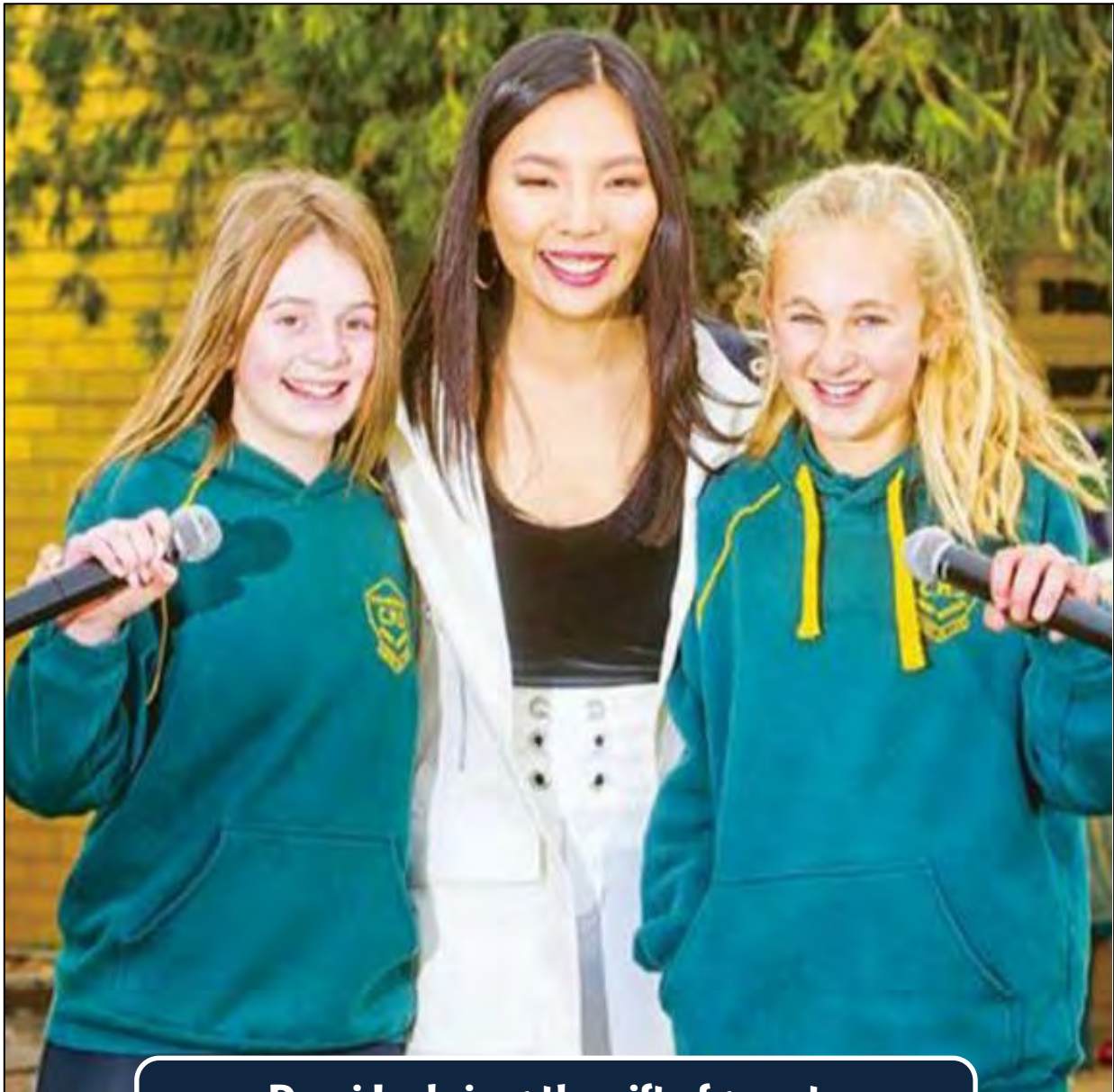


Term 2, June 2018 - Issue #4

Newsletter

Coomealla High School

Principal: Mr Stephen Harper Deputy Principal: Ms Josephine Crowley



**Dami Im brings the gift of song to
Coomealla High School**

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Join us on  or visit our website <http://www.coomealla-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/home> to keep up to date.



Principal's Report

An Eye to the Future – Assessment

Grades

This month, I would like to focus on what the future of education may look like at Coomealla High School. During my recent trip to both the Edutech conference in Sydney and to the Secondary Principal's Conference in Tweed Heads, there was much talk about adapting schools for the future.



*Mr Stephen Harper
Principal*

In the recently released report titled "Through Growth to Achievement", David Gonski and his review panel challenge our school system to move from an "industrial" model of school education that was fit for the purposes of last century to new, personalised teaching practices to ensure students are equipped to be productive and engaged 21st century citizens.

The report sets out three priorities that school should strive to achieve. Priority One: Schools should deliver at least one year's growth in learning for every student every year. Priority Two: Schools should equip every child to be a creative, connected and engaged learner in a rapidly changing world. Priority Three: Aspiring authorities should cultivate an adaptive, innovative and continuously improving education system. To achieve those priorities, the report gave 23 recommendations and made 17 findings imperative to achieving these recommendations.

"Through Growth to Achievement" has been endorsed by the Hon. Rob Stokes, NSW Minister for Education and in my view, will have a major impact on the way schools plan for their operations into the foreseeable future.

The report itself is over 100 pages of condensed information that is rich in detail and content and it is not my intention to address every key point, or even any whole key point in great detail during this report. I do however want to challenge the perception of what makes good data in relation to assessment practice.

There is a long held belief that parents want to see a percentage result with a class ranking as part of the school's reporting process. I contend that these statistics are both woefully inaccurate and very misleading. Throughout my career, I have had to use these measures on reports, and for a long time agreed with and defended their use. I have since come to realise, through my experiences of trying to utilise this data to progress the students

and by counselling distraught high achieving students who receive "disappointing" marks and/or ranks, the futility of collecting such evidence.

The problem stems from the assessment tasks themselves. As a teacher, I have set many assessment tasks over my career. There has been great variance from one year to another, dependant on the cohort of students I have taught. Assessments should be taught so that all students can access the content, but at the same time we try to differentiate the assessments enough to challenge all students within the class. So within the assessments I have set, there is a great variety of difficulty. Looking back over the grades from past years, I know that a student (A) who averaged 65% in all assessments and ranked 23/30 was more capable than another year when a student (B) managed to average 85%, ranking 2/15. Student A came from a high achieving class that managed to work through significantly more content than the lower class of student B. The assessments that student A sat were of a much harder standard. The ranking has absolutely no relevance to the respective performances of the students in these cases.

As we move into the future, we will gradually adopt a standards approach to assessments. I envisage that students will be explicitly shown how to improve their understanding within given topics across all subjects, and how they could improve their grades throughout the topics through the use of formative assessment strategies.



Principal's Report

A few years ago, a colleague of mine, Patrick Sullivan and I devised a strategy that we called the Mathematics Success Criteria Matrix (MSCM) to do just that. The learning intentions are graded A to E with examples of what each grade looks like, as pictured below.

We utilised these across all our junior years for all topics in Mathematics. The MSCM was introduced to the students at the very beginning of the unit so they could see from the outset, what they needed to do to achieve a certain grade. This one tool, changed the Mathematics Faculty's approach to assessment:


- Students could now commence a topic with confidence that there were no surprises as to the content.
- They could gauge throughout each unit their progress and clearly see what work they needed to complete to get to the next level.
- Teaching became far more explicit.

The results? We found that students rate of growth

improved by a staggering 40% in two years. Our students were now learning at a rate 30% faster than the state average. Parents were better informed as to the progress of their children as teachers now had the ability to clearly explain why their child got the grade they got. Moreover, there was consistency in grading between teachers and with students over the time they spent at school.

Linda Barker and Koko Dove are currently leading a project to implement this kind of rubric across faculties as part of making learning more visible to our students. You will see that over the next eighteen months, teachers will increasingly be using this strategy in their classes. It will take time, as rubrics (or Success Criteria Matrices) have not yet been developed across all key learning areas. Once again, Coomealla High School is taking a pedagogical lead to improve the learning outcomes of our students!

Steve Harper
Principal

Below are EXAMPLES of the things you need to be able to do in order to achieve the corresponding grade.		MSCM Year 7 Integers		
Learning Intentions	Investigate index notation and represent whole numbers as products of powers of prime numbers	Compare, order, add and subtract integers.	Carry out the four operations with rational numbers and integers, using efficient mental and written strategies and appropriate digital technologies.	
Grades	A	If 96 lollies are to be divided into packets so that each packet contains the same number, how many lollies can be in each packet? Give all possible combinations.		Three racing cars, Honda, Holden and Ford, take 25 seconds, 30 seconds and 50 seconds, respectively, to complete one lap of a circuit. They start the race at the same time and from the same position. (a) How many seconds will pass before the cars are at the same position on the track? (b) How many laps had each car completed by this time? (c) How many laps did the Honda complete in the time taken by the Ford to complete 6 laps?
	B	Use a factor tree to express 88 as a product of its prime factors. (Use index notation where appropriate) Use prime factors to find the HCF of 24 and 56.	Write $<$, $>$ or $=$ to make the following statements true: $4 - (-8)$ ____ $4 - (+8)$	Find two numbers, one positive and one negative that have a difference of 43. Find two more such pairs.
	C	Find the Lowest Common Multiple (LCM) of 9 and 6. Find the Highest Common Factor (HCF) of 24 and 56.	Arrange the following in ascending order: -7, 0, -4, 5, -7.5 Write $<$ or $>$ to make the following statement true -57 ____ -60	$-12 - (-5) =$ $+5 + (-4) =$
	D	List all the factors of 36	Write an integer that represents: a) 14 degrees below zero; and b) an altitude of 3000m	$3 - 5 =$ $12 - 42 =$
	E	List all the factors of 36 (requiring assistance)	Write an integer that represents: a) 14 degrees below zero; and b) an altitude of 3000m (requiring assistance)	$3 - 5 =$ $12 - 42 =$ (requiring assistance)



Dami Im at CHS

What an amazing day!





Dami Im at CHS

Coomoalla welcomed Dami Im and Yamaha to our school. There was a great concert and presentation of \$45,000 worth of beautiful equipment for our students. The local primary schools joined in and got a taste of high school life. A fantastic BBQ catered for everyone and it was definitely a day to remember.

Thank you Yamaha and Dami Im!



This is what a baby grand piano looks like delivered on the back of a tractor!!





ALC Official Opening

CHS Aboriginal Learning Centre



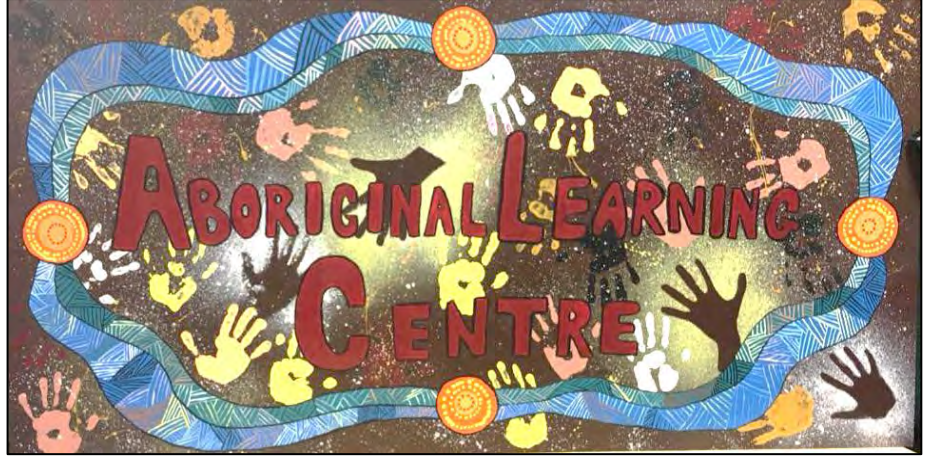


ALC Official Opening

CHS Aboriginal Learning Centre

The official opening of the Coomealla High School Aboriginal Learning Centre took place on Wednesday afternoon 6th June. This special occasion celebrated a new initiative that aims to provide academic and cultural support to enhance the outcomes for Aboriginal students.

It was wonderful to have some of our community elders and representatives from our partner schools and local organisations come to share in the celebrations.



Mr Chris King the 7-12 Advisor, Aboriginal Education and Communities, Educational Services NSW Department of Education, came from Sydney to officially open the centre.

Jakobi Kennedy, a Year Two student from Wentworth Public School and brother of Jameika (Year 10) and Jamowen (Year 7), played some traditional Aboriginal music on the didgeridoo to commence proceedings and Sianlee Harris, the Indigenous Student Services Officer at the Indigenous Training Centre La Trobe University Mildura gave the *Welcome to Country* address.

Our school Captains Jesse Jackson and Dylan Brown were the MCs, welcoming everyone and introducing each speaker.

School Principal Stephen Harper gave a short address before one of our Year 12 students Zoe Kelly spoke positively

about what the ALC means to the students

This was followed by the official opening and unveiling of the ALC framed certificate by Mr Chris King.

Finally, the students helped to cut the celebration cake and Aurora Gleeson from Year 9 thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for afternoon tea and a chat.

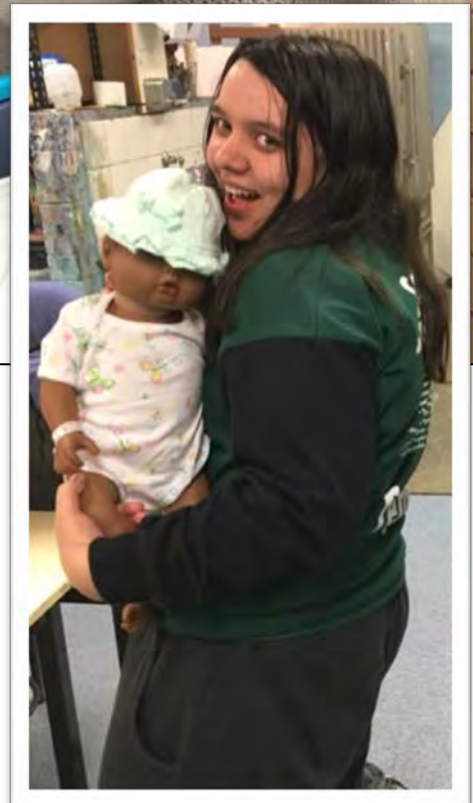
Annette Finch
ALC Coordinator





Year 12 CAFS

Mums and their bubs



CAFS, Community and Family studies Year 12 students have received their imitation babies and are nervously excited to learn about parenthood.

Kelly Golledge



Cultural Leadership

Aboriginal Youth Leadership Workshop

On Thursday 14th June a group of 10 Aboriginal students were given the opportunity to attend the first Mildura District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) Aboriginal Youth Leadership Workshop. Students were involved in a number of sessions including team building, motivation, empowerment, resilience, culture, self-esteem and confidence building.

We would like to thank Vanessa Dyke (MDAS – Youth Services Leader) and her team for a great day.

Mrs Pip Neagle





Special Education

Creating with wood and metal



Special Education students have enjoyed this term working with Mr O'Shannessy in the Metalwork room. They have learnt how to weld, make metal scrolls, and paint the frames to build their coffee tables.

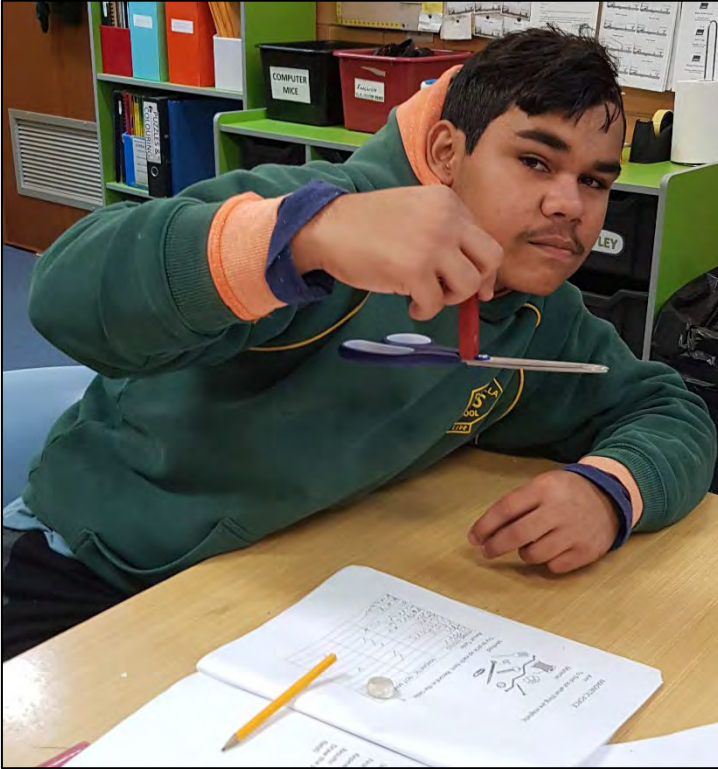
They are looking forward to taking their finished produces home at the end of the term.





Special Education

Experiments make Science fun!



Students in the support unit have been looking at Forces for Science this term. They have had the opportunity to participate in many practical activities that examine how forces work. Here are some students testing the magnetic force of a range of different objects.

Students are also pictured making a simple can crusher that utilises the force of levers.

Some other activities completed include; parachutes to demonstrate drag force, soap powered boats for surface tension, and dominoes for gravity force.



Visual Art





Visual Art

Influences through figurative art

This term Year 11 Visual Art students have considered a range of artists throughout history who have depicted the human figure in art. Students have studied the development of a range of figurative styles over time and historical influences.

At the start of the unit art students Lucy Stephens and Eliza Collier participated in developing their foundational drawing skills and utilised their skills and knowledge to inform and develop expressive sculptures of the human form.

Students built wire armatures to support soft, malleable modelling material on the exterior of their sculptures and will utilise their knowledge, skills and techniques to build a 'Giacometti' style sculpture that demonstrates their understanding of abstract concepts of the human form.

Cassandra Tonkin
Visual Arts Teacher





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Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability - 2018

Our school is participating in the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

We will be collecting information already available in the school about the support that is being provided to students with disability. Better data will help the Government plan for students with disability.

The data collection will have no direct impact on your child and they will not be involved in any testing process.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities will provide data to the Australian Government from all NSW public schools in such a way that no individual student or school will be able to be identified. In this way, we will ensure the privacy and confidentiality of all students.

All information is protected by privacy laws which regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. Information about the Australian Government's Privacy Policy can be found here: <http://education.gov.au/condensed-privacy-policy>. Information about the NSW Government's privacy policies can be found here: <http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/>

If you do not want your child to be counted in the data collection you must complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2018. A decision to exclude your child will not affect the support they currently receive.

Further information about the data collection can be found on the Australian Government Department of Education website:

<http://education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>

If you have any questions about your child being included in the data collection please contact the school.

If you need help with English to make an enquiry contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will call the number you provide and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Kind regards

Stephen Harper
Principal

*If you **do not** want your child to be counted in the data collection, please complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2018.*

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability – 2018

I/we _____
Name of parent/carer

do not wish my child _____ to be counted
Name of child

for the purposes of the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

Parent/Carer signature: _____ date: _____



Interschool Hockey

2018 Championships

Congratulations to our year 7/8 hockey team who played with a great deal of enthusiasm and determination last Thursday. Although we didn't win any games we were certainly a worthy opponent.

Best players were Laura Tilley, Holly Bysouth, Olivia Baird and Jake Harriss.

Thanks to Luke and Lynkon from Koowinda Hockey club for umpiring. Thanks also to Koowinda Hockey Club and Rivaside Hockey Club for the loan of a Goal Keeper kit.



West Darling AFL football

Coomealla boys representing West Darling at the NSW All-Schools AFL trials at Blacktown, Sydney. Pictured are Ernie Johnson, Brent Pradhan, Victor Quince, and Tom Baird.

A great day had by all.

Duncan Driscoll



Community Notice

WENTWORTH AREA CHILD DENTAL SERVICE

A DIVISION OF FAR WEST LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES IN THE
WENTWORTH AND BALRANALD SHIRES

Information for Students, Parents and Guardians,

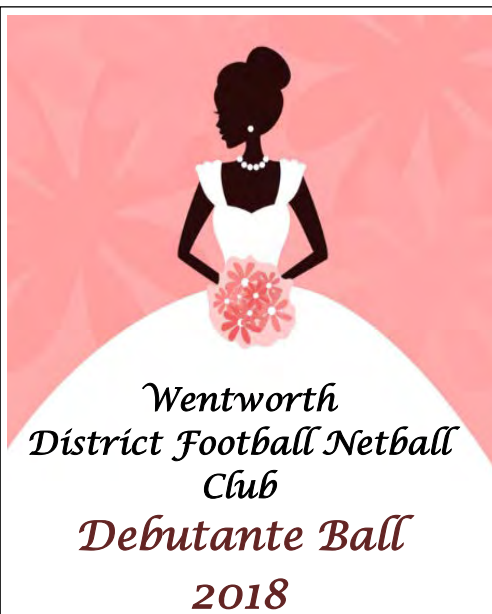
The Child Dental Service operates from the Dental Clinic at the Dareton Primary Health Centre every second Thursday as well as the School Dental Van from Wednesday to Friday each week providing examinations and treatment.

The Dental Service is available to students at secondary school up until the age of 17 years and students must be **NSW residents**. Children who may have left school or are working are still able to use the service providing they are under the age of 18 years.

This is a free service.

Medicare Child Dental Benefit Scheme can be used with our service.

For all appointments contact the Dental Staff on 0419 990 264.



The Wentworth District Football Netball Club Debutante Ball will be held Saturday July 7, 2018 at the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club.

Girls wishing to make their Debut this year, please contact Margaret on **0428274546** after 7pm to indicate your interest. If phone unattended, leave your name and phone number (send SMS at any time) and I will return the call to collect your details.

Practice will commence May 28, involving 12 sessions in total – 2 lessons per week for 6 weeks, Monday/Thursday, with the final 2 sessions being the week leading up to the Debutante Ball.

Please contact me before May 1, 2018.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Margaret Burrell, 2018 WDFNC Debutante Ball Coordinator

Wentworth Junction Island Science excursion



On Wednesday 13th June, science students from Years 7-10 who were interested in animals and the environment attended an excursion at Wentworth Junction Island. The students spent time with two experts who provided them with a range of exciting job possibilities in the area of Biology. The students worked with the experts to discuss animal adaptations of threatened Australian animals and were lucky enough to be able to touch and hold some of the animals, including snakes, lizards, turtles and sugar gliders! Students also investigated ways scientists can build and temporarily trap animals to survey an area. All students who attended received a book written by one of the experts on threatened animals from the Western local area. All students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and represented the school proudly! Well done!

Thank you to Western Local Land Services who covered the entire cost of the excursion for the 40 students who attended.

Natalie Steel
Science



Mathematics

Australian Mathematics competition

Coomealla students will have the opportunity to participate in one of the world's largest school-based mathematics competitions, with 15 million entries since 1978.

This will be held on Thursday, 9th August. Any students interested in the competition, please register with Ms Frost and pay \$3 to the front office by Friday 15th June. The fee is subsidised by the school to encourage as many participants as possible. Give it a try!

Lisa Frost



Supervised HSC study for Year 11 & 12 students

Coomealla High School is offering after school study sessions for senior students from 3:15-4:30pm every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. These sessions will be located in both the library and ALC (Aboriginal Learning Centre) and attended by teachers from a range of subject areas. This will give your student opportunities to ask content specific questions, gain assistance with homework and develop examination technique by completing and discussing practice questions. Students will be expected to make their own way home and will need to complete the necessary forms if they are travelling home with another student. This would be a beneficial opportunity for your child and will assist them greatly with their studies in Year 11 and 12.

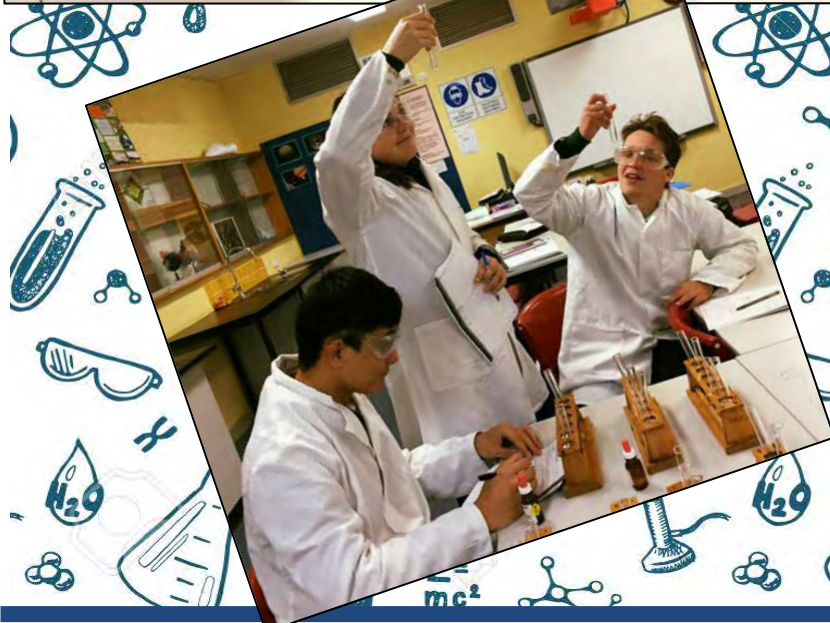
Nicole Fraser
Mathematics

teach
motivate
praise
encourage
inspire
educate
guide

Year 11 Precipitation Experiment

Year 11 Chemistry students have been learning how to predict the products of different types of reactions. They performed twenty-eight individual chemical reactions, using their new knowledge of solubility rules to explain the effects of mixing different solutions together.

Koko Dove
Chemistry Teacher



Make Bullying History

Seminar for secondary students



Years 7 and 8 attended a session at Red Cliffs Secondary College today. Learning about bullies, why they do what they do and why they need help. Also, the damage of bullying and how words do hurt, written and verbal. One of the big take home messages was 'our past does not define our future'. Thank you to Red Cliffs Secondary College for hosting this event.

Nadein Mayfield
Welfare Teacher



Food Technology

Year 10 cooking up a storm





You can do it!

Inspiring performance for our CHS students

Four times winner of the NSW Department of Education & Training Frater Award for Excellence.



Students from years 7-10 participated in this inspiring program which focuses on the areas of self-esteem, self-confidence, self-discipline, and self-determination.

In this performance, Llynda plays a character called Madeline, a working mum, who enjoys her cleaning job but whose real passion and hobby is juggling. Using juggling as a metaphor for learning, Madeline discovers that mistakes are OK, that is how we learn and with encouragement from the audience she decides to audition for a job in a circus.

Llynda brings amazing juggling and balancing skills to this performance, including the balancing of a golf club on a ball on another golf club balanced on her head. The number and array of objects juggled by Llynda is astounding. The usual balls, batons and plates are accompanied by feather dusters, tennis rackets, cartons and eggs and are thrown up, down, sideways and around and of course are always caught.

You Can Do It Too





Mildura Field Day 2018

Year 9 & 10 Agriculture students

Students from the Year 9 and 10 Agriculture class boarded the school bus and travelled into town for the annual Mildura Field Days. This provided them with an opportunity to see a wide range of agricultural services, equipment and produce available in our region and gain some understanding of how the agricultural sector works within the wider community. The students had a great time walking around engaging with the hands on activities. Thanks to Miss Watson, Mr Colley and Mr Ward for organising and attending this learning experience.





CHS noticeboard



MathsOnline is available to all Coomealla High students for 2018 at a low cost of \$20 per family.

It is based on the NSW syllabus, including the new Standard Year 11 Mathematics course. It has both lessons (tutorials with specific explained examples) and questions that are marked, so students receive immediate feedback.

Many students from year 7 to 12 have found it very useful in the past, but to assist in its use at home this year, class room teachers will be regularly sending emails to parents outlining the particular lessons that cover the work being completed in class.

I am always happy to assist students with efficient use of the website and answer any questions from parents.

If any students would like MathsOnline please pay \$20 to the front office by the end of term and then see Mrs Fraser for your login and password details.



Attention Parents & Carers

Update your contact details now!!

It is important that we have your most current and relevant contact information so that we can reach you when necessary.

Please let us know your preferred mode of contact and update your details if you have moved address, changed phone numbers, or changed your email.

Thank you for the support.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ABSENTEE NOTES

The DET Attendance Policy PD20050259 states that:

Parents are responsible for explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school. *(from Responsibilities, 2.1 point 3)*; and

A hard copy of the electronic record is to be generated weekly for the previous two-week period. The principal or delegated school executive must endorse this hard copy, certifying its accuracy. Once signed, this hard copy becomes the record of attendance and **must not be amended.** *(4.2 Electronic Attendance Registers, 4.2.2)*

Please send absentee notes to school promptly and, if you are going on holidays, please inform the school in advance.