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NEWSLETTER

10th February, 2012

LEARN TO LIVE

2012 - Welcome Back

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P&C Meeting

Tuesday 21st

February

7.30pm

BACK
2
SCHOOL

Updated on our Website this fortnight:

New Photo Albums: <http://www.coomealla-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Term 4—Social Pics (Roman Toga)

There are a small number of 2011 School Magazines available for \$15 from the front office.



Principal's Report

Welcome back to 2012. It promises to be an exciting year with plenty of opportunities for our students to develop themselves academically, in the sporting arena, in leadership and within our community. Let us start with a brief look back at our Higher School Certificate results for 2011.

There are a number of students who performed very well and deserve mention. Michael Hilliard, Christie Duncan, Rohan Hehir, Sharon Zirngast and Sophie O'Shannessy were all outstanding performers. All are considering their university options and will begin their studies shortly. We look forward to hearing from them in the future. Their good results are testimony to continued hard work and perseverance. These are essential skills for a successful result in the Higher School Certificate.

2012 brings a number of significant changes to Coomealla High School. Firstly, we have a shorter period length. Periods are now sixty minutes instead of seventy five. This is an important change and we will be monitoring it closely. It was found that the seventy five minute lessons were just too long and students found it difficult to concentrate for the whole time. Five one hour lessons will allow better use to be made of the time in each lesson.

Another change that we have implemented for 2012 is with sport. This year all students will take part in sport periods 4 and 5 on Friday afternoon. As a result of our survey last year of the school community, it was felt that having sport for Years 7 and 8 in the mornings effected their learning when they returned to school. Combining all students for sport will also allow the school to offer a wider range of choices.

One of the biggest changes for 2012 will effect this year's Year 10 students. 2011 was the last year of the School Certificate exams. Instead of the School Certificate this Year 10 will be issued with a Record Of Student Achievement or ROSA. The ROSA will reflect the work that a student has done throughout the year. Year 10 students will still be assessed by the school and their academic results will be documented by the Board of Studies. On the 28th March our Board of Studies Liaison Officer will be talking to Year 10 students about these changes.

There will also be a parent/employer information meeting from 6 – 7 pm at the school on Wednesday March 28th.

Coomealla High School has a small but highly effective P&C Association. They meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the school at 7:30pm. The P&C presents an opportunity to learn more about your local high school and to be a part of the decision making process in seeking to improve educational opportunities for our students. **Our next meeting is Tuesday 21st February at the school, why not come along? Everyone is welcome.**

2012 is set to be a great year at Coomealla High School. We offer a broad curriculum, great sports, community involvement and excellent student leadership opportunities. Follow what is happening at the school through our informative newsletter. If you would like the newsletter delivered electronically contact the school to be added to our email service. If you have any problems or questions about the school please contact me on 5027 4506. Looking forward to a great year.

Mr R Scotton



Major Awards 2011



Year 7 Dux
Dylan Watson



Year 8 Dux
Shanae Tilley



Year 9 Dux
Ashleigh Bone



Year 10 Dux
Jessica Medaglia



Year 11 Dux
Caitlin Hancock



Year 12 Dux
Christie Duncan



Aboriginal Achievement Award
Matilda Johnson-D'Antione



Reuben F Scarf Memorial Foundation Award
Joshua Gebhardt



**All Round Student
Caltex & Coomealla Lions Club Awards**
Stephany Martin



Australian Defence Force Award —Yr 12
Cameron Bysouth



Australian Defence Force Award —Yr 11
Dylan Tyers



Australian Defence Force Award — Yr 10
Dylan Darby



Male Sportsperson of the Year
Samuel Clyne



Female Sportsperson of the Year
Ellen Fraser

Driver Training Course—Term 4, 2011



The Wentworth and District Bendigo Community Bank organised a Defensive Driving course and sponsored 16 Coomealla High School students to participate at the Aust Link training facility near the Mildura Airport. The course ran from Monday 12th to Thursday 15th December and students who had their 'L's' or 'P's' where offered the chance to be involved.

The feedback from all who attended was that it was 'great', with students of all skill levels being challenged. Apart from honing general driving skills, time was spent on both sealed and gravel surfaces, reversing through a series of cones, parking, 3 point turns, reversing a trailer and braking on a wet surface. Having a controlled environment with experienced instructors gave them the opportunity to really test themselves. When not driving, students were passengers, which kept them constantly involved.

The students put the success of the program down to the instructors, who they said were calm and friendly and allowed them to test themselves in a way that they could not do on an open road.

The bank is keen to keep the program running and is looking at some holiday sessions in 2012.

Mr T O'Shannessy

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE*******Priority Schools Program (PSP) Application 2012
Survey 5th to 9th March 2012.**

Coomealla High have applied to become a PSP school this year.

The Priority Schools Program (PSP) is about improving achievements of all students by supporting schools to :

- improve the literacy and numeracy achievements of all students
- improve the quality of teaching and learning
- enhance partnerships among schools, parents and caregivers and community agencies
- increase the effectiveness of classroom and school organisation
- develop and sustain a positive and inclusive school culture
- ensure all students achieve the syllabus standards for their stage of schooling, where appropriate
- increase the level of students' participation, engagement and retention
raise the expectations of students, teachers, school executive, parents and caregivers.

Parents / Care providers of ALL students 7 – 10 will be asked to complete a survey in the week 5th to the 9th of March 2012.

It is absolutely essential that we have a 100% return of these surveys, as placement on the program provides the school additional funding and staffing to meet the objectives outlined above.

Coomealla High staff will be calling you in that week to ensure the survey is done. To make it easy for all, we ask that the survey is completed immediately and returned to the school.

Surveys will be handed out on Monday 5th and will need to be sent back to Sydney on Friday 9th March.

If you would like a staff member to call and assist with the form please contact Neill Plumridge early this term on 5027 4506 and arrangements can be made.

This can be after school hours if that is more suitable.

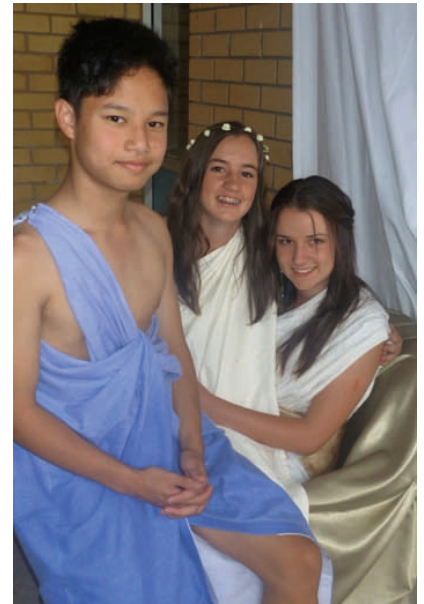
Term 4 Social: Roman Toga Party

The Year 10 Social was the last school social for 2011. It was a great way to celebrate the final School Certificates being awarded to our Year 10 students earlier that day.

Everyone was asked to come dressed in their best Roman Toga costume if they wished to get into the spirit of the night. There were many wonderful outfits on the night.

Mr Doyle and Mr Celegon both looked very handsome in their togas! Best dressed prizes were awarded to Cori Gill (Yr 7), Natalie Wescombe and Kenny Nichols (Yr 8), Samantha McLean (Yr 9) and Mikaela Norris (Yr 10).

Special mention must also go to Nick Cottrell, Hannah Murdoch and Tom Christensen. The lucky door prize was ticket No 52—Justin Redpath.





The Role Of Parents in School Attendance:

The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents (including carers) ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school, or are registered with the Office of the Board of Studies NSW for home schooling. The New South Wales Department of Education and Training may take legal action against parents and carers who do not send their children to school without a valid reason. What is a justified reason for being absent from school? Justified reasons for absences may include the student:

- having an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably, these should be made after school or during holidays)
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- being required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- being sick, or having an infectious disease.

All children have a right to an education. Only by regular school attendance can children make the most of educational opportunities, leading to greater social and economic outcomes.

Absences for reasons such as some of the following may not be justified:

- Shopping
- Sleeping in
- Working around the house
- Minding younger siblings and other children
- Minor family events such as birthdays

- Hair cuts.

It is important to realise that parents (including carers) may be prosecuted if children have recurring unjustified absences from school. Keeping the school informed If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

Whenever possible, parents and carers are encouraged to provide an explanation for absences before the absences occur. The principal of the school has the right to question parents' requests for their child to be absent from school. They may also question an explanation given for a child's absence from school.

Holidays

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. If this is necessary parents should discuss these absences with the principal and may be requested to apply for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school. This will ensure that these absences are not permanently recorded as unjustified.

When considering applications for Certificates of Exemption, principals may consider a variety of factors. These may include compassionate reasons, family reunions, the educational merits of the holiday and agreement for the student to complete assignments while on holiday. In some cases application for Distance Education may be more appropriate than seeking an exemption from school attendance.

Apple & Cinnamon Slice

Ingredients:

- 340g pkt golden butter cake mix
- 1 cup (90g) desiccated coconut
- 125g butter, melted
- 1 sm can pie apple or 4 apples peeled/sliced
- 1T lemon juice
- 1T water
- 1T grated lemon rind
- 1/4 cup sultanas
- 1T honey
- 300g sour cream
- 1 tsp cinnamon



Method:

- Preheat the oven to 180deg C. Grease a 20cm square cake pan. Line

base and the two opposite sides with baking paper, extending the paper 5cm over edge of pan.

- Make the filling first: Peel and core the apple then cut into quarters or more; put apple, lemon rind, water, lemon juice, and sultanas in a saucepan, stir for 3 mins over a low heat. Cool.
- Combine cake mix, coconut and butter in a medium bowl. Press mixture evenly over base of prepared pan. Cook for 15 mins, or until lightly browned. Cool slightly.
- Spread apple evenly over base, then spread sour cream evenly over apple and sprinkle with cinnamon.
- Cook for further 20 mins, or until sour cream has set.
- Cool in pan. Cut the slice into fingers to serve.





CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
13/2 B Week 2 Elevate Education Parent Seminar 7.30-8.30pm	14/2 Elevate Education Yr 11/12 Seminar P1&2	15/2	16/2	17/2
20/2 A Week 3	21/2 P&C Meeting	22/2 Senior Boys & Girls Cricket	23/2 Swimming Carnival	24/2 Newsletter 2
27/2 B Week 4	28/2	29/2 Yr 7 Camp Lake Cullulleraine	1/3 Yr 7 Camp Lake Cullulleraine	2/3 Yr 7 Camp Lake Cullulleraine
5/3 A Week 5 PSP Survey Week	6/3	7/3	8/3	9/3 Newsletter 3 West Darling Swimming
12/3 B Week 6 VET Work Placement (Some Yr 12s) School Photos	13/3	14/3	15/3	16/3 Inter School Tennis
19/3 A Week 7	20/3 P&C Meeting	21/3 Senior Boys & Girls Cricket	22/3	23/3 Newsletter 4
26/3 B Week 8	27/3	28/3 Parent/Community ROSA Meeting 6-7pm	29/3	30/3
2/4 A Week 9	3/4	4/4	5/4 Newsletter 5	6/4 GOOD FRIDAY
9/4 EASTER MONDAY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	UNTIL FRI 20TH APRIL		
23/4 B Week 1 TERM 2 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	24/4 STUDENTS RETURN	25/4 ANZAC DAY	26/4	27/4

P&C Raffle Results: Congratulations to the following:

1st Prize: Hot Air Balloon ride for two: Joe Kervin

2nd Prize: 102cm HD LCD TV: Pat Voullaire

3rd Prize: Hamper: Freda Hansen

4th Prize: Hamper: Glen Walker

CHS P&C Canteen sponsored by:



Mildura
Ballooning



Harvey Norman



Subject Contributions

Each year, parents and careers are invoiced for the cost associated with various subjects. These subject fees cover materials over and above the basic requirements of the curriculum.

Year 7 and 8

Technology courses now have different fees applying to each semester (half year) course rather than a flat fee for the entire year. Students study 8 semester courses across Years 7 and 8 on a rotation and the invoiced fee will depend on what is studied each year.

Years 9 – 12

All students across these 4 years select from a range of subjects and electives offered by the school. Consequently, the fees vary widely and students are invoiced for what they study.

SPORT—all years:

Students choosing a sport away from school during 2012 will have to **bring money for the bus and venue entry EACH AND EVERY WEEK**. Pay as you go amounts will be calculated and students informed when they make their sport selection.

Financial Assistance Available

Student Assistance - forms are available from the school office (for students 15 years and under)

Application forms are available from the office and should be returned by Friday 25th February 2011.

Applications to the Principal are treated with the highest level of confidentiality.

Other Assistance Available

1. St Vincent de Paul Society

"Vinnies" is offering small amounts of funding to assist families with uniform, books and food support. Each application is considered on its own merits. Contact Danny Cotching, President, Dareton Conference 603,

St Vincent de Paul on ph 5021 2877.

2. Smith Family – "Learning for Life" Scholarship

This Scholarship is managed by Mallee Family Care. Please contact Lorraine on 5027 7600 at the Dareton Office of Mallee Family Care.

3. Centrelink

Students aged over 15 years, Contact Centrelink regarding Youth Allowance (ph13 24 90) Abstudy (ph 13 23 17)

Aussie Hoops Term 1 Basketball Program

**For Boys & Girls between the ages of 5 – 8
Starts Monday February 13th from 4.15pm
at the Mildura Basketball Stadium on 8th
Street.**

**For more details please call the Mildura
Basketball Association on 5023 2241 or
forms**

**can be downloaded from
www.mildurabasketball.com.au**

Piano:

**Louise Judd on
5024 8370 or 0408 596 944**





STUDENT PRIVACY, PHOTOGRAPHS, MEDIA and OUR NEWSLETTER / WEBSITE

There are strict rules regarding “disclosure of personal information” under the Freedom of information and Privacy Act. “Personal Information” is defined broadly and includes photographic images where an individual is identified or his or her identify is reasonably apparent from the photograph. Thus taking photographs can constitute a collection of personal information.

The position of this school, in complying with ACT is as follows:

1. INFORMATION/IMAGES IN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER and WEBSITE

All parents/carers are advised that this school will continue to highlight the achievements and activities of students of this school in the newsletter/website, both in photographic and written form. If a parent/carer **DOES NOT** want a students name or image to appear in the newsletters, written advice of this should be sent to the principal.

2. INFORMATION/IMAGES IN LOCAL MEDIA –Newspapers, Radio, TV

As a general rule consent of a student’s parent/carers will be sought when an individual student or small group of students will be identified by name, interviewed or otherwise featured in local media.

3. VIDEOTAPING OR PHOTOGRAPHING SCHOOL EVENTS

Where school events (eg concerts, sports carnivals, etc) are to be video taped by the school, parents and carers will be advised in advance and given the opportunity to not have their child included in the video.

There is, however, nothing to prevent parents or other family members or friends of students taking photographs or videos of school events.

4. PHOTOGRAPHY AT SCHOOL BY TEACHERS/SUPPORT STAFF

The school has implemented guidelines for students being photographed at school events such as socials, excursions, sport carnivals and the like. Generally, a student must agree to have their photo taken. Agreeing to pose individually or in a group will be taken as consent. Action photos of sport activity will be taken eg races.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

When: **Thursday, 23rd February**

Where: **Dareton Pool**

Time: **9:00am — 3:15pm**



Buses will take students directly to the pool and pick them up afterwards. Spectators are most welcome.



Reminder:
Thongs or canvas shoes are NOT to be worn at school for safety reasons.





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.

Coomealla High School—Absence Note

Student Name: _____ Year: _____ Roll Group: _____

My child was absent from school: Date/s _____

Reason: _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian

Coomealla High School—Absence Note

Student Name: _____ Year: _____ Roll Group: _____

My child was absent from school: Date/s _____

Reason: _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian

Quotable Quote:



**Every day is a new beginning.
Treat it that way.
Stay away from what might have been,
and look at what can be.**

Marsha Petrie Sue