Trinity Kervin and Imogen Smith representing Coomealla High School at Anzac ceremony.
Welcome to the April/May edition of the Newsletter.

Since the establishment of the Weekly Bulletin, I have used this space to give a more detailed and in depth account of the school direction, policies and successes.

In June, we will: finish the application process for another support class; officially open the Aboriginal Learning Centre, work towards finalising both the Friday review consultation and staff uniform.

Improving the Standards

Much work has been done over the past twelve months to improve the quality of our service delivery. We have been focussed on improving:

- **Communication**: introduction of Facebook, Skoolbag, News Bulletin, revamped the Monthly Newsletter, more parent/teacher nights, Open Night and Year 7 Expo and revamped the school’s web site.

- **Academic Outcomes**: addition of greater support for students – Aboriginal Learning Centre, clearer Assessment Guides for Year 11 and 12 with the addition of a Year 10 Assessment Guide; a clearer and active Non-Determination process; after school homework centre.

- **Performing Arts Opportunities**: successful grant application with Yamaha Great Start program; proposed film and variety projects with partner primary schools, addition of extra curricula dance classes, choir and additional Wednesday music classes.

- **Wellbeing**: expansion of the Wellbeing Team with the inclusion of a Head Teacher Wellbeing; the development of a sequence of wellbeing programs to support the developing needs of the student body; clarification and simplification of the discipline process; greater support with uniform compliance;

- **Teacher Quality**: Institution of head teachers specifically to manage quality and compliance;

- **Community Engagement**: Commencement of the Community Volunteering Program; student leadership team working closely with council to develop their first Wentworth Shire Youth Expo; greater collaboration with other agencies with the establishment of a complex case committee, led by CHS; partnerships established and developed with Victorian secondary schools.

This is certainly not a comprehensive list. As you can see, staff are working extremely hard to push our school forward and improve students’ outcomes. We are excited about the future of CHS and need your help to improve attendance and to support us to support your children.

Attendance

Students will achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options through regular attendance at school. Our attendance figures for Term One were very disappointing. On average, students only attended school just over 80% of the time. This means that children are missing school one day per week. Over a student’s entire schooling, and 80% attendance figure means that they are missing 2.5 years of school. How can we expect students to achieve their best if that is the case? Please read the following to refresh your memory on parental obligations regarding school attendance.

- In NSW, all children from the age of 6 are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. All students must complete Year 10, or its
equivalent. Young people below the age of 17 must be:

- in school, or registered for home schooling
- in approved education or training, such as a traineeship, apprenticeship or TAFE
- in full-time paid employment (average 25 hours a week)
- in a combination of work, education and/or training.

- Students 17 years and over who are enrolled in school are required to attend school regularly to meet HSC course requirements.
- Parents must explain all absences to the school within 7 days.

**Support us to support your child**

As a father of two daughters, I absolutely understand the challenges of parenting. I also understand the tricky business of advocating for their concerns whilst taking on board the concerns of the school. Before you make judgement on decisions made from staff, please consider:

- That your child’s perspective maybe biased to their “wants” rather than their “needs”. Sometimes they reject the things they need because they are not motivated to do them.

- The school takes matters of misconduct seriously and makes every effort to complete investigations that take all perspectives into account. Student views are taken seriously and carefully considered in all outcomes.

- The school tries to respond to situations rather than to react to them. At times, this may slow the change process down, however, it allows for a more considered and thoughtful way forward.

- All views from the school community are valued and considered. This doesn’t always mean that all ideas will be adopted by the school.

- None of my staff come to school to make a mistake, sometimes mistakes do happen and it’s how we move forward from there that matters.

**Application for an extra support class**

Currently, we have a number of students who are a part of our main stream enrolment that have diagnoses of conditions that create learning difficulties for them within the realm of a traditional classroom setting. As a result, the school is putting forward an application to the Department of Education to have the third support class reinstated.

Should we be successful, we envisage that the class will work differently to how it has worked in the past. This third class will add flexibility to the Support Unit, creating an environment that will have more opportunities for both integrated and reverse integrated learning. In other words, students that are enrolled in mainstream, who may benefit from this service, will have some access to it.

We believe that the success of this application is crucial to our future service provision.

As part of this process, we have to demonstrate that we have a current need, a future demand (for at least the next five years), support of the neighbouring schools, a space and have consulted with the community. Should you like to make any comment on this proposal, please email me at stephen.harper@det.nsw.edu.au and include in the subject “Support Class Consultation”.

I have been very heartened by the support offered by the parent body in regards to the changes that have occurred over the past year. As we raise the level of expectation of our students and staff, so too we need to raise the levels of support available to our entire school community.

Steve Harper
Principal
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.

---

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, classroom 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.
Roslyn Buckley joined Coomealla High School as a permanent staff member in the year 2000 after working as a casual relief teacher for the school throughout the 1990’s.

Ros was a History and English teacher and has inspired countless students over the years with her passion, dedication, grace and gentle manner. This was most evident to me when reading the responses to the announcement of her passing that the school posted on Facebook.

Over 150 passed on their condolences many of whom sited Ros as their favourite teacher, characterising her as: committed, dedicated, inspiring, a friend, a beautiful person.

Ros was a wonderful colleague and staff member who was well respected and admired by staff, students and parents. She will be sadly missed.

The Coomealla school staff are deeply saddened by this tragic passing and are thinking very much of her husband Keith and her children Scott, Lauren and Jared.

On behalf of the school community: staff, students and parents, I wish to reassure Keith and his family that you will have our continued love and support.

Ros has left a legacy in our education community and her passing leaves an unfillable void.
Coomealla High School celebrate ANZAC Day
ANZAC celebrations
Coomie kids enjoying the outdoor cross country event
Coomealla High School students recently enjoyed the school cross-country. All students participated enthusiastically and enjoyed earning points for their sport house!
Year 11 & 12 students have been working hard to capture interesting and engaging images. Students worked on a variety of topics that are self-directed, after they pick projects from the long list of photography choices. Some of the choices are lighting, portraiture, dye swirls, macro and wet room activities. This has produced a wide range of works that appeal to almost everyone.

Rebecca Nixon
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.


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.


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: _____________
Make the Change

I was just a school girl, as quiet as could be,
Why would anyone want to do anything mean to me?
I got pushed and hit, laughed at, and teased,
Those bullies would do whatever they pleased.

Day after day ‘You’re useless!’ they’d yell,
They’d tell all my friends to tease me as well.
Crying all night and bullied all day,
All those nasty bullies would never go away.

I had to put a stop to this, but I didn’t know how,
All I knew was that a change was needed now.
So, I spoke to my older sister and she listened to all I said,
And told me to speak to a teacher instead.

The next day at school I was too worried to tell,
But it just led me down another road to hell.
So, the following day I tried to be strong and bold,
And I walked to find my teacher… and told.

She spoke to the bullies, and their parents too,
The teachers knew exactly what to do.
The girls were sent home and were in deep grief,
I just stood there staring in relief.

The girls apologised and stopped their action right away,
Now I look forward to going to school each day.
I’m so glad it’s sorted out and I don’t feel any shame,
If I didn’t tell, my life would have still been the same.
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 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 Year 11 Chemistry class has been learning about concentration of solutions. Students made a standard solution and used it to conduct an acid-base titration where they were able to determine the concentration of hydrochloric acid used. This experimental value was compared with the known concentration of the chemical used. Year 11 conducted the experiment with a high level of competence and achieved very accurate results.

Koko Dove
Chemistry
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 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.
Experimenting with mobile phones

Year 11 Biology students have been using phone technology to closely examine the structures of plants! Here are a few of the image they have captured for analysis!

Natalie Steel
Science
Friday Sport
Year 9 have been learning about the importance of diffusion in our bodies. Students modelled diffusion using pH indicator to observe colour change as sodium hydroxide diffused throughout agar cubes.

Koko Dove
Science Teacher
Open night

COOMAILLA
C.H.S
HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN NIGHT
Tuesday 8 May 2018
5.30 – 7.30pm

Fun & activities for all the family, showcasing all that Coomealla High School has to offer
On Monday 21 May, a group of very eager Year 7 & 8 students travelled into Mildura to participate in the Girl’s Interschool Football Competition.

It was an excellent day with the girls showing lots of spirit, enthusiasm and willingness to improve their skills and to have fun. This resulted in a magnificent win for our last match of the day.

A big thank you to Mrs Barker, Mr Driscoll and Ms Watson for organising the day, especially Mr Driscoll for his excellent coaching.

Well done to everyone!
Coomealla High School’s Year 7 and 8 students attended the Wentworth Youth Expo on Friday. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about leadership and motivation as they listened to inspirational stories and participated in valuable break-out sessions. This included an introduction to jiu-jitsu which was led by world championship winner, Shantelle Thompson, who is also a past student of Coomealla High School. A range of opportunities and organisations were showcased for students, informing them of the exciting things our community has to offer. Tamurra Bowman, Year 8, was successful in winning a $50 voucher for Coomealla High School, in the draw run by “Water to Broken Hill”.

School captains from Coomealla High School and local NSW primary schools were also instrumental in helping plan and run the day. Thank you to Mayor Hederics for her time and effort in organising this event, and to all the organisations, speakers and participants who made the day possible.
Looking through the camera lens

Coomealla High School
A day in the life of a Year 7 student

A special Coomealla High School event showing students' achievements
Tuesday 26 June 2018, 5.30 – 7.30pm

For more information contact
Kathy on 03 5027 4506 or email:
kathy.alderton@det.nsw.edu.au
http://www.coomealla-h.schools.edu.au/home