



Coomella High School

Newsletter

Week 3, Term 1

11th February 2020

What's on next week?

19/02– Swimming Carnival

18/02- P & C Meeting @ 6pm

20-21/02– Yr 12 Mock Interviews

20/02– Yr 11 Careers info night

Coming up.....

24/02– Yr 11 & 12 Latrobe SPP

25/02– Yr 10 Careers Info night

03/03- Yr 7 Meet & Greet @

5-6.30pm

Happy New Year. As we begin our new year, I am excited about the wonderful programs that we have planned! By the end of this year we hope to have greater consistency in the way that we deliver an engaging, personalised and impactful curriculum to the students of CHS. Staff will be trained in the latest pedagogical theory to assist students to get the most out of their schooling years. This will be supported by changing the learning environment to provide greater flexibility and variety to lesson structure. We have moved away from the teacher-centred learning approach as teachers develop their skill-set to give students more say over what and how they learn.

Beautification. Over the holidays, much work was carried out to complete a number of projects started in 2019: the CCTV project will be finalised by the end of Term 1 with another 12 cameras to be installed. The school will be under the “eye” of over 50 cameras at its completion; the façade at the front of the administration block is almost at completion with only the school sign to be erected; a number of trees have been planted to soften the appearance of the brick walls; the orchard has almost been completely planted; flexible learning space prototype 1 (FLSP1) was completed with FLSP2 due to commence this term.



New Staff. This year we welcome Jenney Ryan as our new Learning and Support Teacher and Helen Sulicich and Patricia Atkinson as new School Learning Support Officers. I am also excited to announce that Andrew Harrison has been granted a permanent position as Mathematics/Science teacher through the state's targeted graduate recruitment program. Andrew started with us last year and is proving to be a very valuable recruit! Leah Bachelor has accepted the responsibility of Girls advisor and Duncan Driscoll continues in the role of the second Deputy Principal. April Winkel is replacing Maddie Johnson in the Support Unit for Term 1 and is off to a flying start!

Address: Silver City Highway, Dareton NSW 2717

Phone: 03 5027 4506 **Fax:** 03 5027 4837 **Email:** coomealla-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Staff Development Days. For the three days leading up to school resumption, staff were engaged in professional learning. On Friday 30th Jan, we were led by Bob Dyson from the Broken Hill office through an engaging day on the Management of Actual or Potential Aggression (MAPA). On the following Monday, we completed our mandatory training on CPR, anaphylaxis and child protection with Tuesday used for planning including a presentation on how we would be using the Flexible Learning Space.



Pictured left: Yr 7 students with Mrs Ray & Mrs Ryan using our Flexible learning room.

Pictured right: Mr Harper with Yr 7 students doing music in the flex room



School Review. This year the school will be undergoing two review processes. The first will be taking from the 25th to the 27th of February. The focus on this review will be around the wellbeing of staff and students. I am really hopeful that the recommendation to come from this review will help us to tighten the processes we use to improve attendance and wellbeing outcomes for our school community. The second review will commence on the 11th May. This review will delve deep into the way we do our core business and look at ways of improving our school culture around teaching, learning and leading.

Work Education. I am happy to announce that this year all students, 8-12 will be participating in Work Education studies. This course is designed to better prepare our students for the challenges of work after school. Congratulations to Ms Hansen for organising the program for this course. I have seen the incredible amount of work that she has done and am confident that it will be a very worthwhile study for all of our students.

Stage 5 Classes. This year we are extending on the successful trial around the Stage class concept. Year 9 and 10 will be combined for all of their studies. We are able to do this as the national syllabi is written in stage partitions. The stage class concept will mean that students will be in classes with students with similar skill and/or knowledge within each subject as their own and allow the teacher to better cater for individual differences in their learning progression. Next year, we are considering rolling the concept out to Year 7 and 8 after consulting with students, staff and parents around the success of the current venture.

Learning Centre. This year we have established a new learning centre to compliment the work being done with the Aboriginal Learning Centre. The three main roles that the learning centre will have are: to support an intensive literacy and learn to read program for students in years 8-12 who have missed out; to support students in Stage 5 and 6 that are struggling to meet course requirements and to manage time –out for students with intensive wellbeing needs, building resilience and de-escalation strategies. The centre will be managed by Wanda Little (HT Support) and staffed by Nadein Mayfield, Patricia Atkinson and Sarah van Zyl. I am super excited about this initiative!

Year 7 Literacy. This year we are targeting Year 7 students that have come to high school not yet being able to read. Using the Macquarie Literacy Program (MacqLit), we will be identifying those students who haven't yet acquired the full suite of literacy decoding skills with the aim of having them remediated by the end of 2020. It is vital that the attendance of these students at school is 100% for us to achieve this.

Australia Day Awards. Our school is very proud of two members of our school community for achieving recognition at this year's Wentworth Shire Australia Day Awards: Emma Strachan for Junior Sports Person of the Year and Ted O'Shannessy for Wentworth Shire Citizen of the year. These two wonderful people are most deserved recipients of these honours and have the congratulations of the entire school community! Well done.

Staff Members of the Week. Two staff were nominated and achieved the honour of being this year's first staff members of the week. April Winkel has accepted the challenge of working with our support students for Term 1. She has done an outstanding job already and is working hard to ensure that the attendance rate of these students improves dramatically. Great work April! Andrew Harrison has applied himself to some very innovative and engaging practice. Congratulations Andrew and thank April and Andrew for their continued quality work at Coomealla High.

Final Word. Thank you to the community for your efforts in getting our students equipped and dressed ready for the school year. It truly is wonderful to look out onto assembly and see the pride that the students carry in wearing their school uniform! I certainly am blessed to have the position of Principal of Coomealla High.

Please email any suggestions to me at stephen.harper@det.nsw.edu.au to improve this service.

Steve Harper