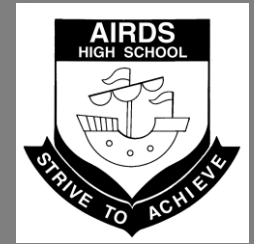


# Airds Announcer

"A place to learn, lead and achieve your personal best"



Find us at: Airds High School, Briar Road, Airds NSW 2560 airds-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Issue 7–Term 4

November/December 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

In my first contribution to the Airds Announcer, I would like to thank all those students, parents and staff who have made my start at Airds a most enjoyable and enlightening one.

After 4 weeks as Principal I can say that the school is fortunate to have a large number of highly skilled and motivated staff who want to make a difference. The school resources are outstanding, and the vast majority of students I have met, have pride in the school and appreciate and understand the value learning will make to their lives.

### Student involvement and success

It has been a busy time, Khoder Khalil and Kate Edgerton were great ambassadors for the school when they assisted at the Gary Waldon Trust dinner. Jeremy Cuthbert and Soumaya Saleh received community service awards at the Campbelltown Rotary Youth Excellence awards and a number of students assisted with the Anti Poverty assembly on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### NAPLAN results

For those parents who do not have students in Years 7 and 8, you should be happy to know that our Year 7 students gained the greatest value added improvements in reading, writing, numeracy and overall literacy in our local School Education Group (SEG). Improvements greater than state average across those areas was a fantastic result and credit must go to all local feeder primary schools for their great work. In Year 9 our NAPLAN results in Numeracy showed improvements greater than state average and the best in the SEG. The schools in our SEG include; Ambarvale, Campbelltown Performing Arts, Leumeah, Thomas Reddall and Airds. Well done Airds on such great results.

In 2010 the focus will continue on improving basic skills in Literacy and Numeracy, and improving content knowledge and understanding in Stage 5 and 6 to ensure our students gain the best possible results in the SC and HSC.

In order to ensure that students can make the most of their learning time and for teachers to focus on the job of

providing quality teaching it is essential that a number of present student practices need to change.

### Student Responsibility

I have observed in a very short period of time that the generosity of staff has shifted the responsibility away from the student to a dependence on the staff and school. Unfortunately this will not develop the necessary skills that will enhance and promote student independence.

The following 4 areas; lateness, equipment, uniform and mobile phones, will be addressed in 2010 and students, parents and staff will need to support these changes to ensure that the primary focus of the school is on; learning, safety and responsibility.

**Lateness:** As far too many students are arriving late to school, the timetable for 2010 has been modified to have the first class lesson of the day commence at 8.30am. Students are expected to be in attendance at all lessons and work missed due to poor attendance will be required to be completed in the students own time. Not being awarded a SC or HSC may be the unfortunate result for students who do not meet BOS courses requirements satisfactorily.

**Equipment:** It is a school wide expectation that all students should present at school fully equipped to complete any task that is required. This is fundamental to successful learning and ensures that teachers can deliver all components of the curriculum successfully. Learning and the responsibility that goes with it is everyone's responsibility and student preparedness is fundamental to their success at school.

**Uniform:** Supporting the school uniform code promotes a number of positives. Students who arrive at school in uniform come with the expectation that they are here to learn. They have decided that school is important, and by being prepared in uniform and with all equipment, they are ready to go about the daily business of learning. They also know that they will be recognised members of the school community (safety) and promote a sense of pride in themselves and the school in general. It must be noted that the wearing of leather shoes is a requirement at school and thus ensures students can engage in all curriculum based activities. Specifically, Science, TAS, Metal Work, Woodwork, Hospitality and Art, are all subjects that Work Cover require students to be wearing

closed leather shoes. Blue denim jeans are not part of the school uniform and therefore must not be worn to school. Students should ensure they have an ample supply of uniform to support the school uniform code 5 days a week (i.e. at least three school shirts and 2 pair of pants or shorts). With Christmas almost upon us, it is an ideal time to put uniform on your Christmas list, so you can experience all that Airs has to offer in 2010.

**Mobile Phones:** I have noticed the negative impact that the use of phones has had on both the learning environment and social interactions of students at Airs High School. To fall in line with all other high schools, students will not be allowed to use mobile phones at anytime during the school day. I appreciate that students may be required to have their phone with them, on their trip to and from school, but once they have arrived at school, phones should not be SEEN, HEARD or USED during the school day.

Airds High School is determined to make a difference to your child's learning outcomes. It can only do this when a student's primary focus at school is on learning. To this end, supporting the above changes will make a considerable difference to the outcomes of students and the quality of the learning and overall school environment.

I would like to wish all students, staff and parents a most enjoyable and relaxing holiday and I look forward to what should be a great year in 2010.

Regards  
Max Foord  
*Principal*

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT YR 7, 9 & 11

As we draw to the end of another year I thought it was timely to review some of the recent events at Airs High School and upcoming activities that will affect your children.

At present Year 11 students have completed their Preliminary Course and have now begun their work for the Year 12 HSC course. Ms Atlagic has planned a Graduation Ceremony at the school in December which we hope all parents of Year 11 students will be able to attend. On that day awards will be handed out and the Preliminary Certificates will be conferred upon the students. You will soon be notified of this date. A short Morning Tea will follow this event.

Year 11 students who wish to drop any subject for next year should now be talking to Ms Atlagic or me so we can organise these changes. Students have had the opportunity to drop one of their subjects earlier this year as they moved into the HSC course. Those who chose not to do so at that time can now do so if they wish. I would encourage students to keep 12 units if it is at all possible.

Ms Dunn has organised many events during Term 4 to congratulate and reward students of Year 9 for their efforts this year. She has done a marvellous job and the staff and students have been very impressed with her diligence in this area. The Year 9 Formal Assembly organised by her in early Term 4 was an outstanding success and a testament to her efforts. Well done Ms Dunn!

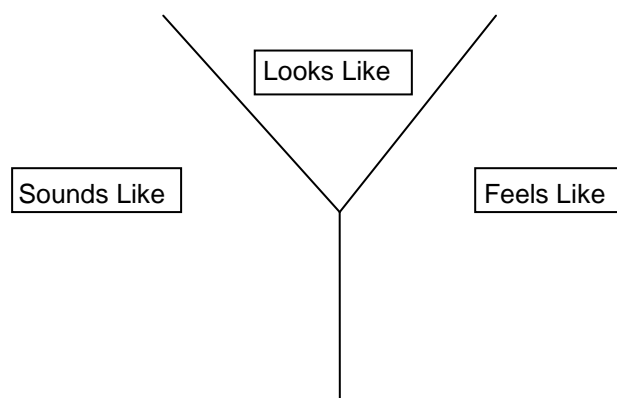
Year 7 recently held another very successful Formal Assembly. The event was coordinated and chaired by students of Year 7. One of the most heartening aspects of this assembly was the increased number of awards that were issued to students on the day. This very much reflected their concerted efforts in class. They provided the entertainment and were also a marvellous audience. This year group is a credit to their Year Advisor Ms Mak.

Year 11, 9 and 7 reports are in the process of being collated at present. They will be available for you in the final week of term.

As you all would be well aware the school community is part of a program called PBL. This program focuses on Positive Behaviours in Schools. I thought I would share with you some of the activities our students have been working on in Roll Call on Mondays during Term 4.

Each week in Roll Call the whole school body works on a focus for the week. This focus is usually an activity that is drawn from a list of focus topics developed by the whole school community. The topic relates to our behaviour matrix which suggests a variety of ways to live and learn in our school.

I thought I would include for you today one of the activities that your son/daughter has worked on. You might like to reinforce it back at home.



### PBL Workshop Term 4 – Week 4

**'We show RESPECT when we'**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009

1. The Behaviour matrix applies to **all** staff and students at Airs High School.
2. Draw the Y chart on the board and break down '**RESPECT**' in the context of being at school.

Discuss each of the points below and have students write up their responses on board.

What does it **look like** when we show respect?  
What does it **sound like** when we show respect?

What does it **feel like** when we show respect?

I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas holiday period.

John Kennedy  
*Deputy Principal*  
*BA DipEd*  
*MEd Leadership*

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT YR 8,10 & 12

As we draw to the close of another year at Airds High School, I thought it prudent to review some of our recent events and upcoming activities that will involve your children.

Year 12 students have just completed 13 years of education culminating in the completion of the Higher School Certificate (HSC). We wish them well in their life after Airds High School, knowing that they will be well prepared for the challenges that life can produce. Staff will join Year 12 to celebrate their contribution to our school at both the Formal and Graduation Ceremonies. On behalf of Year 12, I would like to thank both Ms Newman and Mr Lightfoot for the outstanding work they have done as their Year Advisors.

Our Year 10 students have also just completed a milestone in their education with the completion of the School Certificate (SC). Most of our students have elected to do part time work in an effort to earn valuable pocket money leading up to the Christmas Holidays. I, along with a number of staff look forward to celebrating their success at both the Formal and Graduation Ceremonies. Ms Vongsouvanh needs to be congratulated for all of her effort and hard work this year in leading and guiding Year 10.

Year 10 must sign out of school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December during periods 1 & 2. This requires all students to hand back all their textbooks and to pay any outstanding fees. The school will contact individual students prior to this date so that they are aware of our requirements. It would also be an opportune time for students to confirm their educational pathway for 2010 and beyond. Should you have any questions in regard to this issue please do not hesitate to contact the school.

All of Year 8 has been working extremely hard to complete Stage 4 mandatory requirements for their School Certificate. Students have successfully completed the following subjects; LOTE, Music, Technology Mandatory and Visual Arts and these subjects will appear on their School Certificates in 2011. Mr Oczos has been impressed by the improvement shown by all of Year 8

especially in regards to their commitment to learning. Next year marks the start of their assault on the School Certificate.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the Year Advisors for their continued efforts over the last 12 months often during some very trying times. Many of our students would not have succeeded had it not been for your understanding, support and guidance. Although our students do not always express it, I know that they do really respect and value you.

I would sincerely like to thank the students, parents/carers and staff for their assistance, commitment, hard work and support throughout 2009. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year. Don't forget to ask Santa for a bag full of goodies such as pens, pencils, pencil cases, metric rules and books as this will help you in 2010. See you then.

Steve McGuire

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT T & L

First of all I would like to thank all the staff at Airds High School for their dedication in delivering quality lessons as well as going above and beyond in providing the students at Airds High School with a lot of extra programs and support.

The Community of Schools –Numeracy Project finished off the year with its Project Celebration Day – Maths Olympiad at Airds HS on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. This day involved students from Briar Rd, Bradbury and John Warby Public Schools mixing with Year 7 students from Airds HS. The students formed across school teams and competed in a Maths Olympiad. This involved the teams working to solve problems, puzzles and share their numeracy skills with students from other schools. It also provided the primary school students with an opportunity to visit Airds HS and meet some staff and students. I would like to thank the Airds High School P & C who prepared morning tea and lunch for all the students and staff involved.

The Faculty Technology Coordinators have also been busy developing programs and skills for the arrival of the student laptops. Parents and carers of Year 9 students attended a Parent Information Session on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November; it was a great turn out where parents were given details on the new laptops. The laptop user charter was given out and this needs to be returned before a student can receive their laptop. For any parents/carers who did not attend this session, they need to contact Mr Miezio to arrange a meeting to be given the information and charter. This is an exciting time and if everything goes according to plan Year 9 should start to receive their laptops starting the 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The Make Poverty History special assembly held on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> November was a great success with Kate Morrison the Education representative from the Fred

Hollows Foundation giving a very moving presentation on the effects of poverty and blindness and what we can do to help. The highlight of the assembly was the performance by the "Airds Acoustics" Choir led by Ms Ellem.

An orientation day for incoming Year 7 students will be held on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 from 9am to 2.30pm**. Please note your child must wear their normal school uniform. Lunch will be provided on the day, although the students should bring their own recess. I know Ms Taylor, the Year Advisor for Year 7 2010 is looking forward to meeting all of her students.

A separate Year 6 Parents Day will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November to give parents the opportunity to meet some staff and students, take a tour of the school, learn about our school organisation and routines and talk to some parents of current students.

I would like to welcome Mr Max Foord to Airds High School. I am looking forward to working with him and I know he is aiming to achieve the best possible outcomes for the students, staff and community of Airds HS.

Finally I wish everyone a safe and happy holidays and I look forward to us all returning and achieving our Personal Best in 2010!

Mr Jeff Miezio  
*Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning*

## DIARY DATES TERM 1 2010

|                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | - | School Staff Development Day<br>STAFF ONLY |
| Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan | - | Years 7, 11 & 12 Return                    |
| Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | - | Years 8, 9 7 10 Return                     |

## NEWS FROM TAS

Mr John has coached students in volleyball at school for several years for knockout competitions and this year took our Airds High School boys Volleyball team to the State Final where they took second place. Did you know that Mr John is also a world class competitor in Volleyball and Badminton?

Mr John recently competed in the World Masters Games in both volleyball and badminton in the over 50s category during the October school holidays at Olympic Park in Sydney. The World Masters Games can be likened to the Olympics as competitors from many countries around the world came to compete in Australia. Mr John said it was a fantastic experience to compete against so many good players from around the world.

Mr John has set his sights to competing at the Pan Pacific Masters Games at the Gold Coast in 2010 and at the World Masters Games to be held in Turin, Italy in 2013. Mr John would like to start a Badminton competition at school next year and is looking forward to coaching next year's boys volleyball knockout team.

Ms Vongsouvanh, Year 10 Student Adviser and Mr Lightfoot, Year 12 Student Adviser have been extremely busy this year with their students, getting them ready for the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate exams. They are also very busy organising the Year 10 Formal and the Year 12 Formal with Ms Newman, the co-Yr 12 Student Adviser. It is very time consuming, but rewarding for Year Advisers at this time of the year and I would like to thank both these great TAS teachers for their efforts with their respective year groups.

Ms Cumines  
*Head Teacher TAS*

## NEWS FROM VET

Most Year 11 VET students in Construction and Hospitality have completed their first Workplacement for the year, and will complete their second placement by the end of Semester 1 next year.

We would like to thank the following businesses who have hosted our students in Years 11 and 12 for Workplacement this year.

### Hospitality

Campbelltown Catholic Club  
Campbelltown RSL  
El Gustos Ristorante  
Jackie's Bistro and Catering – Mount Annan  
Kilbride Nursing Home  
Mustang Spur  
Sizzlers  
West Leagues Club

### Construction

BDS Construction Pty Ltd  
Campbelltown Frames and Trusses  
E & S Homes Pty Ltd  
INZ Kitchens Pty Ltd  
Kordovan Homes  
MPD Building Services Pty Ltd  
R and G Henderson  
Rezi Homes

### Business Services

Campbelltown City Council  
Campbelltown Hospital – Maternity  
Carrington Centennial Care  
Advanced Pallets Pty Ltd  
John Warby Public School  
Macarthur Business Enterprise Centre  
NSW Department of Education and Training - Corporate Communications

Precedent Productions  
Target, Macarthur Square

### Information Technology

Alphazone Computers Pty Ltd  
Briar Road Public School  
Fans Computers  
John Warby Public School  
Multitech Australia Pty Ltd  
Notebook Solutions  
Zip Computers

### Metals and Engineering

Accent Ventilation  
Broens Industries  
NGS Engineering Pty Ltd  
Proweld Engineering Pty Ltd  
Sureflo Exhaust

## PDHPE REPORT

Well done to all students who have completed their assignments and yearly exams to the best of their ability this semester for PDHPE. It is very pleasing to see students achieve such high results. The following students have produced excellent results for assignments, exams and performances in Health and PE this semester. The students have come in the top 3 places in their class for Year 7 and 8, and in their year groups for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12:

### Year 7

**Confucious** – 1<sup>st</sup> Quintin Wright, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Zeballas, 3<sup>rd</sup> Teangi Foster

**Voltaire** – 1<sup>st</sup> Robert Clark-Hirka, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuila Fetui, 3<sup>rd</sup> Siteri Peter

**Plato** – 1<sup>st</sup> Elijah Sa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kerosoma Sola, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dylan Mahon

### Year 8

**Albus** – 1<sup>st</sup> Mitchel Delboux, 2<sup>nd</sup> Katelyn Ferderer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ali Kahil

**Minerva** – 1<sup>st</sup> Anna Mati-Leifi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Vaai, 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Thornton

**Lupin** – 1<sup>st</sup> Aaron Elkin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jayden Wright, 3<sup>rd</sup> John Lardner

### Year 9

**PDHPE** – 1<sup>st</sup> Matthew Chard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elijah Lilomaiaava, 3<sup>rd</sup> Melissa Le

**PASS** – 1<sup>st</sup> Elijah Lilomaiaava, 2<sup>nd</sup> Walid Mousalli, 3<sup>rd</sup> Joshua Yassine

**Coaching** – 1<sup>st</sup> Teuila Tuagalu, 2<sup>nd</sup> James Peagam, 3<sup>rd</sup> Adam Akbas

### Year 10

**PDHPE** – 1<sup>st</sup> Anna Ngo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrej Bozic, 3<sup>rd</sup> Martin Letteri-Yeadon

**PASS** – 1<sup>st</sup> Anna Ngo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Caroline Masunu-Leatuafi, 3<sup>rd</sup> Josaia Turaganivolo

### Year 11

**PDHPE** – 1<sup>st</sup> Storm Rowe, 2<sup>nd</sup> William Srey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Henrietta Nauer

**SLR** – 1<sup>st</sup> Travis Goddard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Henrietta Nauer, 3<sup>rd</sup> William Srey

### Year 12

**PDHPE** – 1<sup>st</sup> Felicia Frantzis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blake Danchisen, equal 3<sup>rd</sup> Alyshia Chesterfield

**SLR** – 1<sup>st</sup> Alyshia Chesterfield, 2<sup>nd</sup> Maika Dauniika, 3<sup>rd</sup> Emma Coghlan

Well done to all those students! Keep up the superb effort!

Hope you all have a safe and happy summer holiday!

Mrs Fleur Williams

*Head Teacher PDHPE*

## CLO REPORT

As we approach the end of another year for the Airds school community I would like to thank everyone for their support for the programs and activities. Your interest and participation helped increase the learning opportunities of our students.

Special thanks go to our regular team of parents and friends who prepare this newsletter for mailing each month.

Year 6 Parents recently spent the day at Airds High School, meeting staff and students and learning about school organisation, as well as enjoying a classroom lesson with Ms Atlagic. They all appreciated the opportunity to learn about life at High School and are looking forward to their students coming next year. The success of this day depended greatly on the contribution of staff and our student and parent helpers. Thanks again!

Congratulations to our School Council President, Theresa Clark, who was nominated for the Order of Macarthur recently. Mr Kennedy, Mrs Jones, Mrs Zeballos and myself attended the presentation at Camden. Theresa certainly deserves the recognition for all her years of hard work for our school.

I look forward to meeting many parents next year as we participate in activities to help our students.

I wish you all Peace and Joy at Christmas and a safe and happy holiday!

Robyn Culbert

*Community Liaison Officer*

## P & C REPORT

At our last meeting we welcomed Airds High School's new Principal, Mr Foord.

The Principal attends all our meetings, providing accurate information and is always ready to answer questions parents may have.

P&C have made valuable contributions to school life this year, especially with BBQ's

And I would like to give special thanks to Mrs Lyn Clark for all her organisation and shopping as well as cooking in all weathers.

Thank you to Mrs Culbert for her support throughout the year.

Our P&C always welcomes new members to share the load as we try to make a difference for all our students.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings next year on the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in the Common Room, main office block.

I wish all staff students and parents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Wayne Sneddon  
*President*

## MULTI-CULTURAL PARENTS GROUP

Our group has been planning Cultural Events this year and last month helped organise an Anti-Poverty Assembly to raise awareness of poverty around the world and in Australia. Our guest speaker, Kate Morrison from the Fred Hollows Foundation, explained how the Foundation can make a difference in many lives by restoring sight. Ms Ellem and her students – Airds Acoustics - presented a thought provoking and moving musical item. The SRC will have a continuing role in the school next year around this theme.

The Aboriginal Cultural Assembly was a wonderful conclusion to our year with contributions from our own Aboriginal students and community as well as great entertainment, highlighting the proud heritage of our Aboriginal families. A special thanks to Bobby-Ann Trindall for the many hours she spent in planning and staging this special event.

Next year our Group is planning different events, including cooking and making a special banner. Please join us to share your ideas and knowledge of cultural traditions as we learn from one another. Information will be sent home early in the New Year.

We welcome parents and friends from ALL cultures within our school.

## LEARNING SUPPORT & ENRICHMENT REPORT

Once again we are celebrating our whole school "Achievement Week". Thank you to all the Year Advisors

who organised Formal Assemblies from Year 7-11 in which student achievement and contributions were acknowledged and celebrated. Many, many students received certificates for their commitment to being safe, respectful learners. Well done to all of those who are living by our motto – "Strive to Achieve". Keep up the great work, and be sure to continue to hand your certificates to year advisors in batches of ten!

**Student of the Semester Ceremony** is hosted by our fantastic school leaders and features performances and speeches. Students of the Semester are nominated by their Year Advisors, and the school's Executive as being outstanding in their learning and attitude towards school over the past two terms. Students are invited to bring their parents and family to a wonderful ceremony. The students receive certificates and specially engraved medallions. It is always most satisfying to see the students pride in receiving this special acknowledgment in front of family and friends. Well done to the following recipients

| Students of the Semester 30/11/2009 |                      |                    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| SRC                                 | Addy Poutasi         | Henrietta Nauer    |
| Support                             | Emma Lynch           | Tyrelle Connolly   |
| Yr 7                                | Nicholas Schaeffer   | Damien Manu        |
| Yr 8                                | Adi Turaganivolo     | John Lardner       |
| Yr 9                                | Tyson Ryan           | Crystal Nauer      |
| Yr 10                               | Fitsemanu Apulu      | Alisha White       |
| Yr 11                               | Christopher Thornton | Talauula Akeripa   |
| Yr12                                | Maika Dauniika       | Felicia Frantzis   |
| Yr 12                               | Shavon Lancaster     | Sanita Khandarixay |
| Yr 12                               | Soumaya Saleh        |                    |

**End of Year Achievers Excursion:** Our most consistent achievers are nominated for this event to cap off the year. Forty students have been nominated and invited to a special excursion organised for Manly Ocean World. They will travel by train and ferry, and have lunch at Manly Beach. This is a reward from the school to say thank you to our most safe, respectful learners for 2009. Next year we plan to reward an even bigger group, so if you missed out this year, set some goals for next year and be rewarded...It really does pay to be an achiever and a positive member of our school community!

**Presentation Night:** Our school presentation night will be held in the new School Hall from 6-8pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009. This is a very special event whereby our academic achievers and special award winners are acknowledged in a public celebration. We have the pleasure of Tammy Anderson, a successful former student sharing her story as guest speaker on the evening, as well as musical items and of course the auspicious award presentations by our official party.

**Congratulations to all our achievers, your contribution to our school community is greatly appreciated!**

All the best for a peaceful and joyous Christmas season and a safe and happy holiday,

Ms L Walsh  
*HT Learning Support and Enrichment*

## FROM THE PASTORAL CARERS DESK

The end of the school year is here and I'm sure everyone will enjoy a holiday from their teaching and learning. It's a busy end to a busy year and I would like to wish everyone Peace and Joy for the Holiday Season along with my best wishes for 2010.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 12 students of 2009 every success in their future endeavours. Having said that, it is also timely to consider "Party Safety"...

Everybody likes to party and everybody likes to have fun! When you plan to party, do so responsibly and consider these tips:

- Plan your party with parents/carers (notify police if you intend to party at home).
- Invited guests only, avoid text message and internet invitations.
- Look after and care for each other.
- Plenty of food and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Don't serve alcohol to people under 18...it's against the law.
- Consider security and what to do if things get out of hand, e.g. contact police, music off, lights on, party over.
- Seek help if needed. Call 000 for police or ambulance
- Respect each other and property. Violence, trespassing and disturbances are dangerous and could be against the law.
- Beware of spiked drinks.
- Mixing drugs or using alcohol with drugs is dangerous and against the law.

Have a safe and restful holiday everyone,  
Rob Hodgson

## BRIEF STORIES AND PARENT TIPS

### ALL AGES

#### Website for parents

A new website is available to help you better understand the reports about your child's and their school's performance in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat these tests in May. We urge you to read your child's report and access the website and if you would like to know more about how your child is performing, make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher. For more information go to: [www.naplanforparentsnsw.com.au](http://www.naplanforparentsnsw.com.au)

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Help with 'that' talk

Inevitably your child will want to know where they came from – and more. For a lot of parents this can be an uncomfortable conversation, but help is at hand. There are great books, websites and even telephone help lines to help you have this chat. Read all about it in the latest issue of the School Parents ezine at: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezine](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezine)

## HIGH SCHOOL

### New opportunities in high school

The law regarding the school leaving age is changing. From 2010, all students will need to complete Year 10. After finishing Year 10 students can choose to participate in education, training or full-time employment until at least 17 years of age.

Schools now offer more flexibility in what and how students learn. School-based apprenticeships and traineeships exist for all sorts of careers.

Watch the vodcast at:

[www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/ezine/yr2009/issue05/watch\\_leaving/index.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/ezine/yr2009/issue05/watch_leaving/index.php)

Students in Years 9 and 10 will soon be receiving a magazine-style publication called *the buzz on the new school leaving age*, for students and parents to know about options and resources. For more information: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/schoolleaveage/index.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/schoolleaveage/index.php)

## Students Recognised and Rewarded for Excellence in Work Placement

A new initiative by Macarthur Workplace Learning Program and MG My Gateway gives HSC students, who have performed exceptionally well during their work placement in industry, a unique opportunity.

MWLP gathers feedback from host employers following a student's work placement. Students receiving outstanding feedback receive a Certificate of Achievement and are listed on an Honour Roll which MWLP will present to each school.

Not only are students then recognised by their Principals, teachers and peers they are also given the chance to undergo an interview with local group training organisation MG My Gateway for a future traineeship or apprenticeship.

80 students were nominated this year and three remarkable students became finalists for the MWLP Work Placement Student of the Year. The winner was announced at the recent MG My Gateway 2009 Apprentice & Trainee Awards. Congratulations Melanie Grace from Magdalene Catholic High School who performed her work placement at Harvey World Travel.

We have great pleasure in announcing the MWLP Honour Roll Students for Airs High School:  
Chanthasone (John) Phoumivong by Camex Dendai Auto Electrical & Mechanical  
Varu Varu by Kordovan Homes  
Ian White by NSW DET – Corporate Communications

Congratulations on your remarkable success!

This is a wonderful initiative rewarding gifted students who shine in the workplace. Students are then put in touch with local employers and hopefully the outcome will mean great talented young people are retained by the employers of Macarthur.

Macarthur Workplace Learning Program  
Suite 13, 1 Bolger Street Campbelltown

PO Box 154 Macarthur Square NSW 2560

Telephone: 4625 1863 Fax: 4625 2863  
[www.mwlp.com.au](http://www.mwlp.com.au)

## **SOFTBALL**

Anyone interested in playing SOFTBALL?

If so, the Campbelltown District Softball Association is looking for players to participate. Registrations are open now for the 2009/2010 season. If you are interested please phone 0421944576 or email [cgsasoftball@hotmail.com](mailto:cdsasoftball@hotmail.com).







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