Airds Announcer

"A place to learn, lead and achieve your personal best"
Find us at: Airds High School, 2 Briar Road, Airds NSW 2560

airds-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Issue 1 Term 1 February 2015

DIARY DATES

Mon 23rd Feb Year 7 Vaccinations Tues 24th Feb Swimming Carnival Mon 2nd March **PCM Community Engaging** Parent Awareness Session 6pm Wed 11th March Zone Swimming Carnival Fri 13th March High School Numeracy Challenge Mon 16th March Regional Swimming Carnival Tues 17th March Year 7 Showcase 4-6pm Thurs 26th March Years 11 & 12 Formal Assembly Fri 27th March Year 12 half yearly exams-Music Mon 30th March Yrs 9-10 Brainstorm Production Mon 30th March-April 2 Year 12 half yearly exams

Formal Assemblies Yrs 7-10

Last day Term 1

Mon 20th April

Staff Development Day

Tues 21st April

Students return Term 2

Thurs 2nd April

NEXT P&C MEETING
WEDNESDAY 4th March 2015
AT 10:15 am
IN THE STAFF COMMON ROOM

WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to 2015, family and friends of Airds High School. This year is off to a flying start with our students busily engaged in their learning. Thank you so much for ensuring that your child is at school on time, every day and in their correct school uniform. By working in partnership and placing **high expectations** for our students they will reach their full potential. I



cannot over emphasise the importance of the school and community working towards common goals!

I am extremely fortunate, to lead and manage an absolutely fantastic staff. Their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment never ceases to amaze me. Many of our staff, travel huge distances to work at Airds High School not only because they enjoy working here but more importantly because they know that they are making a difference to the lives of our students. It is with great pleasure that I introduce our newest member of staff, Mr Stuart Davidson. Mr Davidson has joined our team as Head Teacher Wellbeing (Welfare); he is an experienced teacher who will further strengthen our staff.

This term, we will again be showcasing the talent of our Year 7 students, when we host our **Thematic Unit Evening**. This will occur in our school hall, on Wednesday 17th March from 4.00 pm till 6.00 pm. We will also be conducting tours of the school, which will be conducted by our **s**tudent school leaders. The evening will provide a perfect opportunity for you to see the fantastic work that is being carried out by our students' every day. More information will be provided as we get closer to the event date.

Our school has secured the services of a qualified TAFE teacher to offer our students the opportunity to study Horticulture. The course will be running every Tuesday for the rest of the year, with successful participants attaining TAFE accreditation. Mr Sid Stephens will be working with our students to improve the grounds of our school. After just two weeks, there has been a noticeable improvement in the school environment and the participating students have a real sense of accomplishment. Looks like to beginning of a beautiful relationship!

Airds High School promotes the core values of; *Safe, Respectful, Learners*. These values apply not just to students but to all members of our community. Most of our students have made an outstanding start to the year, especially in regards to their learning. Unfortunately, a few students have caused concern in regards to safety and respect. As adults we need to model appropriate behaviour to our students and this is especially so when using social media. It is disappointing to see negative and hurtful messages about our students and school posted on the internet. Once it is placed out there it can't be withdrawn and this often results in someone being offended. Please think carefully before posting!

I look forward to working in partnership with you all to improve the learning outcomes for our students. If you have any suggestions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact the school via the phone and we can

arrange a time to meet. Or perhaps, you could join our small but dynamic Parents and Citizen's Association (P&C) at one of our monthly meetings. New members are always welcome and it's a great way to make new friends.

Mr S McGuire Principal

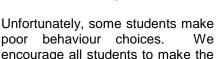
We are:

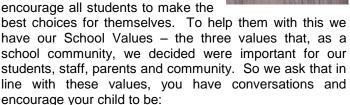
Safe

Respectful Learners

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YR 7, 9 & 11 REPORT

Welcome to the new school year – a huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who have made sure that their children are prepared with the correct equipment and on time each day, ready to maximise their learning. It has made for a smooth start to the year.





- Safe by arriving to class on time, there is no excuse for lateness to class. If there is a legitimate reason, students will be provided a note by the teacher explaining the lateness.
- Learners by being prepared with the right equipment for each lesson.

We have a new Head Teacher structure to better meet the needs of our students. If you have general concerns about your child, the first point of contact is their Year Adviser. Each year group also has a Head Teacher you can contact. Head Teachers now oversee all of the wellbeing and discipline issues for their particular year group. The relevant Head Teacher should be your second

point of contact. Hopefully, the table below clarifies this for you:

Year	Year Adviser	Head Teacher
7	Ms Stoddart	Ms Angel
8	Ms Tate	Mr Wallace
9	Mr Rosete	Ms Barker
10	Ms Adair	Mr O'Neill
11	Mr Buckley	Mr Wagner
12	Ms Taylor	Mr Wagner

If your concerns are about a particular class or subject, then please contact the class teacher in the first instance and, in the second instance, the Head Teacher of that KLA.

Head Teacher	KLA
Ms Angel	Science and Maths
Mr Wallace	TAS and CAPA
Ms Barker	Student Learning
Mr O'Neill	English and HSIE
Mr Wagner	PDHPE and Careers
Mr Davidson	Student Wellbeing

This year we welcome Mr Stuart Davidson who was successful in gaining promotion to our Head Teacher Wellbeing position. He is there to oversee the Year Advisers, Aboriginal Education Team and community personnel. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, Mr Davidson is another excellent point of contact.

Mrs Williamson has been busy updating Health Care Plans for our students. If she has been unable to contact you, or, if you believe that you child needs to have a plan for any illness or injury that they have, please contact her as soon as possible. It is much better to be proactive about health and wellbeing than it is to be reactive.

We are having a focus on improving our attendance this year – please work with us by ensuring that your child attends school every day. In the event that they are unwell please be sure to call the Front Office or send a note with your child to explain the absence when they return to school.

I look forward to meeting many of our new Year 7 parents at our Showcase on March 17 from 4-6pm in the hall. This will be a great opportunity to informally meet all of your child's teachers and see what they have been learning in those first few weeks of high school.

As always, please do not hesitate to make contact with the school, or myself, should you have any concerns or queries.

Ms J Fuller Deputy Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YR 8, 10 & 12 REPORT

I would like to welcome all students, parents and staff to the start of an exciting 2015. It has been a busy start to the year with a lot happening already.

Year 11 Laptop Stocktake

As part of the Digital Education Revolution laptop program we need all Year 11 laptops to be returned. Laptops need to be returned between the 16th February and the



23rd March, you will need to bring your laptop to school and give it to the laptop coordinator Ms Nardine McCabe. Should there be any issues relating to the laptop such as damage, the student should still bring the laptop in. Any issues or concerns students or parents should see Mr Miezio. At end of the stocktake process, I am required by policy to treat laptops that have not been brought in as required as stolen property and to make a police report and request that it be closed down.



Thus it is important to bring the laptop in for stocktake as soon as possible.

Process Communication Model (PCM) -Community Awareness Meeting Monday 2nd March





Airds High School has introduced PCM with 12 staff trained by Wayne Pearce at the end of 2014. PCM provides a way for teachers and others to communicate with and motivate people based on their personality type. Each classroom has all six personality types based on individual's perception of the world. Therefore, educators need to communicate and develop teaching and learning programs that cater for the motivational needs of all personality types engaged in the learning cycle.

I believe PCM will make a difference in the lives of our students and with the dedication and commitment of our staff and the involvement of our community we will be well on our way to achieve our core value of student engagement. Ifyou are interested in finding out more we are hosting a Process Communication Model (PCM) -Community Awareness Meeting Monday 2nd March 2015 6pm -7pm Airds High School Hall. Presented by Wayne Pearce.

Wayne's reputation as a professional rugby league player and coach precedes him. His rise from humble beginnings growing up in the inner Sydney suburb of Balmain to become an International rugby league player is one of those great inspirational stories that never fails to stir the Australian spirit. Over the past thirteen years, Wayne has built up an impressive list of clients such as Bunnings, Harvey Norman, Telstra, ANSTO, Commonwealth Bank, John Holland and Coates Hire. Wayne is an innovator who continues to refine his programs in pursuit of best practice methodology. Just as he did during his legendary rugby career, Wayne stays ahead of the game by applying the latest research in psychology and neuroscience so his clients get the best possible outcomes.



Parents As Career and Transition Support Workshops

These workshops have been specifically designed to help provide parents, guardians, grandparents and carers with up-to-date information about educational pathways that enables them to support their children effectively when they're making career transition decisions within the secondary school system and beyond. PACTS builds on the success of the Parents as Career Helpers program MWLP delivered to a number of schools across the region, in both 2007 and 2011 where these parents are still supporting students and the school.

The PACTS program has been successfully delivered to parents in a number of schools and community environments for the last six years. The workshops will be facilitated by Dianna Ames and myself with the support of school staff including the Careers Adviser/Transition Adviser and or VET Coordinator.

The PACTS workshop aims to:

- Increase parental participation and school engagement
- Enhance parents awareness and knowledge of the many pathway options available
- Involve parents as active contributors in their child's learning
- Increased understanding about the school, it's people and services
- Networking and forming relationships with other parents.

For further information and to express your interest in attending this workshop please contact Mrs Melanie Cutts (Community Liaison Officer) or Mrs Maryanne Varu (Pacific Islander Community Liaison Officer).



The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will

be administered during school hours between 9th March and 2nd April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you <u>do not</u> want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27th February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.



Football United Creating Chances Program



Creating Chances Program is designed to actively engage young people through sessions that foster positive youth development. Specifically, the program focuses on the skills required to navigate life effectively, and to contribute to the wider Australian community as agents of positive social change.

At the end of the Creating Chances program, students will have enhanced skills in:

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- · Decision-making and critical-thinking skills
- · Coping and self-management skills
- Cultural appreciation and engagement skills

Football United uses the magic of football to create chances for youth. We envision a world where everyone can reach for their goals. Football United uses people's love of football to build opportunities for community engagement, youth empowerment and for gaining life skills. Students will have the opportunity to join this program during Term 1.

Students Online -

http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/

Students Online is your source for information about your senior school study, the portal is managed by BOSTES and gives students access from Years 10, 11 and 12.

Find information about school-based assessment, HSC



exams and results, including grades, how the HSC works, preparing for exams and more. Log in with your Student Number and PIN to access your personal study details.

Students can generate an interim report known as a Student eRecord. A Student eRecord can be printed and shown at job interviews or to further education providers. Students should speak to their Year Advisers if they do not have access to their Students Online account.

Mr J Miezio Deputy Principal

YEAR 7 REPORT

The Year 7 students are settling in nicely and seem to be enjoying their start to high school. The students have been allocated into 4 different classes, and 4 different roll call groups. Most students are finding the navigating of the school much easier than they expected, and this has been supported by staff allocated to each group. We will have support staff monitoring transitional issues for the next few weeks and identifying students who require extra assistance in the development of their literacy and numeracy concepts.

Students are currently working on a series of projects that will be presented to families and friends later in the term. The projects will be worked on across their subject areas and will differ from class to class. This will be a great opportunity to meet all the Year 7 teachers in an informal setting and to see what they have been able to accomplish in the first half of their very first term!

We have a busy few weeks coming up with school photos, swimming carnival, vaccinations and community showcase evening, if you require any further information about these events please do not hesitate to call the school.

Ms S Stoddart Year 7 Adviser

YEAR 8 REPORT

It has been a busy start to the term for Year 8. This year we have 13 selected Year 8 students who form a stage 4 Gifted and Talented class. These students have shown dedication to their studies and we want to extend their skills in all areas of their education. Year 8 have 3 other classes consisting of Kookaburra's, Opals and Wallabies. Year 8 students have definitely settled in and are now focusing on Year 8 content.

This year we are concentrating on Year 8 being in the right uniform (black shoes, button up light green shirt and black shorts or skirt) and their attendance. In every roll call room we have on display, every student's attendance statistic with their photo and how often they are wearing the correct uniform. Every 2 weeks students will be rewarded for following Airds High School expectations.

I would like to officially congratulate our newly elected leaders for 2015. Our year group has such a great depth of leaders that we have one of the highest numbers of representatives in the whole school.

Congratulations to the following students SCR reps for 2015

Noelle Aiga, Elenora Taala, Maria Lilomaiava, Caitlyn Vidovic McCarthy and Bailey Fletcher-Colvin











Aboriginal Education Representatives Michael Sherry and Casey Tidmarsh





Year 8 Leadership Team

Sean Smith and Pandora Taala





This year, Year 8 will be involved in completing the Boomerang Effect. We will be concentrating on 2 modules. They are Positivity and Motivation. Boomerang Effect is a resilience and optimal performance program used by top athletes, university and school students and businesses. It aims to increase student resiliency, equip youth with long life coping and achievement strategies, which leads to students achieving their potential and a positive school environment. So far Year 8 students have learnt the golden rule. Ask them to share the words and the actions with you.

We have also started a program called Value of the Week where every Wednesday from 10.10am to 10.30am students will be looking at a different value. This week students are learning about what pushes their buttons (both positive and negative). This is important for the youth of today as they are constantly bombarded with social media and this combined with the busy lifestyles of families we need to stress the importance of connecting to our values. Students were given some homework this week. They had to think about something positive they could say to a family member, friend or teacher.

Ms N Tate Year 8 Adviser

PDHPE REPORT

Welcome to the new school year from the PDHPE faculty: I will be continuing to be Head Teacher of PDHPE. The rest of the staff for this year will be

- Ms Tate
- Ms Williams
- Mr Halliburton
- Mr Miranda
- Mr Latulipe
- Ms Radford
- Ms Simms

Mr Halliburton is the Sport Organiser again for 2015.

Students are well into their first unit of work for the year. This term students will be completing the following units in Health:

- Year 7 Relationships Thematic Unit
- Year 8 It's Your Decision
- Year 9 Safe Partying
- Year 10 Positive Choices

Each student has received an assessment policy and a guideline explaining what is required of him or her this year. The following assessment tasks have also been given out: Year 7 "Relationships and Power" assessment task due Week 6 Term 1, Year 8 Its Your Decision – "Sexually transmitted infections" due Week 8/9 Tterm 1, Year 9 "Safe Partying" PowerPoint presentation due week 8/9 and Year 10 "Positive Choices – Biographical Recount" due Week 8.

This term in practical lessons students will be doing the following:

- Year 7 Initiative and Challenge activities
- Year 8 Fundamental Junior games
- Year 9 Run, Rock & Roll Modified games
- Yer 10 Dynamic games

Students must bring and change into full PE uniform of school sport polo shirt, shorts and joggers to all practical lessons and Sport.

In PDHPE at Airds High School each student is expected to work to the best of their ability in all areas to achieve their **PERSONAL BEST.**

It is also pleasing to see the number of students choosing PDHPE electives. We are currently running the following electives: Year 9 Coaching, Year 9 & 10 Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS), Year 11 & 12 Sport, Lifestyle & Recreation (SLR) and Year 11 & 12 Personal Development, Health & Physical Education (PDHPE) and we are also running a VET Sports Coaching course in Year 11 and 12. We also wish our Year 12 classes all the best this year when they sit for their HSC.

The PDHPE faculty values the contributions made by all of the students at Airds High School but are especially appreciative of those that make an extra effort to do the very best that they can. The positive effort of individual students helps to make a more productive and happy learning environment for the teacher and the rest of the class.

Please don't hesitate to call me for any further information regarding PDHPE and Sport.

Hope you all have a happy and healthy 2015.

Mr S Wagner Head Teacher PDHPE

MATHS REPORT

Welcome to the new school year from the Mathematics faculty. I (Ms Angel) will be Head Teacher of Mathematics and Science for Semester 1 2015. The rest of the staff for this year will be:

MathsScienceMr RoseteMs HolmesMs HeffernanMs StoddartMr KhalifehMs RadfordMs FitasMs DrakefieldMr Howley

Students are all progressing well into their first unit of work for 2015. This term students will be completing the following units in Maths:

- Year 7 Relationships Thematic Unit
- Year 8 Plane shapes
- Year 9 Geomentry

Mrs Fuller

Year 10 – Fractions, Decimals and Percentages

Each student has received an assessment policy and a guideline explaining what is required of him or her this year. We in Mathematics will be having a very strong emphasis on student confidence and success in class. This classroom effort will be 40% of their final results. We are keen to see every student feel that they are able to access the content of Maths and we will be taking time to show the use of Maths in the world around us and the usefulness of the skill and the fun to be had.

Year 7-10 assessment will be:

- 30% for class portfolio,
- 10% for safe, respectful learning,
- 30% for assignment per term approximately Week 6
- 30% for class test per term.

All students are advised to attend Homework Centre on Thursday afternoon where our staff can assist with areas causing concern. Parents are also welcome if they would like to see the work their children are undertaking and also develop their own skills in Maths. We like to see all Maths as a game or puzzle that might require a little effort but that can ultimately be understood and beaten! We would like to share our skills and assist in any way we can.

Please do not hesitate to call me for any further information regarding Mathematics and Science. Hope you all have a productive and healthy 2015.

Ms Catherine Angel Head Teacher Mathematics and Science

If your child is absent from school, we need a note to explain the absence WITHIN 7 DAYS – this is a legal requirement otherwise the absence will be marked as unjustified. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCIENCE REPORT

Science welcomes back all students for 2015. We hope that they have settled into their classes well and are completing class work to the best of their ability. There have been a lot of positives streaming from all the teachers about how well their classes are doing so far and all the merit awards that are being handed out. So keep up the good work.

The Science faculty is under the new guidance of Ms Angel, as a combined HT Maths & Science. The Science faculty this year consists of the following teachers and their allocated classes. If there are any issues that are arising please don't hesitate to contact the relevant teacher via the school on 4625 5811.



Ms Holmes

- Year 12 Biology
- Year 10 Science -Hubble
- Year 9 Science -Copernicus
- Year 9 Science Hubble
- Year 8 Science Curie
- Year 7 Science Banksia
 (3)



Mrs Stoddart

Year 7 Year Advisor

- Year 12 Senior Science
- Year 10 Science -Copernicus
- Year 9 Science Galileo
- Year 8 Science Pasteur
- Year 7 Science -Bottlebrush (1)



Ms Radford

- Year 11 Senior Science
- Year 10 Science Galileo
- Gifted and Talented Stage 4 Science
- Gifted and Talented Stage 4 Maths
- Gifted and Talented Stage 4 PDHPE
- Gifted and Talented Stage 4 Sport
- Gucci Art





Mrs Drakefield

- Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood
- Year 10 Child Studies
- Year 9 Child Studies
- Gifted and Talented Stage 4 Technology
- Year 8 Science Avagadro
- Year 7 Science Grevillia (2)

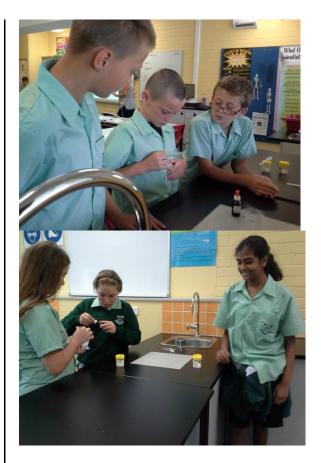
Ms McCabe

Lab assistant



Mrs Drakefield's class have completed their first Science experiment for the year called Baggie Science. If your child is in 7 Grevillia (7/2) ask them how they performed it and what happened inside the bag.





An information letter has been sent home to parents recently outlining our online Science program IntoScience. The program will be utilised in class, but can also be used recess, lunch or during our Thursday afternoon homework sessions in the library. It can also be used at home with a computer or iPad (internet access required). This program has been purchased by the school to assist in the development of science inquiry skills. The students create a character and attempt different challenges to earn them points. Each level that the students complete is sent to their teacher and scored with a percentage that corresponds with the Australian curriculum standards for Science. Please contact Mrs Stoddart in Science for more information or visit www.intoscience.com.

SENIORS:

A number of excursions are under way for our senior classes at the moment, which directly correlate to the syllabus outcomes and allows for students to extend their knowledge of the specific content. Year 12 Biology and Senior Science are travelling to The Museum of Human Disease and Year 11 Senior Science to The Georges River National Park for a local environment exploration and site testing. There will be photos to come from these excursions (so keep your eye out for the next edition of the Airds Announcer).

Mobile phones are not to be used during the school day

TAS/CAPA REPORT

TAS/CAPA would like to welcome all students back to Airds High School for 2015. We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing what each student will learn and produce as the year progresses.

We would also like to congratulate Ms Vongsouvanh on the birth of her baby girl, and hope that she is having an enjoyable time as a new mum. Whilst she is on maternity leave I (Mr Wallace) will be relieving Head Teacher of TAS/CAPA. The rest of our staff this year are as follows:

CAPA

Mr Wallace (Relieving Head Teacher)
Ms Bateman – Visual Arts
Ms Taylor – Visual Arts
Ms Adair – Music

TAS

Ms Coogan Ms Drakefield Mr Howley Mr John Mr Lightfoot

Students have been progressing very well so far this year. Most students by now should have received their assessment schedule for their subjects. Students are reminded to keep track of this schedule so that they can stay up to date in their classes. Students should have also received their fees notes for any fee paying subjects. Fees need to be paid to the front office as soon as possible. As a reminder, fees for 2015 are as follows:

YEAR	SUBJECT	FEE
Year 7	Technology Mandatory 1 & 2	\$40.00
	Visual Art	\$25.00
Year 8	Music	\$10.00
	Technology Mandatory 1 & 2	\$40.00
Year 9	Child Studies	\$20.00
	Food Technology	\$45.00
	Industrial Technology - Metal	\$35.00
	Industrial Technology - Timber	\$35.00
	Industrial Technology - Auto	\$35.00
	Music	\$20.00
	Construction	\$35.00
	Photography & Digital Media - Still	\$25.00
	Visual Art	\$25.00
Year 10	Child Studies	\$20.00
	Food Technology	\$45.00

	T	ı
	Industrial Technology - Metal	\$35.00
	Industrial Technology - Timber	\$35.00
	Industrial Technology –	***
	Automotive	\$35.00
	Music	\$20.00
	Photography & Digital Media - Still	\$25.00
	Visual Art	\$25.00
Support	Visual Art	\$25.00
	Life skills TAS	\$20.00
Year 11	Metals & Engineering	\$35.00
	Construction	\$35.00
	Construction (white card)	\$20.00
	Food Technology	\$45.00
	Hospitality	\$60.00
	Hospitality uniform purchase	\$75.00
	Music	\$20.00
	Visual Art	\$25.00
	Ceramics	\$25.00
	Visual Design	\$25.00
	Photography & Digital Media	\$25.00
Year 12	Industrial Technology	\$35.00
	Metals & Engineering	\$35.00
	Construction	\$35.00
	Food Technology	\$45.00
	Hospitality	\$60.00
	Music	\$20.00
	Visual Art	\$25.00
	Ceramics	\$25.00

Coming up shortly all students in Year 7 will be presenting their work from their thematic unit at the Year 7 student Showcase Evening. We are very excited to see what students will produce, as this year the 3 Year 7 classes are exploring different topics: Relationships, Safe Respectful Leaners, and The Future – 2040. Students have been working very hard and I am sure that all work produced will be of the highest standard! We encourage all family members and members of the community to attend this evening so they can witness the efforts and achievements of this cohort.

Year 12 students in both TAS and CAPA are now well into their HSC courses. Students are reminded that it is very important to ensure that they are keeping up to date with their studies, as very shortly time will run out. We will also

like to remind students that the Homework Centre is open on Thursday afternoons from 3pm-4pm. The Homework Centre is supported by multiple TAS/CAPA staff, and is therefore an excellent place for students to be able to get any extra help with their assessments.

Year 12 are also reminded that their Half Yearly Examinations are fast approaching at the end of this term. We encourage all students to put in the extra effort and study hard for these examinations as we have the highest expectations for our students.

We hope that all staff, students and members of the community have a safe and successful 2015.

Mr Wallace Relieving Head Teacher TAS/CAPA.

TEACHING & LEARNING REPORT

The Teaching and Learning faculty will be undertaking a huge overhaul in 2015. We will still be supporting students with additional learning needs, as well as administering NAPLAN, Disability Provisions for HSC students, Homework Centre, ESL, Senior Study, access requests and a variety of other areas of support.

We are lucky to have the valuable skills of our SLSOs – Marie Addamo, Julie Hopwood and welcome back Lisa Chesterfield. Our SLSOs are each working with a Year 7 class this term and it has been heartening to see the bonds being made. Mr Tyler and Mr Miranda will be team teaching a number of classes in their role of Learning and Support Teachers, and we know that our student outcomes will be raised with their knowledge and skills. Ms Zalewski will continue her fantastic work as Librarian, as well as catering to our Gifted and Talented students and overseeing the Homework Centre. She has done a terrific amount of work in setting this up for use on Thursday afternoons from 3 – 4pm.

All students in Stage 6 – Years 11 and 12 – were issued with a notice advising that we can assist with applying for special Disability Provisions to assist them in exam and assessment situations. Students who feel that they may require extra support – be it in reading, writing or medical conditions – should see Mr Tyler for a note so that we can start the application process.

With NAPLAN fast approaching, the best practice that students can do is to read, read and read some more! Students don't need extra tutoring or even to unnecessarily stress. Just reading for 20 minutes every day will improve confidence, word identification, spelling and creative writing. Grab a book from the library and increase your knowledge today!

Ms N Barker Head Teacher Teaching & Learning

Tights and black jeans are not part of the school uniform and are not to be worn

VET REPORT

Welcome back to another exciting year of VET. The subjects being taught in Year 11 VET are: Construction, Hospitality- Kitchen Operations, Information and Digital Technology, Metals and Engineering, and Sports Coaching. Year 12 VET subjects are: Construction, Hospitality – Kitchen Operations, Metal and Engineering Retail Services and Sports Coaching.

The VET teachers this year are:

Ms P Coogan – Hospitality and VET Coordinator

Mr G John – Construction

Mr D Lightfoot- Metals and Engineering

Ms R Mak- Retail Services

Ms J Peters – Information and Digital Technology

Ms N Tate- Sports Coaching

An exciting new TVET course has started in the school – Horticulture. This course will be running on Tuesdays from 8.00am to 3.00pm. Students from Year 10 and Year 11 have been selected to participate in the course. The schools gardening committee, Airds gardening committee and TAFE have worked together to start the course in the school. The TAFE teacher and students will be working on upgrading the community garden throughout the year for everyone to use.

A letter has been sent home to parents regarding course fees and equipment needed in the classroom. It is important for student/parents to read the letter, sign it and give it back to their classroom teacher. Fees for VET subjects need to be paid as soon as possible, as this allows the teachers to buy the resources needed to complete the practical components of their subjects. Please contact your student's VET teacher of current fees to be paid.

It is important that students are wearing the correct PPE (personal protection equipment) e.g. chefs uniform and the correct shoes e.g. lace up leather shoes, leather joggers with full leather uppers or work boots for their practical subjects. Any students not wearing the correct PPE or shoes will not be allowed to take part in the practical lessons and this could have an effect on the students' competencies in their subjects.

Many Year 12 VET students are now completing their 2nd work placement. It is **mandatory** for students to complete 70 hours of work placement. It is an opportunity for the students to experience real life working environments and conditions that have been taught in the school. Please sign any forms promptly given to you for your child's work placement. If you have any concerns of your child going out on work placement, please do not hesitate to contact the VET Coordinator or the VET Teacher.

Mr Piccoli, the NSW education minister visited the school to have a look at the Construction Trade Centre. This was in conjunction with a new campaign for VET in schools and TAFE courses for students to gain a trade in industry. Mr G John taught a demonstration class with his Year 11 Construction students. Mr Piccoli was impressed with the high quality of equipment and resources the students had to use for their course. It was also a time for Year 12 school leaders to talk to him of issues and concerns with education in our schools.

Ms P Coogan
VET Coordinator

EnvironMENTALS REPORT

The students have jumped straight back into action this year and are looking forward to completing loads of activities to help make our school and community a lovely place to be. We will be joined this year by a TAFE Horticulture class, which is running with selected Year 10 and Year 11 students. This will earn the students TAFE qualifications which are industry recognised and will help the school with some projects that we have been working on.

The weather over the holidays was great for growing and we found some lovely spinach, herbs and the starting of



some tiny eggplants on our return. Unfortunately this also means the weeds are out of control and our poor group is struggling to keep up. We are constantly on the lookout for parent/family helpers to assist with some gardening duties, particularly weeding. If you can spare an hour a week (or even just a once off) to help us out please contact Mrs Stoddart in the Science faculty.

SRC REPORT

The SRC have begun 2015 with the annual Valentine's Day Rose sale. This year we added a little extra something special, a serenade by the Year 11 boys. The day was a big success with over \$350 raised.

The commitment and professionalism of the SRC members was evident in the preparation and selling of the Valentine's Day Roses, these students continually make Airds High School proud.

In the next few weeks, Year 7 will have the opportunity to nominate their SRC representatives. Year 7 are encouraged to start thinking if they have the qualities required to represent their year group. Every Year 7 student will be voting on who will best represent them in the SRC.

The next SRC planned event is a Disco! Dates and themes are to be advised. Get ready to get down at the Disco! Woot Woot!

In other exciting news, a leadership course is in the first stages of organisation for Year 7 to 11 SRC members. It may even be a camp! Watch this space...

Ms M Holmes SRC Coordinator



SRC members gave up their lunch and recess to wrap the large 17 dozen roses.



The hard working Mrs McCabe was serenaded by the lovely Year 11's

PBL REPORT

Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL) in 2015.

Watch this space for updates over the year of exciting new activities with the Airds High School students. The first event will be a display at the Year 7 Thematic Showcase Night. During Education Week later in the year there will be a full week to display the amazing talents that we have at Airds High School. New rewards will also be offered to students who can demonstrate the Value of the Week to teachers on a weekly basis.

CLO/P&C REPORT

Welcome back to Airds High School for what I'm sure will be a very productive and enjoyable 2015. I would like to extend a very special welcome to all our new students and their families and trust that they are settling in well. I am sure your time with us here will provide you with many great opportunities, strong friendships and a lifelong love of learning.

Thank you to the parents and family members of our Year 7 students who attended the P&C Morning Tea that was held on the first day of school. It was wonderful to meet you all and to be able to share our own experiences with you, as well as listen to your hopes and concerns. We hope that you will continue to be involved with your child's school and attend the many events that we have here each year. The **Year 7 Showcase** will be held later this term and I would encourage all parents to come along to this event and see the wonderful achievements their children have made in the first few weeks of high school. It is a great experience to see your child's work displayed all in the one place, and it is very encouraging for your child to have you take an interest in their work and pride in their achievements.

The P&C are planning to hold an **Easter Raffle** this year in order to raise money for resources and equipment for the school. In order to make this fundraising event as successful as possible and with very little outlay, we are asking each of our families to donate one item to be included in the prizes that we will have on offer. We would greatly appreciate donations of chocolate Easter eggs, chocolate bunnies, packets of small eggs, cane/wicker baskets, or even soft toys that we will make into a range of Easter baskets to be won in the raffle. Any donations can be left at the front office and raffle tickets will go home with our students later in the term. Details about the cost of the tickets and the due date will be attached to the booklets. Please get behind your P&C and support this fundraising event. The more donations we receive the more prizes we will have on offer, and this will increase everyone's chances of winning. Just one donation from each family at our school would result in at least 20 choc-filled baskets of tastiness to be won!

On Tuesday, 24th February, the Airds High School Swimming Carnival will be held at the Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre in Bradbury. I would like to encourage all our students who can swim at least 50m to participate in as many events as possible and the rest of our student body to be there cheering our competitors on. Carnival days can be a lot of fun for everyone in attendance and I'm sure we will see some great performances from many of our talented students. Please remember to bring and apply sunscreen and wear hats in order to protect yourselves from painful sunburn and skin damage. I would also like to encourage our parents, caregivers and other family members to come along on the day and enjoy the achievements of our talented students. I'm sure your children would feel a great sense of pride having you there watching them and cheering them on from the grandstand. If you would like any further details about the swimming carnival please do not hesitate to contact the front office on 4625 5811.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th March, and this will be our Annual General Meeting. At this meeting, the annual reports will be given and all positions on the P&C will be made vacant and an election held to fill those positions once again. The positions we need to fill include President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Anyone who is a member of the P&C can stand for one of these positions or nominate someone for a position. You must also be a member in order to be able to vote at the election. Our membership fee is only \$1.00 and if you would like to become a member of the Airds High School P&C before the A.G.M. please pay your \$1.00 to the front office by the end of February. If you would like any further information about the P&C or what is involved with each of the positions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am at school on the following days this term:

Week A – Monday and Wednesday Week B – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

You can also leave messages for me at the front office and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Our P&C numbers have been slowly growing over the last couple of years, and we would love to see this continue in order to be able to do even more to support our students and their continued learning.

I hope everyone has a great term full of amazing learning experiences and great achievements. I look forward to continuing to work with all staff, students and families to make Airds High School a special place where everyone strives to achieve their best and works together as part of a strong and nurturing community.

Melanie Cutts Community Liaison Officer P&C President

PASTORAL CARER REPORT

Wow... it's 2015 and good to be back!

I hope by now everyone is settling into the new school year. It is always an exciting time when we return after the holidays; although it can be a little hard, as we all get back into our routines.

I would especially like to welcome our new students and families to Airds High School, our best wishes for your future learning and development. AHS is a caring and supportive school community, we encourage parents and friends to get involved and participate, and with a wonderful staff provide great opportunities for our students. We want it to be an enjoyable experience for all.

A tip in making your life a little less stressful at this time is to **establish routines**. Having predictable patterns and routines in our day; or over a week, can be very calming and reassuring. It's also important for everyone's health and wellbeing.

Routines can include...

- Regular bedtimes
- Regular waking
- Regular mealtimes
- Regular times for work, exercise and relaxation
- And planning and preparing ahead to do routine jobs or activities

Establishing routines will also help to develop good organisation skills.

Wonderful news... Special congratulations to Ms Vongsouvanh and her husband on the safe arrival of their beautiful baby girl; Vivien. We understand that all are doing well, and we wish your family much joy and happiness together.

This term I will be at AHS on Wednesday. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great year and until next time, cheers.

Rob Hodgson JP

PICLO REPORT

Pacific greetings to all our staff, students and their families. Welcome back to a new year at Airds High School. We are looking forward to doing amazing things at our school and what better way to start the day than with a early morning fitness regime and a nutritious and healthy breakfast. Every Monday at 7am Mr Fennell runs a XFit-style fitness session for students to promote functional fitness, resilience, teamwork, speed, agility, and strength all students are encouraged to attend and make use of this great opportunity. After your training come and have a nutritious and healthy breakfast at the canteen for all

students from 8am-8.25am for free. What a great way to start the week and the new year.

Watch out for upcoming dates for 'Parents as Career and Transition Support' it is a workshop for parents to be able to support young people with making career choices if you are interested in training as a PACTS then come along to an information session... coming soon

If you have any preloved Airds High school uniforms at home in good condition we would like them, as we are starting a used uniform pool soon and we would also like parents to help with mending any uniforms, sewing skills would be good too.

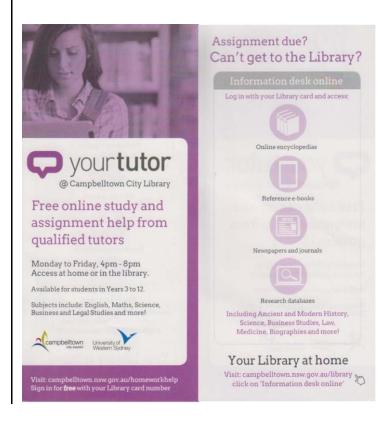
We would love to see more Pacifica parents at the P&C meetings held first Wednesday of every month. If you want to know how you can be a part of a great school and you have some spare time and want to make a difference in your child's education you are most welcome to attend.

I am available Monday and Wednesday and every second Thursday.

Kia Manuia

Ms M Varu PICLO

COMMUNITY NEWS





Compulsory School Attendance

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSV public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the mirimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, ai registered with the Board of Studies. Teaching and Educational Standard Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
 Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may

- being sick, or having an infectious disease having an unavoidable medical appointment being required to attend a recognised religious holiday exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral) funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is deried, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may have the completed Absences. Application for Extended Leave his need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.



If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.



You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issuand ask for help. Strategies to help and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support learn or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

It is important to understand that the nt of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be

Compulsory Schooling Conferences

Conferences
You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory
Schooling Conference. The conference in the pit or identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

Application to the Children's Court
 Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

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Prosecution in the Local Court

Frosecution in the Local Court
School and Department staff remain
committed to working in partnership
with you to address the issues which
are preventing your chief stull
partnership
parent in the Local Court. The result
of ourt action can be the imposition
of a community service order or a
fine.

What age can my child leave

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/goto school/a-z/attendance.php

Do you need an interpreter?

AB Community Change Makers Inc. Newsletter "Feb/March 2015"



Happy New Year Airds / Bradbury Lets make 2015 our best year yet!



The Community Change Makers hope you all had a great Christmas and new year. We are excited to help you prosper in 2015 and make this your year of success. If you are wanting to get more involved in local community this year, please contact us on 46293245 for information.

Congratulations to Oscar Cordoba, Paula Kirley and Phil Potbury (pictured above) and also Dawn Kershaw for receiving their "Members of Parliament National Volunteer Awards". These are valued members of the group / board and they look forward to meeting new CCM members in 2015.



clean area to celebrate



The CCM'S had great fun cleaning the pond so that the community could have a nice





Fruit and Veg is coming to an end

Unfortunately due to lack of orders, we will have to cease the Fruit and Veg program in Airds. UNLESS !!! We can increase the orders by the end of March? So if you want to see it stay please tell your friends to get their orders in before its too late.

BANC **Bradbury Airds Neighbourhood Connections**

Held at AB Central 52 Riverside Drive Airds Monday (1.30pm - 3.30pm) Feb 24th Open to all services and residents. Call AB Central on 4629 3245

AB Community Change Makers Inc Newsletter "Feb/March 2014"



COURSES IN AIRDS

Start the New Year with a goal to Employment. If you are interested in doing a Cert III in Aged Care with pathways to actual jobs at the end, Call Nat today on 46293245 to register your interest. If we get enough people interested by March 13th we can do the course right here in Airds!

Airds Community centre are offering a First Aid course semester 1 in 2015, call to book a place on 46258212.

They are also starting up a crocheting club! Call if your interested



The CCM's are pleased to announce that we have been successful in receiving a council grant to buy more equipment for our Fortnightly craft group. All welcome to join Dawns motto is "The more the merrier" Come to AB Central 12pm on any Tuesday for more details

Learn new skills - Make new friends - Make gifts for children in poverty

WHAT'S COMING UP? ALL WDO CLIENTS AND RESIDENTS WELCOME TO COME AND VOLUNTEER

#Shop / Book Exchange Opened every Tuesday 9.30am - 11.30am #Fruit and veggie program starts back on Mon 2nd Feb

#Creating the new board for the CCM's April 2015 (think about running?) #Tuesday 3rd March is Clean Up Australia Day 10am – 2pm

#BANC meeting Monday 23rd Feb 1.30 - 3.00pm

For information on any advertisements on this flyer please call AB Central on 46293245



School starts at 8:30am EVERY day. Please ensure your child arrives at school before this time EVERY day. If they are late, they MUST bring a note from you explaining the lateness. Thank you for your co-operation

Check our website: <u>airds-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</u>









