PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

A DIFFICULT TIME

As you are aware our school community has recently experienced a difficult time with the sad and sudden passing of one of our Year 10 students. Our thoughts and heartfelt sympathy are with the student’s family and friends.

Our school will be concentrating on supporting our students and staff over the next months. Whilst the school has returned to normal routines we do recognise that students can be affected by this event for many months to come. Two important messages to promote are that all of us should seek help from others when we feel down or vulnerable, and that young people should tell an adult if they are worried about a friend or themselves expressing suicidal thoughts. Some children may prefer to talk to someone they don't know about how they are feeling. Whether or not your son or daughter talks with you about what has happened, please let them know they can also see our school counsellor, or contact Kids Helpline (1800 551800 or www.kidshelp.com.au) or Lifeline (131114 or www.lifeline.org.au), and talk about how they are feeling.

LEARNING CULTURE AT HKHS

Earlier this year I commissioned a research project to look at the ‘culture of learning at HKHS’ from a student’s perspective. 278 students were interviewed in focus groups of around eight students, with each focus group interview running for an hour. The key question behind the research was;

“What do students value in the learning culture of Henry Kendall High School?”

The purpose of the project was aimed at four outcomes;

- Utilize the practice of student participation (Student Voice) to inform and guide our work.
- Provide our teachers with contemporary, local student data on how students like to learn, what engages them, what helps them to improve their learning and what is important to them in the learning environment.
- Provide a context for teacher reflection on what is effective, engaging and productive teaching and learning practice in each Stage from a 21st century student perspective.
- Provide an evaluation report to inform school strategic planning for the next three years.

What is pleasing are the positive reflections of students towards the considerable expertise of their teachers, and that it is clear that Henry Kendall High has a very strong culture of learning already. This provides the school with a very strong foundation on which to build. This research project has provided extensive quality information to inform the way in which we continue to strengthen our learning culture, but also to challenge us to revision this culture to ensure it is exciting, innovative and relevant, and advantages all students. We are currently in the process of ensuring our new School Plan 2015-17 embeds these directions within our priority focus areas.
STREAMLINING OUR ADMINISTRATION

As we have transitioned to be a smaller high school of around 750 students, we have naturally reduced in areas such as the number of administration and support staff we have. As a result we are finding ourselves needing to investigate means of streamlining much of our administrative processes so as to maximise the staff we have available. After discussing processes used at neighbouring schools I am looking into the use of finger scanners for student roll marking. This technology is now common in schools, freeing up significant administrative time. Essentially, student finger prints are scanned to log their attendance at school each day rather than using the traditional a paper or electronic roll. The scanners themselves would be placed at three strategic places on the school site to maximise access and simplify the process. I will keep parents informed of these investigations in the New Year.

Mr Andrew Backhouse - Principal

YEAR 10 NEWS

Congratulations to the Year 10’s who have attended Maths Club throughout the year. Certificates of Achievement were presented on Wednesday 5 November. We also took this opportunity to thank the wonderful tutors who have dedicated their time and energy to helping students improve their skills.

Year 10 have just sat their first big school exams in the MPC. They are to be congratulated on their excellent behaviour and their serious approach to the exams.

Congratulations also to students who have achieved Year Awards and Principal Awards.

Principal Awards: Nicole Martin, Brett Allen, Sinead Haynes, Ella Whelan


Students are looking forward to their Dinner and Dance on Monday 8 December. Payment was due last Friday 21 November.

Ms Gae Hobson - Year 10 Adviser

MATHEMATICS NEWS

MATHS EXCURSION TO SEE ADAM SPENCER

Most adults know Adam Spencer as an ex ABC radio announcer and television Science buff of rock star proportions. For kids it’s ......Adam who?

Adam Spencer conducted a Mathematics fun day at Gosford High, which five of our gifted and talented Mathematics students from Years 8 and 9 were fortunate enough to attend. Adam had students develop Euler's Theorem by building Plutonic Solids. He also presented a number of puzzles and problems to solve, always with just enough help. By the end of the session students understood why Adam was so popular with the adults. The students from all schools were totally engaged and buzzing. Thanks Adam.

Mr Paul Whiting - Head Teacher Mathematics and Science
Tanika, Sinead, Melissa and Kelby work on the Sphinx puzzle together. They succeed in building successive enlargements, each containing smaller Sphinxes. They then invent a new puzzle, the Star enlargements. Another group Alix, Lewis and Lauren, are building the Sphinx together.

SURVEYING EXCURSION

Some of our stage 5 Mathematics students participated with six other schools at Bicentennial Park, on Friday 21 November 2014 in a range of trigonometric fun activities, assisted by experienced surveyors, university lecturers and mathematics teachers. In the shade of the park, students applied their knowledge of trigonometry and bearings to interesting activities including measuring a garden bed and tower, hunting for mines and treasure and calculating the radius of the earth.

Students used sundials, compass and more modern laser prism Theodolites, handheld satellite GPS and the latest hovering Drone UAV to estimate, measure, check and record survey data. Field mapping measurements were entered by students into the mini CAD software program where other bearings and area can be calculated more accurately. An overlay with an aerial photomap confirmed for students their survey and mathematical skills. Congratulations to the students for their enthusiasm and cooperation.

Ms Lill & Mr Lempert – Maths Club

WORKING WITH GIFTED AND TALENTED

I have been reviewing the Yearly Reports for our Mathematics students in Years 7 to 10 and have noticed that our Young Achievers classes in Years 7 and 8 have achieved final marks which were very tightly banded with many students scoring in the 80’s and 90’s. I then looked at 9M1 and 10M1 and found exactly the same event. These students achieved closely banded and very high marks. Congratulations are in order for all of our Advanced students who are clearly very talented, engaged and also enjoying their Mathematics.

It is worth noting that an exceptionally large number of our Year 10 students are engaging in ‘Extension 1 Mathematics’ and the ‘Mathematics’ courses in Year 11, 2015.

All four classes have been engaged in extension work in Term 4. Ms Muscat’s Year 7 Young Achievers are studying Probability. Mr Whiting’s Year 8 Young Achievers are investigating Factorials!, counting techniques and their applications to Probability. Mr Debenham has given Year 9 an assignment on ‘Radians’ which in turn means students learn about Greek and Babylonian History, Navigation and modern day Global Positioning Systems. Mr Bentlin’s Year 10 class is studying Polynomial Equations, a topic firmly fixed in HSC Extension Mathematics.

Mr Paul Whiting - Head Teacher Mathematics and Science
During Term 4, Year 9 and 10 PASS classes have been learning about water sports as a recreational activity. They learnt about safety, tides, winds, currents and sun protection. In particular they focussed on the sports of Stand Up Paddle Boarding and Kayaking. Students learnt about equipment, techniques and observed examples of different contexts the sports can be carried out such as still water, surf, rapids and even waterfalls!

This study culminated in an excursion to Avoca Lake where the students got the opportunity to participate in Stand Up Paddle Boarding and Kayaking. All the students had a fun day and showed great skill manipulating their boards and boats. Many thanks to Mick and the boys from Aquafun, and especially to Mr Mellish for making the day so successful and lots of fun.

Mrs Julie Starkey - PASS Coordinator

CHANGES TO BUS TIMES BEGINNING 1 DECEMBER 2014

- Bus 88 from Point Clare Station - two minutes earlier at 7.58am
- Bus 36 from Ourimbah Station - two minutes later at 7.39am
- Bus 55 from West St Umina - two minutes earlier at 7.20am
- Bus 32 from Berecry Rd Mangrove Mountain- three minutes earlier at 7.13am
- Bus 70 from Ocean View Rd and Memorial Av Ettalong - two minutes earlier at 7.22am
- In the afternoon, Bus 24 will be 5 minutes later, Bus 23 will be 6 minutes later, Bus 2 will be 6 minutes later, Bus 3 will be 3 minutes later, Bus 86 will be 3 minutes later, and Bus 34 will be 4 minutes later.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Three of our keen and talented students, SeoKYoungh Inn (Year 10), Seohyun Inn (Year 9) and Sooin Byeon (Year 10) have had their translated poems chosen to be published in a book coordinated by the Korea Liberation Association in Australia.

This poetry collection, ‘Flowering Liberation’, was created for the 75th anniversary of Korean Remembrance Day and aims to raise awareness of the efforts of Korean women who fought to regain Korea’s independence in the early 20th century.

Students were invited to translate poetry from 41 female patriots who fought for liberation between 1910 and 1945. They also contributed illustrations for their poems.

Our students attended the launch of this publication on Monday 17 November and were acknowledged for their contribution with SeoKYoungh Inn’s poem receiving the highest praise.

A copy of this meaningful and important book has been donated to the school library.

Mrs Carmel Taylor – Librarian
These personalised Christmas gift tags are printed on high quality photo paper in mat finish. They come in four styles (you may choose a mix bag) and your personal greeting (names) will be printed next to the “from” section on each card. So all you will have to write on each Christmas tag is the present recipient’s name. The orders will be processed as they are sent in. Please place payment and order sheet in the envelope provided. If you would like additional order forms for friends, family members or colleagues please feel free to print off/forward the forms attached or ask for additional forms from the unit.

Henry Kendall High School Special Education Unit thank you in advance for your support.

Personalised Christmas Gift Tags

Set of 12 - $2

Order a set of one design or a mixed dozen personalised gift tags with your message.

Orders close 12 December
Delivered to HKHS students or posted to you.

A Henry Kendall HS Special Education Unit fund raising event
Order Form

Personalised Christmas Gift Tags
Henry Kendall HS Special Education Unit Fundraiser

Name: ________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
☐ deliver to student at HKHS ____________________________________ ☐ Post (add 70c)

Name & Class

Your personal greeting (please print clearly)
From

Set of 12 - $2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set</th>
<th>Quantity (sets of 12@ $2)</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mixed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postage (optional) $ .70

Total: $ __________

Orders close Friday 12 December 2014.
Payment required with order to Henry Kendall HS.
Enquiries to parent coordinator Dawn Lewis 0421 321449
or email enquiries@dawnlewis.com.au
Thank you for supporting the Special Education Unit.
SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR

HENRY KENDALL HIGH SCHOOL.

SPECIAL SALES WEEK

LOWES GOSFORD
Shop 36, Stockland Mall, Mann st, Gosford.

Thursday 4th December – Thursday 11th December, 2014.

RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT
Off the regular price on ALL store and school uniform items for ALL Henry Kendall.H.S. students.

PLUS

BONUS EZY-WAY 5% DISCOUNT
additional for Lowes Ezy-Way customers

OR 5% REWARDS
Lowes Rewards Card holders receive in-store Gift Vouchers to the value of 5% of their purchase

PLUS

Lowes will pay your school annual 5% rebate on every uniform purchased in-store.