A Message from the Principal

Term three has begun and students and staff have a busy schedule planned for the weeks ahead. Year 12 students have started their Trial HSC examinations which are very important not only for their final assessment ranking but also valuable preparation for the HSC examinations in term 4. No doubt Year 12 students are also starting to reflect on these final weeks of their schooling and the journey in front of them. We wish them all the best.

Positive behaviour for Success or PBS has been in place at Bowral High School now for 18 months. A special day of Celebration is planned for August 8. On this day, students are encouraged to wear ‘mufti’ in their house colours. The day begins with a celebration assembly followed by a day of fun activities. A free sausage sizzle lunch will be provided to all students. More information about the day will be communicated to students and parents over the coming weeks and will be posted on the website.

Education Week is also coming up in the week beginning 28 July. Bowral High School will be celebrating Education week with a special Speak, Act, Lead Year 7 showcase event and parent workshop on July 31. Information about this event is included in this edition.

At a recent P and C meeting, I was asked about the fees charged by the school and so I will provide an explanation here. The school asks for Voluntary Contributions from parents each year. The trend over recent years is that approximately 60% of Bowral High parents pay the Voluntary Contribution and Technology levy. This money is used to support a range of teaching and learning programs in the school. Examples include supporting technology in the school. Our goal is to have every learning space in the school supported by ceiling mounted short throw data projectors with speakers by the end of 2014. In addition, the support from parents helps us to provide additional computers in the library and the purchase of a large smart board. Playground seating has also been purchased in recent years along with covered walkways, additional sporting equipment and extra support for student assistance. Without this support, we would be unable to provide the support and improvements listed above needed to ensure that students can learn in a quality environment.

At the end of term two this year the Technology Support Officer (TSO) position, held by Penny Redden since 2009, was abolished when the laptop program ended. Penny did an outstanding job ensuring that the laptops issued to students in the Digital Education Revolution program were maintained and tracked. She supported students and staff to use this technology effectively and her work was highly valued in the school. 21st Century Teaching and Learning is one of the school’s strategic directions and we are committed to improving technology infrastructure in the school, along with the provision of professional learning for staff in the use of ICT. Because of this and also because many students still have the laptops and their own devices, we have decided to allocate school resources to support the continued employment of a TSO in the school. Penny has decided to move to a new career, but we have been fortunate in securing the skills of Steven Hurley and we welcome Steven to our staff. This is a considerable financial commitment for the school, so the financial support we receive from parents in the form of the Voluntary Contributions and Technology Levy is of enormous benefit to all our students.

Elective fees are also charged by faculties such as TAS and CAPA that use consumable items and equipment. The school offers financial assistance for families who cannot afford elective fees and/or uniform items. All students are given the opportunity to participate in learning opportunities offered in the school regardless of their financial or personal circumstances. We are very appreciative of the support received from our community that allows us to provide ‘Exceptional Learning Opportunities for all’.

Congratulations to Nathaniel Camarsh and his wife on the birth of their baby daughter, Sophie on July 14.

Finally, the school will celebrate Naidoc Week in week two with a special assembly and planting ceremony in the senior area garden. This is an important event in our school calendar and we thank our Aboriginal students, parents and community for their support. A special thank you is extended to Wendy Lotter, President of the AECG, for her hard work in helping prepare the RECONCILIATION garden.

Kim Paviour
PRINCIPAL
Staff Professional Learning- Building Positive Relationships

On July 14 the staff engaged in a valuable professional learning program. The focus was on Building Positive Relationships with students. Relationships are critical to effective student engagement and the school is committed to building and supporting robust, supportive relationships between staff and students. We want students to feel that they belong at the school and that their teachers care about them and can learn. Using the data received from the *Tell Them From Me* Surveys conducted at the end of 2013 and again at the start of this year, student focus groups were used to gather more detailed qualitative data from students. The staff watched films of the student focus groups discussing a range of issues including bullying, student/teacher relationships, anxiety and depression and PBS. Teachers were then asked to think of strategies and improved systems that could be incorporated in the new school plan. This work will be followed up when staff meet again at an extended staff workshop after school on July 30 and future staff meetings and professional learning sessions. Students and parents will also be asked to contribute their feedback.

Junior Top Blokes Mentoring Program

This term a group of year 9 and 10 boys will be invited to participate in an innovative program that addresses issues of anti-social, risk taking behaviours that can lead to disengagement not just from school but from the community at large.

The program is run by the Top Blokes Foundation, a youth-led organisation that ‘directly empowers young men aged 14-24 to positively contribute to their local community’. Our students will participate in the 8 week program that delivers for one hour a week over 8 weeks. Session topics include; Alcohol and Drugs, Anger Management; Healthy Relationships, Mental Health, Sexual Health, Peer Pressure and Risk Taking and several others. The school is committing significant resources to support at risk boys to re-engage with school and become ‘top blokes’. If your son is invited to participate in this program a letter and permission note will be sent to you in the mail.

(Kim Paviour, Principal)

Lets Fight! - Violence and the Law

At the end of term two, Bowral High School invited the Police Liaison Officer Senior Constable Gary Mutton to address Year 7,8,9 and 10 boys on issues relating to Violence, Fighting and the Law. Snr Con. Mutton explained the meaning of a common assault and how it could relate to simple practices at school such as name calling and threatening behaviour. He also explained the wording of the law relating to deliberate actions or actions that could be seen as reckless resulting in injuries. These behaviours can include play fighting, throwing food or incidents of push and shove in the corridors.

The boys were told about the different laws of Common Assault causing Grievous Bodily Harm and Manslaughter, where it related to actions such as the one punch law, and the prison terms attached to such actions. Snr Cons. Mutton surprised many of the boys when he began talking about the law as it related to Self Defence and how it guided what he as a Police Officer, and them as members of the public, could do in relation to the law.

A person carries out conduct in self-defence if, and only if, the person believes the conduct is necessary:

(a) to defend himself or herself or another person, or
(b) to prevent or terminate the unlawful deprivation of his or her liberty or the liberty of another person, or
(c) to protect property from unlawful taking, destruction, damage or interference, or
(d) to prevent criminal trespass to any land or premises or to remove a person committing any such criminal trespass, and the conduct is a reasonable response in the circumstances as he or she perceives them.

Self Defence (Crimes Act 1900 No 40) 8-s 418

It was the last line that Snr Con. Mutton emphasized to the boys, stating that as soon as they throw a punch back they are equally guilty of committing an assault and will be dealt with by the Police in the same way as the aggressor. The boys were surprised to find out that was the situation for the Police who also had to work under the same guidelines. Snr Con. Mutton then gave the following advice of what to do when faced with an aggressive person.

- Walk/run away if it is safe to do so.
- Raise your hands in the air and explain you do not want to fight and can you talk about the problem.
- Seek assistance and report the issue.

The talks were very well received and we thank Snr Con Mutton for the time he gave to Bowral High School and our students.

Nic Morris
Deputy Principal
Year 7 Education Week Showcase & Parent Information Evening
Thursday, July 31, School Hall

On Thursday 31st July Bowral High School’s Education Week Focus is on Year 7 and their class-based projects. Year 7 students will be presenting on their class specific Project-Based Learning with short films, speeches and a display of their work.

Each Year 7 class has a designated learning style and focus. Students have been working on class specific projects linked to the University of Wollongong (UOW) Year 7 Enrichment Program.

In preparation for the Year 7 projects teachers completed (at the end of Term 1) a professional learning program with the UOW. Throughout Term 2, together with mentors from the UOW, teachers have delivered the class-based project learning. The projects are due for completion in Term 4. In Term 2 all Year 7 students have completed a film-making workshop with Mr Staats and Ms Mitchell as part of their projects.

On July 31st in Education Week every Year 7 class will be announcing their project, showing their ‘preview’ or ‘trailer’ style films and displaying the progress they have made on their class project work.

Year 7 work displays will be open to the public in the School Hall from 5.00 pm. Year 7 speeches and films will commence at 5.30 pm. The evening will also launch the Speak, Act, Lead (student leadership and enrichment) Program; this major announcement outlines extraordinary opportunities for our students in making a difference in their school, their community and globally.

At 6.30 pm, following the conclusion of the Year 7 Education Week Showcase, there will be the Parent Information Presentation on Lexia (Reading Program), PBS (School Values Program - Positive Behaviours for Success) and Vivo (Student Rewards Program).

We welcome all current and prospective/future students and their families, of the Bowral High School community to attend.

What: Year 7 Education Week Showcase & Parent Information Evening
When: Thursday 31st July 5.00 pm (Year 7 Showcase); 6.30pm Parent Information Session
Where: School Hall
Who: All welcome.
SPEAK ACT LEAD 2014

Speak Act Lead has brought Bowral High School students exceptional opportunities in student leadership, student voice and in ‘making a difference’. Since its inception in 2011, more than 250 of our students have participated in the program.

In Week 3 of Term 3, SPEAK ACT LEAD 2014 is launching: its focus will be The 40 Day KP (Kindness Project) which is about building relationships and transforming ourselves and others through acts of kindness.

All students are invited to participate and we are calling on past Speak Act Lead students in Years 8, 9 & 10 to renew their commitment in student leadership and lead the school in The 40 Day KP. We are also looking for first-time/new students to join the Speak Act Lead program. Meetings will commence next week inviting students to be part of Speak Act Lead 2014; there will be an ‘expression of interest form’ for students to complete and return.

For Year 7 there will be a SPEAK ACT LEAD Camp where they will be provided with an extra-ordinary opportunity to make a difference globally.

The official launch of Speak Act Lead 2014 will be in Education Week. Stay tuned for announcements of what is promising to be the biggest and best Speak Act Lead yet.

Students at the Speak, Act, Lead Camp, 2013

Thank you

Mr Staats - Deputy Principal

The Bowral High School App has been upgraded. Look for the upgrade in the App Store and Google Play. Some users may find it necessary to delete and reinstall the App.

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The Art Department wins again!

The Wingecarribee Shire Council in conjunction with the Southern Highlands Photographic Society (SHIPS), invited members of the general public to participate in a photographic competition to celebrate World Environment Week, 1-8 June 2014. The photos reflected the theme ‘Less screen time, more green time’, encouraging young people to get out and do things rather than sit in front of a screen. There were three categories: 1. Primary school students 2. High school students 3. Open division.

Year 12 photographic students, Amanda Konz and Amber Haylock entered the competition with images from their immediate environment and from a photography excursion taken this term.

It was with great delight that Amber Haylock not only won first place and third place in the category of High school student, but also third prize in the Open division earning her $200.
Congratulations to Hayden Jutrisa

Hayden Jutrisa, Year 12, attended the Australian Defence Force Recruiting office in Wollongong on July 14 where he was presented with the ADFA Education Award in recognition of his outstanding achievement.

The school is very proud of Hayden who was the only representative of public schools in the awards this year. The ADFA awards are given to the best and brightest students in the state who are considering a career in the Defence Forces. The selection process is an arduous one, involving aptitude testing, interview, profiling and visits to various defence force locations.

As a result, Hayden has been offered, and he has accepted the position of Maritime Logistics Office in the Defence Forces. The country is in good hands! Well done Hayden!

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

On Tuesday 22 July, Bowral High School community celebrated Naidoc Week.

Preparations for the week began late term 2. Aboriginal students from years 7 to 10 were involved in painting terracotta pots and establishing an Aboriginal garden site. The site is divided into five nations: Tharawal, Yuin, Pjar, Gundungurra and Bowral High School. Each pot faces the direction of its nation and the plants are symbolic of that areas native Aboriginal plants.

Students were involved in Aboriginal Art, assisted by Wendy Lotter who taught and discussed the symbols and assisted with the writing on the pots. Students also cleaned and prepared the Senior Area garden, planting Aboriginal plants beside each nation pot.

The sense of community of the students and their ability to work with each other to the final product was outstanding. Along the way they were introduced to knowledge of Aboriginal art and plants and their significance, drawing from Wendy Lotter’s local knowledge and understanding.

We thank Mrs Lotter for her patience and diligence in leading the school community in the celebration of Naidoc Week. We thank the students for their efforts and participation in creating a wonderful monument for the school to continue to celebrate its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

Julie Taylor, Project Coordinator