Jasmine Ferguson engaging in some art making
Tracey’s Talk

The death this week of Phil Hughes has touched so many people around the world, from the sporting arena to mums and dads who feel the weight of the loss of a child. Phil Hughes by all accounts died from a freakish accident, doing what he loved. Pursuing his passion and making the most of the short life he had.

It is in these moments of great tragedy that we stop and reflect on what is really important. It is moments that are filled with love and kindness that we remember. It is making memories that go with us through our lives. It is not where we consider the things that sometimes consume our regular days.

Today, I write this and consider the things that I am most thankful for. Peace, harmony, love, laughter and being surrounded by family and friends. No guns in schools and, for the most part a very harmonious Campus here at Cooks Hill where wellbeing is at the forefront of what we do. Giving our students a sense of belonging, and finding their place in the world.

We are heading into the ‘silly season’ where we give thanks for the things we have. I ask you to stop and just ‘be’ at sometime over this weekend. Stop and play. Watch the sunset. Cuddle your kids close and tell then you love them. Play at the ocean; let the waves lap over your feet. Play a board game. Go for a family walk through the bush. Have a picnic. Enjoy one another.

I have included today this beautiful poem by Clive James in honour of Phil and his life.

JAPANESE MAPLE

Your death, near now, is of an easy sort.
So slow a fading out brings no real pain.
Breath growing short
Is just uncomfortable. You feel the drain
Of energy, but thought and sight remain:
Enhanced, in fact. When did you ever see
So much sweet beauty as when fine rain falls
On that small tree
And saturates your brick back garden walls,
So many Amber Rooms and mirror halls?
Ever more lavish as the dusk descends
This glistening illuminates the air.
It never ends.
Whenever the rain comes it will be there,
Beyond my time, but now I take my share.
My daughter’s choice, the maple tree is new.
Come autumn and its leaves will turn to flame.
What I must do
Is live to see that. That will end the game
For me, though life continues all the same:
Filling the double doors to bathe my eyes,
A final flood of colours will live on
As my mind dies,
Burned by my vision of a world that shone
So brightly at the last, and then was gone.

CLIVE JAMES

TRACEY BRESEE
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

TERM 4 WEEK 9

Friday Week 9 to Wednesday Week 10: Year 9 Exhibitions

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its troubles. It empties today of its strength.

-Corrie Ten Boom
From Darren’s Desk

Newcastle University Visit
On Friday 21st November, I had the privilege of taking two of our students to the University of Newcastle to attend the Faculty of Education’s forum (staff meeting). John Fischetti, Head of University of Newcastle’s Education Faculty invited us to join their meeting with the aim of our students sharing their experience at Cooks Hill Campus with their staff. Kate Grant (Advisory #1), Charley Scott (RFP Advisory) and myself attended and spent an hour presenting to the staff from the Education faculty.

The presentation consisted mostly of Charley and Kate fielding questions from the faculty members. I was blown away by the communication skills demonstrated by both girls, as were the other 30 University staff in the room. The way they articulated measured and very well-considered responses in a very high pressure situation was an absolute credit to them. The staff were particularly interested in what their experience in traditional school was like compared to what their experience at our campus has been like. The abundance of feedback I received indicated that all in the room left the meeting feeling very inspired by Kate and Charley’s stories. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the way that these lecturers present 21st Century learning possibilities to future teachers during their lectures, as they can now discuss the many highly-innovative design features of our school as a reality and not just an ideal, untested set of great philosophies. I came away from the visit feeling very inspired and proud of the way in which our students once again represented our campus. It is a credit to them and their entire learning support community (their advisors, families and friends). Well done Charley and Kate!

BYOD reminder
As the year draws to an end, I’d like to remind families of the specifications required for personal laptops to access our DEC WiFi at Cooks Hill. The most important characteristic is the ability to operate on the 5GHz WiFi. This is often referred to as Dual-band WiFi. Beside internet access, Word publishing software, and minimum 2GB of RAM are also essential. Most computer retailers now know the specifications required, but please contact me on the email below before you purchase anything if you have any queries. On the next page is an advertisement from Domayne on a BYOD day they are having this Saturday.

Aspirations Study
Cooks Hill Campus is involved in the University of Newcastle’s Aspirations study. This study is collecting information on how and why student career aspirations change during their lifetime with the aim of ensuring that all students aspire to career choices which best suit their interest and capabilities. If you or your student have not completed this survey, could you please do so ASAP. The appropriate links are below:

High School Student: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Sec_Student_Cooks_Hill_HS_14
Teacher: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Tch_Cooks_Hill_HS
Parent: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PC_Cooks_Hill_HS

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding your family’s experience at Cooks Hill Campus.

Darren Ponman - Darren.ponman1@det.nsw.edu.au
Do you need to bring a device to school next year?

Domayne Kotara is hosting their first ever Bring Your Own Device expo on Saturday 29th November

Exclusive discounts for parents of students at Public, Catholic and Independent schools

See presentations from the Today Show’s Charlie Brown (Technology expert) 10am, 11am, midday, + meet and greet

Discuss your technology needs with teachers from local schools

Make sure you’re buying the right device for education

Meet the manufacturers (Asus, Microsoft, Apple)

Receive commercial discounted pricing

Finance options available

Insurance and Product Care options available

NewFM outside broadcast 9am – midday

Giveaways and bonuses

Buy your device with the confidence – we’ve been in Newcastle for 15 years

We are looking forward to seeing you at the expo!

Any questions, please call 02 4941 3900 or email dmkotara.commercial@au.domayne.com
Yesterday I spent the day at Hunter Histo, it was one of the best days I have had all year! First I got a tour around the lab, which was pretty small, and the histologists showed me some of the work they do.

I got to see the whole process of analysing samples and because I was the first work experience student they’d had they didn’t have any past experiences of students fainting at the sight of organs, so I got to see everything!

The organs are kept stacked in buckets in ‘the cut room’, each organ legally has to be kept there for 8 weeks. The pathologist pulls out the organ, in this case I saw him working with a rectosigmoid, an ovary and the Fallopian tube, and dissects it to find the pieces with tumors/cancers or any other pieces that may be important. He then cuts off the important pieces and puts them into little ‘cassette’ holders. The rest of the organ is then put back into the bucket but by this point it is mostly just small pieces of flesh.

The samples are then put into a machine overnight which dries out the fats and chemically process it somehow. The next day the samples are put into wax, the wax is then sliced so that little pieces of the sample come off in a paper-thin wax layer. The layers are put into water and then scooped out with a microscope slide. They are then treated with several chemicals which turns them different colours, the slides are then sent off to the pathologists to be analysed and he makes a diagnosis for the patient.

I got given some bowel tissue and an oesophagus samples on microscope slides after they had been chemically treated and turned purple. This is what the slides looked like-

And this is what they look like under a microscope-
CAMPUS CAPERS

Mackenzie and Callen celebrate Sasha’s birthday

Alex knitting some pieces for our Yarn-bombing project

Our newspaper team at the Herald School Newspaper Competition Award Ceremony at Hunter Stadium.
ADVISORY #1

3 MORE WEEKS TO GO GUYS!!!!!!!

Advisory #1 is celebrating Christmas early, with our tree up, decorations on and presents under the tree. It’s truly starting to look a lot like Christmas!!!

Thank you so much Kyle for organising our advisories very own “Secret Santa” the theme for this year is “the worst present ever”

And we would also like to welcome Jasmin and Kean to our advisory
THE RFPs

Christmas and summer holidays are in the air. We have so much to explore and learn about before we finish 2014. What a great year it has been, so much new stuff to do, ways to learn, setting our own goals, managing our time, working in teams, sharing ideas and the best thing, supporting each other.

BIG SHOUT OUTS to:

Tiana for organising a shadow day at the Shark and Ray centre last week. She had a great time and looks forward to keeping in contact with the centre through her internship at Oakvale Farm

Cassidy for being an amazing role model for our shadow day students for 2014.

Brittany who only started with us at CHC at the beginning of this term has already secured herself an internship at City West Automotive. She has already grown blisters, removed wheels and started some great hands-on work. Congratulations Brittany, a huge achievement.

Jacob is about to receive another award from Lake Macquarie Council for his volunteer work with Landcare. Jacob has developed thorough knowledge of native plants and can pick weeds that negatively impact the environment with ease.

Charley spent a day at the University of Newcastle representing the students of CHC at Heads of Department meeting. Charley taught over 40 Professors about the learning model utilised here. Charley said that she was nervous at first, but then realised that they were genuinely interested in her perspective. Thanks for being a great ambassador Charley.

Aurelia has been busy with the Prelim Biology students as well. The students completed their first assessment task at the Wetlands Environmental Education Centre, a Field work study of the ecosystem.

Good luck to Brittany and Faith who will be doing their first exhibition next week and to Cassidy who will be doing her second exhibition. All the members of the RFP’s are excited about becoming MENTORS for new students in 2015.
WEEK 6, Term 4

Now that year eleven has been kicked into gear for the Wolfpack, a lot of things are about to change. For certain instances, our stress levels are about to skyrocket—officially being named the first stress craft to reach Venus, in latest news.

However it’s not all been stress this past few weeks, with Halloween, Gateway Exhibitions now concluded and LTI’s all drawn to a close. The accomplishments and achievements are vast, with the entire of the class feeling confident in their feedback and results. A large thank you goes out to all parents, mentors, family and friends that could attend.

Halloween also left us with some surprises, Lizzy’s car for one. (Spooky pictures below J)

Impressive performances have made high headway in the wolfpack, undertakings in LTI’s and schoolwork only gaining in their reach to awesomeness. Ally made a wonderful bunny at her LTI, and Dylan made intricate creations at his building LTI. (Photos below.) At the year ten Gateway Exhibition, Awards for students mesmerising achievements were given.

Although these triumphs give a sense of pride and confidence, there is still the ongoing doubt of year eleven successes. Moving into stage six can be a worrisome time. Thankfully, as with always, things will settle into a more solid foundation of routine. An important reminder to students is to check their timetables! Late arrivals or missing of a seminar can leave a serious dent.

Some students aged 17 are choosing not to continue onto year eleven, and are instead going bravely into the world. The requisite for this path is that the students acquire the necessary preconditions.

A lot of students are feeling confused, it’s a lot of work, time management will be a challenge, no room to waste time, and any form of social life—we at TGIF Headquarters do strongly recommend it’s eliminated. Photos are below of term four with the wolfpack. Good luck!

From the TGIF headquarters of the wolfpack branch
Head Director of delivering you nice news
THE ZEN PALACE

Last Thursday Year 10 had their Gateway Celebration at Noah’s at the Beach; it was a nice evening with dancing, music, awards and a nice meal. The biggest highlight of the night was

The five people who received awards for the Zen Pen are Jack, Alex, Connor, Claudia and Holly and a big shout out to Jack Foster who received the Zen Master of the Year award and the Wingman of the Year Award.

Throughout the last 2 week the Zen Palace has been under construction as we have been completely rearranging our room with all new furniture, cupboards and seats and a bar that matt will be making in the holidays. We have changed the way we sit and move around in our room by giving up our personal desk to all work together in the room with shared tables and chairs. We found a awesome big cupboard in the art room and it took 8 of us to get it up the stairs but now that’s where we put our stuff. We share a shelf with another member of the Zen Palace and our room now works great and we have way more space to move around in the room

The art work displayed on the screen was painted by the Zen pen students, it is considered a master piece by peers.

“To much water 7.9/10” – IGN
Another busy week has gone by for the Linchpins and plenty of work has been completed.

We’ve seen many examples of the way students can collaborate across advisories. **Rhiannon** and **Holly** (Zen Palace) have been working together on Biology coursework. **Zoe**, **Nikita** and **Anna** (from Advisory 1) have been collaborating on the History assessment task. **Lara**, **Mykeala** (Zen Palace), **Shayla** (Wolf Pack) and others have been busily completing their Community & Family Studies work.

**Brendt** has been impressed with how well we have been adopting our advisory’s motto: **Professional, Productive, Proactive**. We have reflected on ways we are fulfilling this motto and ways we can in the future.

We also learned a bit of philosophy this week when we watched a short video from the School Of Life.com on the philosopher Heidegger.

Our students had a wonderful time at our Gateway Celebration Evening last week and we are so proud of **Bianca** for all the organisation she did for the event.

Our year 9 students are busily completing their work and preparing portfolios and exhibition presentations - lots to do before Christmas. We will have certainly earned our break!
Beginning on the 8th December our campus will be running an Hour of Code.

The Hour of Code is the largest learning event in history and is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics.

Our school will be hosting an event site and students will be able to learn how to make a game, to learn Javascript and other programming languages using tutorials and game-based learning. Students wanting to get involved should put their name down with Brendt.

**Incredible stats from last year’s Hour of Code. In one week alone:**

- It was the fastest to reach 15 million users.
- 15 million students worldwide learned an Hour of Code.
- More girls tried computer science than in the last 70 years.
- Over 10 million girls in 2013

**The Hour of Code: 5 days**
“Computer science belongs in every public school, right next to biology, chemistry, or algebra.”

— Ashton Kutcher

“I always did something I was a little not ready to do. I think that’s how you grow.”

— Marissa Mayer, CEO, Yahoo!
SHOUT OUTS!

Shout Out to Bianca, Ros & Tracey for their organization of the Gateway Celebration
Shout Out to Aurelia’s Bio students for their resilience at the excursion to the Wetlands in very hot conditions.
Shout Out to Abby, Charley, Lara, Cheyenne, and Kirra for attending the Herald Newspaper Competition Awards.
Shout Out to Sasha for his birthday this week.