What our stars have been working on...

• **Learning Through Internship Investigations**
  Tayla M has already arranged her shadow day in Event Management. She has lined up a shadow day with the events co-ordinator at the Newcastle Council. Tayla is a rising star in our program. We are very proud of her drive, commitment and initiative to seek out new opportunities.

• **Newcastle University Distinguisher Courses For High Achievers**
  Several students took an interest pack for this exciting opportunity. The course runs for a semester and costs $400 through Merewether High School. With these students have full access to the Uni Library and the course counts towards credits at University. For this semester we have Isabelle and Jack participating.

• **TAFE Retail Certificate 2**
  WOW!!! We have had over 12 students express an interest in this course. We may have enough interest to run this course here at the Campus. For more info contact Arron.

• **TAFE Horticulture Certificate 2**
  This is another course also offered through Newcastle High. Students enrolled will attend NHS each Friday to complete this course. For more info, contact Arron.

• **Jacob’s pie eating win!!**
  On Saturday the 22nd of February, Jacob Bailey a year 10 student from Cooks Hill Campus, attended a pie eating competition at a local Maitland bakery. 13 pies and 5 minutes later Jacob came out the winner, earning himself the $200 prize.

...and for the record...

“There’s time enough, but none to spare.”

~ Charles Chesnutt

It has been an interesting experience watching our students begin to understand the full extent of the processes for the remainder of the term. The introduction to the Learning Plan and the Learning Cycle is beginning to change the landscape of the rooms as students begin to branch off and investigate areas of their interest. This is a very exciting time for advisors.

For them too, it has been a recalibration of the way that we ‘teach’. This has been an amazing journey as they ‘let go’ of conventional methods and begin to engage with the ‘whole child’.

I know that you have truly appreciated the work, dedication and care that your child has received. In this setting I too can work differently. I have spent time learning our kids: learning from them, with them, and for them. I am honoured by what they have shared with me. This exemplifies the alteration in the way they view school. Many are not used to the first question being ‘how can I help you?’ For some, school has not represented the kind of ‘help’ they need to be great learners.

Please make your first point of contact your child’s advisor. They are amazing teachers who continue to inspire me with their care, concern and love of their profession and the young people they are working with.
The Exhibition
This is a very important element of the design. Each student will exhibit their learning for the term. They will showcase their work and portfolio, speaking to their invited audience about themselves as learners.

Wolf Pack aka Advisory 3 with Lizzy
We’ve been revving up in anticipation for our Parent/Guardian meetings where we teach you about the program of Big Picture Education. Your children should be asking you what time is best suited; 8am to 9am or 3:30pm to 4:30pm. The ADVISORY 3 classroom decorating is already swiftly developing into a second home for the students and our newest member, Taylor. B has been welcomed. Our very own Jack has applied for the University Distinguisher course for 2D art and we wish him luck in his interview. Isabelle has been accepted into the University Distinguisher course for 2D art and we hope her first day goes well when the course begins. Tayla. M has now been accepted to a shadow day with Drew at Newcastle City Council for event management and we are all very proud of her. We know she’ll do great eventing. The classroom pick-me-up activity this week was Surfest which was attended by Paige, Justin, Dylan and Tayla and they all had a great time.

That’s ADVISORY 3 for the week. Wolf Pack out.

SASHA
For the past few weeks our Advisory has been waiting for some bean bags in the classroom to relax on. On Wednesday, Mackenzie brought these in for the class to use. It was the best day ever - a big thanks to Mackenzie and her family! This week we also received part 3 of our Who Am I project. It seems difficult but we are making steady progress. Frank the peace Lion Mascot, was moved outside into the hallway as he was getting too much sun. His only follower needed to be cut off. May it rest in peace.

Our focus for next week is to stay organised and keep finishing our work.

SASHA

AURELIA
Monday morning, to start the week off, we burnt our worries. One of the more interesting check-ins consisted of students writing down something that worried them (be it a personal or an environmental concern), reading it to the class, scrubbing up the paper and tossing it in the fireplace. Throughout the week, students have been working hard on finishing their oral histories as part of their “Who Am I?” projects. One particularly interesting interview that’s been contributed to the project, was done by Eimh, who interviewed a member of the well-known Australian band “art vs science”.

Overall students are working hard and all are working as a team.

BRENDT
Another busy week here at CHC. Most students have moved on from their Past Map and are busy working through their Future Map & Oral History. I’m encouraging students to compose their tasks in a variety of mediums from collages to prezis to webpages to video documentaries. As I tell our Advisory each week, Dream Big: Achieve Big. Imagine what you want to create and then get the skills to go about completing it. If you want to make a video documentary for your Oral History task then learn about how to use video creating software so that you can complete the video. That’s what I love about teaching in a Big Picture school, students can gain skills that they wouldn’t normally get in a school where the normal methods for assessment are paper-based, one-off tests, essays and exams. I’ve noticed the students that make up our Advisory begin to take on the responsibility of being self-directed learners: completing a project for a while and then working on Maths Online, later reading a book to wind down at the end of the day.

It really is “One student at a time”. I’ve been encouraging students to bring in a photo of themselves as toddlers for a writing activity that will be done soon, so I hope parents could check to see that this has been brought in that would be awesome.

I’ll also be organising our Parent Learning Group in the coming week, so keep an eye out for the email with details about this important event.

THE WEEK IN ADVISORY

This Week’s Inspiration Wall
Those who anger you, conquer you!
–ELIZABETH KENNY

She turned her can’ts into cans & her dreams into plans.
–RHIANNON

ICT TIPS FROM DARREN
Darren’s Technology Talk
This week we have opened the Cooks Hill Campus Moodle site. This is an ever-improving website used to share digital resources, tutorials and useful web links to students, staff and our immediate community. I would encourage all parents and caregivers to log into the site alongside their students regularly.

This week during my sessions with all students we have been discussing the implementation and importance of time and action plans (Gantt charts) with regard to ensuring all projects are well managed and adhering to time restraints.

A Gantt chart is an industry based tool which identifies in detail, all steps of a project that need to be completed and maps these against an appropriate time-frame to ensure on-time completion.

Could I ask all parents to log into Moodle with your students and look at their Gantt chart for the Oral History project. This is a great way to open conversations with students such as where they are up to with project, what they may need assistance with, what they are doing next week, etc. All students should have a Gantt chart for all projects.

Please make sure you check out Darren’s Technology Talk on the Cooks Hill Campus blog site.