What our stars have been working on...

**WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE**

The RFP’s (Aurelia’s advisory) are raising money for the Leukaemia foundation ‘World’s Greatest Shave.’ We will be collecting donations over the next week. If we raise $550.00, Abby McLeod will be shaving her head in Town Hall on Friday the 14th. Aurelia is going to shave half her head if we raise $1000.00. The receipt book has not arrived yet, but we can give receipts once it gets here. Please donate! Every donation is accepted and appreciated, no matter how big or small. On the day, you can have your hair coloured or your face painted for $5.00. COME ALONG AND BE BRAVE for those kids with cancer and their families.

**ART CLASSES**

Isabelle’s mum Jayne will begin some art classes this week.

**TAFE Retail Certificate 2**

The course has started!

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Most groups have now joined the city library and are free to borrow and research down there. Each class is learning research skills to help them through their next learning plan.

**FIRE STATION**

On Wednesday, February 12, 2014, the R.F.P’s, Aurelia’s Advisory, visited Cooks Hill Fire Station. We learnt about all of the different roles and duties involved in working with NSW Fire & Rescue Service. We were given tour of all of the different vehicles and what they were all used for. We each got a turn to use the fire hose, to crush and cut cans and go up on the Bronto, which can go up to 37 metres (that’s as high as a 13 story building!). At the end, we asked them questions about what it’s like to be a firefighter and how we could get involved. It was an exciting and intriguing experience. Thank you to all of the firefighters who were kind enough to take time out of their day to give us a tour and who risk their lives to saves others every day. We are incredibly grateful.

By Erin Moore

Students get “hands on” with the new video recording equipment.

**“The only thing you can’t do here... is nothing.”**

~Student Year 10

WOW! What a journey this week has been. Parent Learning Groups, American visitors, Brewarrina visitors, Sydney people... and how did our wonderful young people cope? Superbly!

It was a very big week for our new Campus. The initial comment from all the people around was that the place has an ‘amazing feel’. I certainly concur with this comment. The Campus is developing a real buzz. Students are beginning to be more assertive and ‘self-starting’ as they use the spaces of the school more effectively. I am seeing students in the technology space, working on maths on line, beginning their discussions around their history plans and working to complete the next step of the ‘Who Am I’ project.

Watching the students engage with our new video equipment was very exciting. Soon, we will release a video of the visit from Elliott Washor.

It was an honour to have Elliott join us and coach us around our achievements to date. His wealth of knowledge was well received from staff and students. On arrival, Rhiannon asked him: “so how are you?” He replied: ‘Better now that I am here!’ Her reply: ‘So are we!’ And we are very happy to have you all here.

Knowledge is power.

**TRACEY BREESE**
The Exhibitions

This is a very important element of the design. Each student will exhibit to a small panel of their choosing. These artifacts of their learning will remain with the Advisors as evidence for the Board of Studies. Students have the outline of the requirements and should be building their work from now until the exhibitions.

Wolf Pack
aka Advisory 3 with Lizzy

It’s already week 6 and Wolf Pack (Advisory 3) are progressing promptly into their ‘Who am I?’ projects, which are being exhibited in week 9. On that note, exhibition slots are disappearing quickly. The idea is to get first in the best dressed, if you wanted to get a later time – to get some last minute work – you need to get your time and attendee’s names to Lizzy fast. The Parent Learning Session was a successful hit that happened on Thursday this week. Many parents attended to learn more about their child’s learning plan and how they are developing at Big Picture, Cooks Hill.

This week we’ve had very special guests visit us, Elliot Washor and Viv White, to see how we are progressing, and how their projects are helping us, education wise. Paige Clayton and Tayla Mullen started the Retail course, along with many others in the school. Our very own Ally and Tom both received shadow days for their requested internship. Ally is going to go to the Adamstown Childcare services and Tom will be going to the Leading Edge Computers at Toronto. Jack had an interview with Stephen Grey for a shadow day at Liquid Architecture, good luck! For a pick-me-up, we travelled to the Newcastle Library to take a tour of the wonderful place. We saw the ‘She’ exhibition, which had taken place in the gallery upstairs. Well, that is our very exciting ADVISORY for week 6, Wolf Pack out. ‘makes howling noise’

The LINCHPINs (aka Advisory 2)

This week we delved into a building of knowledge: the library. We sifted through all kinds of books, including mystery, thrillers, fantasy, action and adventures. We also learned how we could view our family history and the history of Newcastle itself.

We have also been working hard on our projects throughout the day, and often cooling off in the afternoon with reading, board games or a quiet talk.

Friday saw us visit the nearby Newcastle Fire Station, where the friendly ‘D Crew’ showed us how all the equipment worked, even allowing us to hose down cars with the hoses. The guys were truly inspirational and gave us plenty of wise advice about caring for our neighbours & family, as well as sharing with us their passion for their job. They personified the saying “if you love your job, you’ll never work a day in your life.”

Our Parent Learning Group meeting will be held next Wednesday after school, where we’ll have a chance to teach our parents about what we do at CHC. That’s all for this week.

SASHA

In Sasha’s advisory, everyone is making a lot of progress with our ‘Who am I?’ projects. We are all getting settled with the different way of learning at Big Picture. This week, we had a visitor to our advisory. His name is Wayne and he’s from Brewarrina. We took Wayne to Newcastle beach on Wednesday afternoon, because he hadn’t been to the beach in five years. Wayne teaches at a central school of two hundred children. We learnt that Sasha used to teach with Wayne a long time ago. He has been helping us with our projects and creative writing in our classroom.

Elliot, the co-founder of Big Picture, and his wife flew over from America on the weekend to come and visit the school. They came to see how the school was going and how everyone was settling in. They both joined in with our town hall check in we do every Monday. Elliot visited every advisory for a certain amount of time.

Our advisory had a session working with Darren on filming and camera work. We learnt how to set up the cameras, tripods, boom microphones and the lights. Mackenzie, from our advisory, has done some brilliant acting for us to practice our recording skills.

By Daizee and Mackenzie

MATT

During this week in Matt’s Advisory class, we have started to produce more of our ‘Who am I?’ projects. Our projects are coming together amazingly. On Monday morning, our class had Anne. We are all very lucky as we are the only class to have her teach us each week. Anne had us write a short narrative, which was a good opportunity for us to improve our English skills.

On Tuesday, our class went down to the library. Where we borrowed books, were shown around and taught how things work.

On Wednesday, we went down to Newcastle High School to have our photos taken.

Also, this week we had Viv and Elliot come to our school and talk to us about what was happening in our school. They asked us to do a task in each Advisory class. The task was for us to work together to describe some of the challenges we have found in Big Picture and how Cooks Hill Campus is different from other schools.

This Week’s Inspiration Wall

The past is a ghost, the future a dream. All we ever have is now.

—Bill Cosby

Cooks Hill Student Interact

ICT TIPS FROM DARREN

This week we took delivery of the film and audio production equipment. This includes a high quality industry standard HD cameras, tripods, boom microphones, a professional 3-point Liniro lighting kit, along with digital audio recording interface and professional voice-over microphones. All students have had the opportunity to become familiar with this equipment through training sessions and the filming of documentary style interviews with our national and international guests.

It has been amazing to observe the engagement of so many students with this technology, as well as the speed at which they are picking up skills and knowledge of a complex industry. We aim to have the documentary completed and available for viewing on the school website within the next few weeks. Watch this space for more details.

Do not forget to ask your students what their current chart talk tells them they will be doing tomorrow.

Have a great week,

Darren Poxman,
Lead Advisor

Cooks Hill Student Interact


Parent and community quotes this week

The only thing you can’t do here... is nothing!

I am really enjoying this learning.

Can I buy you a coffee?

LTi’s Welcome Arron

There have been some great moments gathered this week at school when it comes to progress being made in finding our Internship paths and ways of connecting with the community. Keep up the great work.

Parents have been helping us with community connections and sustaining their children’s great work. I encourage any parent who has thought “ohh maybe so and so might be interested in hosting a student...?” to get in contact with me so we can take that idea and match a young person to it.