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COOKS HILL CAMPUS  http://www.cookshill-s.schools.nsw.edu.au
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

TERM 1 WEEK 7

Term 1 Exhibitions will be in weeks 9 & 10. Students and parents can find the link to the Exhibition Bookings on the Moodle forum on the main page.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

NO PRESSURE,
NO DIAMONDS.

- THOMAS CARLYLE
‘You can be anything you want to be. I started with an old guitar from a garage sale, lost at tonnes of Battle of the Bands, but kept getting better. You can be anything, if you want it enough.’

- Dave Grohl - Lead Singer The Foo Fighters @ANZ stadium 26th Feb 2015

It is Autumn. At staff check-in this week we spoke about what makes Autumn a special time of the year. We spoke together about the cool change, the shift in the colours on trees, the shedding of the leaves, crawling under the doona on cooler nights and the layers of fashion we get to re-invest in! It was lovely to sit and exchange small moments with each other. This is what advisory is all about. Small moments, and the shifting of the seasons for learning.

In this new season, we are shifting to the Exhibition. The focus of the campus shifts into a more upbeat mode as we watch the students begin to assess daily the work that has been achieved, and what is still left to do.

For our new students, this focus is new. For our pioneers, this focus is a refocus. Parents should look forward to witnessing their child’s journey and their growth as a learner in the coming weeks of the term. Brendt will be opening the parent booking sheet shortly for exhibitions.

I am hearing of some great work that our seniors are doing in preparation for their final year 11 exams. Many are learning that the 8 hours of work they need to complete in a week does really exist! I have heard the ‘would’ve, could’ve, should’ve’ statements too many times this week as students begin to see how time management and organisation is having a significant impact on the work they still have to complete by the end of the term. They will begin the HSC in Term 2 if they are in the compacted curriculum model. Students completing the Non-ATAR courses have settled in quite well to the rigour of the subjects and Matt and David are working to look at making this more project based and ‘Big Picture’-like in the senior years here at CHC.

Work is the focus here. Getting the best out of yourself and having guidance from your advisors is the key to being a success here at CHC. It is self-directed learning, it is 21st century learning, it is exciting learning. Our explorers who have taken to the design are off and running and our new rooms are buzzing with work that students are ploughing through. Some are still a little lost in their freedom to choose their pathway for work. This will settle as new opportunities for learning arise. The ‘Who am I’ project is taking shape with some fantastic ‘past maps’ popping up in advisories.

We are here to nurture you academically. You are here to nurture yourself and pursue your dreams. Be anything you want to be, but know you must chase it. We will help guide you, but you will do the chasing!

Like Dave Grohl says above, pursue your passion!

Tracey Breese
Campus Leader
From Darren’s Desk

BY WHAT YOU SAY AND WHAT YOU DO
YOU TEACH OTHERS HOW TO TREAT YOU

This saying has been my mantra for the past week in my conversations with students around the campus. I've watched as students new and old begin mingling in Advisories and it has been very pleasing to see the respect they have for each other once those initial barriers come down.

I've long been a believer that to get respect, you've first got to give respect. Seeing each other as human beings first and foremost is a helpful way to begin any new contact with another person. No matter how different we may be from each other, we are beings who belong to one race - the human race. If we ensure that we approach others with respect and recognise them for the unique person that they are, then we are teaching them to treat us with respect in return.

Conversely, if we act disrespectfully or negatively towards someone, or have a tone of voice that conveys this, then we can expect to be treated disrespectfully in return. If we want others to trust us, we must mindfully act in ways that teach them to trust us.

So as you go about your day, think about how to ensure that what you say and do is setting you up for a better future. It has been said that if you want to understand why your life is the way it is now, look at your actions in the past. If you want to see your future, look at your present actions.

**Exhibitions & Exams**

As the term draws to a close, students in Stage 5 are busily completing their projects, ready to be presented in their portfolios and at their exhibitions. As an advisor, there is no better feeling than seeing one of your students stand up and present what they have learned to their family and friends. Once you have experienced this element of the Big Picture design, mainstream assessments like test, essays, and the like really don't cut it any more. I look forward to sitting in on some exhibitions and hearing parents' reactions to the awesome work their child has completed. I will be visiting advisories soon to discuss and demonstrates what quality exhibitions look like.

Stage 6 ATAR students will be having their yearly exams in Week 10 and will need to ensure they work hard to be as prepared for these as possible. We've decided to hold exams so that these students are better prepared for the real HSC exams in Term 4. Non-ATAR students are completing their first Preliminary assessment tasks which are due towards the end of the term.

Parents, please discuss with your child how they are progressing and please don't hesitate to contact their advisor if you have any concerns. Have a good weekend.

Brendt Evenden - Deputy Campus Leader (Relieving)
LTI NEWS

Well, week 6 in first term already! It has been lovely hearing the stories from the students’ LTI placements. After meeting with Alex and discussing how all students are progressing, we are both impressed with the level of motivation of students to get out and about in the community discovering more about their interest areas. Students are showing that they are willing to jump in and seek new opportunities, learn new skills and are building their confidence along the way. Fantastic to see!

BUSINESS CARDS

This week in LTI advisory students are designing and printing their own business cards. The card will be used as part of the Emergency requirements of work placement. Students are given a Big Picture lanyard to keep their business card and take it with them to their LTI placement.

TIME SHEETS

To keep track of students’ attendance at LTI placements, students are expected to fill out their timesheet each week. When students go out on their LTI placement students take with them a timesheet for their mentor to sign, which they should show their advisor the following day. The advisor will change the attendance roll for the previous day.

PARENT CONTACT

A great way for me to keep parents updated with what’s happening in LTI world at CHC is for me to email to parents. Could parents provide me with a current email address that they prefer me to use I can keep in contact and send information regarding LTI and Careers news. If anyone would prefer their email to be sent separate (or blind copy) rather than group email, please let me know.

My email is amanda.hine3@det.nsw.edu.au

AMANDA

TAX FILE NUMBERS NEW PROCESS

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015?

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN. Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at www.ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC22604’.

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at www.ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC22604’.
TGIF Advisory 1 Report

By Patrick Gallagher

For our Advisory, the past two weeks have been very productive and eventful. Last week, we had a very special visitor. One of our Students, Kaiden, brought in her furry little friend - Bob the Cat! We adore Bob, and we always look forward to his visits (especially Nikki & Sommer).

During last week, we had our first visit to the Science Labs at Newcastle High. During our visit, we learnt how to use a microscope, and looked at our own hair and numerous animal slides. Being in a mainstream school brought back loads of old memories, some nice, and some that we’d rather forget. It was especially amusing to see our reactions to the intercom that constantly interrupted our lesson. We thank the fabulous Aurelia, Kerrie and Marissa for accompanying us during our visits.

On an LTI note, it’s amazing to see the majority of our Advisory out on an internship. To get a feel of the amount of people out on an LTI, I’ve listed them and their chosen LTI.

Jed- Cardiff Early Childcare Centre
Finn- Bell Bird Automotive (Block of 1 Week)
Baylee- Riding Equestrian Club
Lilly- Swansea Public School (library)
Kaiden- Fletcher Vet
Mia - Private Producing
Sommer - Muso’s Comer

By Patrick Gallagher
It’s already week 6 and our advisory is kicking into their projects. We have multiple students in our advisory going out to an internship. Shout out to Cy for getting an internship with Nathaniel, a local builder.

Bailey also started organising an overseas volunteer trip to Cambodia this week sending out emails and enquires.

Phoebe made alien reproductive system to get a laugh out of our class when it was needed.

On Thursday our advisory and Nikki’s went down to the science labs at Newcastle High and looked at some cells through a microscope and Jake got an amazing shot.

When 2 girls in our class were away, last week our advisory went down to ALDI and bought some flowers for the girls. Cy and Tully also made a poster for each of their names and our class signed them.

By Eboni Sinclair

Flowers for Bailey and Bec

This Week’s Science with Phoebe

Plant Cell by Jake Keelan
Katie's Art Commissions

Wanting to get some cheap art done, going no higher than $15? Then come over to Nikki's advisory and ask for Katie! Willing to draw almost anything you request, you'll get quality digital art for a small amount.

Single characters go from $3 to $9 (colour/no colour)
Two characters go from $5- $15 (colour/no colour)
Bookmarks go from $2- $6 (colour/no colour)

NOTE: All art will be A4 sized (excluding bookmarks) and will be laminated.

$8-$12
Two people, full colour

$4-$8
One character, coloured

$5-$6
One character, no colour

$4-$7
Full body bookmark, colour/no colour
This week in Sasha’s Advisory we have been: checking-in, working and have even found time for a game of Uno. This is a fabulous Advisory with infinite possibilities and all the people in this room are really getting along well. The Advisory is looking great with the many tables and walls being decorated with an assortment of creative things. We are currently leading (narrowly) in the sports rankings as we play well together and show good sportsmanship with other teams. Yet we still have not decided on a name for our Advisory; however we feel as a collective to be up for this challenge. Possible names so far include: The Sash Cave, Sasha and the slashas, Sasha’s super wacky fun time inflatable Advisory, The Armoury, The Misfits, The Last Melon and finally the zajstapshagkklich’s (all our initials combined).

We are preparing to have all our work finished by week 8 for mini-exhibitions. For people who don’t already know, a mini-exhibition is a presentation we do of our terms work in groups that will help us for the real thing in week 9 and 10. By the way, you can now book for exhibitions online via Moodle.

Written by Chelsea Whitney and Peter Atley

Artwork by Peter Atley
The 2015 Hunter Youth Mentor Collaborative Educational Scholarship Award Presentation was held on Tuesday 24th February at the Newcastle Jockey Club.

This year Charley Scott was one of 20 students from the Hunter to receive an award. The HYMC supports students by giving scholarships to local students to help with educational expenses. Scholarship funding is to assist students paying for basic educational needs such as school excursions, internet access, computers, school uniforms, and study materials.

Charley applied for the scholarship last year and demonstrated to the HYMC panel a strong commitment to education and in particular to achieving her personal educational goals for 2015.

Congratulations Charley! Aurelia, Shauna (Charley’s mum) and I had a proud moment seeing you presented with the award.

I will be more than happy to help students through the process of applying for an educational scholarship. More details later in the year.

Amanda
HYMC Scholarship Winner continued.

What I, Aurelia, learnt at Charley’s presentation day

1. **Mr Michael Slater** (Chairman, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation) shared that employers are looking for academic ability, character that includes determination and strong personal qualities. I am so humbled that at CHC we spend equal amounts of time on all these: a great way to prepare our students for the future. He also believes that philanthropy is an obligation of big business to support the community, especially the youth.

2. **Prof Trevor Waring AM** (HYMC Patron) shared the biggest turning points in his life. He quit school early and became a ‘lolly pop’ man, stop and go at road works, got married and had his first child. Turning point: decided to study at night to finish schooling at TAFE, and then proceeded to get better jobs to support his family. This allowed him to enjoy his work and to even have resources to develop his hobby with silversmithing. As he said, "PURE SILVER is not PURE, its 8% copper. Some youth are not born with a silver spoon in their mouths. These scholarships and partnerships provide GOLDEN (pure) opportunities for youth to open up the world for themselves."

3. **Arleen** received her scholarship last year when completing Year 12. Her story was inspirational, moving from Mexico to here, learning a new language and culture, supporting her mother and younger siblings. Arleen shared how much she values education as "Not everyone is fortunate enough in the world to attend school. Most in Mexico do not get the opportunity". To continue her education Arlene worked 2 part time jobs, but when Year 12 hit, she knew she couldn’t do all this, so she applied for a scholarship. "HYMC gave me the support and direction that I needed. I am empowered. I wanted an ATAR of 90 and got 89.17 and a university placement in a Bachelor of Communications". Arleen also announced that she is taking a gap year to work and save money. I loved the way she asked the key community leaders present that she would love to work for them this year. What an inspiration and very brave.

For me it is days like this when you are reminded that there is a community out there who are genuinely supportive of our youth and their future endeavours. Thanks HYMC and all their supporters for a great presentation ceremony.

Aurelia
Lovely ladies and gents who are
Individual people with
No negatives within the classroom. We are
Crazy & creative in our own ways and are brutally
Honest with each other & how we feel. We send
Positive vibes through the classroom. We are
Intelligent in our special ways. We can be
Noisy but we are still nice and
Supportive of each other.
It is now week 6 in the Wolf Pack and everybody is busy with their assignments for Visual Arts, English, CAFS, TAFE and Biology.

We would like to welcome Rachel in to our wonderful Wolf Pack and we hope for the best for her this year in her studies.

This week was Riley’s birthday and he brought in lamingtons for everyone to share. HAPPY BIRTHDAY! We hope you had a wonderful day.

On Friday 6/3/15 students are going to the Newcastle Show. It should be a fantastic time and the weather should be fine. Already a better start to last year’s visit.

Thanks to Lizzy for shouting everyone a Maccas run for a Pick-Me-Up….we needed that break for a waffle cone or frozen coke.

Scarlet Wolf - S. Wolf
Congratulations to everyone these past weeks, for putting in a tremendous effort in all of their PIPs, LTIs and Year 11 subjects. As an Advisory we have been trying to come up with a new name, and after a week and a half of decision making we eventually stuck with the RFPs.

Last week our very own Charley was lucky enough to receive a scholarship from the people at The Hunter Youth Mentor Collaborative (HYMC). HYMC provide annual education scholarships to support students nominated. Their scholarships range in value to a maximum of $3,000. Charley received a call from HYMC to announce that out of 50 students who applied she will be receiving a scholarship worth $1,000. Already Charley has bought a brand new tablet computer that she uses every day in her learning at school.

Congratulations Charley!

During the recent Christmas Holidays Tiana has landed herself a job at The Shark and Ray Centre at Bob’s Farm. This experience has helped Tiana in many ways including learning about shark breeds, giving talks on the sharks that are at the Shark and Ray Centre and letting people know that sharks are not to be feared. Already she has been able to swim with the sharks and rays and have extra privileges including going behind the scenes at the centre. As well as getting a job, Tiana has been continuing her Internship at Oakvale Farm at Salt Ash.

“My favourite things to do is hold the koalas, feed them and see the goats give birth,” Tiana said. Tiana was drawn to Oakvale rather than a normal zoo because the animals are not kept in cages, they are free to move and run. She also loves that Oakvale is very hands on. Well done to Tiana!

Already this term Bethany from the RFPs has completed 2 shadow days at ICE Clothing and Factorie, both at Westfield Shopping Centre in Kotara. Bethany has an interest in clothing, fashion and cosmetics. Bethany has organised with Alex and Aurelia to visit both shops over 2 weeks and interview the managers, asking them questions about their jobs. Bethany has done amazing work already as a new student in our school and we wish her all the best with hopefully succeeding in getting an internship.

On Tuesday 3rd of March both Cassidy and Mackenzie went to Wirpaang Public School in Gateshead. Lee Sorens, the Principal of the school, invited them to come in and learn about what her 5/6 classes have been doing as a part of their learning. Since Term 3 last year, Lee has introduced what she calls ‘Little Picture’ (in contrast to Big Picture) to her students.

To start off with each ‘Little Picture’ class (which is made up of Year 3- Year 6 students) study a topic, and this term they are studying Australian History. The class that Mackenzie is working in, each student is learning by themselves by researching on the internet their specific topic under Australian History. This term, each student is learning about the Gold Rush. They are learning about the mines that the men worked in, how they were built and how they travelled in them. From that information they are going to produce their own mine shafts on the game ‘Minecraft’.

Both Cassidy and Mackenzie learnt a lot about their program, and they will be continuing there for the
rest of the term. They have also explained to the kids about their own PIPs and all about Cooks Hill Campus.

Good job Mackenzie and Cassidy, keep up the good work!

Tiana and Rhiannon - Biology

Yesterday on the 3rd of March, we ‘dug up’ some bones of an Archaeopteryx. We put all of the bones together to make a skeletal frame. We discovered that it had wings, long legs and sharp teeth. It was roughly the same size of an eagle. We had an awesome session being palaeontologists.

Mackenzie Pearce and Caitlyn Bortoli-Frerk
This week in The Zen Pen ...

**Claudia Moxey (Aged Care)**

On Thursday I enjoyed my LTI because it was the best day ever. I did painting with the elderly and got to spend time with them. I really enjoy my LTI and would like to pursue a traineeship in this field of work.

**Sam Lynch (Outback Jacks)**

On Tuesday I went to my LTI at Outback Jacks. I prepared meals in the kitchen and helped serve customers.

**Samuel Jarman (Greens keeping NPC)**

On Thursday I worked at the Newcastle Croquet Club, where I continued work on the garden fence. Afterwards I helped tend the lawn, before taking a break. The rest of the day I helped mark the field, and then undid knots in a 40ft extension cord.

**Georgia Eves (Cooranbong P.S)**

Three weeks I have been dance teaching at Cooranbong P.S I have two groups they are K-2 and 3-6 working on a 4 minute routine with each group.
**From Dave’s Shed**

**Sport:**

Congratulations to **Kyle** for his efforts at Zone Swimming Carnival which held at Stockton pool. It was a brave effort to be the only student from CHC to attend.

Weekly sport continues each Friday and we now have **Yoga** and **Theater Sports** running each week. In addition during the past two weeks students have also had the option to participate in dodge ball and volleyball (down at the beach).

Great work by **Nikki’s Advisory** who is back on top of the Cooks Cup sports point score after **Sasha’s Advisory** led for a week. Points are awarded for attendance, participation and bonus points are awarded each week for those students who go above and beyond.

Points table for the “Cooks Cup”

<table>
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<th>Advisory</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Nikki’s</td>
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<td>Ohana</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linch-pins</td>
<td>539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sasha’s</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Car park landscaping:**

Last Tuesday a group of stage 6 students removed at least a tonne of soil and many large tree roots to create a nice flat area for cars to park on and in the process, they removed an ugly garden area. Thank you to **Connor, Samuel, Justin, Scott, Alex, Jack** and our workplace supervisor, **Claudia**, for the hours of tireless work.

**Happy Birthday Courtney**

I was lucky enough to be part of the Zen Pen on the morning of **Courtney’s birthday**. The highlight was the beautiful cake made by **Chelsea** and the Zen Pen’s rendition of the birthday song.

Well done to all the **Work Studies** students who have gained a LTI and are out working one day per week. This valuable experience will serve you well in your years ahead.
Writing Competition

What Matters? Competition 2015

- The Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney is again running the popular What Matters? writing competition for 2015.

The annual competition asks young people in Years 5 to 12 across NSW and the ACT to write 400 – 600 words about what matters to them.

STUDENT PRIZES
- $350 for each category winner and $200 for each category runner-up. Winners and runners-up will receive their prize at an awards ceremony, following their participation in a Young Writers Forum in late 2015 at the University of Western Sydney’s Parramatta campus. Finalists’ entries will be published.
- The Years 5/6 and 7/8 category winners will each receive a full-day creative writing workshop donated by The Writing Workshop.
- The Year 9/10 category winner will be invited to spend a day at ReachOut.com, meeting the team and receiving professional training. They will also be offered the opportunity to be paid $200 to produce a feature article for the ReachOut.com website.
- The Year 11/12 Winner will receive a 1 Year Membership to the NSW Writers’ Centre, and the opportunity to participate in a writing workshop* donated by the NSW Writers’ Centre.

Every entrant will receive a certificate of participation. For entry forms and more information please visit www.whitlam.org/whatmatters or call 9685 9210.

Closing Date: 6 May 2015

*Further information about this prize is available at www.whitlam.org/whatmatters

The 2015 What Matters? competition is supported by the Museum of Australian Democracy, the NSW Writers’ Centre, The Writing Workshop and ReachOut.com.
The Principal,
Big Picture School,
Cnr Union and Laman Street,
Cooks Hill, 2300

Dear Ms Breese,

We wish to commend the behavior and attitude of the students we met on Monday 16th February, 2015 at your school. As foster parents we were present at the request of Phelissitie Milgate to be interviewed by students who are interested in child care/fostering.

We were greeted at reception by Keeley R and Emily C who showed a very mature welcoming attitude and escorted us to the classroom.

We were then interviewed by Bailey (of Marissa’s advisory) who displayed an outstanding maturity with her questions and a significant understanding of the concepts involved.

Following the interview students Riley D, Riley O, Jade N and Keeley R (of Brendt’s advisory) showed interest in the foster baby in our care and asked interesting and relevant questions.

We were impressed by the maturity of all the girls involved, and we were pleased to be able to be involved.

Yours

Cathy & Les Milgate

22nd February, 2015
SHOUT OUTS!

SHOUT OUT to **Scott Triston & Jack Foster** for being awesome at MCing Town Hall.

SHOUT OUT to **Ros** for coming back to us & to **Edwina** and **Lauren** who help out in the office each week.

SHOUT OUT to **Kerrie** for being there to help our students when they need it.

SHOUT OUT to **Anne** for helping our students with their literacy.