Debating Success

10 Students from Years 8, 9 and 10 travelled to Leeton High recently to participate in the Regional semi-finals of the Premier’s Debating Challenge and a selection of workshops. Following some inspiring workshops conducted by the debating flying squad from Sydney consisting of Tony, Pat and Will, the Year 10 team prepared for their semi-finals. Students are given a topic and only 1 hour to prepare 6-8min speeches. Aritoula Raptis, Jessie Abnett, Teegan George and Katia Manton put up a tough fight against Murray High School as they debated that songs with violent lyrics should be banned. The team showed spectacular skill and the adjudicator believed that the debate was what he would see at state or national level, so was very impressed. Unfortunately, Murray won the very close debate, however the level in which MHS debated is to be applauded.

Students celebrated their defeat with dinner at an Italian restaurant followed by the production of a scary movie. The following morning students woke up and participated in an early morning workout around town, before heading back to the school for more workshops. Students participated in debates themselves before watching the Regional Finals with Murray versus Leeton. Murray won the debate on whether or not the legal drinking age should be raised to 21. At the conclusion of the debate a selected Riverina regional team was announced and Aritoula was fortunate to gain a place on the team that will debate other regions in December. All our debaters are also congratulated on their participation and debating skills over the two days.

Overall it was an exceptional excursion with students learning a lot and having a fun time. Special thanks to Mrs Manton, Mrs Knight-Gregson and Miss Luke who accompanied the teams to Leeton.

Year 8 - Emma Manwaring, Sharni Manton, Libby Foster
Year 9 - Sam Cross, Ellie Raptis, Chloe Hargraves
Year 10- Aritoula Raptis, Jessie Abnett, Teegan George, Katia Manton
Year 7 and 8 visit Questacon

Year 7 and 8 students recently enjoyed an excursion to Questacon in Canberra. They participated in many hands on activities including an earthquake simulation. The students were very enthusiastic and enjoyed the exhibits on show. Thank you to staff for providing students with this opportunity.

Principal’s Report

School Planning
As part of our school planning process for the 2015-2017 School Plan we are consulting all members of the school community on what works well and areas we can improve on in all aspects of our school life – with a particular focus on teaching and learning.

Staff members have been working on this for some time, and students across the school were surveyed this morning. This copy of the Mercury is being mailed to you and you will find enclosed a three page survey for parents to fill out. Please return these surveys to the school by Friday 5th September.

School Development Day
Parents would be aware that the school staff is given two School Development Days at the end of term 4 each year. Schools can make arrangements to undertake this development at alternate times.

With the pressures of School Planning we have decided to run two afternoons after school, from 3.30pm – 6.30pm in lieu of the second development day on the last day of school. The primary focus of these sessions will be the 2015-2017 School Plan. The two afternoons set aside for this development are Tuesday 14th October and Tuesday 28th October. Any parent wishing to attend one or all sessions on these days is more than welcome. I will publish the agendas for these days as the time draws nearer.

Higher School Certificate
The Trial HSC Examinations have been completed and our Year 12 students should be firmly establishing their study routines leading up to the exams. Student Industrial Technology–Wood and Visual Art major works have been completed with the Industrial Technology works being marked by HSC examiners today.

Our Drama students will be having their practical performances marked this Thursday.

We wish our Year 12 students well as the HSC examining processes get under way.

School Trees
As part of the state-wide inspection, by arborists, of trees in schools, eighteen trees at Murrumburrah High School have been identified as needing to be removed within the next 12 months. None of the trees are in the “urgent” category, however, the work will be undertaken as soon as is practicable. I am currently negotiating with the DEC as to who will bear the costs of having this work undertaken.

Environmental Block
Work is progressing on our School Environmental block with the supply of water and electricity to the block. A tank is being installed and the aquaponics site is being completed. (See pictures further on).

Year 7 Science students have begun planning a “native garden” which will be established in the near future.

Hall Mural
Our hall mural is also near completion (see picture further on). Once again our Art students have created a visually pleasing piece of art that the whole community can appreciate. Well done to all those involved in the project.

Neil Solomon
Principal
P&C NEWS
General Meeting
The next P&C General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 September in the staff common room commencing at 6.00pm. Please come along and support our school parent body. All welcome.

What’s Happening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Years/Classes</th>
<th>Activity Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Notes/Money Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harden Show</td>
<td>Selected students</td>
<td>Friday 5 September</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>Year 9/10</td>
<td>Wednesday 10 Sept</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSC Drama Performance Exam Audience</td>
<td>Selected students</td>
<td>Thursday 28 August</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>15 August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAT’S NEW AND WHAT’S DUE .........................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year and Subject</th>
<th>Task / Project / Homework</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 English</td>
<td>Assessment Task</td>
<td>Friday 5 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 History</td>
<td>Assessment Task</td>
<td>Friday 12 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 English</td>
<td>Assessment Task</td>
<td>Friday 29 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 History</td>
<td>Visual Presentation of Vietnam War Conflict</td>
<td>Wednesday 10 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 Maths</td>
<td>Practical Assessment Task</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11 Ancient History</td>
<td>Assessment Task #3</td>
<td>Thursday 28 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 Drama</td>
<td>Monologue/Essay/Logbook</td>
<td>Thursday 28 August/ Friday 29 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12 Drama</td>
<td>HSC Performance</td>
<td>Thursday 28 August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Hall Mural created by students
Boots for Kids

‘Boots for Kids’ is a campaign run in partnership by Coles and Linfox, asking for the donation of unwanted soccer/football boots. Donated boots are cleaned up and paired with some socks, and then trucked to the communities in need. For children in isolated and remote areas, football is often the only organised sport. Your donation of boots will allow these children to participate.

A crate for donations will be at the Harden Soccer Club this Saturday 30 August. Please dig out any unwanted boots at home and donate to this campaign.

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