

Pendle Hill High School



Newsletter

2008

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TERM 1 - BULLETIN NO. 2

KEY DATES

February

25 P & C Meeting 7pm

March

3 Swipe Card Photos
10 Open Day
12 Sydney West Swimming Carnival
13 School Photos
19 Parent/Teacher evening
21-24 Easter Public Holiday
31 P & C Meeting 7pm

Yr 12 exams Weeks 10 and 11

April

2, 4 & 5 CHS Swimming

Our Students Our School

At Pendle Hill High School we are serious about providing every student with a quality education together with the opportunity to achieve at their personal best . . . and our steadily rising enrolments confirm that our achievements are increasingly valued by our community. As a result of our growth in enrolments, we expect to receive additional staffing for the balance of the school year.

Assessment activities have now begun in most courses and we have included in this newsletter information about penalties which apply to the late submission of work, together with information about the Board of Studies Special Provisions Program for the School Certificate and HSC.

Information from a range of diagnostic and classwork activities will be used to make some adjustments to class groupings over the next few weeks, especially in Year 7, now that we know how our students are settling into the new school year.

The Year 7 Peer Support program is well established, thanks to the dedicated support of our student Peer Support Leaders and the co-ordination of Mrs Verma. We hope to hold a special "finale" activity day at the end of the program.

The PDHPE staff ran a very successful competitors only swimming trials last Tuesday. The changed format reflects the current nature of our school community, with a declining interest in water sports and a greater interest in athletics.

Interested students were able to view the National Apology by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. This apology acknowledged the profound wrong done to Aboriginal children, families and communities by governments removing children from their families on the basis of race.

It was pleasing that students of different ages and from many different cultures chose to view the historic live telecast.

Thank you to the many parents who have contacted the school to compliment us on the high standard of school uniform. Our students really are looking their best! A high standard of personal presentation is an important skill for our students to learn . . . and is expected by our community.

Judy Sims
Principal

The next newsletter will be distributed to students on 7 March 2008

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photos will be taken on Thursday 13 March.

Information letters and packages will be distributed soon.

Reminder:

Necklaces and earrings are not to be worn for the photographs as they distort the quality of the finished photo.

VALUES FORUM

Please join us for our first P & C Meeting for 2008.

The meeting will be held in A1 from 7 to 8.30pm.

The meeting will include a Values Forum on the school's Positive Behaviour for Learning Program.

Need Extra Help for the School Certificate Tests and HSC Examinations?

If you have a special examination need — whether it is related to a physical condition, visual impairment, hearing loss or trouble expressing your ideas in writing - the Board of Studies has special support available. Support could include special coloured exam paper, large print, extra time to rest or the use of a writer or reader.

An application form called the Special Examination Provisions Application must be completed and sent to the Board of Studies. Evidence such as medical documentation, timed essay samples or reading test results must be provided, as well as information on how your special need affects your work in the classroom and in examinations.

A decision about your eligibility for special provisions will be made by the Board of Studies, not by the school.

Please contact Ms Wilson, Support Teacher Learning, for further information and an application form.

Applications close on Friday 11 April 2008

Penalties for the Late Submission of Work

Assessment booklets for students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are about to be issued. Year 12 students received their booklets at the beginning of Term 4 last year.

In all cases, work **MUST** be handed in by the due date or a penalty will apply.

For students in Years 11 and 12, the penalty is 40% for the first calendar day and 20% for each calendar day thereafter. The penalty includes weekends and public holidays.

For students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, a penalty will also apply to the late submission of assignment and assessment work. The penalty for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 is 20% for each calendar day late including weekends and public holidays.

Where a teacher is absent and an assignment or assessment is due to be handed in, the work should be handed in to the Head Teacher for that subject.

A medical certificate will be needed in the event of absence or failure to submit an assignment / assessment task or sit for a test / examination on the required date.

Why the penalties ? In order to be fair to all students, especially those who get their work done and handed in on time! Both the School Certificate and HSC have rules about the satisfactory completion of work and sitting for examinations on the required date.



AUSTRALIAN ARMY CADETS

203 Army Cadet, Lancer Barracks - Cumberland

An information evening for students wishing to join the Australian Army Cadets and their parents/carers will be held on Friday 14 March 2008 at Lancer Barracks, Parramatta. To be eligible to join, prospective recruits must:

- ◆ be a resident of Australia
- ◆ be a male or female aged at least 12 ½ years (as at March 2008)
- ◆ provide a statement from your family or medical practitioner (a form will be provided at the information night)
- ◆ not be a member of any other Cadet Corps (namely the Australian Navy or Australian Air Force Cadets)

Interested parents are asked to contact Lieutenant David Field on 8729 7576 to notify him of your attendance.

If you wish to learn more about the Australian Army Cadets visit www.aac.adfc.gov.au.

ADVANCE NOTICE
PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS SURVEY 2008

The Priority Schools Program provides funding to assist school communities to improve the learning outcomes of students, with particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills.

The Priority Schools Program aims to:

- **improve the quality of teaching and learning**
- **improve the literacy and numeracy achievements of all students**
- **ensure all students achieve the syllabus standards for their stage of schooling**
- **increase the level of student participation, engagement and retention**
- **raise the expectations of students, teachers, school executive, parents and caregivers**
- **enhance partnerships between schools, parents and caregivers and community agencies**
- **increase the effectiveness of classroom and school organisation**
- **develop and sustain a positive and inclusive school culture.**

In other words, the program matches our own targets for school improvement and focuses on the things we believe to be critical in ensuring that every student achieves at their personal best.

A successful Priority Schools Programs application would give Pendle Hill High School:

- **extra funding to support literacy and numeracy**
- **additional staffing**
- **access to specialist consultancy support**
- **support in forming local planning and evaluation networks, and**
- **access to Priority Schools Program materials; including classroom, teacher and community resources.**

In order to be considered for the Priority Schools Programs funding for 2009 to 2012 we need to get every family in Years 7, 8 and 9 to complete an official, confidential, Department of Education and Training Survey. The surveys must be completed in the week of 3 March and be returned to the school by 7 March in a sealed envelope. No one at the school will be able to read the response of any family.

The one page survey is easy to fill in - all you have to do is answer 8 questions by colouring in the best answer for you for each question! The survey should be filled in using a dark lead pencil.

We need at least an 90% survey return rate to be considered for this program.

By working together, we can ensure that students at Pendle Hill High school receive even better learning opportunities and resources!

IMPORTANT NOTICES

ID SWIPE CARD PHOTOGRAPHS MONDAY 3 MARCH 2008

ALL YEAR 7, YEAR 9 AND YEAR 11 STUDENTS; ALL NEW STUDENTS AND ANY STUDENT FROM OTHER YEARS WISHING TO UPDATE THEIR PHOTO ID.

Id Swipe Card photographs will be taken on Monday 3 March.

Students need to pay \$5.00 at the accounts office by Friday 29 February.

The cards will take approximately 2-3 weeks to be produced and issued.

Please note: All students in Years 9 and 11 must update their photo ID for use at the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate exams next year.

SYDNEY WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE ADOLESCENT SCHOOL-BASED VACCINATION PROGRAM 2008

Each year NSW Health provides a free vaccination service to high school students.

In 2008 all Year 7 students will be offered vaccinations to protect against

- ◆ Hepatitis B
- ◆ Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- ◆ Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - female students only

Female students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will also be offered the HPV vaccination. This vaccine provides protection against two types of the human papillomavirus, responsible for causing up to 80% of cervical cancers in women.

The vaccines will be administered over 3 dates:

Thursday	5 June	HPV - Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 girls only Hepatitis B - All Year 7 students
Thursday	24 July	HPV - Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 girls only Varicella - All Year 7 students
Thursday	6 November	HPV - Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 girls only Hepatitis B Dose 2 - All Year 7 students

Each family will receive a Parent Information Kit prior to the vaccinations. The kit will contain

- ◆ a consent form for parents/guardians to sign and return to the school
- ◆ a Question and Answer sheet

A record of Vaccination will be given to each student at the time of each vaccination. This record may be needed for future employment or tertiary study.

Only students who have returned a signed consent form will be vaccinated.

PARENT TEACHER/MEETING

Our first Parent/Teacher Meeting for 2008 will be held between 3.30 and 6.30pm on Wednesday 19 March for all students from Year 7 to Year 12. Please put this date in your diary now - early feedback about student progress is essential for successful student learning! Appointment sheets will be posted to you in the next few days.

What are Subject and School Fees?

- ◆ **A Subject Fee** is charged for the study of practical subjects. This **compulsory** fee covers the cost of materials necessary for the completion of that course eg paints and clay in Visual Arts; food items in Food Technology; timber and building materials in Industrial Technology. The amount of the Subject Fee varies according to the requirements of each subject.
- ◆ **A Technology Fee** of \$15 is payable by **all students** to cover the cost of computer requirements and computer software. All students are required to develop information and computer technology skills as part of Board of Studies syllabus requirements in all subjects.
- ◆ Students in Year 11 pay a \$100 **Textbook Deposit**. This deposit is refunded in full at the end of Year 12, provided all textbooks issued are returned in good condition. Alternatively, students may choose to purchase their own textbooks for each course and could expect to pay between \$40 and \$80 per textbook from a bookshop.
- ◆ On enrolment all students pay a fee of \$5 to cover the cost of the **plastic photo-identity swipe card** which is used to monitor and track student attendance. The card is also used as the student's Library borrowing card and is able to be used as a proof of age card outside the school. The card must be updated in both Year 9 and Year 11 in order to be able to be used as proof of identity at the School Certificate and HSC external examinations.
- ◆ Pendle Hill High School receives basic funding from the State government to cover the cost of items such as salaries, maintenance and capital works.

With the agreement of this school's community, we also seek to raise additional funds to supplement our educational resources and programs to better provide for our students.

This is done through the **School Contribution**. This voluntary contribution is set at \$60 for Years 7 to 10 and \$68 for Years 11 and 12. Money raised through the School Contribution is used to provide items such as additional library books, playground seating and shade areas for our students.

Sports Fees

- ◆ Students are able to select from a range of school, recreational and grade sporting activities.
- ◆ Where students choose to participate in a sports activity which requires payment of a bus fare and/or a venue entry fee, that fee must be paid each week. No credit is able to be extended to these students.
- ◆ **A Sports Bus Pass costing \$24 can be purchased from the accounts office or payment of \$4 each week is required before travelling on a sports bus.**

How Are School Fees Able To Be Paid?

- ◆ Fees may be paid at the school Accounts Office each day.
- ◆ Fees can be paid by cash, cheque or credit card – Visa, Bankcard and Mastercard **ONLY**.
- ◆ Fees may be paid in whole or by instalments eg weekly or by term. Invoices will be posted home.
- ◆ A Student Assistance Scheme operates to support families in need. Proof of need will be required. Confidentiality and discretion are applied to such requests.

You will soon receive an invoice setting out the 2008 Subject and Schools Fees for your child.

Prompt payment of all relevant fees at the beginning of each school year is appreciated so that we can provide all services and facilities to our students throughout the year.

PENDLE HILL HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

MONDAY 10 MARCH, 2008 4 - 6 pm

Come and see why we are so proud of our students, our programs and our school!

- ◆ Hear about our outstanding HSC results - top UAI 96.8 in 2007
- ◆ Information on curriculum, uniform, student welfare and special programs
- ◆ Find out about our Positive Behaviour for Learning Program
- ◆ Meet students, parents and staff and see our classrooms and grounds
- ◆ See our school in action
- ◆ Check out our school on DVD

Entry via Cornock Avenue, Toongabbie

Enrolment Enquiries 9631 9651

STUDENT REPORTS - A REMINDER

As part of the comprehensive reports of student progress and achievement issued at the end of each semester, teachers will be providing information about each student's commitment to learning and social development in every subject. Students will be rated as Always, Usually, Sometimes or Rarely demonstrating the specified actions and behaviours.

A sample of this section of our school report is printed below for your information. Please take the time to discuss the importance of these actions and behaviours with your child so that he/she is able to achieve his/her personal best in learning.