

Pendle Hill High School



Newsletter

2008

Telephone: 96319651/96312906

Fax: 98963093

Email: pendlehill-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

TERM 1 - BULLETIN NO. 3

KEY DATES

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

3, 4 & 5	CHS Swimming
11	Last day of Term 1

Our Students Our School

As we approach the mid point of this term (yes, already!), I am very pleased to be able to report on the continuing positive attitude and commitment to their studies shown by the overwhelming majority of our students.

The many visitors to our school over the past few weeks have commented on the purposeful, friendly and co-operative atmosphere within our school . . . an atmosphere that flows from the effective teaching and learning partnership that is so strongly supported by our students, our staff and our parents.

It really is the case that we are a school where

- ◆ learning is celebrated
- ◆ excellence is expected
- ◆ effort is rewarded and
- ◆ diversity is respected!

The outstanding achievements of our school have been widely publicised to our community, thanks to an article in his electorate newsletter by our local MP, Nathan Rees. Mr Rees has been a frequent visitor to our school, both in 2007 and in 2008, and we thank him for his strong and practical support of our students, our programs and our school, particularly given his significant responsibilities as Minister for Water Resources and Emergency Services!

Our small but active P&C, under the leadership of Mrs Jenny Bassan, has also written recently to every parent of students in Years 4, 5 and 6 at our local primary schools, again strongly supporting our students, our programs and our achievements.

The final few weeks of this term will be especially busy, with our Open Day; first Parent/Teacher Meeting; school photographs, anti bullying workshops; Sydney West swimming championships and Year 12 examinations.

A reminder that the Easter public holidays are separate from the end of term school holidays this year, with Easter between 21 and 24 March and the last day of term being Friday 11 April.

Judy Sims
Principal

Visited our school website recently? If so, you will have noticed that our website is getting a "new look", thanks to the skills and efforts of our new Librarian, Mrs Credaro. Visit our website at

<http://www.pendlehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au>

The next newsletter will be distributed to students on 21 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.

Concerned about issues such as youth depression and cyberbullying? Make sure you read the articles in our next newsletter!

REMINDERS!

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

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, commitment to learning and social development is essential for successful student learning!

Appointment sheets have been posted home to you this week and have also been distributed to students today. Please encourage your child to make appointments for you with their teachers.

The Parent/Teacher Meeting will be held in the school hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE

National Assessment Program

All students in Years 7 and 9 must sit for the new national tests in Literacy and Numeracy this year. The tests will be completed by students in all schools across Australia and in NSW will replace the English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP) tests. Testing will take place over 3 days:

Tuesday 13 May - Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Writing

Wednesday 14 May - Reading

Thursday 15 May - Numeracy. As this test includes both calculator and non calculator sections, all students will need an approved scientific calculator for this test. These calculators can be purchased from the Maths Faculty for \$21.

Students in Year 8 must sit for the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) test, to be held in late November.

D

- ◆ Last Sunday a group of 11 parents from our school gave up their time to run a highly successful BBQ at Bunnings North Parramatta to raise much needed funds for our school. The BBQ ran from 8am to 4pm and involved the cooking of 50 kilos of sausages, 16 kilos of onions and the filling of hundreds of bread rolls. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated P&C members, over \$780 was raised to support our school and our students. Special thanks to BBQ co-ordinators Jenny and Claude Bassan; Mr & Mrs Parkinson, Mr Bertram, Mrs Housenloge, Mrs Carrett, Mr & Mrs Bullivant and Mr & Mrs Ryan. Thanks also to our student helpers Thomas Parkinson, Max and Emma Housenloge and our School Captain, Daniel Piotrowski.

I

D

We really appreciate all that you do for our school!

Y

- ◆ Each Monday and Thursday afternoon a group of students from non English speaking background spend time after school working with our ESL teacher, Michele Sacco, to further improve their English skills. The students work on assignments provided by their classroom teachers and receive extra help from a Multicultural Education Teachers Aide provided to us by the NSW Department of Education and Training. The program aims to allow our refugee students to experience the same success in their learning as other students at our school and really shows the determination and commitment of these students to get the best possible education.

O

- ◆ Last Tuesday a group of seven girls from our school took part in the prestigious Step To The Future Program. The program seeks to motivate young people to succeed in life beyond school and to see the relevance and importance of education for their future.

U

Congratulations to Year 11 students Sarah Sykes, Jasmin Kim, Urmi Vats and Maria Santiago and Year 9 students Nicole Grant, Rosie Bakon and Narelle Robertson on being selected to be part of this ongoing program. Watch out for their report in our next newsletter!

K

- ◆ Wednesday 19 March is **National Youth Tobacco Free Day!** This initiative encourages young people to consider the benefits of not smoking and to be aware of how smoking can impact on their lives.

N

Why not visit the Department of Education and Training website at

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/yrk12focusareas/druged/research.php

for the latest statistics on youth smoking.

O

- ◆ The Public Transport Ticketing Corporation has advised that from Wednesday 19 March students will only need to produce their printed bus pass to be eligible for free school travel on private buses under the School Student Transport Scheme. The Tcard will no longer need to be used and should be returned to Mrs McInnes at Reception.

W

Students need to apply for a 2008 bus pass if they have not already done so.

Board of Studies Update

Higher School Certificate

Students in Years 11 and 12 have received a copy of 2 leaflets from the Board of Studies about HSC Assessments and Submitted Works. One is for the student and one is for parents. The leaflets provide important information about student rights and responsibilities regarding assessment tasks and the consequences of malpractice or cheating.

For Further Information

- ◆ The *Rules and Procedures for Higher Certificate Candidates* booklet is available on the Board of Studies website at <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/manuals/#hscrules>.
- ◆ The *HSC: All My Own Work* program provides an excellent guide to HSC students on the principles and practices of good scholarship. The program's modules and interactive quizzes reinforce students' knowledge and understanding of issues such as plagiarism, copyright, acknowledging sources, working with others and malpractice. The program is available in online and printable formats at <http://amow.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>.
- ◆ Another good source is the *HSC Online* website run by Charles Sturt University and the Department of Education and Training. This site has special advice and links on study skills and plagiarism as well as an HSC study planner that can be downloaded from <http://hsc.csu.edu.au/study/index.htm>.
- ◆ For further information about school-based assessment for the HSC, go to the Assessment Resource Centre at arc.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au.

School Certificate

Students in Years 9 and 10 are working towards the achievement of the NSW School Certificate. As well as the School Certificate itself, students will also receive a Record of Achievement listing the courses studied, achievement grades awarded (from Grade A to Grade E) and results for each School Certificate test (English - Literacy; Mathematics; Science; Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Computing Skills).

The grade a student receives is based on his/her performance in the course throughout the year. The grades awarded are:

- A The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.
- B The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.
- C The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main area of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.
- D The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.
- E The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.

In Mathematics students will be graded as A10, A9, B8, B7, C6, C5, D4, D3 or E2.

For each course, a set of Course Performance Descriptors has been developed based on the common grade scale. Each descriptor is a positive statement about achievement related to the knowledge and skills relevant to the course. **You can view the Course Performance Descriptors for each course and samples of student work on the Assessment Resource Centre of the Board's website at arc.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/go/sc.**

And what happens to students in Years 9, 10, 11 or 12 who are currently not meeting course requirements? They have a special lunchtime opportunity to "catch up" . . . under the supervision of Mrs Brown, our Deputy Principal!

Positive Behaviour For Learning Update

Positive Behaviour For Learning (PBL) refers to a system of school-wide processes designed to prevent problem behaviour and make our school a safer and happier place for all students. An important part of PBL is to help students to behave appropriately by explicitly teaching them what we expect. Our key focus areas are Responsibilities, Respect and Rights.

This week all students from Year 7 to Year 12 have attended workshops to remind them about what these 3 areas mean for themselves and for others. Currently we are looking at Responsibilities, Respect and Rights in relation to the walkways and stairwells and the toilets.

Our student behaviour expectations for the toilets, walkways and stairwells are:

	TOILETS	WALKWAYS & STAIRWELLS
<p style="text-align: center;">Responsibilities</p> <p>At Pendle Hill High School I have a responsibility to maintain rights and respect for all and try to do my best.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Keep toilets clean and flush after use ◆ Use toilet paper sensibly / appropriately ◆ Wash your hands ◆ Turn taps off after use ◆ Always have a note to use the toilets during class time ◆ Go directly to the toilets ◆ Return directly to class after using the toilets ◆ Report any damage and graffiti to the front office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Passive areas - walk quietly and sensibly when moving around the school ◆ Keep to the left ◆ Walkways are not talkways (out of bounds during recess & lunch, except in wet weather) ◆ Maintain cleanliness / spitting is a health hazard ◆ Keep your hands and feet to yourself ◆ Lift is only for designated students
<p style="text-align: center;">Rights</p> <p>At Pendle Hill High School I have a right to enjoy a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To privacy and safety ◆ To a smoke free zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To move from room to room without interference ◆ To feel safe

Students are actively taught what is expected and staff then monitor what is actually happening, to ensure that all students are reaching our behaviour expectations.

And how are we monitoring what is happening? Each faculty is recording information about student behaviour on the walkways and stairwells in their Block, to be followed up by the Principal and Deputy Principal with individual students. New restrictions are in force in the toilets, with teachers rostered for duty outside the toilets, in addition to the usual playground duty.

And the results - fewer trips and falls on the stairways; a reduction in students being late to class and cleaner, smoke-free toilets. A win for everyone!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS

TAFE OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM

Following the success of last year's pilot program, Lithgow TAFE is giving students from our school a chance to be part of their 2008 10 day field study program. Students will be involved in 3 outdoor adventure activities - canyoning, canoeing and rock climbing and may qualify for part of a TAFE Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation award.

You need to be in Year 11 or 12 and you need to see Mr Vale for more information if you are interested.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR A DAY

Each year the NSW Department of Education and Training offers emerging student leaders from Years 9, 10 and 11 the chance to "shadow" senior executive within the Department and see how educational policy relates to schools. In 2006 Sean Atiifale, our former School Captain, was selected to be the Department's Director of Legal Services for a day. Go to

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/educationweek/index.htm>

for further details. **If you are interested, you will need to complete an Expression of Interest form by 28 March and give it to Mrs Sims.**

CONNECTED LEARNING AWARDS

Students interested in Information and Communication Technologies are able to use their skills and submit an original work for judging. The six awards are

- ◆ Web Design Awards
- ◆ Greeting Card Design Awards
- ◆ Learning Resource Awards
- ◆ Digital Art Awards
- ◆ Digital Story Awards
- ◆ Short Film Awards

Participation in the awards encourages students to engage with real-life situations and to develop skills in communicating, collaborating, self-directed learning, problem solving, researching and publishing.

Detailed information about the awards, including closing dates, is available on the competition website at <http://cliwww.det.nsw.edu.au/awards>.