

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Cessnock High School
Phone: 4990 1977



"WHAT E'ER YOU DO, DO WELL"

Principal: Mr. Ian Scanlon

Deputy Principals: Ms. Jo Scott/Ms Sandra Hiscock

The next P & C Meeting will be held in the School Library
on Thursday, March 19th 2009 at 4:00 pm.

Our guest speaker will be Julie Stewart our Student Adviser Learning Assistance
Julie will give a brief presentation on our ambitious literacy plans for 2009.

Welcome to our February Newsletter

We are a small, friendly and welcoming school. Cessnock High School is an ideal size to offer a broad range of opportunities and electives, without overcrowding. We know, value and understand our students. This newsletter will demonstrate the enormous range of opportunities and supports that are provided by our school for all students.

Students have returned to school enthusiastic about 2009. They have brought all of their books and equipment, and the wearing of uniform is excellent. Staff and students had a lovely Christmas and vacation. The challenges in 2009 are literacy, numeracy, technology and Aboriginal Education.

A Small Cohesive High School: Students and Staff

We are staffing our school for 2009 on 587 students and this will see a slight reduction in our staff. Our numbers for the year are:

	Boys	Girls	Total
Year 7	54	52	106
Year 8	50	58	108
Year 9	62	60	122
Year 10	56	52	108
Year 11	38	41	79
Year 12	20	21	41
IM class (special education)	13	5	18
IO class (special education)	1	4	5
Adjustment for TAFE Courses			-4
Total enrolment			583

Safe Movement on Aberdare Road: correct parking by parents and visitors

The ranger from Cessnock City Council has approached the school to express concerns about parking violations outside our school on Aberdare Road. The safety of children is of paramount importance in these concerns.

There are heavy fines for parking in a bus zone (\$243 and 2 demerit points), double parking (\$243 and 2 demerit points), stopping on or near pedestrian crossing (\$324 and 2 demerit points), and disobeying a no stopping sign (\$243 and 2 demerit points).

Citizenship: Lions Youth of the Year

Tomas Leggatt and Kent Spencer represented our school in the Lions Youth of the Year Competition. This is a prestigious event that sees students moving through the competition until an Australian Youth of the Year is awarded. Kendall McCallum from Mount View High School was the winner this year and she progresses to the next round. Congratulations! Tomas Leggatt won the public speaking award, and he is very proud as we are, of this award. Congratulations!

The Lions Youth of the Year is a very challenging competition. Students are interviewed by a panel for over an hour, where they are asked a large number of questions about themselves and their aspirations. They are also asked questions about current issues in the media at a local, regional state, national and international level. They are marked on this interview out of eighty (80). At the next Lions Club meeting, the contestants must speak publicly. They are asked two impromptu questions, and give a 2 minutes unprepared answer to these questions. They also give a 5 minute prepared speak on their chosen topic. The public speaking component is marked out of 20 marks.

The impromptu questions are very challenging as there is no time for preparation. The two impromptu questions that were asked this year were:

- 1. Is the world financial crisis encouraged by the media reports?*
- 2. Is raising the school leaving age to 17 years just to disguise unemployment?*

Try these questions yourself, without preparation time. Try speaking in an organised and rationale way on each topic for 2 minutes. Difficult isn't it! Students from our school did this, and excelled. Congratulations!



Kent and Tomas at the Lions Youth of the Year Contest.

Competing against the best: Swimming Carnival

Our Swimming Carnival was held on Wednesday February 4th and was a great success. The weather was ideal, the behaviour and competitive nature of students is commended. A number of our students were selected for Zone, and this will be reported in the next newsletter. The excellent organisation by Raelene Allen and Trevor Lee ensured the success of the day.

The champions were:

GIRLS

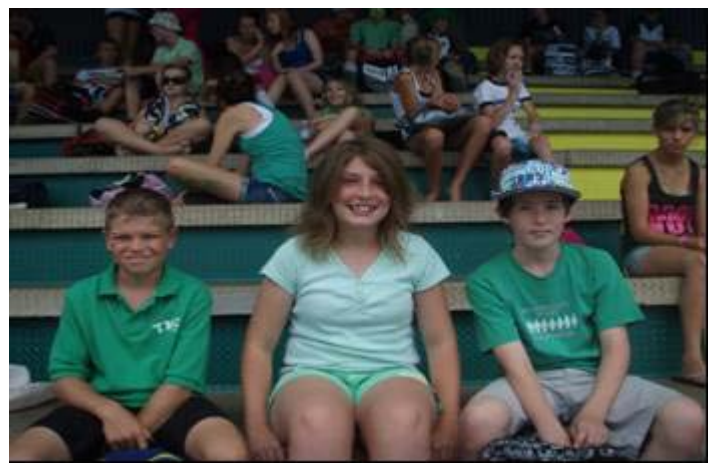
12 years Courtney Scott
13 years Caitlin Hayter
14 years Bianca Tassone
15 years Jacarna Fenton
16 years Renae Bridge
17 years Sarah Crosbie

BOYS

Tony Tassone
Joel Troy
Rhys Binns
Cade James
Brandan Briggs
Blaise Edgton



Brianna Dunicliff, Monique Cameron, Joel Bosch, Arch Dunstan, Jesse Gilmour, Brody Chapman and Dyan Ryan (front) enjoying our swimming carnival.



Jordan Marshall, Abby Noone, and Jordan Moncrief sheltering in the stand at our swimming carnival.



Brianna Dunicliff, Caitlin Hayter, Chenais Peterson, and Tiana Walker share their stories about the last race at our swimming carnival.

Positive about Learning

We have high expectations of our students so that they maximise their learning at our school. During 2008 we developed these expectations with our students and staff. They are:

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READY TO LEARN

We expect all students to live by these expectations, especially when they are at school. These expectations underpin all that we do in our school.

Choice about learning: electives subjects

The elective subjects for Year 8, 9 10, 11, and 12 have been included in the newsletter. The range of subjects is significant for a small school. It illustrates the wide range of opportunities available for students to follow their interests, their abilities, and a chosen or preferred career path. It also demonstrates how Cessnock High School prioritises student choice in their learning, and encourages everyone to excel.

Support in Literacy: Support Teachers Learning Assistance (STLAs)

Julie Stewart, Merle Taylor and Matthew Clarke are supporting our students in some ambitious literacy programs. Julie will speak about these programs at our next P&C Meeting. The national testing program (NAPLAN) has been used to identify trends in the schools, and individual students. The literacy program targets the explicit teaching of literacy in all classes by all teachers. Furthermore, the STLAs will be working very closely with students whose results can be improved at the highest achievement levels, and at the lowest achievement levels. In a small school we can focus our programs on all students.

Welfare Programs

Jim Brown (Head Teacher Welfare) and his team provide a wide range of support services for students. These include the Breakfast Club, and the Shine Program.

The school counsellors, Michelle Anton and Leanne Atkinson are always willing to listen to and advise students who may be experiencing worry and hardship. Students need to make an appointment, and the counsellors will seek to provide the best support available.

Supporting students with misbehaviour issues: the Cessnock District Learning Centre (CDLC)

The CDLC was established in 1995 by the late Les Cooper and Anne-Maree Doolan. The services provided at the CDLC are cutting edge in their creativity, and are recognised nationally. There are three programs running in 2009, and they are:

1. The CDLC Program run by Katrina Musgrove and Julie Perrett. This program is a flexible program that emphasises literacy and numeracy skills, and behaviour management. It includes a TAFE Outreach (Computing) Course on Fridays and an Outdoor Education Program on Tuesdays. Students attend this program in a flexible way through negotiation with their school and parents.
2. The Return to School Centre is run by Anne-Maree Doolan. This program supports students who are on long suspension. Students attend mornings and complete school work, returning to their home to complete this work in the afternoons and evenings.
3. The Distance Education Program is run by Leon Schmeider. This program supports students who have left their local high school. They enrol through Distance Education at Camden Haven High School and work at home on their lessons supplied three days each week. On the other days, these students are supported in their Distance Education work through tutorials at the CDLC

Great Opportunities for Students in March and April

DATE	UPCOMING EVENTS
March 2 nd	Year 12 Construction and Hospitality Work Placement all week
March 3 rd	Year 11 Retail Day
March 3 rd	Regional Swimming Carnival
March 3 rd	Hospitality at its best day
March 3 rd	Boys' Open Cricket vs Rutherford Technology High School
March 12 th	Defence Force Visit
March 13 th	Coalfields Cup
March 16 th	Year 12 Metals and Business Services Work Placement all week
March 16 th	Year 12 Retail Day
March 19 th	Aboriginal Dancers perform at Senior Citizens' Week
March 19 th	Peer Tutoring Training
March 24 th	Regional University Presentation for Year 12
March 26 th	Athletics Carnival
March 26 th	Mayoral Academic Awards 7:00 pm Performing Arts Centre
March 26 th	Distinction Excursion
March 26 th	Welcome Barbeque for parents of our Year 7 Aboriginal students
March 30 th	Year 12 Retail Day
March 31 st	Youth Week Breakfast Room 24
April 1 st	Youth Week Breakfast Room 24
April 1 st	Hospitality Roadshow
April 2 nd	Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations commence
April 2 nd	Athletics Carnival (back-up date)
April 6 th	Parent and Teacher Meeting 3:30 pm MPC
April 7 th	Year 12 Half yearly Examinations conclude
April 9 th	Royal Easter Show Excursion
April 9 th	Last day of Term 1

Ian Scanlon
Principal
 February 26th 2009