

# 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, June 19th 2009 at 4:00 pm.  
Our guest speaker will be Ian Scanlon (Principal)  
who will present and discuss the Annual School Report 2008.

## **Welcome to our June Newsletter**

First term was a very successful term with many positive achievements and students engaging in learning. This newsletter will focus on our plans and programs in Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12), sport, and student behaviour management.

## **School Development Day: A Change of Date**

Our Term 3 School Development Day will be brought forward and held on the last day of Term 2, Friday July 10<sup>th</sup>. **All students will return to school on Monday July 27<sup>th</sup>**, not on the Tuesday. It is absolutely critical that all students return to school on the Monday.

The School Development Day will involve a number of keynote and guest speakers in technology. With the delivery of laptops for staff and Year 9 students in Term 3, this School Development Day will be most valuable in preparing for such a changed technology rich learning environment.

## **Reporting Student Learning: Parent and Teacher Afternoon**

The Semester 1 Parent and Teacher Afternoon will occur on Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> in the MPC between 3:30 and 5:30 pm. This is an important opportunity for parents and their child/ren to seek feedback on Semester 1 learning, and to set goals for Semester 2.

## **Higher School Certificate Excellence: Study Skills**

Study skills and preparations for life after school are a focus of our Stage 6 programs for students in Years 11 and 12. Year 12 completed a study skills day in Term 1 and Year 11 participated in their day on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>. There were some key messages on these days that included key there is no substitute for study and hard work, the Higher School Certificate (HSC) is competitive, and that students aspiring for a UAI (now ATAR) and university entrance need to engage in study and homework equalling at least 24 hours each week.

I am inviting the parents of Year 12 students eligible for an ATAR to make an appointment with me to discuss the Half Yearly results of their young person, and to help strategically plan a study program for the Higher School Certificate.

## **Higher School Certificate Excellence: UAI is now the ATAR**

The Universities' Admissions Index (UAI) is now called the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). All students have been notified in writing about this change and it should not adversely affect any students. The ATAR will be a little higher than the UAI at most ranks, with the exception of the highest rank. The highest ATAR will be 99.95,

instead of 100 when the UAI was used. Some universities may slightly increase their ATAR cut-offs as a result of this change. If students wish to discuss the ATAR, they need to see our Careers Adviser Mrs Walker.

### **Higher School Certificate Excellence: Evaluating the Curriculum**

The school executive and the staff are currently evaluating our curriculum structures to ensure that they support all students until they are at least 17 years of age. We are exploring different models of packaging HSC subjects such as at Queanbeyan, considering more vertical subjects in Years 11 and 12 and Years 9 and 10, and integrating Work Education/Work Studies across Years 9 – 12.

### **Higher School Certificate Excellence: Trade Training Centre (TTC)**

Our school has started discussion with Consultant Ivan Gant regarding establishing a TTC at Cessnock High School with close links to Mount View High School and St Phillip's College, and TAFE. Invitations will be extended to these schools and institutions this week. The TTC will focus on Hospitality, Tourism and Primary Industries. It will establish strong and effective links with Hunter Wine Country through in-school traineeships and apprenticeships that lead to full-time careers locally. Students will complete their HSC and some could receive a qualification at Certificate 3 level.

The TTC expression of interest will be completed by the end of the year and the application submitted in June 2010. It is anticipated that the structural work to support the TTC will be in place by 2011.

This TTC application, if successful, will see the Hospitality kitchen upgraded to Certificate 3 requirements. I am sure that parents and students would agree that this is an extremely worthwhile initiative that will be of great benefit to young people in Cessnock.

### **Encouraging Excellence: Mathematics On-Line**

The Mathematics Staff of Cessnock High School is very proud to announce a fabulous new initiative just introduced into our mathematics teaching programs. We have registered all of our students to use the fabulous teaching/learning resource at [mathsonline.com.au](http://mathsonline.com.au), and due to a sponsorship deal secured by the program designers and administrators, it has been made available to our entire school community FREE of charge.

Some of the features that this program has are as follows;

- Full lessons for each concept with a voice over and numerous examples of varying difficulty. Every lesson has a pause and rewind facility to help students grasp concepts at their own pace.
- Every lesson has an accompanying printable worksheet to consolidate the concept, with full worked solutions provided also.
- A student's ongoing use and progress in the program is stored for theirs and their teacher's perusal at any time.
- The program can be accessed from any internet ready site, not just at school.
- The entire Year 7 to 12 program is available to every student, not just their particular year group.

Given that the program covers most of the concepts that we teach, and as good as this resource is, the school wishes to make it clear that it was never intended by its creators to replace the wonderful work that our mathematics teaching staff already do. This program is best used as a support/supplement to the classroom teaching/learning experience.

All students are currently being issued with their unique logins and passwords and are being shown how to use the site by their mathematics teacher. Students and parents are encouraged to use this resource both at home and as directed by their mathematics teacher.

### **Sharing Literacy Ideas**

Our school was a proud presenter at the Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools literacy expo at Mount View High School – "What works for us – literacy". This was an opportunity for parents and teachers to share

ideas on literacy strategies that work for them. As usual the Cessnock High School display looked great. Many thanks to Sandra Hiscock and Julie Stewart for their most successful efforts in this presentation.

### **Excellence in Study: Sean Paynter**

Sean has applied for and been granted a scholarship provided by Xtrata Coal to help with his further education. The scholarship is for \$500, and it was presented at a formal function in Newcastle. At this function a number of mining graduates and mining managers spoke providing great insight into further university studies leading to interesting and gratifying (an well-paid) careers in the mining industry. Congratulations Sean.

### **Encouraging Excellence: Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)**

Our PBL Team has been strengthened with Student Representative Council (SRC) representatives and the school captains Kent Spencer and Kristy Grant. The team has concentrated on our expectations for student behaviour in our corridors. Our core expectations (universals) are RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and READY TO LEARN. Students are regularly rewarded with PBLs for positive behaviours – following the expectations. There is a draw each Tuesday on the Principal’s Assembly for a \$5 canteen voucher.

In our corridors we have negotiated and agreed that everyone is expected to follow these expectations:

#### **RESPECT**

- Walk quietly
- Stay left
- Keep to yourself

#### **RESPONSIBILITY**

- Right place, right time
- Keep moving
- Consider others

#### **READY TO LEARN**

- Be prepared
- Be on time
- Line up quietly



*Reconciliation Week Lunch: Kerry Roberts and Ian Scanlon  
with the fabulous kangaroo stew*

### **Respect and Responsibility: School Uniform.**

Thank you to all parents who support our school uniform and insist that their child/ren wears it. Students show respect and responsibility when they wear our school uniform. The uniform is smart and economical. Wearing uniform makes a statement – “I am an important part of Cessnock High School, and proud of it”.

The canteen has smart fashionable girls’ slacks for sale for \$28. The school “sloppy joes” are \$20. This represents great value for money.

### **Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day**

Our school acknowledged Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day with a formal assembly and a lunch in the bush tucker garden for invited guests and our Aboriginal students. The key note speaker was Marilyn Wilson who spoke passionately about growing up as an Aboriginal person in the Maitland-Cessnock area, being an Aboriginal person

in the twenty-first century, and the importance of the reconciliation process. Many thanks to Kerry Roberts and to Jo Scott for their efforts in organising this important function.

### **Celebrating Sporting Success: Zone Athletics**

Our athletics team has been very successful at the zone athletics carnival. We continue to excel and grow in athletics, and this is a credit to students and the parents who support them. Trevor Lee and Raelene Allen are congratulated on an excellent effort in motivating our athletes, and organising carnivals.

Our students excelled. We are the smallest school, but we had two age champions, and nearly every student came away from the zone carnival with a place. The results were so impressive that I only have room to celebrate the first places.

#### Age Champions

Girls' U14	Bianca Tassone
Boys' U16	Luke O'Neill

#### Boys' First Places

U12	Arch Dunston	200m
U12	Tony Tassone	800m
U14	Jason Zechel	high jump
U15	Shae Rockley	100m, 200m, long jump
U15	Damien Rockley	400m
U16	Luke O'Neill	100m, 200m, discuss, long jump
U16	Brodie Tonks	400m, 800m
U16	Brandon Briggs	high jump
U16	Daniel Ryan	shot
U17	Chris Harris	discuss
U17		relay

#### Girls' First Places

U12	Emma Rutkowskyj	400m
U13	Maddison King	discuss
U14	Bianca Tassone	800m, 1500m, javelin, shot
U15	Jacarna Bain Fenton	100m, 200m, 400m, 800m

Other students performed very well and came home with places. The girls were Kayla Perkins and Shelby Stokes. The boys were Nick Bairns, Lawrence Craft, John Hodge, Brock Lomas, and Brock Taylor

### **Producing Excellence: Literacy**

Our students involved in Peer Tutoring have been invited to the Powerhouse Museum to film a two minute documentary that will appear on the Department of Education and Training Website in Term 3. We are proud that this initiative features Cessnock High School students, and the Peer Tutoring Program. Peer Tutoring is a pivotal initiative to improve the literacy of all students.



***Vodcast: Luke O'Neill, Renae Bridge, Shane Webb, Alex O'Neill, Darryl Bridge, Dean Meredith, Jackson O'Neill, Jamie Coleman, Emma Rutkowskij, Gai Chambers and Julie Stewart.***

### **Celebrating Sporting Success: Bill Turner Cup U 15 Girls' Soccer**

The U15 Girls' Soccer team, coached by Kris Starkey, won 6/1 against Hunter Valley Grammar School. This team was down 1/0 near half time, but recovered with a very strong win. The team plays Kurri Kurri High School for the right to challenge Maitland Grossmann High School in the area final. Another excellent team effort.

### **Always Winners: Girls' Open Netball**

Our Open Netball Team played Warners Bay High School in early May. The girls presented our school with pride, dignity, and displayed great spirit. They were very impressive in their new uniforms which were sponsored by Toronto Fencing. The team was unlucky to come away with a loss, but they were certainly winners in their netball skills and teamwork. The most valuable player was Ellyn Reynolds who was very competitive and consistent throughout the whole game. Many thanks and congratulations are extended to the coach Rebecca Screen.



*Open Girls' Netball: Back row from left are Madison Ingall, Chelsea Blackham, Rebecca Pryor, Ashlee Kembrey, Ellyn Reynolds, and Bianna Little. Front row from left are Jasmine Lasky, Jessica Drummond, and Emily Laskie.*

### **Great Opportunities for Learning at Cessnock High School**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Sport Choices for Term 3
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday	Year 10 Canberra Trip departs
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday	Year 11 Retail Training Day
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Year 10 Canberra Trip returns
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Girls' Bill Turner Cup Soccer match vs Kurri Kurri
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Year 12 Chemistry Excursion to Newcastle University
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	Year 12 Retail Training Day
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	Distinction Excursion to the Power House Museum
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	School Disco, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	Retail Expo, Greenhills
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	Year 10 Peer Tutor Training
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Parent and Teacher Afternoon 3:30 – 5:30
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Careers Quest for Aboriginal students, Rutherford
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Year 12 Open Day at Newcastle University
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Last day of Term 2 for students
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	First day of Term 3 for everyone (students and staff)

Ian Scanlon  
Principal  
 June 18<sup>th</sup> 2009