

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, May 21st 2009 at 4:00 pm

Welcome to our May Newsletter

First term was a very successful term with many positive achievements and students engaging in learning. I trust that Term 2 will be as productive as we strive to improve the literacy and numeracy of all students, and to enhance their skills in state-of-the-art technology.



Enjoying an exciting cross-country:
Leticia White, Tiarni Mendyk, Courtney Scott, Kelly Smyth and Kristen Butcher.

Creating Opportunities in Stage 6

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 will participate in their day on Tuesday May 19th. The key messages for students in these study days are that students need to:

- have a homework/study timetable
- understand that the Higher School Certificate (HSC) is competitive
- reward themselves for the completion of work/study
- have a life, and keep relaxation and social time, and paid work in perspective
- engage in study and homework equalling at least 24 hours each week, if they wish to gain university entrance
- attend school every day

- engage in every lesson
- work closely, and at times individually, with their teacher
- work closely with the Careers Adviser.

A final word is that “there is no substitute for study and hard work”. Included in this newsletter some further advice and ideas on how parents can support their child/ren during their HSC preparation.

Assessing and evaluating what students learn.

We are entering the Semester 1 assessment period. There will be a number of assessment and examinations that will culminate in the Semester 1 reports. Students are urged to try their hardest in these tasks and to produce their best possible work. The reports will be produced to inform parents of their child’s learning and where necessary explore ways to improve learning, and revise areas that are not understood very well. The semester 1 parent and teacher afternoon will be held in the MPC on Monday July 6th from 3:30 – 5:30 pm.

Impressive Performances in Athletics

1. Athletics carnival

The Athletics Carnival was run in perfect weather on Thursday March 26th. Mrs Allen and Mr Lee did a superb job organising another very successful carnival. The attendance by students was impressive, as was their participation in the events.

The total point score was:	David House	956 points
	Hunter House	721 points
	Kearsley House	622 points
	Wollombi House	1093 points

The age champions were

	Girls	Boys
12 Years	Jenna-May Ryan	Arch Dunston
13 Years	Maddison King	Joel Troy
14 Years	Bianca Tassone	Jason Zechel
15 Years	Jacarna Bain-Fenton	Ben Passfield
16 Years	Sophie Stapleford	Brandon Briggs
17 Years	Shelby Stokes	Chris Harris



Cross-country champions:
Tony Tassone and Joel Troy

2. Cross Country Carnival

This was an excellent autumn afternoon on Wednesday April 29th with excellent organisation by Mr Lee and Mrs Allen, and excellent participation by everyone in the school. We greatly appreciate the co-operation of H Potts and South Maitland Railways, because without their assistance Cessnock High School would not be able to run a genuine cross-country event on a quality course.

The carnival point score was:

David House	94 points
Hunter House	105 points
Kearsley House	80 points
Wollombi House	145 points

The overall girls' champion was Jacarna Bain-Fenton and the overall boys' champion was Joshua Bower.

The age champions were

	Girls	Boys
12 Years	Jenna-May Ryan	Tony Tassone
13 Years	Tiani Mendyk	Joel Troy
14 Years	Bianca Tassone	Jason Zechel
15 Years	Jacarna Bain-Fenton	Ben Passfield
16 Years	Hayley Ross	Brock Lomas
17 Years	Shelby Stokes	Joshua Bower

The following students ran in the top ten of their age group at the zone carnival held at Walka Waterworks (Maitland) on May 7th: Kristin Butcher, Jenna-May Ryan, Tony Tassone, Arch Dunston, Brandon Lee, Jeremy Dearin, Tiani Mendyk, Caitlin Hayter, Bianca Tassone, Tiani Dederer, Jacarna Bain-Fenton, Ben Passfield, Erica

Wright, Hayley Ross, Arama Ngatoko, Shelby Stokes, Christine Davey, Joshua Bower, Brodie Tonks, and Lawrence Craft. Congratulations to all of these students. This is an excellent result for our school because we are relatively small with some high schools having twice the enrolment of Cessnock High School. Despite this Cessnock High School students are always competitive, and always strive to produce their best.



Enjoying the cross-country carnival:
Chenae Peterson, Jasmine Fairbairne, Jordan Dywer, Kelly Drummond and Grace Jackson.

Excellence in Agriculture

Mr Matthews and twelve Year 9 students attended the Upper Hunter Beef and Land Management Association cattle judging at Singleton. This was sponsored by Beltana Mine. It involved the students working with professional cattle judges, and judging bulls, steers and heifers. This was a very competitive event with over ten high schools (public and private) participating. Cessnock High School was the overall winner of the day with the “best average point score”. The prize was a lovely heifer for the school farm. Congratulations to the participating students – we are very proud of you.

Over the next three weeks, the Cows Create Careers program begins. This was very effective in 2008, and we anticipate that it will be just as successful in 2009.

Opportunities in Science.

The Shell Questacon Science Circus will be in Cessnock on Friday May 29 at the Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre between 5:00 and 8:00 pm. I have included promotional material in the newsletter about this great event. Questacon rarely comes to Cessnock, and families are urged to attend.

State of the art learning with technology

Our school is one of the first high schools in the Hunter/Central Coast region to be allocated laptop computers for student use. Year 9 students will be allocated laptops before the end of the year. In all there will a minimum of 110 laptops coming. This will transform their learning, as well as creating some interesting challenges. The school will have a Technical Support Officer appointed to manage the program, and a wireless network established. Teachers will also be allocated laptops.

At our last School Development Day the emphasis for teachers was technology and learning. This was very successful. At our next School Development Day (Friday July 10th) we will continue this theme to ensure that students have quality learning with technology.

Encouraging Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our school believes in positive behaviour for learning. Our core business is student learning, and we expect that to learn more effectively students should show RESPECT, be RESPONSIBLE, and be READY TO LEARN. These are our universal expectations.

We have applied these expectations to our corridors. We will be teaching these expectations to students this week, and I am sure that you agree, they should produce a quieter and more orderly place to work and learn. The corridor expectations are:

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
be prepared

A supportive Parents' and Citizens' Association

The P&C is a strong supporter of the school. They manage the canteen and provide healthy foods at very reasonable prices. The P&C also donates funds to supplement learning programs within our school. Recently the P&C donated two Wiimote Controllers to the HSIE Faculty (\$400), timing devices to the English Faculty (\$280), a mini tramp for the PDHPE Faculty (\$1000), four hotplates with thermostat controls for the Science Faculty (\$1250), and an MPC Screen or School Sign (\$5000). The generosity of the P&C is greatly appreciated, as is the generosity of the Canteen Co-ordinator, Vicki Slusher, and Canteen Volunteers.

Critical Dates for Term 2

Date	Learning Event
May 19 th	Career Expo for Years 10, 11 and 12
May 20 th	PSP Forum at Singleton (four Year 10 students)
May 21 st	P&C Meeting, library at 4:00 pm
May 22 nd	Vietnam Veteran Interviews (seven Year 10 students)
May 23 rd	Year 12 Retail Training Day
May 26 th	Reconciliation Week Assembly 11:00 am
May 26 th	Year 11 Study Skills Day (library)
May 27 th	Cessnock – Kurri Kurri Education Week Ceremony, Cessnock High School MPC
May 29 th	HSC Seminar Day, Singleton
May 29 th	Regional Cross Country
May 29 th	Reconciliation Week Barbeque
June 5 th	PBL Training Day for all sixteen Cessnock schools.
June 8 th	Queen's Birthday holiday
June 10 th	Hearing Tests for Aboriginal students
June 11 th	TAFE Peer Tutor Training Day for Year 10 students
June 12 th	Year 11 Retail Training Day
June 25 th	TAFE Peer Tutor Training Day for Year 10 students
June 26 th	Year 12 Retail Training Day
July 1 st	Year 12 Retail Expo, Greenhills
July 2 nd	Police Liaison Officer Visit for Years 9 and 10
July 6 th	Parent and Teacher Afternoon, MPC 3:30 – 5:30
July 8 th	NAIDOC Week Careers Quest for Aboriginal students, Rutherford

Ian Scanlon

Principal

May 14th 2009