ROUSE HILL HIGH NEWSLETTER
DARE TO EXCEL

APRIL 2014 / ISSUE 17

BODY MOVIN’

Josh in action presenting to Ironbark Ridge Primary School

On the 3rd of February, Year 8 was given a task to build and design a multi-sensory experience for primary school students, teachers and special guests. We were assigned to make a presentation about a minimum of two body systems and we needed to explain how they had to interact. We had to incorporate three subjects which were science, music and art. We were given a time limit of six weeks to complete and present our task.

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Body Movin’ cont.

We had a structure we had to follow define, discover, dream, design and debrief. In the define stage we needed to determine what the definition of multi-sensory was and what the different subjects had to do with this task.

In the discover stage we had to investigate what the body systems, audience interactions and multi-sensory experiences for science, music and art actually were.

In the dream stage we had to show ideas and how they were going to fit in with the meaning of multi-sensory.

In the design stage we had to build and create a model that engaged the primary students senses.

In the second last stage, deliver, we had present the task to the primary school students, teachers and special guests. On the day of the presentation we were split in to four time slots, two before recess and two after recess and we presented to groups of approximately fifteen students at a time that would rotate to another teaching and learning space every ten minutes.

The last stage was debrief, we had to reflect on the whole process. We had to explain how we could improve it and how well we thought our experience was received by the students of Ironbark Ridge Primary School.
The Environmental Committee at Rouse Hill High has recently been getting their hands dirty to support the rehabilitation of natural bushland in the Western Sydney region. On Friday the 7th March a group of nearly 40 students from Years 7 – 10 made their way to Joe McAleer Reserve at Glendenning to support the Western Sydney Parklands Association.

In the space of 90 minutes the group successfully planted over 200 small trees and shrubs. Students had the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the importance of, and procedures involved in, environmental conservation.

Although it was a very warm day, our enthusiastic students modelled outstanding active citizenship. Their efforts were rewarded with the issuing of free T Shirts for everyone, with a very appropriate slogan: ‘Local Hero!’

Students interested in joining the Environmental Committee are welcome to join our weekly meetings held on Thursdays in the Library. Please ask Ms Castle if you would like further information.
YEAR 7 CAMP
Mr Duggan, Transition Coordinator

Excitement was the order of the day as Year 7 headed to Gosford to partake in three days of outdoor activities, all for the purpose of challenging themselves and making new friends along the way.

As soon as they stepped off the bus, the instructors; Monkey, Danni, Astronaut and Allan organised the students into their groups and took them on a tour of all the activities that they would conquer!!! After their lunch, a fill of hotdogs, each group was eager to get stuck into the challenges that were introduced to them earlier.

The activities offered ranged from the skilful to a simple display of nerves. Many challenges required students to overcome their fear of heights and take a few steps either over the edge, on a wire, or even free falling for a second or so. After many hours of exhausting fun, the students prepared for dinner, then headed out to a commando night challenge. Students were ducking and diving in the bush to avoid the spotlights of the teachers, the victors earned tokens if they were successful in hunting their prey.

The next day started with some tired eyes, but they were quick to vanish as students again cycled around all the activities the camp had to offer. Much support was seen with many words of encouragement to students who found it a little hard to step over the edge or pull the little green ball that released the Giant Swing. The 2nd night finished with a challenge night, students played a variety of games that tested their skills, both mental and physical. The highlight, when Mr Symons scampered from the top to the bottom and back around a table top without touching the ground!!! The night finished with some chocolate milk and a ‘scary’ story around the campfire.

When 6:30am wake up was called, the students crawled out of bed and began to clean and pack up ready for their last few challenges. All students were a little glum when the buses rolled up, a reminder that they had such a great time in challenging themselves. Many students commented that they did a lot of firsts – first time they went abseiling, first time they did the high ropes course or succeeded in rock climbing. As the busses pulled away from camp, the students waved back to their camp instructors knowing full well they had a wonderful time at Year 7 Camp 2014, eager to share their experiences with family and friends.
Leadership and engagement programs that build confidence, resilience and success
State Library Excursion

Stage 6 Society and Culture students are required to prepare a Personal Interest Project (PIP) that contributes towards 40% of their final HSC result for this subject. The PIP enables students to demonstrate the development of their interests, research skills and personal experiences concerning the interactions between persons, societies, cultures and environments across time.

To support Society and Culture students in the development of their PIPs, an excursion to the NSW State Library took place on the 17th March. The most rewarding aspect of the day was the opportunity to view the archives of previous award winning PIPs.

Society and Culture students are encouraged to continue to make use of the NSW State Library resources through the use of their e-accounts.

Bullying No Way!

On Friday 21st March, Rouse Hill High School staff and students took a stand against bullying by supporting this national day of action. Year 8 leaders distributed wrist bands and students were invited to play volleyball at lunch time in the hall. The game was very energetic and a great example of students from different year groups coming together to play in the inclusive and supportive spirit of the day.
ART EXPRESS, AIMING FOR SUCCESS

On the 13th of March, Stage 6 Art experienced our second art excursion for our preliminary studies. We departed from the school grounds at 8:30am and hopped on a bus heading for the NSW Art gallery. Upon our arrival we were greeted at the door before heading upstairs to view the outstanding Art Express works from students of the previous HSC art year. Art express is an annual exhibition consisting of the exceptional works created by students from government and non-government schools for their Higher School Certificate Examination in Visual Arts.

Throughout our time at the gallery we were able to view and experience these amazing artworks, collecting inspiration to assist in the making of our own. We came across a diverse range of works consisting of various mediums such as drawings, paintings, digital media, mixed media and sculpture. All the works had an individual and unique concept, highlighting their individuality and personal experiences. As artists their works consisted of taking meaning, interpreting and portraying the world around them in their works.

The day was extremely enjoyable, because this experience at the art gallery allowed our class to find and discover inspiration to contribute in the creation of our Higher School Certificate in Visual Arts.

MUSIC INITIATIVES

HSC STUDY DAY
The HSC Music study day at Rooty Hill High School was one of several highlights for this term in Music. Students from Western Sydney public schools heard presentations on preparing for listening exams, and also took part in workshops on performance, composition and musicology. Cassandra Alvarado performed Bring him home, to a panel of five music teachers gaining written and verbal feedback and rapturous applause from the audience.

Travelling back to school on the T71 the students were clearly feeling inspired to perform, singing in harmony and utilising chairs and windows to create beats for the passengers to enjoy. Students commented on the day saying that they thought it was a valuable experience and they felt more confident moving into the HSC course.

ROCK CONCERT
Year 1.0 Music have recently completed a rock concert to an audience of adoring fans, (Year 9 elective music). Jarrad Christofel stole the show with his spirited performance of Never Tear Us Apart by INXS. Other highlights included the two groups original compositions and the electricity on stage as the students battled uncertainty and nerves to keep the show going.

PRELIMINARY MUSIC CONCERT
Under stage lights in the Movement Studio twelve music students entertained an audience of teachers, family and friends at their end of course concert. The performances were of a high calibre and the audiences were treated to some moving memorable moments and displays of technical finesse. Congratulations to the students on what was a successful event.
Another exciting year of debating begins at Rouse Hill High School!

Students from years 7 through to 1.1 have been regularly attending meetings and eagerly developing their debating skills and knowledge for upcoming competitions.

- The Premier's Debating Challenge starts in the first week of Term Two with two year 7/8 teams, one year 9/10 team and a 1.1 Senior team entering the Year 11 Metropolitan Competition!
- Year 7 and 8 students will attend a rigorous gala day next term, where they will meet and compete against other rival schools. This day is a great way to build confidence, is full of fun and develops debating and public speaking skills.

Students who are interested in debating or public speaking can see Miss Saville for further information about opportunities in debating, or speak to their English teacher.
Junior Drama students get into the groove

Students from years 7 and 8 have been keen to begin the journey that is engaging in Drama. This term a large group of enthusiastic performers have been meeting every Friday at recess, just to be a part of a happening group.

Students engage in scripted performances and also try their skills at improvising in the latest fun ways. Students can be a part of a large group performance, or build their confidence and try a small group on centre stage!

All students are very keen to be a part of the scheduled “ShoRts” performance later this year and are looking forward to studying drama as they approach Stage 5. If you are interested in joining this group why not come along on Fridays at recess and see how it you can build confidence, make friends and have fun! See Ms Dellar or your Drama teacher for more information.
Abbey wins Oz Speak Competition

During January, as a part of the Australia Day Celebrations, Abbey Cooper was selected to represent Rouse Hill High School in the Senior Competition Finals. Six students from private and public schools were selected to engage their audience with knowledge, skill and sophistication in a challenging delivery of their thoughts on relevant and current issues.

Abbey delivered a flawless presentation – excellent eye contact, volume and the right amount of humour, impressing the selection panel of Council and Business Representatives. Her presence and consideration of the issue covered enabled her to win the competition for 2014.

Abbey is to be congratulated for her skill and dedication in the public speaking arena.

Drama as Sport!

The Theatre Sports group is for interested and excited students with a vibrant passion for all things Drama. It is run during sport time each Wednesday afternoon and has been expanding as a group with keen interest over the last two terms. It is fantastic to see the level at which the students are engaging in the program and have been furthering their skills and confidence in drama performance.

During this term, students have been studying verbal and non-verbal communication. Each student has keenly been working on expression via movement as well as using voice. Many groups have developed excellent ideas on utilising technology in performance drama and this will certainly have a positive impact on the scheduled “ShoRts” performance night later this year.

For more information on Theatre Sports – see Ms Dunne or your Drama teacher.
HIDDEN TALENTS ON SHOW

A 16 month labour of love was recently presented to the school by John Hall, the Rouse Hill High School General Assistant.

The three pieces were created using basic art materials and old tree stumps including one that had been in Garry Charter’s family for fifteen years.

Completed in his spare time, John says of his skills, “It’s just something I’ve picked up over the years” through working on other pieces with some of his Aboriginal friends.

After planing the rough surfaces, and deciding on a design that incorporated DARE, it was a “slow and tedious process” placing all the dots, which John says “Doesn’t look like anything until you near the end”.

The results are impressive and there are plans to use these works in a sculptural garden. Thank you John for your efforts and gift to the school.
Year 1.2 Sydney University Campus Tour

Our students, staff and parents are part of a strong, sharing community
CAREERS NEWS
Ms K Henson, Careers Advisor

YEAR 1.2 UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY EXCURSION
INFORMATION PRESENTATION AND CAMPUS TOUR
Rouse Hill High Schools Year 12 students received a personalised tour of Sydney University by University representatives. Students found the excursion enjoyable, valuable and informative. Year 12 were fine representatives of Rouse Hill High School on the day.

UMAT TEST
Students are reminded that the UMAT Test is on Wednesday 30th July. Registration must be completed by Friday 6th June. The UMAT Test is necessary if students are applying for Medicine or Health Sciences.

YEAR 1.1 UAC GUIDE
Students are reminded to collect their copy of the UAC Guide from the Careers room. University Open Days occur through August and September. Students are strongly advised to make time to visit the campuses of Universities of their choice

YEAR 1.0 RESUMES
Year 1.0 has been reviewing and developing their Resumes. Students are encouraged to regularly update their Resumes on an ongoing basis.

MULTICULTURAL DAY
Congratulations to Year 10 on their hosting of the Multicultural/Harmony Day that was held on the 18th March.

The Leaders worked extremely well as a team with all the day’s events including the BBQ which was a sell out. The day raised over $950 for our World Vision child Mihinet Bereta and other World Vision initiatives. Rouse Hill High School students and staff embraced the day wearing their country of origin dress. Prizes were awarded to the best dressed in each year. Thank you to all staff for their participation and for Garry Charters and his team for their assistance with the BBQ.
The students were given the brief to design and create a plate of 8 iced decorated cupcakes which were all based on a theme chosen by each group of students. The themes included: flowers, social media, iPhone, NBA, comic superheros, wizard of Oz, Easter and children’s story characters.

As a lead up to the practical, students planned their theme and brainstormed design ideas. They learned how to colour and use Orchard and Royal Icing to achieve different effects when decorating cupcakes.

The students then made their cupcakes and froze them ready to be iced the following lesson. On Tuesday the 18th of March, Year 9Y Food Technology decorated their themed cupcakes using Orchard and Royal Icing. The cakes were then entered into the Castle Hill Show which was held on the 28th - 30th March. Their cakes were judged earlier that week and displayed with their winning ribbons and awards for all to see.

As a result Rouse Hill High School won 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, Age Group and Class Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Ribbons. We also received a Highly Commended and Encouragement Awards. Congratulations to Year 9 on a magnificent effort and achievement.
Leadership and engagement programs that build confidence, resilience and success
GRADE SPORT
It is with great pleasure that I can inform the local community of the fantastic initial success of the new format for grade sport in Macquarie Zone. Year 7 and 8 students are now competing in grade sport for the first time on Wednesday mornings. Along with Years 9 and 1.0 who participating on Wednesday afternoons, teams take part in Netball, Oz Tag, T Ball, 7 a Side Soccer, Touch Football, Basketball and Ultimate Frisbee. We are also enjoying the fact that we have entered the most teams ever and that many teams are enjoying success. I have had many positive comments from both students and teachers and I wish everyone involved the best in their future endeavours in grade sport.

REPRESENTATIVE SPORTS
Congratulations go to the following students;

Taj Brar of Year 1.1 who has been selected in the Sydney West cricket team.

Jack Dormor who attended the CHS Baseball Championships in Manly and was selected to represent the “Convener’s” team. A remarkable achievement considering Jack is in Year 8 and competing against boys as old as 18!

Rachel Pace continues her amazing success story who (at this point in time) is the NUMBER ONE ranked junior (U18) athlete in the world for 100 metre hurdles.

SWIMMING
I have kept this report separate due to the high number of students who will be representing Rouse Hill High School and Sydney West Region at the CHS Swimming Carnival from 6 - 8 April this year. These students are as follows;

Tara Fumberger, Maddison McIlveen, Maddison Cooper, Courtney Wright, Abbey Cooper, Aaron Donaldson, Brielle Donaldson, Kalahni Hasselbach, Kate Fumberger, Jordan Mitchell, Jamie Bradwell, Rhiannon Pearce, Phoebe Young.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Cross Country:
Unfortunately we had to postpone the school Cross Country carnival due to inclement weather - a new date will be advised to students shortly.
Macquarie Zone Cross Country carnival 8 May 2014
NSW All Schools Cross Country carnival 18 July 2014

Athletics
Macquarie Zone Athletics carnival 5 June 2014
Sydney West Athletics carnival 24 - 25 July 2014
CHS Athletics carnival 4 - 6 September 2014

Swimming
CHS Swimming carnival 6 - 8 April 2014
P and C News

AGM
The Rouse Hill High School P&C held our AGM on Monday 17th March. The P&C Executive Committee Members for 2014 are:

Karren Newbert  President  0407 665 630
Julie Lee  Vice President
Nicole Theissen  Secretary  0416 265 042
Greg Knight  Treasurer  0414 624 855

The P&C Meetings for 2014 will be:
Monday 19th May
Monday 16th June
Monday 21st July
Monday 18th August
Monday 15th September
Monday 20th October
Monday 17th November

Meetings commence at 7.00pm and are held in the Staff Common Room. All parents are welcome to attend.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT P&C INFORMATION?
• Log on to www.rousehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au and click on the P&C tab.
• If you would like to be added to the P&C Email List, simply send an email to the Secretary at nicoletheissen@optusnet.com.au.
• Simply call or text one of the Executive Committee Members.
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2014

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2014 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13 - 15 May 2014.

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<td>Reading</td>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

In 2014, as in previous years, the Writing task will be a single common task for all students. The 2014 Writing test will require students to respond to either a persuasive or narrative Writing prompt. However, the genre of the prompt will not be disclosed prior to the test period.

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 16 May 2014.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:
- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

SHERWOOD RIDGE
10th Anniversary Celebration Pavers

You are invited to participate in this unique opportunity to have your name as a permanent part of our school.

Sherwood Ridge Public School invites you, your child or your family to become a permanent part of our school’s history. If you decide to take advantage of our offer your paver will become a part of our "10th Anniversary Garden”, which will provide an enduring link between the past, present and future that includes the essential partnerships that make our school what it is - students, parents, school and community.

For as little as $40.00 your name or message will be engraved into a paver which will then be laid permanently in our "10th Anniversary Garden”.

Order forms can be collected from Sherwood Ridge Public School or downloaded from: www.sherwood-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au
Offer closes 30th May, 2014

Challenging and diverse learning programs providing excellent opportunities for individual success
“With Adams knowledge, encouragement, motivation and challenging workouts. Along with your own personal dedication, determination and perseverance you’ll get the results you desire. I’m not saying it’s going to be easy but it is soooo worth it. If I could do it anyone can!!”

Christina, Quakers Hill.

Replications is a Fitness company, which caters for Group Fitness and Personal Training.

What you can look forward to:

- Guaranteed Results
- Encouragement and Motivation
- Losing Weight
- Meeting New People
- Improving Strength and Fitness
- Having Fun
- Challenging Workouts

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Sessions are held at 85 Hambledon Road Schofields, Terra Sancta College.

Adam Simpson
HEAD TRAINER

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Leadership and engagement programs that build confidence, resilience and success
NOTICEBOARD

ADVERTISING IN THE ROUSE HILL HIGH NEWSLETTER
If you are interested in advertising your business or community group in the next edition of this newsletter please visit www.rousehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/rules-policies/rouse-hill-high-school-policies and download a newsletter policy for requirements and procedures.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE P & C
If you would like to be added to the P&C email list, simply email the Secretary at nicoletheissen@optusnet.com.au or log on to www.rousehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au and click on the P&C tab for information. Next meeting 19 May

DARE WEEK
What is DARE week?

You will be finding out more about this initiative when the website goes live in Term 2, but for now think of a week of structured activities around the theme of DARE. Student vs Teacher activities, performances, challenges and fun filled events ending with our first DARE fair.

This will be the event of the year. Start getting excited!

UPCOMING EVENTS
7 - 11 April
Stage 6 End of course exams

7 - 8 April
CHS swimming carnival

8 April
Under 16s soccer tournament

8 April
Year 7 Artefact incursion

9 April
Formal Assembly

9 April
Under 14s soccer tournament

9 April
Mayor and Youth Ambassadors afternoon tea

10 April
Year 7 and 9 Vaccinations

10 April
Royal Easter Show excursion

11 April
Under 19s soccer tournament

11 April
Last day of term

see school website for more details

FROM THE EDITOR
Thank you to all the staff, students and community members who have contributed to this edition of the Rouse Hill High Newsletter

THE ROUSE HILL HIGH NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
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Richard Medcalf
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Strong educational leadership and dedicated teachers create a supportive, dynamic learning environment