Avalon’s Literacy Night a Stunning Success.

Avalon Public School has hosted the annual Literacy Night for Year 6 boys and once again it has been a fantastic success. Over 90% of the cohort gathered at the school joined by dads, uncles, elder brothers and in some cases, mums. The evening commenced with a sausage sizzle under the School Hall COLA, providing an opportunity for guests, staff and the boys to mingle and chat informally.

The action commenced with the attendees being divided into two groups, half taking on the Scavenger Hunt with the other group moving to the computer labs for literacy based adventure challenges. After 30 minutes, the groups swapped tasks. The competitive juices were flowing freely among all participants. It was great fun!

Following the second activity session, all participants moved to the library. Male teachers, Mr McLean, Mr Grice, Mr McMenamin joined Principal, Mr Phillips sharing some of their current and recent reading with the boys, promoting the enjoyment derived from reading.

Teacher / librarians, Mrs Davis-Raiss and Mrs Clark conducted an excellent session with the group before encouraging our adult guests to join the boys in borrowing from an incredible display of books. There was high enthusiasm evident from all the boys present.

All in all, it was a wonderful night with a brilliant focus; promoting the joy of reading for information, enjoyment and relaxation!

Olympic Day at Bilgola Plateau Public School

Bilgola Plateau Public School students participated in an Olympic Day on Thursday, 10th May. Students became an athlete for the day and represented one of 16 countries. Students dressed in their country’s colours and participated in a modified version of the Olympic Games.
The day began with a spectacular Opening Ceremony. K-6 students proudly marched in the parade of nations. This involved flag bearers from sixteen countries leading their teams consisting of students from Kindergarten to Year 6 to the tune of their country’s national anthem. The parade of nations was followed by an impressive torch relay and the lighting of the cauldron. A crowd favourite! This really set the mood for the day.

Let the games begin! All students competed as a team and represented their country in a variety of sport based and fun filled activities. K-2 did their activities before recess and Years 3-6 did their activities before lunch. There was cheering, screaming and high fives all round. Every country wanted to win. Points were awarded and scores were added.

The day concluded with a closing ceremony with students eagerly awaiting the results. The overall winners were a finely tuned team of spirited athletes. Congratulations to Italy, the winning team.

**Elanora Heights Public School Healthy Eating**

LiveLifeWell @School (LLW@S) is a joint initiative of the NSW health and education departments to improve our children’s health through focussing on **5 Ways to a Healthy Lifestyle:**

- Choose water as a drink
- Eat more fruit and vegies
- Eat fewer snacks and select healthier alternatives
- Turn off the TV or computer and get active
- Get active each day.

An attractive fact sheet about each of these core messages is available for every student or family in the school.

Elanora Heights Public School, along with other Northern Beaches schools, has embraced this important program. The first step is for teachers to attend a two-day workshop and a $2,000 grant is then available, as well as excellent ongoing support from Eve Clarke, the local coordinator.

We are aiming for activities which integrate with KLA’s or are simple home-school links. We started with a nutrition emphasis as physical activity is already a strong focus at our school, and in most of the students’ home lives. Here are some ideas which have worked well for us this year:

**Introductory nutrition lessons** for all classes in the first days of Term One.

**Fruito/Vego** – for several years we have had a 10am in-class snack of fresh fruit or vegetables. Simple ideas are giving fresh impetus e.g. Fruito-Vego Round-up where SRC representatives tallied the number of each type of fruit or vegetable brought on one day and graphed the results; Shared Fruito-Vego; Rainbow Fruito-Vego – try to bring food with a particular colour and information about nutrients characteristic of this natural colour is provided by a parent nutritionist.

**Q4H20** – the one-week challenge for Stage 2 to record what they drink and to drink mostly water or milk. Stimulating interactive whiteboard activities are provided.
Drink Water Only Day - all students K-6 were encouraged to drink only water at school to highlight the importance of water as our main drink.

Healthy foods for school events e.g. as rewards for the 80 students who completed Q4H20, parents prepared enticing fruit kebabs.

School-home links – The 5 fact sheets with the core messages are being sent to each family as we have a relevant focus at school. We have had positive feedback from parents who are glad to see healthy habits encouraged at school as well as at home. For those students who do not receive this guidance from home, the input at school is particularly vital so that they can make informed choices. We have formed a joint teacher-parent committee with some keen parents, many with relevant expertise.

Tap for filling water bottles – while students have long been encouraged to bring their own water bottles, it is not easy for them to refill them. Providing such a tap in a central location will be one item funded by our grant.

Mona Vale Public School 100th Anniversary

Mona Vale Public School is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, a significant milestone for students and staff, past and present, as well as the local community. Mona Vale Public School’s centenary celebrations formally commenced in April with a special school assembly. Honoured guests, including former principal Richard Hoskins and long serving infants mistress Miss Collins, were acknowledged by current principal, Greg Jones.

At the assembly school captains presented a time capsule to Greg Jones. In the coming months the heavy stainless steel capsule will be filled with items produced by students and buried in the school grounds for the next 50 years.

The highlight of the school’s centenary year will be when family, friends, teachers and classmates from the founding years to the current day unite for the Centenary Festival Day on Saturday, 15th September, a community event marking a century of teaching at the Waratah Street site.

The event will run rain or shine between 10am and 3pm and will feature music, performances, historical exhibitions, vintage motor display, food stalls, schoolyard games from past decades and amusement rides.

Anyone with links to MVPS is being encouraged to head to the dedicated centenary website and Facebook page to upload stories and photos so the school can create a lasting digital tribute.

More details at: Website www.mvps.org.au, Facebook mvps100, Twitter @MVPS100
Newport Kindergarten Connecting Virtually

Newport Public School Kindergarten students have been forging the way with new technologies. Throughout Semester 1 two classes have connected using our video conference facilities with Kindergarten classes from Frenchs Forest.

They connected with their buddy class every Monday afternoon. The purpose of the sessions was to compare and discuss the features of our schools. The children explored and investigated classrooms, playgrounds, libraries, school offices, halls and computer areas. Each week before the video conference sessions the children would prepare a power point or notebook presentation with photos to share with their Frenchs Forest buddies. During these sessions students would discuss facts about their schools. Comparisons were made and questions were asked.

The children also explored a range of numeracy concepts using the video conferencing facility. Number tasks and questions were posed which we worked on back in our classroom and then shared with our buddy at our next VC session. Together they explored number combinations to ten using their feet.

A visit to Frenchs Forest Public School by our Newport students to see their buddies has been a highlight of the project. The children of Newport and Frenchs Forest were so excited about the connections they had made. All students have really enjoyed their experience and the teachers have been able to integrate many literacy, maths and HSIE learning in this connection.

It has been a very beneficial learning program where we are connecting virtually with children from a different school.

Wheeler Heights Public School Dress Up Day

Wheeler Heights Public School students and staff celebrated 2012 as the ‘National Year of Reading’ with a book character parade to the delight of the whole school community.

Grandparents joined the celebration, and visited classrooms to reminisce about the books they enjoyed as a child. The parade incorporated a “book quiz” as the audience was challenged to recall such favourite book characters as the ‘the Banksia Men’, the ‘Muddle Headed Wombat’, ‘Mr Percival’ and ‘Wilbur’.
Collaroy Plateau Artists Excel in State-wide Primary Colours Initiative 2012

The artworks below have been selected by Senior Officers in the NSW Department of Education and Communities to be professionally framed and readied for display in The Atrium, 35 Bridge St, Sydney from Monday, 21st May until Friday, 15th June.

Over 65 schools participated in this initiative, with many hundreds of artworks being submitted for consideration by the 45 Senior Officers.

We are absolutely delighted that we have not only one but two successful artists who have been selected for this prestigious honour. Both Sophie and Milly, along with their families, Mrs Trisic, Miss Williams and Mrs Lizzie Smith, will be treated as special VIP guests at the Atrium to meet the Senior Officer that has selected their work and to celebrate along with the other successful young student artists from across the state.

Peninsula School Education Director
Dean White's selection:
Sophie Coleman Year 5

Broken Hill School Education Director
Trish Webb’s selection:
Millicent Osborn Year 5

Australian Inspiration

Aussie Images

These particular artworks were created during lessons with our CAPA Specialist Teacher. Other classes entered their works with a total of 32 entries being sent. We are pleased to announce that all of our Collaroy Plateau Public School entries were considered worthy of being auctioned to benefit Stewart House.

The auction opened with the bidding starting at $5 per artwork. Teachers viewed the artworks online then placed a bid for that artwork. Our artists earned an amazing $312 from the auction. The highest individual bid was $50 for Bella Lysaght–Wheeler’s artwork.

All proceeds will go towards helping those children who attend Stewart House- the preferred charity of Teachers.
Environmental Leadership at Narrabeen North

There has been a strong commitment to sustainability for many years at Narrabeen North Public, but in 2012 the responsibility has shifted towards self-directed student participation through the introduction of Environmental Leadership. Our Year 6 leaders have experienced sustainability across the key learning areas, from their Kindergarten year through to Year 6. This has allowed them to develop a deep understanding of the interrelationship between what they do at school level and how this contributes to the global community. For the first time these leaders have taken on the role of mentoring younger students within the school with activities to improve and preserve the school environment. They would like to share their roles in their own words:

- **Hello my name is Lilly Shumack**, one of the five Environmental Leaders at Narrabeen North Public School. What is an Environmental Leader? It is a person who helps the students to look after our environment. My jobs include monitoring water usage and giving a report update at assemblies. I also do Narra Rangers which includes collecting rubbish from compost and plastic bins and putting them in the recycling bins or worm farms, and I also make sure that our worm farms have water and mulch. I represent the Environmental Leaders at SRC (Student Representative Council) meetings.

- **Hi I’m Amelia Dean** and I am an Environmental Leader for 2012. Doing this role means that I watch the Narra Rangers and I do this by checking if they clear the bins correctly and wash the buckets out. Narra Rangers are a group of people that help keep the school clean and green. In my role I do the energy monitoring and I check how much energy the school uses and try to decrease how much we use. And remember to turn lights off when you leave a room!

- **Hello I am Robbie Caldwell**. My job as an Environmental Leader is on every Tuesday I get some mulch and water to turn the compost. On Thursdays for first half lunch I do energy monitoring with Amelia, and this is where we find out how much energy our school uses. The last thing that I do as an Environmental Leader is to go to some of the SRC meetings and if they discuss something that isn’t environmentally friendly, Lilly and I need to step up and help them to think of an alternative.

- **Hi I’m Amber Hummelstad**. I am one of our Environmental Leaders at Narrabeen North Public School. I am in charge of Narra Ranger supervision and also water monitoring. At Narra Rangers I am in charge of looking at the students and seeing if they understand what they are doing. When I do the water monitoring I make a water graph and put it up in the school library. This shows how much water is used per student per day and everyone is able to see it.

- **Hi my name is Jake McKabe**. I am the supervisor for the Wednesday Eco Warriors. I love the environment and that is why I am an Environmental Leader. My job is to take care of my environment and that’s exactly what I do!
Narrabeen Lakes Public School – A Winner!

The first thing anyone says when you mention your children attend Narrabeen Lakes Public School is “I've heard that’s a great little school!” This is right on two counts: it certainly is great and, despite having grown substantially from its humble beginnings, still has a small school feel.

Narrabeen Lakes prides itself on its “village atmosphere”. Nestled between the lake and the beach, there is a real sense that you are in a country school when you step inside the gates. Walking through the friendly school playground it’s heartening to see young and old, interacting and playing together. Everyone knows everyone.

Despite this village atmosphere, Narrabeen Lakes boasts state-of-the-art facilities, with a fully equipped computer room and interactive whiteboards in all its classrooms. The teachers are committed to excellence and the quality of teaching is second to none.

The school also has an award-winning environmental focus, winning the 2011 Greater Sydney Most Sustainable School award (Sydney Water Catchment Authority) and the 2011 Department of Education & Communities Northern Sydney Regional Award Most Sustainable School, both last year, and just to name a few. With its veggie garden, henhouse, water tanks, worm farm, recycling programs and solar panels all the students are encouraged to get their hands dirty and experience sustainability in action.

Whether its involvement in the all-inclusive dance and music programs or the many sporting teams and opportunities on offer, the school continues to live up to its goal that “every child should have a happy day”.

Cromer Public School – Environment Club

Cromer Public School's Environment Club's members have been working extremely hard this year to create a sustainable and beautiful environment in our school grounds.

The Environment Club meets once a week with Miss Ellery, Mrs Lawler and Miss Calvi to plant seeds, maintain our gardens, worm farms and compost heaps, and harvest crops.

The Environment Club has been lucky to work with one of our expert parents Cameron Little to enhance our vegetable garden and sustainability of the school. The Environment Club has introduced Waste Free Wednesday, where students have the chance to be the Environmental Super Hero for the week. New bins have also been introduced to the playground to recycle co-mingle waste.

The Environment Club will continue to work hard with new and exciting projects!
**Barrenjoey High School PCS Year 11 Engineering Studies**

The role of the engineer includes formulating problems, providing solutions and integrating technical understanding. In the 21st century, engineering will continue to be directed towards developing insight and understanding to the provision of infrastructure, goods and services needed for industry and the community.

It has been wonderful to see how motivated and interested the current group of students undertaking the Preliminary course are, in developing their knowledge and understanding of the profession of engineering.

Within modules studies so far, students have:

- Learnt about historical and societal influences upon the field of engineering.
- Used mathematical and graphical methods to solve engineering problems.
- Examined the function of simple machines.
- Identified various engineering materials and manufacturing methods.
- Produced drawings applying appropriate Australian Standards (AS 1100).

In the months to come, students’ will be exploring the profession of engineering through the study of braking systems and biomedical engineering.

Mr. J. Brown

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**Pittwater High School - ICMS Hospitality Challenge**

Year 12 Hospitality has been involved with a cooking challenge organized by the International College of Management Studies in Manly. The students were lucky to have a mentor chef who came to their lessons each week. Each lesson was designed to give the students more skill to compete in the final “Cook off” at the Manly Food and Wine and Sustainability Festival on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of June. Local schools were paired with chefs from around the area. At Pittwater we were fortunate to have Kevin Burton from the Royal Motor Yacht Club as our mentoring chef. Kevin gave up his day off to come to our lessons.

The final “Cook Off” was held in appalling conditions as the weather was not favourable to a festival crowd. Elliott Peek was our entry and he and Kevin did an outstanding dish in the thirty-minute challenge. The team from Davidson High School won on the day. Elliot was given a prize for his achievements and must be congratulated for his efforts in overcoming fear and nerves to cook in front of a crowd with a mystery box of ingredients. We will look forward to next year’s challenge.