Avalon students enjoy widespread success.

This semester has seen students from Avalon Public School enjoy success in a wide variety of school activities.

The school’s Tournament of Minds (TOM) teams performed superbly during the regional competition conducted at Pymble. Tournament of Minds is a problem solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. Students are required to solve demanding, open-ended tasks and TOM is an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant, and public way.

Two Avalon teams competed in the Sydney North Regional competition, one team in the Maths Engineering section and the other in the Applied Technology challenge.

The Applied Technology team of Henry McGilchrist, Charlotte Pitt, Brooke Edwards, Blaze Roberts, Ellie Castle and Dyami Hensley presented a very clever and humorous account of the history and future of the SMART phone. Their lively, energetic performance was judged to be the best and they were declared the regional winners and would represent the Sydney North Region at State Finals.

In early September, the team competed at the University of New South Wales against the winners of the ten other regions across New South Wales. The team had 3 hours to independently work on a solution to a new problem. Once again they delivered a creative and energetic performance demonstrating good team work and excellent drama skills. It was a wonderful experience for each of these students.

Avalon’s Senior Boys’ Robotics team of Fergus Cole, Lachlan Bates, Finlay Scott and Aiden Woodworth has won the Peninsula Community of Schools (PCS) NXT Robotics Challenge conducted at Narrabeen Sports High School. The boys are members of the school’s Robotics Club that meets weekly after school. Interest in robotics is strong at Avalon, with the school having its own fleet of Bee Bots, Pro Bots and NXTs.

For the second consecutive year, Will Stamp of Year 4 has won the Regional Final in the Junior Division of the Premier’s Spelling Bee. Will now contests the State Final at the ABC Centre during the first week of November. This is an outstanding achievement!

Finally, Avalon’s Ellie Kerr has blitzed the opposition to record a victory in the Girls’ 10 years 100 metre sprint at the recent NSWPSA Athletics Championships at Homebush. Ellie will travel to Adelaide with the NSW Team in November to contest the School Sport Australia Athletics Championships.

Providing students such a range of extra-curricular opportunities is a high priority at Avalon Public School.
Cromer Public School – 50th Birthday

Cromer Public school turned “50” on Thursday, 9th August and wow, what a celebration we had! The students and staff went out of their way to dress up in 60’s gear and looked wonderful.

Mr Jones, Mrs Martin and 6 students from the Class of 1962 along with their teacher and Deputy Principal Mr Austin Collins, and many past and present parents attended the birthday celebration and the opening of the new classroom building.

We also welcomed the Hon. Mr Brad Hazard, Member for Wakehurst who took part in our birthday celebrations.

Katherine Jones and Andrew England, the school’s leaders, then cut a birthday cake and we all sang happy birthday. After the official ceremony, the visitors walked through “memory lane” to look at the memorabilia set up in the hall and visited many of their old classrooms, and then had morning tea. At lunch the students were served a sausage sizzle and enjoyed participating in activities throughout the afternoon related to the 1960’s.

It was a wonderful celebration and a real milestone in the outstanding commitment of providing excellence to Public Education at Cromer Public School for the past 50 years.

Bilgola Fete- We Just Can’t Wait

The wait for Bilgola fete was finally over on Sunday 28th October. Hundreds of people visited the school for our biennial fete which the school hadn’t been able to hold for 4 years due to BER construction.

The whole school community enthusiastically got behind the collection of items with different items published each week in the newsletter in a lead up to the fete. Classes gained points for the most items collected. Local businesses were also very generous in their donations and our silent auction was one of the best ever with prizes such as a balloon ride, a kayak, luggage and a signed Sea Eagles jersey.

Many parents and teachers volunteered their services for the day and the hard working fete committee ensured the smooth organisation. Children had fun on the various rides spread out on the oval, with the favourite being the dunking machine with four teachers volunteering to be dunked to add to the fun.

Some of our famous parents such as Richard Boxborough and Ed Halmagyi (from ‘Fast Ed’ cooking) and Felix Williamson (from ‘Underbelly’) kept the fete rolling along with their funny commentary of the day’s happenings.

Barrenjoey High School band and Newport Public School band performed along with Bilgola’s dance groups. It really was the best fete ever with takings far exceeding previous fetes.
Elanora Heights “Mini Olympics 2012”

Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa!!!

These were just a few of the 12 countries that participated in the “Elanora Heights Public School K-2 Mini Olympics Day” held at our school in Term 3.

The K-2 children thoroughly enjoyed participating in the many skills based activities and movement games that the team at “Be Skilled Be Fit” had organised for them.

We had our own Opening Ceremony; complete with flag bearers, a torch relay, a march past and an official oath reader!

Not to forget our Closing Ceremony, where the winning country was announced and our Olympic flame was extinguished.

Our fantastic staff and supportive parent body were all involved and ensured the day was a complete success!

Showcasing our Success

Collaroy Plateau Public School is extremely proud of our students and their recent successes across a range of domains. Spelling, shot-put, speaking, writing…we are surrounded by talented students!

Julie Xie of Year 6 has been practising her spelling words ready for the State final of the Premier’s Spelling Bee. On 7th November Julie will travel to the ABC Centre in Ultimo to compete in this event, where students will be tested on words such as paraphernalia and sphagnum.

Julie’s classmate, Latika Tombs, has qualified for selection in the NSW team to compete in shot-put. After finishing 2nd at the recent State Carnival, Latika will travel to Adelaide to compete in the Nationals.

Public Speaking is another area of strength at Collaroy Plateau. Patrick Blacker of Year 4 represented us at the State final of the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition on 2nd November. Students deliver a prepared speech before a large audience, as well as being given a limited time by adjudicators to prepare and deliver an impromptu speech on a particular topic.

Judges of the Sydney Morning Herald’s Youngest Writer competition were wowed by the sophisticated writing style of Year 6 student Nanki Soin in her entry The Storm. Her opening paragraph illustrates why she took out a Gold Award, recently presented at Fairfax Media’s city offices:

It was a terrible night. The wind howled mournfully, beating against the grey-tinged waves that crashed relentlessly against the jagged rocks framing the beach. The sky glowed with constantly changing shades, from deep purple to bloody crimson to pitch black. The darkness was inescapable; it cloaked the village completely, extinguishing the merriest fireplace and making tranquil places into places to fear.

An amazing achievement for an eleven year old!

In addition to these successes our Concert and Performance Band members shone during our recent Showcase Evening. Students from Years 4 to 6 performed solos, duets and trios which highlighted their musical talents. Parents and grandparents were left with goose bumps by these extraordinary performances.

We look forward to another year of opportunity and success for our students in 2013.
Newport Sailing into its Second Decade

The School Sailing Program run at Newport PS is now in its 11th year. 65 students participate in the program in Terms 1 and 4.

The students’ skills range from beginners to advanced, with students progressing from the Learn to Sail Program up to the TRACKS program which is an elite racing squad with Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club. Our young sailors are introduced to the rudiments of sailing and learn to sail, tie knots, rig boats and learn racing rules. The children have loads of fun and learn to overcome fears. They develop in self-confidence as well as developing confidence on the water. At the end of the season the Pittwater Regatta is held to provide our advanced sailors with the opportunity to compete in a friendly competition.

The Newport Sailing Program is a highly valued community program. Parents are very involved and supportive throughout each term. The program connects our students to two community clubs, Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club and Bayview Yacht Racing Association, who provide the tuition to the children.

For many living in the Pittwater community, sailing has been a traditional pastime and provides the opportunity for our students to develop an ongoing leisure activity for life.

Narrabeen Lakes Public School – J Rock!

On Thursday, 23rd August 2012, Narrabeen Lakes PS performed in the Junior Rock Eisteddfod Challenge at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Our performance theme was ‘Harmony Parade’ which centres around the idea of Harmony Day which Australia and our school celebrates every year.

“Harmony Parade” celebrates our cultural diversity. It is about community participation, inclusivity and respect.

Our performance setting was a suburban street where everyone gathers together and unites to celebrate a colourful kaleidoscope of cultures.

This year was Narrabeen Lakes PS 4th year participating in JRock. We achieved Awards of Excellence for Costuming Character, Concept and we received two awards for our Performance Skill!

Our students dedicated our performance to Keoni Rakatau, a girl who loved to dance.
Mona Vale Public School 100th Anniversary

Thursday, 18th October 2012 will be a day remembered by all staff and students attending Mona Vale Public School.

Unlike the 1975 Time Capsule, the 2012 Centenary Time Capsule was packed and sealed in an outdoor assembly attended by all at the school as well as the Centenary committee members. A large plaque has been laid on top of the capsule to make subsequent staff and students aware of its location.

It is to be opened in 50 years’ time in 2062.

The Time capsule was packed by the current leadership team made up of school captains Max and Jasmine, Vice Captains, Jessica and Nathan, Prefects and House Captains. Items that were added were all explained and shown to the assembly as to their significance.

Items included:
- letters written by a student representative from each grade, staff members, Mr Jones and P &C President to their counterparts in 2062 as well as letters from Rob Stokes, Bronwyn Bishop and Jacqueline Townsend.
- the 1975 time capsule
- current school uniform
- photos (hard copies and a USB-wondering if this will be able to be utilised in 50 years’ time)
- information packs
- awards and ribbons
- the centenary book written by Bev Lewis
- the day's Manly Daily
- Class collages of all students' art work
- class lists from 2012
- a school newsletter
- a school report
- a copy of the words to the current school song
- memorabilia from the Festival day held in September
- school sporting records
- attendance books from the Festival

The ceremony included the singing of the Mona Vale School song and the National Anthem performed by the Performance Band conducted by Mrs Shaw.

Happy Birthday was sung to the school, capping off a fantastic year of centenary celebrations.

Narrabeen North - Science Fest

Celebrating National Science Week 2012 in Term 3, Narrabeen North held a whole school Science Fest which was a great way for our students, school and community to be involved in science activities.

Science has had a strong focus at Narrabeen North with the introduction of the Primary Connections units K-6, resulting in enhanced teaching and learning in science and literacy. Our Science Fest gave students a chance to showcase their conceptual and inquiry skills by completing products of work to share with real and engaged audiences made up of students, teachers and parents.

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Consisting of 2 presentation times on the day, Stage 3 and Kindergarten students presented in the morning, Stage 2 and Stage 1 students after recess, and the alternating classes were the audience for each session.

Stage 3 were given a choice of activities including designing, constructing and testing an electrical circuit, creating a cartoon to convey messages about how scientists work, making an earthquake shake table or a seismograph.

Another option was the ‘Awesomeness Project’ which involved choosing to research and examine the contribution made by an individual through science or a science-related area of expertise. Students took on the persona of the individual in full costume and were able to discuss their invention with the audience.

Kindergarten classes grew grass heads, made sultanas dance, watched celery leaves change colour and made colourful chemical reactions. Stage 1 students made compost in a bottle, a worm farm, grew bacteria in petri dishes, explored the world of bees, made a minibeast habitat and even punched slime! Stage 2 students grew crystals, planted Terra terrariums, demonstrated magnetism or produced ‘shrunken’ apple heads.

It was terrific to see our students formulating questions, making predictions, conducting fair tests, and providing evidence to support their descriptions, as well as thinking and talking like scientists.

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**A Busy Term 3 at Wheeler Heights Public School**

Wheeler Heights Public School students from Kindergarten to Year 6 capped off another exciting term with a highly successful school concert.

Inspired by this year’s theme ‘Once Upon A Time’, each class worked in teams to create their version of old favourites but with a twist!

Belinda Carlisle would no doubt have been blown away by the staff’s version of her hit renamed and penned, ‘Mummy, Leave the Light on for Me’, as would Michael Jackson with Kindergarten’s rendition of ‘ABC’, or The Weather Girls with the ‘Year 4’s version of It’s Raining Books’, just to name a few. The school concert was a great way to end a term of many exceptional individual, team and whole school achievements.

Other Term 3 highlights include the Year 5 Boys’ Remote Control Car Rally, K-2’s very own Olympic Games, the Senior Girls’ Dance Group being placed 3rd at the Extreme Dance Eisteddfod, and two students achieving state representation in touch football and public speaking.
Narrabeen Sports High School

Narrabeen Sports High School is quickly developing a reputation as a comprehensive public school with additional benefits, often only found in elite private education, without the significant additional school fees.

With the strategic development of The Northern Sydney Scholastic & Sports Academy which was launched this year, the School has seen a significant increase in enrolment at the School. This exciting addition to the curriculum offered at the School is enhanced by a project, nearing completion, which involves an extensive upgrade of the School’s main oval to a fully synthetic dual purpose AFL and football ground, and will make it the first of its kind anywhere in NSW.

The oval will be used for the School sporting and Academy programs, and will become a coveted ground for community use after school hours and on weekends. Commercial arrangements have also been negotiated with local businesses, and this has led to the repair and upgrade to the tennis courts and weights room found at the School in a bid to ensure that the sporting facilities are able to support the specific skills coaching and academically based mentoring programs which are to be delivered through the Academy.

This Academy is embedded into the framework and curriculum of the School and it is open to any student enrolled at the school. The focus of the Academy is to afford elite and emerging elite athletes an environment for academic and social development, whilst acknowledging and assisting with the development of the individual training and competition demands in a chosen sport.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 are given the opportunity to take part in Academy based programs which are held between 8:15am and 9:45am on a Tuesday and Thursday.

These programs include skill acquisition training sessions run by highly qualified coaches and mentoring sessions conducted by school staff and guest speakers. The mentoring session give students an opportunity to develop an understanding of sports nutrition, sports science, team building and how to apply organisation to the demands of balancing sport, academic pursuits and home life.

Students in Years 11 or 12 who have represented NSW or above in their chosen sport are offered membership to the Elite Athlete program within the Academy. Each student will be linked to a Teacher Mentor who is on staff at the school. The Teacher Mentor meets with the student and assists with balancing the demands of a competitive sporting program and school work.

For more details on the Academy program, and the sports offered, go to the school website - www.narrabeen-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Barrenjoey’s MADD Evening was a Sensation!

Barrenjoey’s MADD evening for 2012. It was an opportunity to display the talents of Barrenjoey’s senior students in the fields of Music, Art, Dance, Drama and Design & Technology.

I remain in awe of what our students created or performed on the night. It’s worth noting that 87% of our students choose HSC courses that contain a Major Work, with 35% doing two of these courses and 13% three courses. This is testament to the creativity of our students and the physicality they bring to their HSC studies.

Quality was displayed, not just in Visual Arts and Photography but also in Music, IT -Timber, Design & Technology, Textiles, Drama, Hospitality and Dance, work that was the result of effort, application, vision… practice, determination and imagination.

MADD is Barrenjoey’s collaboration between the CAPA (Creative & Performing Arts) and the TAS (Technology & Applied Studies) faculties, and this year it incorporated 14 staff members, from 8 subject areas involving more than 100 students.

Mostly… the displays, products and performances were by Yr.12 students and therefore their development over the years was incredibly obvious to us all. Personally, I reflected on how special it is to see a student mature and progress. The student’s artistic and creative growth paralleled their emotional maturity that was easily reflected in their Major Works. Last Thursday, unique artists & photographers, talented woodworkers & designers, gifted musicians, dramatists and dancers treated the audience to displays and performances, all while sampling the delights from the gorgeous kitchens of the Hospitality class.

A triumphant success! Congratulations to all the teachers for making MADD possible. And to all the talented students for producing each individual piece, whatever its medium, and all the student helpers who collectively created the impressive exhibition and showcase of student work. – You continue to surprise and inspire me!

Barrenjoey’s MADD Night is an exhibition and performance that any school community would be justifiably proud of. Well done to all involved!

Barrenjoey’s Junior MADD night will be on Thursday, 29th November 2012.

Pittwater High School - Hospitality Class

On the 15th September students from Pittwater High School Year 10 Hospitality class helped make and sell biscuits at Mona Vale Public School’s Centenary celebrations.

 Arnotts and the Teachers Mutual Bank were kind enough to donate ingredients and monies, respectively to contribute to the making of 652 biscuits by the students for the celebrations.

The students made jam drops, choc chip biscuits and cafe smartrie biscuits. A great time was had by the students as well as the teachers (Mrs Lagois and Mrs Roulston) who helped bake the biscuits and volunteered on the day to sell biscuits.

Mrs Lagois with a teacher from Mona Vale Public School helping Ryan Burgoyne (left) and Nick Northey (2013 school captain) sold coffee on the day.

On the right are the beautifully made biscuits ready for sale on the day.