Newport Public School Images of Greatness

Newport had a few famous faces land in our library during Term 3 and the audience enjoyed the privilege of conversing with the likes of Aristotle, Eleanor of Aquitain, Duke Kahan Amoku, the Dalai Lama, Alfred Nobel and Corrie Ten Boom, just to name a few. The presentations led by the students, were the culmination of a ten week, in depth research program initiated as they used their heads and hearts to choose a significant person from history, whose characteristics, achievements or beliefs resonated with them.

Exploring their character’s life, including the challenges faced, likes and dislikes, motivations and achievements, involved the students in being explicitly taught historical skills, in addition to providing opportunities for them to think in ways that are imaginative, interpretive and critical. As visitors passed their stations tasting favourite foods, learning about how each character was perceived throughout history and asking questions of the “famed faces” ranging from their contribution to society, to their favourite sayings, the students demonstrated their ability to express themselves and compose complex texts using forms appropriate to the purpose and audience. Whilst some of the characters studied were not directly related to Australian history, the students were nonetheless engaged in developing explicit historical skills, which is a requirement of the new syllabus. Adam Hearne and Lara Windon led the program and commented that one of our favourite parts of the evening was reading some of the famous quotes, this one by Aristotle; “There is only one way to avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing and be nothing.”
Narrabeen North Public School

Go Green Day

This term, Narrabeen North Public School held our biennial Go Green Day. This year our theme was habitats. The students had a fabulous day engaging in a range of hands-on activities, such as building possum and bird boxes which will be placed in trees around the school. Students participated in art activities and used iPads to create presentations about an Australian animal’s habitat. Some students created habitats by building insect hotels for solitary bees and other insects that are important for our ecosystem. Two classes went to Kimbriki to participate in the NSW Waste Less, Recycle More project. Students had the opportunity to learn about bush food and how to recycle sustainably. Students planted approximately 200 shrubs, trees and native grasses, and K-2 students raised $330 for Sydney Wildlife Rescue. Stage 3 spent a truly inspirational afternoon listening to two young boys, Daniel and William Clarke, talk about their work to save the habitat of the orang-utan.

Go Green Day was supported by community partnerships with Bunnings and Pittwater Council who donated plants and provided staff to assist with planting. The Coastal Environment Centre and Field of Mars ran workshops, and Sydney Wildlife Rescue brought in native wildlife. One of our parents, Vicki Beecher working with her company SALT, spoke with Years 5 and 6 students about owls and their habitat. Most importantly, all the students learnt about environmental and sustainability concepts and how we can all make a difference.

Elanora Heights

Education Week at Elanora Heights PS

This year we celebrated Education Week with an Open Day that saw grandfriends, parents and caregivers invited to take a look at what was happening at our school. They liked what they saw and we loved having them.

Narrabeen RSL Club and Narrabeen Sports High School supported our event by providing parking space and a mini bus with a driver for the morning and we greatly appreciated their assistance. Our guests were offered a park and bus option that alleviated parking issues around the school with so many people attending.
Teachers and students engaged grandparents and parents in some of the activities that make our school the vibrant learning hub that it is. Classrooms were packed with students proudly showing their work to their visitors. Our Choir and Dance Group were well rehearsed and delighted in performing to a large and appreciative audience. Finally the Elanora Heights School Band entertained the crowd outside on a beautiful sunny winter’s day. Their faces full of concentration as they presented an extended repertoire of lively musical items.

Kindergarten Science Day at Mona Vale Public School

On Wednesday, 19th August, five scientists from Macquarie University, our academic partner, visited Mona Vale Public School. Professor Mark Williams, Associate Professor Anina Rich, Dr Alexandra Woolgar, Dr Regine Zopf and Dr Trevor Chong worked with Kindergarten students to understand the complexity of the brain. Students participated in a rubber hand illusion, and many believed that the rubber hand was actually their hand! The temperature illusion involved putting one hand in very warm water and one hand in very cold water for a few seconds. When both hands were put in lukewarm water, there was a strange mix of messages, because the brain gets signals from the 'hot' hand that the water is cold, and signals from the 'cold' hand that the water is hot!

We all discovered that our brain puts together information from our senses of sight, touch, hearing, smell and taste to understand the world around us. Principal Greg Jones thanked the scientists from Macquarie University for providing an incursion which promoted experimentation and scientific inquiry.
Students at Narrabeen Lakes from Kindergarten to Year 5 have recently begun weekly Chinese (Mandarin) language lessons with their wonderful new Chinese teacher, Mrs Alex Chen. In addition to learning the spoken language, students are also learning to read and write Chinese, as well as take part in art, craft, music and dance lessons.

These students join their Year 6 peers who have been learning Chinese throughout 2015 with Ms Luciane Watson, a talented teacher from Narrabeen Sports High School, who works at Narrabeen Lakes every Wednesday afternoon.

As the majority of Narrabeen Lakes students go on to attend Narrabeen Sports High School where Chinese is also a focus, this additional language learning opportunity will prepare our students well for future success in Chinese lessons all the way to HSC level.

The benefits of language studies clearly go beyond being able to speak another language. Young people who have the opportunity to learn other languages will not only be able to communicate better with people across the world, they will have deeper inter-cultural understanding and cultural intelligence, and increase their value in the workplace.

Research from the Victorian government and around the world also suggests that learning another language helps boost children's literacy skills and comprehension of their first language.

Principal Mr Andy Rankin is planning to take teachers to visit their sister school Dongqian Lake Central Primary School in Ningbo, China in 2016. In the following year, he anticipates that Narrabeen Lakes students will also participate in their first ever student exchange with the school.

In the meantime, if you are passing by, don’t forget to drop in and say ‘Ni hao’!
Bilgola Plateau PS Celebrates its 50 Years Anniversary

Bilgola Plateau Public School is fabulous and fifty! The amazing school on the hill will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a Twilight Celebration on Friday 16 October. The 50th Anniversary Twilight Celebration will begin at 4:00pm and conclude at 8:00pm.

During the celebration current and past Bilgola Plateau Public School community members are encouraged to explore the school via the 50th Anniversary Student Art Exhibition Trail, visit our newly created museum and view our Bilgola Plateau Public School Movie and BilgolaFest student movie offerings. Food vans will be onsite with delicious dinner options and lots of rides are on offer to entertain the children.

The official 50th Anniversary Ceremony will occur at 5:30pm. During the ceremony we will cut the cake, reveal the contents of the time capsule buried in 1988 during Bicentenary celebrations and enjoy performances from our talented students. Our choir will sing a school song medley and our dance groups and bands will take you back in time by dancing and performing some sixties hits. All three bands will play along with a premiere performance of the Bilgola Plateau Public School Reunion Band. All past band members are encouraged to bring their instrument to the Twilight Celebration and join in a mass band performance. Please email the school at bilgolaplateau-ps.school@det.nsw.edu.au if you are a past Bilgola Plateau Public School Band member and you are interested in joining the Reunion Band performance.

If you are a past Bilgola Plateau Public School community member please come and help us celebrate 50 years of being amazing. Please spread the word to your school mates!
Cromer PS’s Spectacular Instrumental Program

Cromer Public School’s instrumental music program is highly renowned and respected in the local community, and has a growing reputation.

Strings Program

We have a very strong Strings program, consisting of three groups: Training, Intermediate and Senior Strings. The school community is very excited to be one of the first primary schools to have their very own orchestra comprising violins, violas, cello and double bass. We also have an outstanding Band Program, with three bands: Training, Intermediate and Senior.

Public School students from across NSW combine to celebrate musical excellence in a series of concerts that feature soloists and ensembles in a variety of musical styles. They have the opportunity to work with professional conductors and perform music specifically chosen and commissioned for them.

Twenty four of our very talented Senior Strings students were chosen through audition, to perform at this year’s Festival of Instrumental Music at the Sydney Opera House on the 6th August. The Festival of Instrumental Music featured a Combined Recorder Ensemble and Combined String Ensemble. Josh B, our double bass player not only played in our school group, but was invited to play at all three concerts over the week. A remarkable feat for a Year 5 student!

This year, the string repertoire included diverse works by Australian composers. *The Swans of Lir*, by Stephen Chin, *Voyager One* by Adrian Mansukhani, *Shanghai Hornpipe* by Keith Sharp and *Gypsy Airs* arranged by Stephen Chin were all part of the very challenging repertoire. Our Senior Strings students spent many long hours over a six month period rehearsing this repertoire with our brilliant Strings Director, Mrs Kathryn Crossing.

The evening performance was a truly amazing spectacle! The stage was adorned with the Combined String Ensemble made up of 200 violinists, violas, cellists and 2 double bases. The Strings performed their three specialist pieces and then almost 500 Recorders joined them in the finale and encore which was spellbinding. The quality of the young musicians was quite extraordinary!

Band Program

The NSW School Band Festival is held each year at the University of NSW, Kensington (in Sydney’s eastern suburbs). The School Band Festival is open to all school wind, brass and big bands. Over 230 bands and in excess of 6500 students perform at this event each year. On the 16th August, our three bands performed superbly at this festival under the guidance of their band director, Mr Kelvin Anderson. The Training and Intermediate Bands took home Silver awards and our Senior Band were awarded a Gold award for their outstanding performance.

Cromer’s very talented band director, Mr Kelvin Anderson, was recently awarded the inaugural Cliff Goodchild scholarship after our involvement in the New South Wales Schools Band festival. The scholarship provides both the students of Cromer PS and Kelvin a chance to further enhance the music program at the school by bringing in talented musicians and conductors to work with the students leading up to next year’s festival. We are very proud of Kelvin and excited about this unique opportunity.
Avalon Public School Lone Pine Memorial Ceremony

Earlier this term, Avalon Public School welcomed the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret’d), to join us for a special ceremony to establish a tribute in our school grounds to the Battle of Lone Pine. We invited the Governor to plant a Lone Pine sapling that had been struck from the original tree in Gallipoli. This date, August 6 2015, marked the Centenary of the Battle of Lone Pine fought between the Australian and the Ottoman Empire Infantry Forces in 1915.

Due to the young age of our school, we do not have an Honour Board to recognise former students who served our nation. So it was decided that in 2015, when our nation is commemorating the Centenary of our involvement in World War 1, that it would be an appropriate time to establish our own memorial to the men and women who served the nation on the school grounds.

Avalon School has always enjoyed close relations with community events related to ANZAC Day services. As such, it was appropriate that special guests from both Avalon Beach and Palm Beach RSL Sub Branches were invited to attend, together with current serving members of the defence forces.

Our Drum Corps and combined Senior and Concert Bands, together with our trumpeters, Isla Pegler and Callum Archibald, added greatly to the ceremony. All guests made comment on what a fine school we have at Avalon. We were very proud of all our students!

His Excellency planted the Lone Pine and unveiled a beautiful commemorative plaque. This section of the playground will become an area of Remembrance and Reflection for all members of the Avalon School community and in due course, additional seating will be established in this area.

We were delighted to welcome the Governor and our special guests to this very special day for Avalon Public School.
Collaroy Plateau Public School

It has been a busy few weeks at our school with the children participating in a wide range of exciting learning experiences. Our Book Week celebrations kicked off the week with the students and teachers enjoying the chance to dress up as their favourite book character for our parade. As a school we were so proud of raising nearly $1000 dollars to send to The Indigenous Literacy Foundation through our Great Book Swap.

Another highlight for us has been the outstanding results of our Zone Athletics Team. We finished 2nd overall and were thrilled with the spirit and sportsmanship of our athletes. To take out ‘Athlete of the Meet’ was a huge honour for our Emily Smith!

At Collaroy Plateau Public school we like to put on a show….our DanceSport Team has entertained us with their burgeoning skills and their Cha Cha is a real crowd pleaser. Again we finished 2nd place and couldn’t be happier. A fabulous school initiative that has seen 2 of our dancers receive a scholarship for a month of free ballroom dancing lessons.

Wheeler Heights Public School

Week of Tastes at Wheeler

Over the past few weeks, the students in Years 3 and 4 have participated in a Week of Tastes. Through hands on sensory exercises, they discovered that there is much more to taste than just putting something in your mouth and deciding if it is ‘Yummy’ and ‘Yucky’. The ‘Tasting Day’ was a lot of fun as it provided students with the opportunity to experiment with taste using some interesting foods and drinks. Using blindfolds we all discovered there is more to food than meets the eye. Calling on our descriptive language skills, we built our repertoire of definitive adjectives that described the texture, smell, taste and look of food and drink.

Each class also had a food professional visit to provide insight into the world of working with food.
• Allyson the beekeeper presented about how honey is produced and the services bees and beekeepers provide our community. What a delicious delight it was to devour honey only hours from the hive. A sweet experience was had by all.

• Jo the baker visited and taught us what is involved with the production of baked goods and the services her shops provide the local community. We all loved the hands on activities when feeling the different dough and experimenting with yeast. The tastiest part was testing 5 varieties of bread - not a crumb was left!

• Nenand the chef shared his expertise in interesting foods with his background in the restaurant world as a chef. We loved tasting the explosive combinations of chilli and chocolate discovering that the chilli enhanced the bitter chocolate making it taste sweeter. We also loved the big bang we experienced from the popping candy!

Years 3 and 4 would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful presenters, parent helpers and to Mrs Soegaard who provided us with some tantalising taste sensations to consolidate all our learning experiences.

Get Your Book On

Wheeler Heights Public School was transformed into a fantasy land of colourful characters for Children’s Book week with students and teachers alike dressing up as book characters for the K-2 book parade. Everyone looked marvellous and it was certainly a joyous and entertaining way to celebrate.

The library was a hive of activity on the day also as it housed a very popular book fair were families had the opportunity to buy any number of great titles from a range quality literature to add to their home libraries. There was also a colourful and talented display of entries to the school-wide “Books Light Up Our World” book cover design competition. Overall stage winners will be enjoying a special time at the movies with their movie voucher prizes and the runners up were awarded vouchers to spend at our book fair.

Parents who braved the ‘patchy’ weather to attend the K-2 Parade were also invited into open classrooms, gymnastics displays and of course to the magnificent Wheeler Sculpture Walk exhibit. Visiting parents, students and teachers were also surveyed about their favourite books form their youth, and the results will be used to guide a giant-scaled art installation in the area leading to the wonderful school library.
What a Spectacle

After a wet start, the Wheeler Sculpture Walk was launched on Wednesday 26th August by Mr Scotter and Mr Kevin Cullen, father of ex-student and Archibald prize winning artist Adam Cullen. Many words of praise were given to the students and families who exhibited sculptures. One hundred and twenty creative, colourful sculptures presented the visiting guests with a powerful WOW factor!

The artworks created by Wheeler Heights Students and their families displayed an amazing creative flair as well as the co-operative and positive community spirit that we are so proud of. The artworks were all created using recycled materials and fell into one of 3 categories, those being – Animal Sculptures, Abstract Sculptures or Functional Sculptures.
Pittwater High School - Gallipoli 2015 NSW School Tour

Thursday 6 August 2015 marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine in Gallipoli. Our group still have close memories of our visits here, described by our Premier as a “sacred Australian site”. We indeed had the opportunity to visit Lone Pine twice whilst in Turkey, including the Anzac Day commemoration service. Some moments the students and I will never forget from this day was making the steep walk up to the site with so many Australians and New Zealanders from all walks of life, as well as the just five of us descending the slopes back down to Anzac Cove, reflecting on our remarkable day not only commemorating history but also witnessing it being made.

Pittwater’s tour group were invited by the Office for Veterans’ Affairs to attend the ceremony commemorating the centenary of the battle at Hyde Park. On a glorious Sydney winter day, prior to the formalities beginning, we had the fantastic chance to catch up with many of the other teachers and students from the tour. During the service we heard from NSW Premier Mike Baird, RSL NSW president Rod White and NSW Centenary of Anzac advisory council chair Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, along with music from the Australian Army Band. After the speeches, the Ode to Remembrance and the national anthem, the entire group entered the memorial where the dignitaries laid wreaths. Each of us received a gold star with the name of an Australian soldier who had made the ultimate sacrifice at Lone Pine. Everyone then cast their stars into the Well of Contemplation above.

Afterwards we walked across to Parliament House to share a lovely morning tea with the dignitaries in the Speaker’s Garden. Once again it was a privilege to share this special occasion with the students, marking another milestone in our journey remembering the ANZACs of Gallipoli.

Narrabeen Sports HS

Open Girls Touch Football - The Road to Glory (We are State Champions!)

Our Open Girls Touch Team are State Champions after the final Top Ten tournament. The journey this year began back in February with a resounding win against North Sydney Girls High school and continued through to regional finals, defeating Freshwater, then on to inter-regionals whereby we defeated Wagga Wagga High School. Our team travelled to Wagga Wagga and stayed overnight. There were a couple of brave parents that accompanied us as well as our Head Academy coach Jye Malcolm. A fun time was had by all and again the team despite being from Year 7 to Year 12 bonded well. They are a very close bunch and support each other immensely. The Wagga Wagga game was quite a close one and went into half time with a 3-all score line but luckily the girls rallied to beat Wagga wagga 6-3. This was quite a shock to Wagga Wagga as they have contested State Finals for the last ten years and have won twice.
The team then contested the State Title with a tournament format over 2 days at Bateau Bay. Our team showed their fitness, dedication and skill through the early rounds and defeated Inverell High, Castle Hill, Wauchope and Kiama High, to qualify first for the semis. This game was against Mackellar Girls and we won 5-3 to qualify for the State Grand Final.

The Final, against Hills Sports High (who have won the tournament for the last three years in a row) was an extremely exciting (stressful) event. After falling behind 3-1 in the first 10 minutes, the girls stayed calm to edge their way back until the score was even. Following this it was try for try. The entire team was outstanding. No player lost focus, nor did they behave in anything but a positive manner. In the sub box the girls supported and encouraged each other. We eventually won the Final in the last 30 seconds. This team has been superbly coached. They looked fitter, more skilful and composed than any of the opposition. Our Touch Academy program is definitely proving to be one of the best in NSW, if not Australia. It requires mention that our Open Boys team were narrowly defeated by Terrigal High School in the lead up to the Final. Terrigal boys went on to win the State title, so our open Boys certainly will be in the mix in 2016.

The Gr8 GATsby 2015

Well, what a success The Gr8 GATsby 2015 was! On Monday 17th August, students from our local primary schools (Narrabeen Lakes, Narrabeen North, Elanora Heights, Wheeler Heights, Collaroy Plateau, and Mona Vale) were invited to Narrabeen Sports High School to compete in a gifted and talented day. Primary school students from years 4-6 were integrated into teams with students from other primary schools as well as Narrabeen Sports High School students from years 7 and 8. Students worked in teams of five to complete a number of activities throughout the day and accrued points as they went. Congratulations to team Aristotle who took out first place, followed closely by team Mandela.

A huge thank you goes to the wonderful Narrabeen Sports High School staff who gave up their time to run fun, engaging and challenging activities:

- **Science** – Mr McDonald’s high energy was perfect for his O-wing glider challenge on the synthetic oval.
- **Mathematics** – Mr David’s problem solving challenges had a number of teams scratching their heads.
- **Visual Arts** – Ms Purcell’s team mascot challenge had students creating 3D hybrid animals with parts that represented members of their group.
- **PE** – Mr Wood has the students pulling their hair out as they were sent back to the beginning of the Hot Lava challenge when they did not work as a team.
- **Geography** – Mr Wigan has the students zipping around the school in a timed orienteering challenge.
- **English and History** – Both Mrs Turner and Ms Curtis put their students to the test during public speaking challenges.
- **Drama** – Ms Frost was in stitches during the improvisation Drama challenge.
Academy Mentoring – Guest Speakers

On Tuesday 11th August our Academy students had the opportunity to meet some past and present elite athletes who provided the students with an opportunity to share some valuable insight into what it takes to be the best both on and off the field. Spencer Prior a former English Premiership player and Matildas coach shared his story on what it takes to be the best and what life after being an elite sport involves. The students were also introduced to Manly Warringah Sea Eagles Jake Trbojevic and Matt Ballin, who discussed the balancing act between their professional careers, family and education. It was an amazing experience for our students to hear what it takes to be successful and that they should get goals and continue to work towards their dreams.

Barrenjoey High School
NAIDOC 2015

To celebrate the 2015 Naidoc theme: ‘We all stand on sacred ground’, Sydney Ferries showcased an art exhibition on the iconic Manly Ferry. Barrenjoey Aboriginal students, part of the three Aboriginal Nations of Sydney, Dharug Nation of the West, Eora Nation of the South-East, and Ku-ring-gai Nation of the North participated in exhibiting their art work on the Manly Ferry during NAIDOC week. The collaborative poster they created celebrates the Aboriginal place names of Northern Sydney and educates others as to their origin.
An Exciting Week in French at Barrenjoey

For their major assignment, all Year 8 French students were required to research a French-speaking country and to describe the eating habits and customs of that country and some of its traditional foods and dishes. As the second part of their task, the students were required to make a dish from their selected country and bring it in to class for all to share. The students had a ball trying delicious dishes from all different countries and learnt a lot about the widespread influence of France throughout the world.

On Tuesday 4th August, all of Year 10, 11 and 12 French students had the opportunity to dine at our local French restaurant Bistro Boulevard in Avalon. The students enjoyed their first try of snails and some garlic bread for entrée, a main of Boeuf Bourguignon and a selection of desserts including Crème Brûlée, Tarte au Citron and Mousse au Chocolat. They also had the opportunity to practise their French with each other and the many French-speaking waiters at the restaurant. A wonderful time was had by all and I would like to thank Patrice and the staff at Bistro Boulevard for their continued support of French at Barrenjoey and for the unforgettable French experience provided for our students.
During the last week of Term 2, Year 7 maths classes were visited by Dr Rebecca Johnson, Director of Science and Learning from the Australian Museum Research Institute and proud ex-Barrenjoey pupil! Rebecca's work involves studying the DNA of various animals to identify their species and she was able to show the students how maths and science are used in her everyday duties.

Rebecca first showed us how her unit traces the DNA of birds involved in bird strikes on planes to identify the species and genus. After some further data analysis they are able to come up with ways to reduce the occurrence of these accidents and hence improve airline safety as well as protecting the individual birds.

We then saw a clip from the ABC program “Catalyst” where her unit was involved in the detection of illegally harvested shark fins. Sadly, this is a practice widely used in Australia that leads to the sharks dying in a cruel manner as well as the unmanaged depletion of their populations. The work of the Australian Museum Research Institute has led to countless prosecutions and has made a significant impact on this practice. The same positive results have also occurred to decrease the incidence of smuggling of rare Australian animals. Students were captivated by the work and examples provided by Rebecca, and the various applications of mathematics were an underlying theme of the talk. Hopefully some were inspired to follow her example and who knows, one day one of the current Year 7 group may be back to make a presentation to some future year group about the impact of their work and the mathematics used that helps to make us a better society!

The Peninsula Community of Schools would like to wish all staff and students a wonderful spring break.