Newport Public School – The Wonder That Science Can Spark

The year of implementing the new Science syllabus saw Newport staff engage in a professional learning day at the Coastal Environment Centre, which focussed on teaching using an inquiry based approach. We worked with Jackie Slaverio, (Science and Technology Advisor on the Australian Curriculum) and Jules Bellamy (Senior Environmental Educator) on what inquiry learning looks like, including some local school examples. Tim Seaton worked with us on a design and make task on the habitat of the native bee and we visited the wetlands at Warriewood to investigate the equipment and skills involved in conducting scientific inquiry. We came back enthused about the possibilities for our teaching/learning programs and the wonder that Science can spark, which led to a Stage 3 Science unit on Antarctica / Sustainability that concluded with a Design and Make Day.

Students were told they had ‘crash landed’ in a particular environment (desert, rainforest, Antarctica, tropical island etc.) and they had to design either a shelter, a water storage facility or a system to catch food, strong enough to last for 3 months in their chosen environment. They were asked to bring in recycled materials from home that might assist them with their task. The only materials they could use were the materials they could find at their crash site (i.e. what they had brought in from home plus some materials supplied by teachers) and the tools that were supplied to them.
Students spent the first session of the day collaboratively planning and researching their design whilst taking into account the environmental situation at their crash site (e.g. climate and presence of predators) and the constraints of the building task due to the available materials. During the middle and afternoon session, students built their designs, using tools such as hammers, nails, glue guns and saws. When finished, there were a variety of shelters, food catching implements and some water storage facilities on show.

The final part of the day involved each group presenting their design and explaining its features to their peers. Student engagement on the day was extremely high. Working with proper tools, under careful teacher supervision, ensured students gained some of the skills required by the new Working Technologically requirements of the Science K-10 Syllabus. Teachers are already fielding requests to have a similar Design and Make Day next term!

**Narrabeen Lakes – White Ribbon Day Activities**

As part of the Peninsula Community of Schools’ commitment to end domestic violence towards women, Narrabeen Lakes Public School celebrated White Ribbon Day on Wednesday 25 November with a special breakfast fundraising event for the school and community.

We were moved by the overwhelming show of support for the event, as hundreds of students and families joined together to share breakfast and donate to this most worthy cause. To date, we have raised more than $2000 from the sale of White Ribbon merchandise and raffle tickets. All proceeds will go towards supporting a local women’s refuge.

Following the breakfast, all 412 students planted white ribbon symbols in a beautiful display on the front lawn of the school.

Principal Mr Andy Rankin and Assistant Principal Mr Ian Phillips pictured with Year 4 students and the white ribbon display

**Narrabeen North - Waves for Water**

This year Narrabeen North Public School (NNPS) engaged the community and supported ‘Waves for Water’, which is a foundation that raises money to buy water filters that provide people in developing nations with clean drinking water.

Our Student Representative Council decided to raise money to help purchase filters for the people of the Mentawai Islands in Indonesia. This event provided an opportunity for our students to make a valuable global contribution and to raise awareness of important health issues.
Students were inspired by videos of the work already done by Winter Vincent and Cooper Chapman from ‘Waves for Water’. Cooper, who is an ex NNPS student and a professional surfer, visited our school with Winter to explain the foundation’s goals and to inspire us to support this worthwhile cause.

Winter and Cooper worked with Emerson Raper, our student representative, to organise a raffle and a mufti day. All students dressed in beach clothes and donated a gold coin to support this great initiative. Some students made their own water filters to show others how they work to clean the water. We were fortunate enough to have Hurley donate the prizes for the raffle. All students thoroughly enjoyed ‘Waves for Water’ day, while learning about an important global issue.

Our school raised $1500 which enabled us to buy 30 water filters for the people of the Mentawai Islands.

Cromer Public School

What a Spectacular Performance – Colour My World

The Schools Spectacular is an outstanding showcase of the talent in NSW public schools. It showcases over 3,600 students who feature in a dazzling display of music, dance and pageantry. Students from more than 400 public schools across NSW rehearse for months in preparation for four fantastic shows over Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November at the QANTAS Credit Union Arena, Sydney. Cromer Public School students from Years 3-6 had the extraordinary opportunity to perform at this prestigious event after an extensive audition process which was carried out across the state to bring together over 1,500 voice choir, 80 piece orchestra, 2,000 dancers and talented soloists from ages 5 to 18.

Members of our Senior Choir performed outstandingly in the Massed Combined Choir, under the guidance of Mrs Jill Bradford, the school’s specialist Music teacher. Twelve of our Senior Dance students performed wonderfully in the Combined Dance Group under the guidance of Miss Alison Quinn and Miss Kate Murphy.

Jade A, one of our talented dancers in Year 6 who is a member of the Sydney North Dance Ensemble, took to the stage in the special ‘Matilda Section’. Jade has worked tirelessly with selected students from other Northern Sydney primary schools to perform at a number of special events this year. She is to be congratulated for her on-going commitment to dance excellence.
We also had our IO support class, K-6B, who performed a dance with other special needs students in the D’Arts Ensemble. Mrs Soraia Barry and Mrs Lea Joris worked tirelessly with K-6B in helping them to refine their performance.

The whole school community were very proud of the Senior Choir, Senior Dance Group, Jade A and K-6 B’s brilliant performances and wish to thank our amazing staff for the opportunities they give to our Cromer students.

**Technology for Learning**

Technology has opened up new forms of learning and creative expression for students at our school. It has allowed the students to take greater control of their learning. At Cromer, we are providing learning experiences through technology for all of our students to develop their creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills. Through our Technology Literacy class we have been using augmented reality which allows the students to unlock and create layers of multimodal texts to their work. They’ve been creating interactive word walls, art works and book reviews. Students have also learned how to write scripts and create storyboards. They are able to use a green screen to manipulate graphics and create engaging videos. The students were lucky enough to attend an excursion to Adobe Headquarters where they learnt valuable video editing skills and had a tour of the Adobe offices. Our students have participated in Mystery Skype calls and have Skyped experts including Dr Karl. They have become 21st century learners by designing, creating and publishing their own websites. Students across the school have had opportunities to participate in robotics and coding. The coding club runs at lunch time and students are learning to program using java script. This year, Cromer competed for the very first time in the First Lego League. Students worked together in teams to build, program and compete against other robots to problem solve different scenarios. For more information about what’s happening at Cromer, visit the NSW DEC class movies website.

**Wheeler Heights Jazz Band**

**BIG BAND BOOM!**

Congratulations to the WHPS Jazz Band for their exceptional performance at the Big Band festival held at Soul Central in Dee Why (was Lizotte’s) last week. Our jazz band was the first of 6 big bands to perform and, as usual, they opened the show with a massive bang!

The night attracted around 500 participants and supporters and the venue struggled to keep up with the huge demand. However, the atmosphere in this classy music venue was dripping with enthusiasm and high energy. Our young musicians were lucky to be given such a wonderful opportunity to perform and watch music at a gig such as this.
Responsible Pet Education Program for Schools K-2

On Tuesday 24th November a Pet Educator visited our school and gave an informative presentation on "Children Living Safely with Dogs". The presentation focused on strategies to help avoid a dog attack and the children loved meeting ‘Frosty’ the giant (but friendly) Old English Sheep Dog.

The K-2 students were presented with colourful stickers, a chart and brochure to reinforce critical advice on how to behave safely around dogs and the correct way to approach a dog. The information to take home also provided families with the chance to discuss this important issue with their children.

This Responsible Pet Ownership Education Program is a wonderful initiative of the NSW Government.

Bees - Going into Buzziness!

Wheeler Heights Public School is thrilled to have finally installed it’s first native bee hive. An initiative of a small group from the P&C and staff, the hive was purchased recently at a native bee workshop held at the Coastal Environment Centre to act as a sustainability curriculum link.

These bees, the only social bee native to the Sydney area are scientifically known as Tetragonula Carbonari. They live in a hive with a social structure similar to European Honey Bees. Among other differences, however, these bees do not have a sting at all and are not aggressive.

We know that bees are vital for the pollination of all forms of plants including the fruit, vegetables and grains which we all depend on in our diets. As such we hope that the presences of these little friends will not only improve the production of our various school gardens, but also join our flock of chickens in providing an important discussion and education point for Wheeler Heights’ growing sustainability and biodiversity education programs.

White Ribbon @ Pittwater High School

White Ribbon is a worldwide campaign to end violence, abuse and discrimination against women. The vision of White Ribbon is for "all women to live in safety, free from all forms of men's violence".
At Pittwater High School we passionately believe that violence against women, gender equality and respect between males and females are among the most important issues facing Australian society. Education and awareness can play an important role in addressing these issues and promoting the development of positive relationships.

We are proud to say we are a White Ribbon school! In conjunction with our White Ribbon Student Leadership Team (comprised of 35 Year 8, 9 and 10 students) we organised a range of educational and engaging activities over two days - Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th November.

On Wednesday 25th November, we devoted our normal assembly to introducing our White Ribbon program, outlining the origins and purpose of White Ribbon day and starting the process of tying our white ribbons on our front fence.

The Student Leadership team bought white ribbons for every student and staff member in the school. At various times over the two days, each year group was taken out to the front noticeboard/fence area of the school to tie their ribbon on the fence.

Everyone was asked to think about the significance of the ribbons - symbolising our commitment to promote positive and safe relationships and to eliminate violence against women.

On Thursday 26th November we had a mufti day, with a theme of 'all white...with coloured hair ribbons'. Additionally, we had a whole school, special assembly in the hall, covering important themes such as the school's values, recent statistics around violence against women, types of abuse and positive strategies.

With the combination of a cupcake stall and a gold coin donation, we raised over $1200 for White Ribbon and the Manly Women's Shelter.

On a side note.....Twenty two people from Pittwater High School will be visiting the Northern Territory next year as part of a PDHPE/HSIE trip. We will be visiting a small community, called Ngukurr, 7 hours from Darwin. They are also focusing on the issue of violence against women. Check out their video! http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/ngukurr-project
Avalon PS – A Spectacular Journey!

Sixteen students from Years 2 and 3 at Avalon Public School and their teacher, Anne Henderson, have just completed an amazing journey which took them to the performance space of the QANTAS Credit Union Arena as part of this year’s Schools Spectacular. This wonderful event highlighted one of the very best features of our NSW schools - the way in which we work as a team to create something very special.

This year’s Spectacular, titled, “This Is Our World” involved 3600 students from Kindergarten – Year 12 drawn from Public Schools across New South Wales was again hosted by John Foreman, who first appeared in the Schools Spectacular back in 1986.

Avalon’s journey has been a life-changing adventure for the students involved: a journey of creativity, collaboration, friendship, hard work and fun. As part of a tribute to the 50 year anniversary of the Sound of Music, they performed in the segment, “To be out in the world, to be free”, which brought those toe-tapping songs, “Do Re Mi, My Favourite Things and The Lonely Goatherd”, to the audience.

The scope of this year’s show was enhanced by a range of additional programs such as the World’s Biggest Classroom student projects. 3AH students from Avalon designed and made a spectacular artwork titled Beachfront Volunteers. This piece is currently on display at Warringah Mall.

The journey. The rehearsals. The performances. All truly spectacular!

Narrabeen Sports High School

Narrabeen’s Tour of Tokushima-Bunri High School

This week our Principal, our two Deputy Principal’s, 2016 School Captains and Vice Captains joined Tokushima-Bunri High School for their 120 year birthday celebrations in Japan.

Lance Berry was honoured to have received the invitation from Tokushima-Bunri High School to join them on this very special occasion. They enjoyed a full week of school activities and cultural experiences that will be treasured for a lifetime by our school representatives.
The strong bond with Tokushima-Bunri High School sees their students visit annually to experience two weeks at Narrabeen Sports High School. We continually strive to grow diversity in our school and this is fostered through such international school relationships.

**Australian Business Week**

From November 23-27, 48 NSHS Year Ten students participated in a pilot Australian Business Week program. Students competed in teams of 8-11 to run their own sporting goods manufacturing company and develop and market a product. The teams were guided in making quarterly decisions about their company, which they entered into a computer simulation, by volunteer mentors from the Rotary Club of the Upper Northern Beaches as well as Mr Wood, Mr McKee, Ms Tan and the HSIE faculty. Mathew Tilley from Commsec Advisory Services also spoke to the students about finance management and Mike Pawley acted as a guest judge on the Friday. At the end of the week, the students presented (and were judged on) trade displays and commercials to showcase their product in addition to an oral presentation about their company and decisions made. A score out of 100 was then calculated based on these products, the students’ teamwork and their success in the computer simulation.

NSHS staff, students and parents attended the trade display to enable the companies to sell their wares with “SK” taking out the People’s Choice vote. “RISC” won the competition overall, with each student receiving a medallion, $20 iTunes voucher and Hoyts movie ticket; followed closely by the “Lions” who each received a Hoyts movie ticket. Many thanks to the very generous NSHS P&C for funding the resources needed and prizes as well as subsidising students’ participation fees.
First Lego League 2015

On the 30th November, Narrabeen Sports High School hosted the annual regional tournament First Lego League (FLL). This day saw 32 primary and high schools from across the region compete against each other through various activities relating to this year’s theme “Trash Trek”. The main purpose of FLL is to engage students through collaborative group work, promote problem-solving skills and allow them to be creative in designing and programming a robot to compete in different mission challenges. The theme of “Trash Trek” gave students an insight into the global problem of trash and afforded them the opportunity to come up with practical solutions to help alleviate the problem.

There were many other activities students were able to participate in on the day including a hands-on robotic cars display and a presentation by Ford Motors, which included a Ford Mustang being on display on the school grounds for students to explore and have a look at. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and are already planning for the 2016 FFL!

Barrenjoey High School - Community Performance Space

Barrenjoey is a proud community, comprehensive high school with an exceptional geographic position that influences the character of the school. As a progressive school, Barrenjoey’s vision is to further develop its unique balance between creative excellence, academic achievement and social awareness by constructing the purpose built Barrenjoey Community Performance Space.

Announcing the commencement of a new era for the Barrenjoey community – The Barrenjoey Community Performance Space.

The location of the Space will be between the hall and the canteen. It will be built in two stages.

Stage 1 looking like an outdoor Roman amphitheatre with seating for almost 200 students. The rear wall of the Backstage gallery will be replaced with a large purpose-built door so that the area will be enlarged. In Stage 2 the facility will be completely enclosed and fitted out with seats and all the necessary electronics.
The design phase and planning is well underway thanks to a terrific group of parents and community members. Richard Cole has provided all the architectural drawings, and a committee comprising of Christy Bishop, Cilla Cole, Kalinda Hawson and Kim Hoggard have already established a fundraising concept that will see this dream become reality.

The school and local community will unite to build a performance space that will transform the way creative and performing arts is experienced within the Barrenjoey area.

The existing Barrenjoey community and the alumni of Barrenjoey will all be invited to assist in creating a wonderful piece of infrastructure for our school as we head towards the 50th anniversary in 2018.

**Elanora Heights – Tie a White Ribbon**

Elanora Heights Public School is proud to be a supporter of the White Ribbon foundation, promoting respectful relationships and the right of all to live without fear or violence.

On 24th November, we held a white ribbon event to draw attention to the necessity of having respectful relationships with everyone. All students wrote the name of, or a message to, a significant female in their lives. They then tied this ribbon to the fence in our school turning circle as a daily reminder about the importance of treating others with respect. This also symbolised our feeling that respect is an everyday application, not a one-off. Parents in our community also showed their support by attending this event and tying their own ribbons to the fence alongside those written by the students.
Bilgola Plateau Public School – 50 Years Strong!

Bilgola Plateau Public School celebrated 50 Years of fabulousness during a twilight celebration on Friday 16 October. The Bilgola Plateau Public School community past, present and future gathered to acknowledge the special place this amazing school has in the hearts of the community.

Highlights included the creation of many photo books capturing over a million memories, the Museum containing 50 years of memorabilia and the Student Artwork Trail of artworks depicting the unique features of the school. The screening of the BilgolaFest Film Festival winners and premiere of ‘Half a Century at Bilgola Plateau Public School’ were also favourites among the many visitors to the event. The Bilgola Plateau Public School Reunion Band also made its inaugural performance.

As you can see from the photos, it was a magical evening that demonstrated the value this wonderful school has to everyone in the community.
Mona Vale Public School

Mona Vale Public School supported the World’s Biggest Classroom this year to promote sustainability for our local beaches. This wonderful, recyclable artwork is the amazing accomplishment of the collaboration, imagination and dedication of twenty-one Stage 3 students. The pre-loved surfboard was transformed using vibrant colour and original designs inspired by the vast diversity of our Australian culture and the captivating natural beauty of our environment. Students worked for a total of 40 hours to create this masterpiece. It is now proudly on display at Warringah Mall.

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