NAIDOC
2015

Last term THS held another successful NAIDOC Day with community and family members. Thanks to all staff and students involved in the celebration.
Toormina High School recently hosted 50 students from the United States of America. This was facilitated by the Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour Daybreak through the ‘People to People’ Student Ambassador program which promotes greater understanding of people across international borders. Students attended classes and participated in NAIDOC celebrations while learning about the many cultural similarities and differences between our countries.

**JETTY EXCURSION**

On Monday 22nd June, a group of students from Toormina High School climbed Muttonbird Island and were thrilled to see several whales and a pod of dolphins, which seemed to follow the students around the island as they descended. The weather was perfect for a barbeque and a game of soccer. A great day was had by all. Thanks to the CEX for the hire of the bus.

Elizabeth Nicholls - Teacher, Support Unit
Year 8 Project Based Learning is HERE!

After months of planning our year 8 students at Toormina High have now begun their Project Based Learning. All year 8 will be involved in this exciting initiative, with science classes going into the local area and doing fieldwork aimed at exploring their driving question – ‘What are we swimming in?’ This project involves students using hands-on scientific research methods to test the water quality and ecosystems of various local waterways.

In English, students will be studying literary and film genres. They will consider the question posed by an up-and-coming writer, ‘Which genre will make me rich and famous?’ in order to pitch the advantages of a particular genre. Guest writers from the Coffs Harbour Writer’s Group, including published authors, have been keen to get involved and will visit the school and work with classes as they explore a variety of genres this term. During this process the school will also be involved in a DEC initiative, creating a film of our PBL journey in order to share our experiences and learning with other students, schools and the wider community. All students, teachers and guests filmed will be required to sign a filming permission form to be involved in this aspect.

This is an exciting chance to showcase our students and will culminate on Friday, 21/8/15 with a full day presentation of the students’ work. Parents, special guests and community members will have the chance to view the Year 8 Presentations for both projects as we celebrate the creative and innovative ways our students have responded to our driving questions.

More information on our progress and Presentation Day will be included in upcoming newsletters.

Go for it, Year 8!

Julie Roberts
Head Teacher – Teaching & Learning

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Our hard working School Learning Support Officers gained the skills and confidence necessary to handle difficult situations at this term’s Staff Development Day. The workshop was organised by Jo Robb and presented by Ryan Hardie-Porter, the Head Teacher Welfare at Coffs Harbour High School. The teaching staff learnt about Google Apps and technology developments relevant to their subject areas.
CREST Mentoring
I have now returned from Long Service Leave and CREST Senior Mentoring will be back in full swing from the start of Term 3!
With Trial HSC exams in weeks 4 and 5 this term and the year 11 final exams at the end of term, it will be particularly important for students to be well organised and motivated this term to maximise their results. Those on the Mentoring roster will resume regular sessions and if any other students wish to see me I can be found in the CREST Mentoring office or the Science staffroom.
Let’s make it a great term!
Julie Roberts
Head Teacher – Teaching & Learning

P&C NEWS

Mr Hendry the 2nd
As Mr Brett Hendry retires from the English Faculty, his son, Michael, is continuing the family vocation of education.
Michael is completing his degree through Newcastle University and as an ex THS student is now seeing our school from the teacher’s perspective as he completes his practicum in the PE faculty.
Michael spent a year in the Australian Defence Force after school and also had the opportunity to do a university exchange to South Carolina in the United States and hopes to travel to England to pursue his teaching career. Michael can remember his English teacher, Lin Wood, reading the poem ‘Road not Taken’ by Robert Frost and felt that it applied to his life so far....

‘Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both............................................
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.’

Michael enjoyed his time at THS and says his advice to students would be that you get back what you give out, ie. show respect, get respect and that all choices, no matter how big or small have consequences. Just learn from them, apply yourself and you can achieve whatever you want. Also, the people (students and teachers) that you meet in high school will influence you your whole life.

WHOOPING COUGH WARNING
There have been several cases of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) reported in our area recently. Whooping cough can be a life threatening infection in babies and young children. Please be aware that even those who have been vaccinated are at risk of developing whooping cough as immunity fades over time. Whooping cough usually begins like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, tiredness, mild fever and a cough. If the cough gets worse and develops into a ‘whooping’ sound it is important to seek medical advice immediately.
For information on whooping cough go to the NSW Health website - http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/whoopingcough/index.asp or phone the Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 for information
AUSTRALIAN ICONS

Year 10 English classes have been studying Australian icons and culture. The class sampled vegemite toast, the great Australian icon!

Principal's Column

Welcome back to all of our students and staff. A particularly warm welcome is extended to our three new international students: Aline De Wit from Belgium, Theresa Manara from Italy and Duong (Sally) Phan from Vietnam. All three students have had a lovely introduction to the school and community and will give many of our students a sense of the rich opportunities that exist beyond the school gate.

Congratulations to all of the prize winners who received recognition at the end of semester assemblies last term. We appreciate the hard work and diligence of all those students who strive to complete their work to the highest standard. In recognition of that hard work our school will hold a Rewards Excursion to Dreamworld this term, so watch this space for further details.

Our HSC students are currently working toward their Trial examinations and preparation for their Higher School Certificate examination where they will be competing against more than 60,000 candidates from across the state. Hard work, persistence, firm focus on goals and good communication will create the best outcomes for all determined students. We will do all we can to support them over the next four months.

Best wishes to Ms Bluhm who is taking a year’s leave from week 3 this term to teach in an international school in Belgium, we wish her all the best. I would like to welcome Miss Campbell who will be replacing Ms Bluhm for Terms 3 and 4 this year.

Joanne Bellette
Relieving Principal

IMPORTANT DATES - WEEKS 3 & 4

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<td>Whole School COFFS CUP Gazetted Public Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED 11.30am</td>
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BOND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS open July 17, see Mrs West for details or go to www.bond.edu.au/scholarships

DISABILITY EXPO
Disability Expo will be held in the Toormina High School Library on Friday, September 4, 9:30am -1:00pm.
For further information please ring Robyn West 66533077.

New on our school website this week...........

HSC TRIAL EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

• The ADF Gap Year program provides an opportunity for young Australians, who have finished year 12 (or equivalent) and are aged between 17 and 24, to experience military training and lifestyle whilst gaining new skills and pay over their Gap Year.

• Gain military training, life skills and make new friends.

• Earn a great salary and receive subsidised accommodation and full medical and dental coverage.

• Positions available in the Army include Administration Clerk, Unit Quartermaster and Driver Specialist.

• Positions available in the Air Force include Administration Clerk and Supply.

• Find out more or apply now at defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear