

Ashley School

Newsletter - Term 2

September 2012



Principal's Report

Once again we find ourselves at the end of yet another term of school and wonder where the year has gone. I am pleased to report that for the most part our students remain committed and engaged in their education whilst they are with us.

Well done to our teachers for your continued enthusiasm to prepare and deliver high quality educational programs that engage our students with their learning. To our dedicated teacher assistants and School Executive Officer Jill Budgeon, thank you all for the support you provide to teachers to assist with student learning as well as keeping the school resources up to date and flowing efficiently.

NAB Schools First Impact Award

I am very pleased to be able to say that our school has won a NAB Schools First Impact Award for an outstanding school-community partnership. The school will be awarded with \$30,000 towards the existing partnership we have with the Ashley Youth detention Centre and the Save the Children Foundation. As reported on in previous newsletters our partnership has been in operation for 18 months. The project works with young people in detention, and on release in the community, supporting them to identify and realise their education/vocational and recreational goals. In addition to this award the project has also been supported by a three year innovative Flexible Education grant from the Tasmanian Department of Education.

The partnership aims to reduce recidivism by increasing young people's engagement and success at Ashley

School, but also as they transition back into the community. A key to the success of this program to date is the strong trusting relationship between the youth worker and with the young person that is built within the detention centre. The Foundation employs two youth workers, Julian Cole and Chad Ivic (pictured) who both do a wonderful job in their roles and their personalities and dedicated enthusiasm to assist our young people is no doubt another reason why the program to date has been such a success.



As reported in January 2012, 54% of young people who engaged with the transition program in the community have re-engaged with educational and vocational opportunities. This included 5 students in mainstream schools or college, 7 in alternative educational settings and the remainder in vocational courses. This is a significant achievement as many of the young people in this program have been completely disengaged from mainstream school for many years. As well as the educational outcomes, 92% of the young people engaged with positive social and recreational activities including surfing, mountain bike riding, bush walks, gym work, day trips and fishing.

Principal Report cont.

Through recreational activities, the youth workers can continue to be a positive mentor, providing an alternative way of relating to the world and introducing new experiences to young people. Participation in recreational activities clearly has a positive impact on the lives of the young people including increased physical fitness, introduction to pro social groups of people and an increase in personal confidence for the individual.

National Project – Giving Theme

As part of the ongoing national schools in detention ‘Giving Theme’ our students are about to undertake painting and decorating some mugs and bowls that will be donated to the Youth on Paterson’s food outreach program. Detention Centre schools from across the country will be presenting their finished mugs and bowls to other organisations such as St Vincent De Paul Society.

Polytechnic Building and Construction

Well done to Polytechnic teacher Nathan Holland and his students upon a very successful term 2. Nathan and his students have successfully made the transition from designing and building scaled models to the construction of a house floor with four framed walls. (See pictures)



Scale model



Full Size—not finished



Congratulations to all those students who have successfully gained their White Card certificate which they obtained after completing a two day course delivered by Nathan. A White Card must be obtained by any worker before working on any worksite. Whilst some people obtain their White Card online our students gained valuable insight and experience through the course being delivered in the classroom.

Shane Stanton
Principal

Mr. O'Sign of the Times

This term 2 has been relatively quiet from past years, from a team sport perspective there has been low numbers and students have at times been taken out for elective programs at these times, which therefore instead of playing games, we have had to focus on skill development for certain sports.

The centre wide sport afternoons we hold have been very successful. Games of football and volleyball have been played and the sportsmanship and camaraderie has been excellent. The competition has also been very tight and students have each competed well during these games. Team sport is a **good way for young students to express themselves physical, mentally and socially.** Overall it's been a success.

The fitness program continues to motivate students, and students who have had experience in strength and conditioning training are working towards achieving their goals. Those students new to the area are taking in advice and listening to the finer aspect that need to be followed in order to improve in the area of strength and conditioning and their overall fitness.

During theory lessons this term we have been researching and investigating the Olympics. Students **were asked to find world and Olympic records and compare them with this year's Olympic times,** height, jumps etc. We also studied why certain countries excel at certain sports, and the success they have since the start of the modern Olympics. Most students found the Olympics to be a significant event, where others did not value it as much.

The cross country again was successful. Numbers were low, and all we asked of students was to do **their best and compete well against each other.** Some students felt the pain and couldn't go on, and pulled out. However most students pushed the pain barrier and finished the race off. A big congratulation must go out to the winners of each age group and for the effort of everyone that completed the course. Well done.

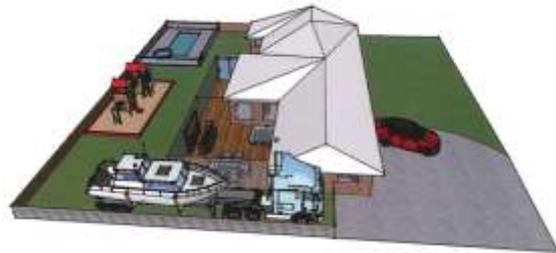
The final house points were Wellington 164 , Ben Lomond 113

Allan O'Sign
HPE Teacher



Mr Macs Message

Well there goes another great, productive and busy term. Our students have been busy with a variety of programs and educational activities. We have continued with our CAD (computer aided drawing) program. This is a skill development based program based around measurement, scale, spatial and visual awareness using Google Sketchup you may have seen some of the work on display in our school. House floor plans were drawn on paper then measurements were added, this was done by visual awareness by looking at room purpose and furniture sizes. In addition to CAD the students have been busy working on numeracy units covering perimeter, area, volume, functional mathematics, order of operations and numeracy testing. The newly developed numeracy tests are designed to cover a range of years of development and all ten of the Australian numeracy curriculum strands. This will allow teachers to develop an individual numeracy curriculum covering all ten curriculum areas at the level required by that student. In line with the Olympics some students calculated percentages of medals won from previous Olympics to the current one and then made predictions as to how certain countries would end up.



Our metalwork program has been running well as an elective. Some students that have been attending on a regular basis have progressed well and up to making their 8th and 9th project. The overall standard of work, attitude, aptitude and productivity achieved by these students is excellent. Well done to all the students that attend these electives.

Until next time

Mr Mackenzie

Miss Sarah's sayings

Term two has been very busy with groups four, five and six working hard towards achieving their educational goals.

We have investigated and celebrated some really important themes and events this term, looking at Sorry Day, Naidoc Week, Drug Action Week, Science Week and the Olympics.

This term we have revisited the values in education theme of giving, we investigated what it is to "pay it forward" and commit random acts of kindness. Paying it forward is based on the idea of paying forward a good deed or service, so rather than "pay back" the giver you instead pay a kindness forward to someone different, who then pays forward a kindness to someone else, in principle potentially making the world a much nicer place! As part of our pay it forward theme we will be completing the term with the donation of some hand painted (by our students) plates and mugs to Youth on Patterson's breakfast and lunch program.

Drug Action week was a huge success with all our students creating some fantastic work around drugs and harm minimisation. We held a drug free social and games afternoon which was a great event, proving to students that you can have a great time being drug and alcohol free.

I would like to share with you a drug rap that was written by one of my students inspired by Drug Action Week.

Not the way to go, Bro

Ok so you think drugs are cool, well I think you're just a tool!

I'm thinking you better go back to school, cause the way you're thinking you're just being a fool.

They'll leave you all messed in the head, feeling like ya gunna blast ya self-cause you feel like your all by yourself.

You'll feel like ya wanna cry ya self to sleep cause you'll feel lower then ya feet
well I feel your pain homy I've got the same story.

I had that feel for the steal,
going around wasting hundred dollar bills for a thrill.

This bad, this sad,
talking this stuff makes me wanna gag.

Yeah, see I don't know if god is real but if he is, I could imagine how he feels watchin people throw their life
away for little pills just thinkin this hit kills.

So I pray for my mates to throw their drugs away till that day when life's just fading away.

This is drug awareness I need you to stay clean don't think of what coulda or woulda or shoulda been if you
hada stayed clean.

Do it for ya mother ya sister and ya brother,
cause you've ripped out their hearts lying there in the gutter.

Now you're in your coffin sheet, while they're throwin roses at your feet.

Drugs are like a ladder they get bigger and worse,
drugs will wreck you, just listen to my verse.

They will kill you with a curse, I'm hopin you make it past your 21st.

I know you got the brains, so don't go playin with flames,

Don't take drugs bro, it just aint the way to go!

Sarah Mott
Teacher - Senior Secondary

Mr. O'Toole's Tales

Another very busy term is drawing to a close, and although this would normally result in all teachers and students taking bit of a break, not so at Ashley School. Being a school running a 48 week school year means we take leave at differing times, and our students get to enjoy nonstop learning. Lucky guys. Within the workshop our students have continued to complete excellent projects. As always, our VAL Curriculum aims to offer our students experiences that will improve their skills with a well-rounded syllabus including academic, physical and social development. An important priority when delivering our VAL curriculum is to recapture our students' interest in learning, and to use teaching strategies that recognise the individuality of the learner and to deliver a programme accordingly. In addition to our woodwork projects a number of students assisted with refurbishing some large classroom activity shapes for School of Special Education, Burnie. **Making positive connections with our communities is an important part of our school's philosophy and we hope the newly coloured shapes will be enjoyed by the students at the Burnie campus.**



Congratulations to all students for being so well engaged in our workshop and for producing some wonderful projects. Some woodwork projects from this term:



Bruce O'Toole.
Teacher

Miss Kosi's Chronicles

What a great fun filled term it's been for all. Australia's Biggest Morning Tea was a great success as students helped to organise the occasion by cooking, making posters to put around the centre as well as producing an email invite to go to all staff around the centre. We also raised \$123 which will go to cancer research; well done to all involved. All students took this occasion very seriously as they realised that this was something that could affect anyone of them at any time.

Drug Action Week was a great week to create drug awareness and broaden students' knowledge of the long and short term effects of drugs and alcohol. Students also engaged in an activity that was based around the amount of cigarettes they smoked per day and how much they spent on this habit and what they could more appropriately spend their money on. Students were intrigued by the results and motivated to either quit or smoke a lot less. Our Drug Action Week social event was a **great success, students' really enjoyed the opportunity to relax and have fun with Ashley staff.** This was a great opportunity for students to see another side to staff and also proved the fact that we are all capable of having fun without the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Sorry Day was something that most students were unsure of the meaning and most students had **never heard our former Prime Minister's Kevin Rudd's apology.** This was a great opportunity to give students a deeper understanding of the origin of sorry day and why it is so important to so many aboriginal people. This also coincided with reconciliation week where students watched the movie Rabbit Proof Fence and gained a deeper understanding of the stolen generation and how they were treated.

In addition to Drug Action Week all students attended a fantastic production on site called Lost and Found in the Smoke. This was a Healthy Lifestyle Program produced by Ngarrama productions and was presented by The Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated. This was a great production showing the short term effects of smoking to your life style, career and sporting achievements. It also showed the long term effects of smoking and how it affects not only your health but your family too. I think most students enjoyed this production and took a lot from it, especially how smoking not only effects yourself but also your family.

To coincide with the Olympics each student had to research a country and record the medals won by that country. Most students enjoyed this activity and found out some interesting facts about a lot of different countries around the world. Students also engaged in research quizzes based on the Olympics finding out some great facts around past and present Olympics.

Commissioner for Children Poster Competition was very motivating for most students. Students really enjoyed the competitive aspect of this activity as the prize on offer was a substantial one. All students put a lot of thought and creativity into the production of their posters and it was almost a shame there could only be one winner.

Science Week got off to a flying start with our paper plane competitions. We then had some fun with making baking soda and vinegar volcanos as well as experimenting with outrageous ooze. We finished on a sweeter note by making sherbet which most students thought was quite a bitter sweet experience. Overall a lot of fun was had by all students.

Mrs Kostiuk

Teacher



School Snapshot



New Footy Jerseys



Staff v Student Volleyball Game



Cross Country Activities

CONTACT DETAILS

Ashley School
PO Box 126, Deloraine TAS 7304
Telephone: 03 6362 8222. FAX: 03 6362 4471
Email: ashley@education.tas.gov.au
Web: www.ashley.tased.edu.au