



"Delivering excellence, innovation and success"

106 Mount View Road, Cessnock NSW 2325

T (02) 49902566 F (02) 49911728 E mountview-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au www.mountview-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Issue 6

AUGUST 2015

2015 EVENT CALENDAR

TERM 3

Wk 5	Mon 10 th Aug	· AECG at Kurri Public School 4pm
	Tue 11 th Aug	· Beacon/Cummins site visit for interested Yr10/11 students · 8T Geography excursion to Hunter Valley Zoo
	Wed 12 th Aug	· Yr9 Music excursion to Sydney · P & C meeting in common room at 6.30pm
	Wed 12 th – Fri 14 th Aug	· Yr12 HSC trial period
Wk 6	Mon 17 th Aug	· MC class community access
Wk 7	Mon 24 th Aug	· MC class community access
	Tue 25 th Aug	· CAPA Grad Night at 5.30pm
	Fri 28 th Aug	· Archibald Prize AGNSW excursion · Yr11 RYDA driving training at Total
	Sun 30 th Aug	· Parkinsons Unity Walk at Sydney Olympic Park

Wk 8	Mon 31 st Aug	· MC class community access · Yr6 Academic Enrichment Class testing at MVHS
	Tue 1 st Sep	· Yr6 Maths/Science Fun Day at MVHS
	Wed 2 nd Sep	· Yr6 Academic Enrichment Class testing at MVHS
	Thur 3 rd Sep	· F1 in schools regional finals · Leos Trivia Night in school hall
	Thur 3 rd – Sat 5 th Sep	· State Athletics in Sydney
	Fri 4 th Sep	· Yr7 Maths Zoo excursion
Wk 9	Mon 7 th – Fri 11 th Sep	· Yr11 Yearly Exams · MC class community access
	Wed 9 th Sep	· P & C meeting in common Room at 6.30pm
	Fri 11 th Sep	· Yr7 Gala Day at Maitland

FACULTY LEADERS

English Melissa Wyper
Maths Andrew Gill
Science Natalie Death
HSIE Lynne Davies
CAPA Larayne Jeffery

PD/H/PE Rlg Jamie Grove
TAS Rlg Andrew Newman
Admin Rlg Liz Alder
Teach/Learning Leanne Triggs
Wellbeing Julie Myers & Steve Quigley

YEAR ADVISERS

Year 7 Jodie Scheffer
Year 8 Rebecca Conn
Year 9 Rebecca Bartlett
Year 10 Angela Roughan
Year 11 Sharon Curran
Year 12 Christine Bell

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Mr Shane Hookway – Deputy Yrs 7/9/11

What a privilege it is to write as relieving Principal of Mount View High School for Week 5 of Term 3. I thank Desley for the opportunity as she takes some very well deserved long service leave in Fiji with her family. Here's hoping that her desk is as clean when she gets back as when she left.

This term we have commenced subject selection for students going into Years 9, Year 10 and Year 11 for 2016. I would like to thank the students and their families for their attendance at the information evening. The Year 8 into 9 and 9 into 10 session was extremely well attended with plenty of additional chairs needing to be put out. The Year 10 into 11 evaluated very positively on the new format that allowed for more personalised classroom based information sessions regarding specific subjects.

As a school we adopt a process that is student driven. Student preferences form the basis for all of our elective subjects line patterns in Years 9,10 and 11. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that we cater to the specific needs and aspirations of

your child, as a school we are governed by constraints such as the popularity of a course, the number of classes that we are able to offer, the facilities available and the number of qualified staff. As such it is inevitable that some students may miss subject preferences. Year 10 completed the interview and line selection component of their selection process for the 2016 Preliminary HSC last week. I would like to thank Angela Roughan and her team as they guided students into patterns that hopefully deliver excellent student outcomes. Information relating to elective lines is being communicated via the school website and the school facebook page. We will endeavour to have resolved all students elective patterns before the end of this term.

I had the pleasure of accompanying some of our student leaders to the annual School Leaders' Breakfast at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday 4 August 2015. Australian Adventurer John Cantor reminded more than 170 students from the Cessnock local government area that success can be born through failure and hardship. The 30-year-old spoke to students about his journey in becoming the first Australian to cross The Brooks Range in Alaska, setting a speed record by crossing the range in 31 and a half days. "Sometimes to be successful in your goals, you need to be happy with having failed first," he said. Hosted by Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent, the breakfast aimed to further encourage school students from across the region to set goals and overcome obstacles. John was open about difficult issues like anxiety and failure. Students took away key messages about building resilience and persevering with a theme of it is important to experience failure.

Our Year 11 student leaders this week will be putting their claims forward in nominating for the election of Captain and Vice Captain for 2016. Speeches will be delivered to Year 10 and 11 students prior to voting by both staff and students. Mrs Karen Blandon has been instrumental in developing leadership opportunities for the students of Mount View High School. Good luck to all students involved. Induction ceremonies will be held later this term with the view to release our current Year 12 leaders enabling them to focus on study leading up to trial HSC examinations.

DEPUTIES' REPORTS



Mrs Julie Smith – Deputy Yrs 8/10/12

Pedestrian Safety

I would like to remind all students that pedestrians should use the pedestrian gate and marked pedestrian crossing to ensure a safe arrival and departure. The top gate is clearly marked as a vehicular entry and exit and student should not get in the way of cars using this gate.

Those students who drive are reminded that they should exit the 'basin' carpark and turn left, on Mount View Road. As well as being the safest exit, it will serve to reduce congestion as cars bank up to stop at the pedestrian crossing.

N Warning Letters

Students with outstanding N warning letters in Years 10, 11 and 12 need to make an effort to complete the work and have these warnings redeemed. Please ask your teachers, head teachers, year Advisor or Deputy Principal for assistance if you need to organise tasks or look closely at priorities for the completion of work. Remember that the homework centre is available on Mondays and tutoring is also available on a Wednesday afternoon. If you intend to use this time, please let your teacher know so that we can ensure that you have some assistance if required.

Year 12

Good luck in your Trial HSC examinations coming up in the next few weeks. Please ensure that you have read your timetable correctly and arrive in time for all examinations. Remember that the library is available for study in between your exams, and of course you have access to your teachers during this time. Please ask for assistance if you are feeling overwhelmed or need help with preparation for exams or tasks.

Good luck to those students who are finalising their major projects or preparing for practical HSC examinations which are occurring over the rest of Term 3. Thank you to the staff and students who have been working so hard, not only in class but on weekends and during the recent holiday break! This extra effort always reaps benefits. I look forward to the showcase of talent as these projects and performances are displayed during the rest of the term.

Who can apply for disability provisions?

Any HSC student with a disability recognised in the Commonwealth *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. The definition of 'disability' in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) includes:

- physical
- intellectual
- psychiatric
- sensory
- neurological, and
- learning disabilities, as well as
- physical disfigurement, and
- the presence in the body of disease-causing organisms.

(Australian Human Rights Commission).

Note that the disability provisions apply only where the disability is such that a practical arrangement is required to reduce disadvantage in an exam situation.

Disability provisions also apply to temporary and emergency-related disabilities. A typical example of an 'emergency' is where a student breaks their writing arm a week before an examination.

Students who become ill during an examination period may be eligible to make an illness/misadventure appeal rather than a disability provisions application.

Disability provisions for other year groups?

Disability provisions can also occur for students in other year groups that meet the same needs basis.

Please contact Ms Alder (Rlg Head Teacher Administration) or Ms Parish (Learning and Support Teacher) for more information.

YEAR ADVISER REPORTS

Year 7 Year Adviser Report - Ms Jodie Scheffler

Hello to all parents and caregivers. Phew. What a busy couple of weeks we have had at Mount View. All I can say is that I am very proud and extremely impressed with how well Year 7 are involving themselves in activities around the school.



NAIDOC week celebrations gave several year 7 students the opportunity to participate in a whole school assembly. Not only did they perform in front of their peers but also in front of many community members, this took a lot of courage, well done on representing your Aboriginal culture and pride.

Dinnigan took part in Project 7 during the last week of Term 2. Project 7 involves each student being interviewed by myself, Mr Willis and Mrs Devine. During each interview students display their work throughout Semester 1. I could not believe the high standards set down by these students and how well they conducted themselves in such a nerve racking situation. Not only did they present their work in such an impressive manner they also had to talk about themselves. They all did extremely well.

Showcase was another event that involved several Year 7 students over two nights. I was in ore of their confidence and ability to perform in such a situation both on stage and behind the scenes, job well done.

Above is Kimberly Arnott and Emma Jane Craft working on the sewing machine.

Year 8 Year Adviser Report – Ms Rebecca Conn

Hello to all parents, guardians and Year 8 students. We have had a really good start to the term with many people involved in programs in the school. Mount View High School is working in conjunction with the University of Newcastle to conduct research into the impact of the universities investment into **AIM HIGH** programs.

AIM HIGH provides significant funding, events and support programs to Mount View High School and this research will investigate the success of these programs. Students will be asked to complete two surveys taking about 10 minutes each which ask about their thoughts and aspirations for the future. Fifteen students will be asked to complete a five minute

interview with the researcher from Newcastle University and thirty students will have the opportunity to complete a four week mentoring program.

In order for the research to be a success we require students and parents to complete a simple consent form and return it to the school by **Tuesday 18th of August**. The school will be posting the forms out early next week and we ask that you return them as quickly as possible.

On a serious note I want to alert parents to the number of students who have been issued a Letter of Academic Concern. Over the next few weeks I will be contacting students who have these letters issued and discussing with them how to resolve the letter.

Completion of Stage 4 Outcomes is vital in enabling teachers to determine the ability of students to meet Stage 4 outcomes and subsequently report on each students achievement. Below is a copy of the tasks due Term 3 and Term 4.

Year 8 2015 Assessment Timetable Semester 2 2015

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Term 3					Music: performance English: visual response Ag: Research Task		History: source analysis Music: Listening	Tech: portfolio and project progress Math: test Science: portfolio	Geography: Poster and topic test Music: composition English: Interview Task	PDHPE: Speech

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Term 4		History: source analysis & response PDHPE: Research Task & Skills appraisal	Tech: portfolio and project submission	Geography: 3D model	EXAM WEEK Math: test PDHPE: Yearly exam Music: performance English: Speaking Task Science: Yearly exam Ag: Exam			8 Swim School		

Please Note: Geography allocates 30% of marks to bookwork (10%), mapping & skills work (10% and written tasks (10%). This is ongoing assessment throughout the semester.
 History allocates 40% of marks to homework (10%), bookwork (10%) sources analysis (10% and research (10%). This is ongoing assessment throughout the semester.
 Agriculture allocates 25% marks to a progressive portfolio assessment which is completed throughout the semester.
 These tasks are **additional** to those listed above.
 The **Science Portfolio** comprises 3-7 progressively marked tasks which will be presented in a folder during Week 8 Term 3. This will mean that students complete the tasks during Term 3, submit and receive feedback and have the opportunity to make corrections and resubmit.

Courses will require additional homework completion to successfully finish the course.

If you would like know if your student has incomplete assessments and what they need to do to resolve these please contact me or Steve Quigley (Head Teacher Wellbeing for Year 8).

Year 9 Year Adviser Report – Ms Rebecca Bartlett

Year 9 has had a busy start to this semester with the selection process of 2016 Electives. Hopefully students will be able to access the courses they want as we move into 2016. Congratulations to the following students who received a Year Adviser’s Outstanding Achievement Award for achieving 85% or more in a subject in Semester One.

Georgia Bailey	English, PD/H/PE, Applied Science, Commerce, Visual Arts	Olivia Myers	Visual Arts
Deena Borkowski	Music	Sophia Nixon	PDHPE, Agriculture
Matilda Brown	English, History, Maths, PDHPE, Science, Food Technology	Hannah O'Neill	Photography
Marnie Bullen	Music, Agriculture	Elizabeth Parish	English, PDHPE, Science, Commerce, Visual Arts
Lachlan Burns	Music	Elise Polley	PDHPE, Agriculture

Hayden Cashmere	English, Science	Tahnee Redman	English, PDHPE, Applied Science
Dean Clarkson	PDHPE	Marnie Richardson	PDHPE, Science, Photography
Gabrielle Davies	English, Food Technology, Commerce	Sarah Richardson	Visual Arts
Ryan Forrest	English, History, PDHPE, Science, Music	Jack Robinson	Music
Mariah George	English, Science, Applied Science, Child Studies	Chloe Rolls	PDHPE
Anna Marie Graves	English, Maths, Music, Photography, Visual Arts	Meg Russell	Child Studies
Hunter Grunsell	English, Maths	Katie Sexton-Bate	History, Agriculture
Katelyn Hafey	English, Maths, PDHPE, Photography	Emily Sharpe	History, Child Studies, Food Technology
Jordan Herring	PDHPE	Taylee Short	Photography
Tahlia Hughes	English, Maths, PDHPE, Science, Applied Science, Commerce, Food Technology	Jessica Simon	English, Food Technology, Visual Arts
Shayla Hunter	Science	Brock Sinclair	English, History, Science
Amy-Lee Ingram	Photography	Taneeka Smith	English, Food Technology, Agriculture
Jordyn Jeffrey	English, History, Maths, PDHPE, Science, Commerce, Child Studies	Kayla Stothard	History, PDHPE, Applied Science, Photography, Visual Arts
Bryceson King	Science, Applied Science	Codie Stratton	Maths
Daniel Lambkin	English, PDHPE, Commerce, Graphics	Luke Sweeney	Maths
Macy Lewis	Applied Science	Riley Triggs	English
Angus Mackenzie	Maths	Paige Trowbridge	History, Photography, Child Studies, Visual Art
Isaac McDougall	Applied Science, Commerce	Jye Wallace	PDHPE
Aisha McLawrence	English, PDHPE, Science, Agriculture, Photography, Elective History	Michael Walters	Maths, PDHPE, Science
Lochlan Miller	Photography	James Winchester	English, Maths, Science, Graphics, Agriculture
Olivia Moore	Photography		
Ava Moshage	Photography		
Sophia Moshage	English, Photography, Visual Arts		

Year 11 Year Adviser Report - Ms Sharon Curran

Term 3 is a busy time for Year 11. It is the last term of the Preliminary Course and all subjects will be completing assessments this term with the HSC course starting in Term 4. Final exams will be held in week 9.

The Crossroads excursion which covers the compulsory PD/H/PE course for senior students will be in week 10 and students are expected to be at school if not on the excursion.

Year 11 students will be given the opportunity to attend a Road Safety Education course at TOCAL College on Friday 28th August. We would hope that the majority of students will attend as we all need to learn how to be safe on the road. More information of this can be found at www.rse.org.au/ryda



RYDA

Number 1 in road safety education

Road Safety Education Limited is the pre-eminent provider of road safety education for youth in Australia and New Zealand. The flagship RYDA Program is delivered to over 50,000 17-18 year old high school students, at 90 venues.

By participating in RYDA your school furthers their commitment to educating the 'whole student', providing an opportunity to learn essential life skills. Students are encouraged to take greater responsibility for themselves and their friends before they face the challenges of driving solo or as a passenger of a new driver.

RYDA is a one day program, conducted at an out of school venue, chosen to highlight crucial road safety messages. Supporting the graduate licensing schemes, the program focuses on the key government 'big five' road safety issues of speeding, DUI, fatigue, seatbelts and distractions as well as the importance of driving as a social responsibility.

Now is the time to equip young people with the tools and knowledge they need to stay safe on the road.

RYDA's learning is for life!

For further information, contact 1300 127 642, visit our website or contact your school coordinator



The RYDA Program is supported through a comprehensive website, loaded with resources for teachers, students and parents (rse.org.au/ryda) as well as our growing Facebook (facebook.com/roadchoices) and Instagram (@ryda_program) communities.

sessions

Students take part in six interactive sessions.

- **SPEED & STOPPING** Demonstrates the physics of stopping and crashing as well as discussion of car safety features. Students experience through practical observation the relationship between speed and stopping distance.
- **HAZARDS & DISTRACTIONS** An interactive session where students strategise about managing distractions and improving their hazard perception skills.
- **THE PERSONALITY TEST** A reflective session designed to show students how personality and mind-state are both important aspects of the total road safety equation. Students self-assess against five personality areas and use this tool to analyse risky situations in cars.
- **RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES** A discussion, routinely led by a Police Officer on key risk areas for young drivers and passengers. Features hard-hitting videos on decision-making and choices.
- **AFTER THE CRASH** A powerful presentation by a speaker about the crash that changed their life. Features a personalisation exercise where students see how a similar crash would affect their life and plans.
- **GENEVIEVE'S STORY** A heart-wrenching story of two girls who made one bad decision, the ripple effect of that and an exploration of how students could plan ahead for high stakes decision-making.

**GETTING BEHIND THE WHEEL
OF A CAR AS A
YOUNG DRIVER OR PASSENGER
IS SAID TO BE AMONG THE MOST
DANGEROUS THINGS A PERSON WILL DO
IN THEIR ENTIRE LIFE**

Founding Sponsor
BOC
A Member of The Linde Group

TOYOTA
Community Foundation

Foundation Donor
K Tyre & Auto Service

Community Partner
Rotary Clubs in Australia
(ACT, NSW, Qld, SA, Tas,
Vic & WA) & New Zealand

P & C NEWS

The next P & C meeting is on Wednesday 12th August 2015 in the Common Room starting at 6.30pm. The P & C invite all parents to attend.

The Mount View High School P & C advise that at the August 12th meeting a budgetary item will be considered that requires a vote of members. To participate in this vote attendees of the meeting must be a current financial member of the Mount View High School P & C.

CCGPS

The Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools (CCGPS) has a website to support our families and the broader community. Learn more about the initiatives in place across our schools, creating strong educational pathways for all our students. Great links to parent support sites and local community services, and information about who we are and what we are doing within your community. Check out the website and get involved in your child's future today!
www.ccgps.schools.nsw.edu.au



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Facebook

Mount View High School has made the move to use an official school Facebook site as an additional communication tool with the Cessnock learning community. Like us by searching for "Mount.View.High School.Cessnock" include the full stops in your search. The page is linked and promoted by the Mount View High School Agricultural page.



Woolworths Earn & Learn

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September 2015, when you shop at Woolworths you can collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers from the checkout operator or through an online order and place them in the designated Mount View High School collection box. Customers receive an Earn & Learn Sticker for every \$10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco, and gift cards).


Mount View High School also has an Earn and Learn sticker collection box located at school outside of the Attendance Office. We welcome your sticker donations.

School Fees & Student Assistance

The Admin Office is open for parents to make payments to school fees anytime between 8am – 3.45pm. Alternatively online payments are also welcome.

The student assistance scheme is available to assist parents/guardians meet the cost of subject fees, excursions etc. Therefore parents who receive Centrelink benefits may be entitled to apply for student assistance.

If you would like assistance under this scheme please collect a Student Assistance form available from the front office for consideration. For any enquiries regarding Student Assistance please contact our Business Manager, Mrs Knudsen.



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN MAKE PAYMENTS ONLINE?

Parents can make online payments to the school making it easier for you to pay for school related payments eg school fees, book packs/calculators, excursions, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac either paying in full or in instalments.

How?
The payment page is accessed from the front page of our school website www.mountview-h.schools.nsw.edu.au by selecting **\$ Make a payment**. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard card only. This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your details are captured in a secure manner. These details are NOT passed back to the school.

What expenses can be paid online?
When accessing \$ Make a payment, any field marked with an * is mandatory and must be entered, all other fields are optional.

To select what you are wanting to pay in the **Payment Options** area, please refer to the guide below:

- **Voluntary School Contributions** (payment for General Service Contributions)
- **Subject Contributions** (payment for Subject Fees)
- **Excursions** (payment for camps or daily excursions)
- **Sales to Students** (payment for calculator/book packs etc)

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page by the bank this receipt should be kept by you as a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office on 49902566.

The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 21st August 2015**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

The *Partners in Learning* parent feedback survey

Our school will also be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

ATTENDANCE



Liz Alder – Rlg Head Teacher Administration

Attendance Questions?

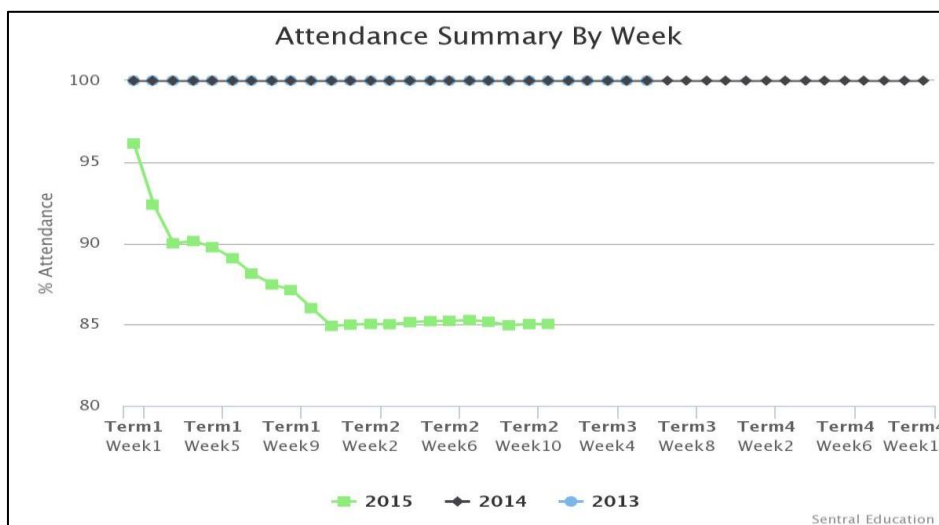
Phone 49902566 ext 1 or call into the Attendance Office

Attendance Concerns

Mount View has suffered a decline in Attendance rates this year and it is now starting to show implications in terms of student outcomes and wellbeing. This chart demonstrates the raw data gathered by our new Attendance and Wellbeing monitoring program *Sentral*, and it illustrates a decline in attendance by over 10%. (Please note: prior year's data does not exist in this format)

As we move into the next Assessment and Reporting phase please consider the impact your child's absences might be having on their learning.

Staff are analysing the data and school practices to identify areas and strategies for improvement within the system.



Regular student attendance is the most important factor in building a child's sense of connectedness and therefore improved state of mind. It has additional benefits in terms of language and cognitive development and socialisation skills and it is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. When your child attends school all day, every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

Please read the information sheet attached to this newsletter about school attendance and contact the Attendance Officer, Mrs Nat Young or Rlg Head Teacher Administration, Ms Liz Alder if you have any questions about your child's attendance rate.

SCIENCE/AG FACULTY



Natalie Death – Head Teacher

Ag Adventures – By Sam Jarrett

This term like all of the others is jam packed with activity on the farm. Show Steer Team is in full swing with about 8 students regularly attending to learn to lead and judge cattle. Our first competition at TOCAL is fast approaching and the dedicated students from Year 9, 10 and 11 are doing an amazing job.

Year 12 and some Year 10 Ag students have just visited AgVision 2015 at Sydney Olympic Park and had a day full of activities. There were 50 sessions to choose from and students attended everything from Drone used in Agriculture to wool classing. They even had lunch cooked by Fast Ed from Better Homes and Gardens. We met a lot of industry leaders on the day and the students came back with a broader idea of Agriculture jobs available. Thank you to our sister Lighthouse school, Junee High School for hosting the event, they really did do an amazing job.

Year 8- There has been a change over in the year 8 subject with students swapping to either Animal Production or Vegetable Production. Gardens are being prepared by four classes this week and the other four classes are being introduced to their new babies, 20 layer chicks.

Year 9- Poultry production has begun and they are now the proud new parents of 20 layer chicks. They will learn everything from breeds of poultry, to reproduction and digestion. They have been issued their assessment task for this topic, so parents should be encouraging their students to get it done, we would also appreciate if you had some time to help your child by reading through at the end, or helping with the maths section.

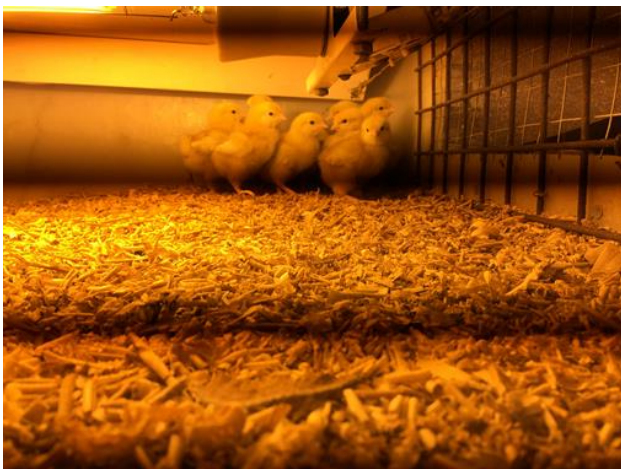
Year 10- Sheep production has begun. This is a big unit for year 10, their assessment task, which has been issued, is long and is to be used for their Project 10 sessions. I have given the students unlimited funds to buy and start up a sheep business from scratch. I am looking for students to really think about the nuts and bolts of starting up a business. They need to buy land that is suitable for their sheep breed, all the equipment necessary to run the farm and look at ongoing costs. Please encourage your student to work on their assessment over the next few weeks as it really is not something they can do well in if they try doing it the night before.

Primary Industries- Year 11 is currently out on work placement, hopefully learning a lot of new skills we do not have access to on the school farm. We can't wait for them to get back and share their experiences. Thank you to all of the local businesses that have given up some of their time to teach our students about the Agriculture world. We really appreciate your ongoing support.

Year 12 are on the count down to the HSC this term. They are finishing off some of the last topics before they get into some heavy study/revision sessions. We would just like to remind parents that the Primary Industries exam is optional for your student; they will still receive a VET Certificate II even if they do not do the exam. If they chose to sit the exam, it can be used for ATAR marks also.

We have made many changes to our curriculum next year with two different courses offered in Year 9 and 10 as well as Senior Agriculture being offered to Year 11 for the first time in a few years. We hope that students and parents have appreciated the opportunity to choose from a wider selection next year, a lot of thought and planning has gone into these new programs and we hope they are a success. In the pictures below, I have included a photo that shows our practice hydroponics system we have been working on, to perfect the topic and practical activities before we put the unit into year 10. Each unit was carefully selected based on what students have been asking for and what we could source locally for materials.

That wraps up news on the farm for the start of Term 3, any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to ring and chat to your students Agriculture teacher or pop in and have a look at our set up.





HSIE FACULTY

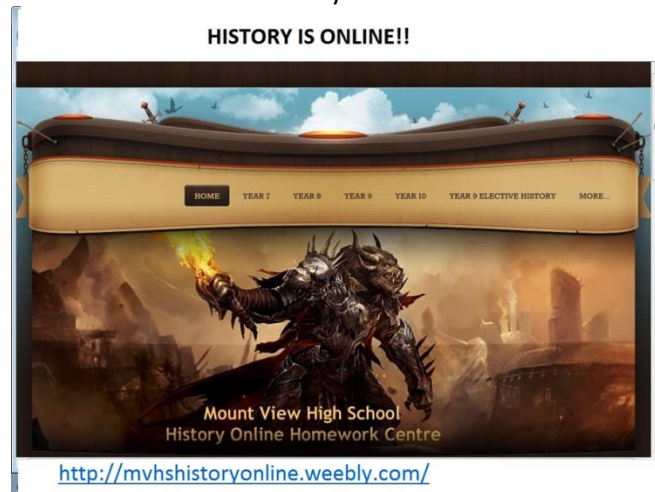


Lynne Davies – Head Teacher

Junior Homework

Now that we are well into second semester I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents that all junior history students can now access their homework online. The site can be found at <http://mvhshistoryonline.weebly.com/>. It is an expectation that students access the site and complete the homework every two weeks and present it to their teachers for marking. We are aware that there are students who will have various reasons for not being able to use the website and these students can

request copies of the homework from their teacher or directly from me.



Project 10 and History

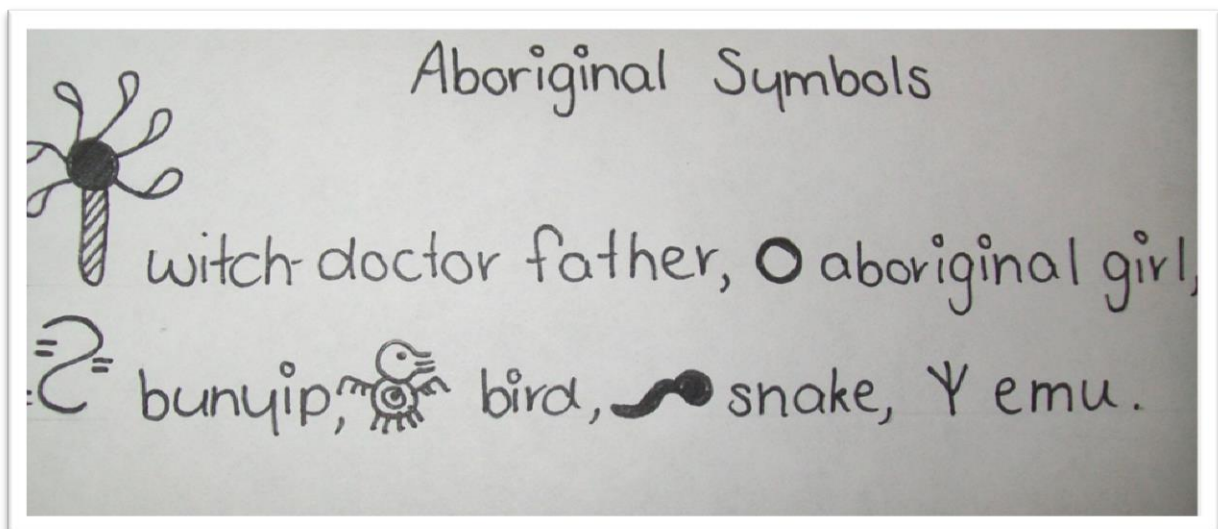
Year 10 History has now completed their assessment task on the Holocaust. This task asked students to research certain aspects of the Holocaust and present their work in a book format. These are proving just how 'creative' our students can be and the level of their research is an indication of the interest the topic has generated. Next month's View will have examples of their work.

Year 9 Commerce

Year 9 commerce students are all busy planning their 'businesses' which they will hopefully operate later this term.

Year 9 Geography

Ms Hunt's Year 9 Geography have been exploring the origins of our continent from an Aboriginal perspective. They have been busy researching Australian landforms and the dreamtime stories that explain the landform. Some of the stories the students have researched included Lake Eyre, The Three Sister and Uluru. The students then had to provide a series of illustrations using traditional Indigenous colours to demonstrate their understanding of the dreamtime story. The results have been tremendous with some students including dot paints, creating small books, using watercolours and some traditional Indigenous language. Through completing this task students have been able to develop respect for the cultural knowledge of the Indigenous people, while teachers have been able to provide an inclusive environment for all students. The following images are excellent examples of the work they have completed.



9 Elective History- Model Making

In our elective history class we have been studying the Viking Age. The students have been constructing Viking longships in groups.

First they were given a few basic instructions on how they could construct a longship and this was to be the basis of their design. The students could put whatever creativity spin they wished on the basic instructions.

As a class they negotiated a marking criteria for their models including specific features required, this was referred to throughout the making process. The class thoroughly enjoyed this activity and this is shown in the detail in their models.



CAPA – STATE OF THE ARTS



Larayne Jeffery – Head Teacher

Showcase 2015

Another excellent show highlighted the talents of our creative students along with entertaining comperes and faculty presentations during the lead in to Education Week. Students from Years 7 to 12 performed in a range of musical vocal, dance and dramatic items. Both Visual Art and English students displayed their work, exhibiting a variety of artistic media and short stories. Mr Janovsky's Year 7 Art class presented their impressions of Monet's Waterlilies as well as sculptures, photographs and mixed media works from elective students.



Compere Mr Tim Boyle in one of his many characters and Hot Seat contestant Mrs Pfeffer



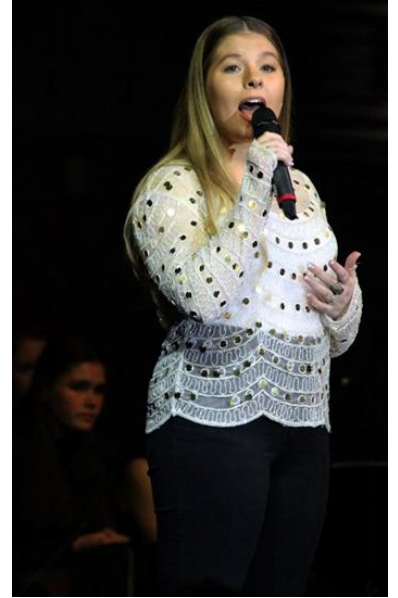
Salute Dancers



Michael Phillips



Meighan Winchester



Madeleine Lantry



Alan Tull



Kaneisha Blandon



Ebony Gane



Sarah Passfield, Cody Neville, Luke Day



Chloe Rolls



Chloe Brown



Cassie Oakley



Elastic Heart dancers



Sharon (Mr Russell), Kimmy (Ms Agostino) and Kath (Ally Crossley)

Launch of New School Song!

Our new school song was launched at Showcase and was featured as the lead story in the local Advertiser last week. Students spent two days writing the song under the leadership of the composer Paul Jarman and have musically represented their thoughts and feelings about their school and its legacy in their life.



STAND UP STEP FORWARD
Mount View High School Song

By Paul Jarman, students and teachers of Mount View High

V1 *The world is for our making, the world is for embracing
Stand on up, step ahead, breathe it in
Together we can see where we want to go
You'll be there beside, guide us as we grow
So climb with me where we seek our dreams*

V2 *You and I have grown, our lives we make our own
We'll go our way, always come back home
Vines among the trees, rolling hills and streams
Journey through this place with pride and loyalty
And now we know we are on our way*

Pre-chorus

*Stand up, step forward, move ahead
Stand up, step forward, move ahead*

Chorus

*Breaking down walls not afraid of change
Individual, not considered strange
Guide us on our path, all we aim to reach
Keep on climbing towards our dreams*

V3 *Life will always change, the feeling stays the same
Colours of our soul will always shine
Remember Mount View, the grapes, the morning dew
Memories we shared, people that we knew
The legacy remains in all we do*

University Partnership Rock Eisteddfod Project

The first workshop with the University team was held this week in the LEAP centre. The creative ideas for the performance project are now fully developed and we look forward to being the venue for the next 'hub' workshop where other Hunter schools will participate with us in a development workshop later this term. The final performance will be held at the Griffith Duncan Theatre on Thursday 5th November.



LEAP Centre

Our first unofficial functions have been held in the LEAP centre this week with the University Project Team Workshop and the Hunter Secondary Principals Conference Luncheon. The Leos Changeover Dinner was also held in the LEAP Centre on Wednesday 5th August. The venue is already a huge asset to our CAPA Faculty as well as a whole school learning space and the internal fit out is still in progress!

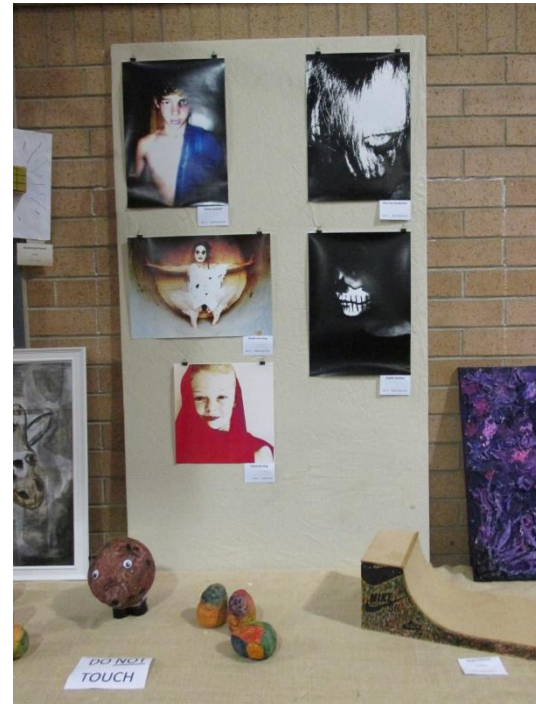
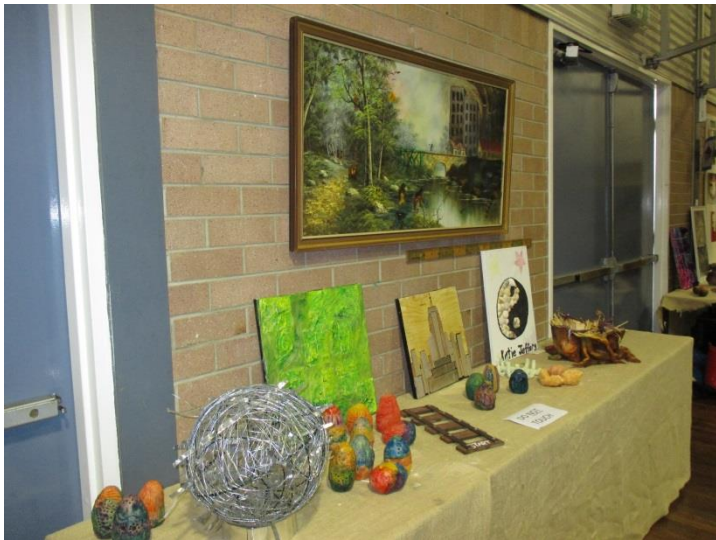
Business and Professional Women's Performance

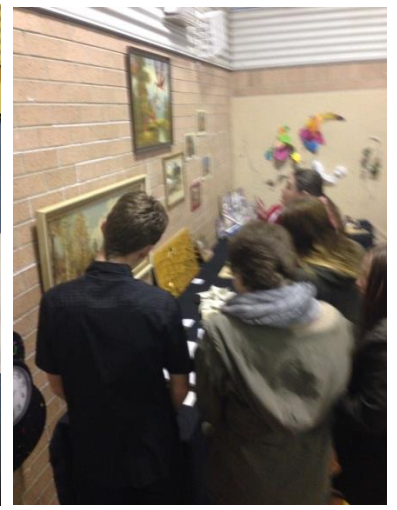


Tahlia Dicker of Year 10 performed a selection of repertoire recently at the BPW dinner at Cessnock Leagues Club. Tahlia sang and accompanied herself on guitar and is establishing herself as a talented artist. Tahlia also performed a vocal solo at Showcase called 'Young and Beautiful'. Tahlia is excited about continuing her music studies in Year 11 in 2016.

Showcase - More Than a Musical

Mount View High's Art students exhibited some of their Independent artworks and class work in conjunction with Showcase on the 20th and 21st July this month.





Year 7 Visual Art students prepared works to demonstrate their understanding of the learning that has been occurring in their classrooms in a wide and varied range of media. Sculpture, Painting and Drawing were the primary methods that students chose to highlight the concepts of Colour, Texture, Shape, Tone and Line. All works were designed and executed independently and are a testament to the range of wonderful creative skills that Mount View students possess.

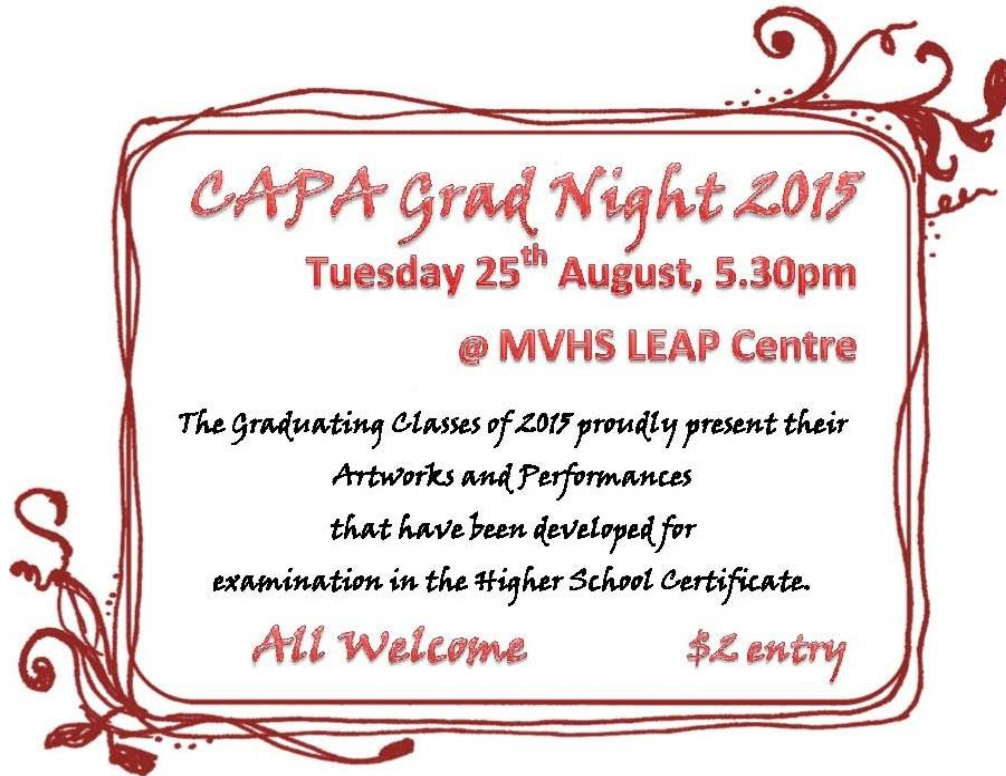
Year 7 also displayed their works in homage to the popular Post-Impressionist painter Claude Monet. Their water lilies swam across the surfaces dappled in light and painterly techniques.



Year 9 Visual Art students used the class activities of drawing and printmaking to highlight their skills and explorations into the Animal Genre. Expressive drawing media such as charcoal, pastel, and shellac and Arte Povera style surfaces combine to create emotive and powerful animal portraits. Whilst the controlled design approach to the theme through Lino printing offered an aesthetic calmness and again highlights the range of student ability in the creative arts.

Artworks with layers of meaning and powerful statements have been the focus of Year 10 Visual Arts this semester and the works prepared for Showcase did not disappoint. Using only “found” objects; students were challenged with the creation of a work that expressed concern over a political, environmental, historical or personal issue. An asylum seeker boat crudely assembled is never going to make the journey successfully and will ultimately sink to the traveller’s peril. Our natural environment can remain pristine whilst we seal it off, but open the “jar” and destruction commences. In the Second World War, Nazi rule ordered the confiscation and sometimes destruction of art and literature with mass burnings of books and artworks. Year 10 artists challenged the Showcase audience to look into their work rather than just glance at it.

Powerful stage photographic portraits were chosen by Year 11 Photography students. The viewer is left wondering “what is the movie or stage production that these characters have come from?” Sensitive and considered lighting combined with effective makeup and strong modelling, have created engaging and thought provoking images. The students also demonstrate with these works the high level of skill in post-camera production that they have attained in a short time of studying Photography. Special thanks to the teachers Ms Schafer, Ms Fullick, Mr Janovsky, Ms Wiseman, Ms Willis and Ms Alder for all of their skill sharing that enables Mount View art students develop artworks with confidence and aesthetic understanding.



TAS FACULTY



Andrew Newman – Rlg Head Teacher

Whats Happening in Hospitality? – By Leanne Triggs, VET Co-ordinator

Year 11 Hospitality students have been engaged in their first functions. They have successfully catered for The Education Week afternoon tea, The Primary Industries Network meeting and ended the week with the Secondary Principals meeting. The students served and prepared a morning tea and a two course luncheon. These opportunities provide realistic industry situations for students to experience large scale catering events.





Jamie Grove – Rlg Head Teacher

MVHS Fit Club

The MVHS fit Club is looking forward to another busy term of opportunities for students and teachers to increase their physical activity levels.

The Gym Club will continue on Wednesday and Thursday at lunchtime and give students opportunities to train and achieve a top 20 position in a variety of fitness tests.

On Thursday at lunchtime a circuit style training session is set up in the hall for anyone interested to participate in.

The big beep is on again. In week 5, any students who would like to test themselves in the beep test will be given the opportunity to improve on previous results and potentially be named the fittest student at Mount View High School.

The MVHS Fit Club is also running a touch football competition on Tuesday and Wednesday during break 1 this term. There are 10 registered teams and we wish everyone the best of luck. Below is a photo of the winning team of last terms 7-aside soccer competition. Sweeney's team won in a penalty shootout after a nil all draw in normal time. The boys will be recognised during our sport presentation next term. Congratulations, keep training.



Lifesaving Program 2015

All students in Years 7 and 8 at Mount View High School participate in a Lifesaving Program in Term 4. It is a reminder that this is not a learn to swim program and it is a mandatory part of the PDHPE curriculum.

Year 7 will participate between the 23rd and 27th of November and Year 8 will participate between the 30th of November and the 4th of December.

The students are striving to achieve the swim and survive awards and the bronze awards offered by the Royal Lifesaving Society. The students work with other students of the same or similar ability. It is a great opportunity for students to build their confidence in rescue situations as well as improve their communication and teamwork skills. The organisation for the Lifesaving Program will commence towards the end of Term 3 where further information will be sent home with the students. If there are any questions you would like answered before you receive an information package you could ring the school and ask to speak to Mr Grove or any of the PDHPE teachers.



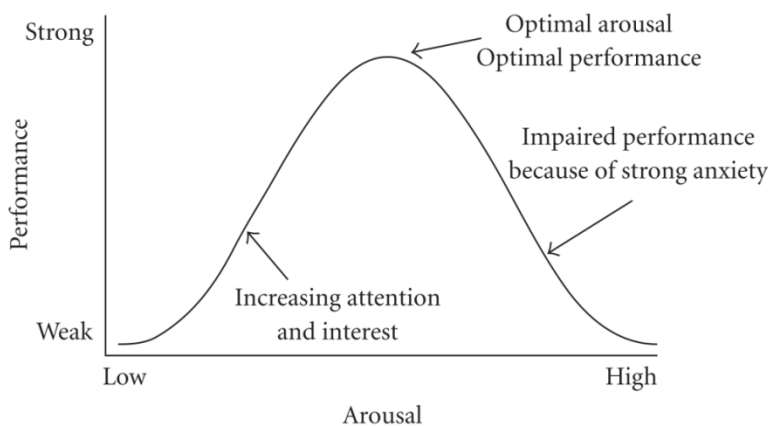
Julie Myers – Head Teacher Wellbeing
Yrs 7/9/11



Steve Quigley – Head Teacher Wellbeing
Yrs 8/10/12

Advice To Year 12

If you are experiencing anxiety, you are normal. There is no one who doesn't feel anxious at some time. It is even more common to feel anxious during adolescence, because so many changes are taking place in your body, your mind, and your emotions.



The optimal performance model shows us that for optimal performance (completing the HSC) we need to have a medium level of arousal. When our arousal is low we may be disinterested, distracted, or too relaxed, while when our arousal level is too high we may be too tense and unable to concentrate.

There are a few things you can do to reduce your arousal level.

1. **Exercise** – It can be a simple walk, punch a boxing bag, or a game of a team sport. Why this works? When we feel anxious, our glands send a hormone called adrenaline into our bodies. Adrenaline is what makes our muscles tense and our heart beat faster. When we exercise, the adrenaline is expelled, our muscles relax, and our heart rate slows down again.
2. **Laugh** – Laughter is a powerful antidote to stress, pain, and conflict. Nothing works faster or more dependably to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. Why does it work? Laughter triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals. Endorphins promote an overall sense of well-being and can even temporarily relieve pain.
3. **Breaking big projects into small tasks** - Stop – breathe – think. Using problem-solving skills means that instead of becoming overwhelmed or anxious when you encounter a challenging situation, you use your body and mind to help you find a solution.
4. **Relaxation techniques** – Your body can respond to worrying situations and anxious thoughts with muscle tension. Relaxing your muscles can help manage anxiety and stress. [A great free app is 'smiling mind'](#) it runs through a 5 minute relaxation / breathing track for you.
5. **Keep your life in balance** - When people keep their lives in balance, their anxiety level tends to be lower. Staying in balance means that the way you choose to spend your time and energy is a healthy mix of leisure and responsibilities.

Staff are here to help. We want to see you leave Mount View happy and knowing you have tried your best. Please talk to someone – a friend, year advisor, HT Wellbeing, school counsellor – if you want any more advice of coping through the HSC.

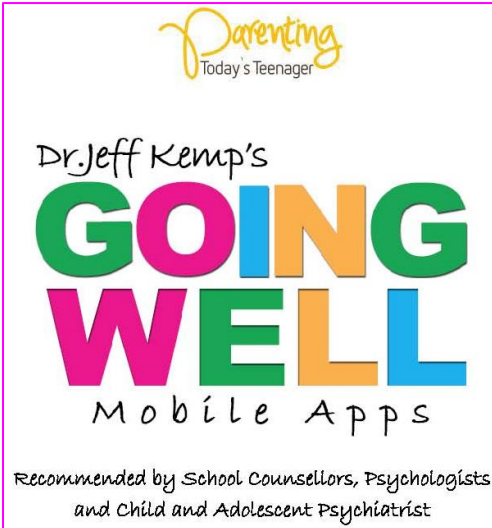
It is important to remember that managing anxiety and eliminating anxiety are two different things. Coping skills help you to take care of yourself and keep anxiety from getting too high. But using coping skills does not mean that you will never feel anxious again. There will always be new situations and new challenges in your life. There is always support and help out there too.

School Counsellors

School Counsellors are qualified teachers who have a degree in psychology and post graduate qualifications in school counselling. The aim of the Counsellor is to strengthen schools' student wellbeing provisions and provide counselling and psychological assessment of students with specific needs.

There are a number of services available to our students, including:

- Counselling
- Intelligence, behaviour, emotional, social and academic assessment
- The development of school based support for students
- To support caregivers in addressing the social, emotional and educational development of their child
- To refer students and families to appropriate supportive external agencies.



Parenting
Today's Teenager

Dr. Jeff Kemp's

**GOING
WELL**

Mobile Apps

Recommended by School Counsellors, Psychologists
and Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

School Counsellors are there to support **ALL** students. Mental Health is about more than Mental Illness. Having a trained Counsellor to listen nonjudgmentally and help a teenager develop strategies, plans and skills to support them now and into the future. Who wouldn't benefit from having a person you can vent all your frustrations, worries and hopes to?

You can contact your Mount View High Schools Counsellors on: 4990 2566
Lincoln Comans: Mondays/Fridays:
Zea Buckley: Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Even Week Thursdays

Some useful websites for carers of teenagers:
<http://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/teens.html>
<http://parentsguide.beyondblue.org.au/>
<http://headspace.org.au/family/>

Father's Day Breakfast

Mount View High School will be hosting a Father's Day BBQ Breakfast on Friday 4th September 2015 from 8am – 8.30am outside our school hall. Following is our flyer and we hope you can join us.



FATHER'S DAY
BBQ BREAKFAST

FRIDAY
4TH
SEPTEMBER
2015

MVHS HALL
8AM
RSVP 1/9/15
49902566

Mount View High School would like to invite all students and their dads, stepdads, pops, uncles or male carers to a Father's Day BBQ breakfast. We hope you can join us.



Karen Blandon – Co-Ordinator

Senior Leaders

Year 11 Senior Leaders are currently being nominated for the position of Captain/Vice Captain for 2016. They are to speak in front of their peers and staff members in Week 5 and then the election will take place.

Our current Captains/Vice Captains were invited to attend the Cessnock School Leaders Breakfast at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre at 7.15am on Tuesday 4th August 2015 and then they will hand over the reins to our newly elected team as they prepare for their HSC examinations.

Year 12 Senior Leaders and members of Year 12 are currently fundraising for their present to the school and for their end of year formal. They are having a BBQ Sausage Sizzle every second Wednesday at recess and will be having their annual Slave Day near the end of the term.

Mount View Leo Club

Members of our Mount View Leo Club had their Changeover Dinner on Wednesday 5th August 2015. Our new members were inducted into the Leo Club and the new positions of president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and the board members were renewed for 2016.

The Leos are organising the Parkinsons Unity Walk which will take place on Sunday 30th August 2015. It is held at Sydney Olympic Park and it is a 4km Fun Walk and we walk in honour of Phil Papworth, a former principal of Mount View High and the Coalfields Parkinson Support Group.

NSW Parkinsons Unity Walk



Mount View Leo Club is once again attending the NSW Parkinson's Unity Walk at Sydney Olympic Park, on Sunday 30th August 2015. It is a family day out and we will be doing the 4km walk through the parklands and walking in honour of Phil Papworth (a former principal of MVHS) and for Coalfields Parkinsons' Support Group.

We will be leaving Mount View High at the bus bay at 7:30am and will be travelling with Rover Coaches, who have generously donated a coach/driver for the day.

Students/family/parents/former students and friends are more than welcome to join us for the day. After the walk we will be having a picnic lunch in the park. Students can bring their own lunch or there are plenty of stalls and markets to purchase food and goods, along with amusement rides and entertainment. Students can bring a fold up chair or blanket to sit on.

We should be leaving Sydney Olympic Park about 2:30 – 3pm so arrival back at MVHS will be approximately 5pm.

Registration cost is \$30 adult
 \$20 child (6 – 15 years old)

All registration fees will be given to NSW Parkinsons . This can be paid at the school front office by 20th August 2015.

A BIG THANK YOU to ROVERS COACHES for their kind donation of a coach/driver.

They are the best bus company ever !!!!

The Leos are also organising a Trivia Night in the school hall on Thursday 3rd September 2015 to fundraise for the John Hunter Children's Hospital. Please keep this date free and support us for such a worthwhile cause.



By Members of the Junior AECG & Michelle Bedford

NAIDOC Celebrations

On Thursday 25th June our school came together to celebrate NAIDOC. Each year NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. It is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.

The Indigenous student body of Mount View put together and lead a fantastic ceremony. Special thanks go out to the following students, specials guests and teachers:

- Dakota King who was the Master of Ceremonies
- Montanna Sharpe who narrated the smoking ceremony
- Taneisha Rosser who delivered a moving Acknowledgement of Country
- Tahlia Dicker that sung an amazing version of the National Anthem in the Awabakal language
- Jacob, Ethan and Zachary Ellis along with Joseph Smith who unveiled and spoke about the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags.
- Uncle Perry Fuller, he delighted teachers, guests and students alike with his stories and Didgeridoo playing.
- Darryl Foster who spoke about this years theme - We all stand on sacred ground: Learn, respect & Celebrate.
- Uncle Shannon Ping and the boys of the Stanford Merthyr Public School for sharing their amazing dance skills with us.
- Aunt Judy West for sharing her story with us
- Uncle Adam who always shares his knowledge and skills with such enthusiasm that our student dancers are pumped and excited to share their culture with their peers on the day.
- Our student dancers for an inspiring and delightful performance. Taneisha Rosser, Joseph Smith, Shayne Lombardi, Ayden Crosdale, Dhani Drylie, Nirikai Drylie, Jacob Ellis, Ethan Ellis, Zachary Ellis, Shuan Thorpe, Taleah Sorensen, Joel Dicker, Riley Butters, Jed Hawthorne, Sylvia Carr, Tia Jackson Campbell & Yinaa Drylie.
- Last but definitely not least Mr Jarrett for his ongoing student support, his time and willingness to get in and get involved with our Indigenous students.





A fantastic day was had by all, I sincerely thank all of those that helped make the day such a successful event!

Cultural Immersion Day

The last day of term was celebrated with Year 7 Cultural Immersion day. All Year 7 students were broken down into 5 groups that rotated through five different Indigenous activities throughout the day. The five activities were:

- Cooking - Lemon Merytle scone and native jams
- Traditional Indigenous Games
- Story Telling
- Art - Student made clay scales of a Rainbow serpent that will soon be erected at the front of our school.
- Dance - with Uncle Adam.

This day is the culmination of two terms of cultural learning being embedded across of all subjects for Year 7 and a fantastic way to finish the term on a high for all of those that are involved. Again a big thank you to all staff and students that pitch in and make this such a fantastic day.

Fundraising

We are once again holding a Bunnings Fundraising BBQ on Saturday 29th August and we are looking for volunteers to help on the day. If you, your child or another family member would like to assist on the day, even if its only for an hour please contact Michelle Bedford. Many hands make light work!! Michelle.white36@det.nsw.edu.au



Helping learner drivers become safer drivers

FREE workshops for parents and supervising drivers

To provide practical advice about:

- Current laws for L and P licence holders.
- Supervising learner drivers.
- Completing the Learner driver log book.
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.
- Low risk driving.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

Time and date:	Venue:	Book now on:
10 September 2015 6.00PM - 8.00PM	Cessnock Performing Arts Centre	4993 4220

LOWES
EZY-WAY CREDIT CARD & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS
EXCLUSIVE INVITATION

1 DAY ONLY
THURSDAY 13 AUGUST

20% OFF
ORIGINAL PRICES
EVERYTHING

AVAILABLE INSTORE & ONLINE

OFFER INCLUDES ALL SCHOOLWEAR!

*Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only. Styles and colours may vary from store to store. No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing EzyWay 5% discount. Excludes gift cards. **Must use Ezy-way credit card or Rewards Club card to receive offer.**

HUNTER DENTAL GROUP
CESSNOCK, GREENHILLS & DUNGOG DENTAL
4990 1279 • 4934 7877 • 4992 3366

Child Dental Benefits Schedule
An Australian Government Dental Scheme

YES WE BULK BILL!!
Families that receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or other eligible government payments can receive ***1000** basic dental treatment for children aged 2-17 years.

For eligibility phone Medicare 132 011
For appointments call us today!

Experience The Magic Of Hosting

"In July our exchange student, Toon, joined our family. And when I say joined he literally did that. He has become my teenage son. Our experience as a family has been amazing and unforgettable."

Toon is leaving this week and I feel like my son is grown up and leaving home. There is nothing negative that I can say about our time with Toon. Toon has been through all sorts of things with our family. Through good times, like the birth of our new daughter, and not so good times (but nothing bad).

I would like to say my respects to Toon's parents. They have done a wonderful job raising such a courteous, well-mannered, well-balanced son. We have so many fantastic stories from this exchange experience. We have enjoyed it so much that we are hosting again next July. We will have a friend for life and will never forget Toon.

Thank you WEP for the chance to meet Toon. It wouldn't have been possible without the WEP team. Only a quick few words to show my appreciation in meeting Toon and to WEP.

Enrich your home with a curious exchange student in July 2015

Request student profiles now to find out more!
www.wep.org.au 1300 884 733 info@wep.org.au

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling](#).

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/student-support/programs/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving-school/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

© February 2015

NSW Department of Education and Communities