



Prairiewood High School

*"A Local Comprehensive and Partially Selective High School...
the very best of both worlds"*

MONTHLY BULLETIN

"Challenging students for the future."

April, 2011

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES!

9th April
Last Day
of Term 1

10th April
Interim Reports
posted for
Years 7,9,11

28th April
Students Return
for Term 2
ANZAC Day
Formal Assembly

29th April
Cross Country
Carnival

6th May
Multicultural
Celebration Day

10th – 12th May
NAPLAN tests
Years 7 & 9

2011 Housing NSW Youth Scholarship



At the end of 2010 Housing NSW contacted our school offering scholarships to any senior students who are eligible, to help with educational related expenses in completing the HSC. Several of our Year 11 students applied and on 1st November Emily Martin-Bell received the news that she was successful. Emily with the help of Mrs Amy McDonald, our Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer, then submitted a plan as to how she would use her scholarship.

On Monday 21st March, our Deputy Mr Chris Harris, Emily Martin –Bell and myself had the privilege of travelling to Parliament House for Emily to be presented to The Hon. Frank Terenzini, the then Minister for Housing, to receive her Scholarship. Emily, along with over ninety other students from schools in Western Sydney Region and many from inner city schools all received \$2000. We then enjoyed the views over Hyde Park while enjoying a morning tea for all the scholarship winners, their families and school representatives.

Emily has used part of her scholarship to purchase a laptop computer, software and internet connection to help her with her studies. This will assist her to continue her excellent achievements at school. We congratulate Emily and look forward to her continued success in the HSC.



From the PRINCIPAL...

Lots Happening at Prairiewood

Well, it's hard to believe that Term 1 has ended. It has been a busy time at Prairiewood for both staff and students... the Commonwealth funded upgrade of our Science area has finally been completed... staff have been involved on a fortnightly basis in a program of professional learning centred around four key areas: Literacy, Numeracy, Classroom Technologies and Quality Teaching... a very successful talent quest was held a few weeks ago... students across the school donated more than \$1500 to the New Zealand earthquake appeal... Engineering Expo... Australian Defence Force career talks... a number of our students have already experienced high levels of success as members of sporting teams... Year 12 students are currently completing their half yearly exams... and lots more!

Interim Reports

Teachers have been preparing interim progress reports for students in Years 7, 9 and 11. These have proved to be well-received by parents in the past few years and simply provide a general "snapshot" of how students are coping with their school work after only seven or eight weeks into the school year.

SRC President

We are very proud and wish to congratulate Nazli Hocaoglu (SRC member in Year 11) who has been elected as President of the South Western Sydney Regional SRC group – and wonderful honour for Nazli and the school – and very well deserved.

School Fees and Subject Fees

Our first round of letters re fees have been posted to parents. I ask that you assist the school and our students by paying fees as early as possible. The additional funding provided by parents help us to better support student teaching and learning programs in the classroom, and beyond. Your support as parents and carers is appreciated. My personal thanks to those parents who have already paid in full or in part the 2011 fees for their child/ren.

Lots of Performing Arts Talent at Prairiewood

I am very pleased to congratulate three students (Richard and Katrina Loau and Sariah Taulai) who have been successful in being selected for the second round auditions of the NSW state talent development program, with Richard and Katrina also being accepted into the Regional Talent Identification workshops. What a great achievement!

University Record

The numbers are in! We've checked our sums. It's true – almost 40% of Prairiewood's Year 12 students who completed the HSC at the end of last year have been successful in gaining enrolment into university courses.

Student Attendance

At the school level, we are trying to improve overall attendance levels and help students (and parents) to realise the importance of attending school *every* day. Students who are absent run the risk of not being successful in gaining their School Certificate or HSC as a result of all the work that is missed. Without the full support of parents, the small group of students who are persistently absent or late to school will have little hope of improving their attendance levels. It is important that we work together on this issue.

Student Academic Success

Final statistical information provided by the Department of Education and Training revealed a continuing improvement trend in "value-added" figures for last year's School Certificate and HSC. That means that when comparing student achievement levels between Year 5 and Year 10 – and also between Year 10 (SC) and Year 12 (HSC) – students have shown significant levels of improvement. Well done to our Prairiewood students and their teachers! A truly great effort.

~ J. Pickering

Clean Up Australia Day 2011

Prairiewood Year 7 Geography students showed their commitment to the school and participated in the 21st Clean Up Australia Day for school on Friday 4th March 2011.

7O, 7E, 7P, 7R, 7I and 7S were the classes involved and each of them displayed maturity and active citizenship as they scoured the school grounds looking for and disposing of rubbish. They even assisted



with the general maintenance of the school by cleaning leaf litter from under the guttering around the basketball courts.

By last period 7P had a great deal of difficulty locating any rubbish at all. Due in part to the diligence of previous Year 7 classes, but more likely the ability of all Prairiewood High students to 'Do the Right Thing' and keep their school clean.



At the conclusion of each class' designated clean up period, all students were rewarded with some refreshments, which they happily consumed

before moving on to their next lesson.

Each student who participated is to be commended on their active involvement in this worthy and highly publicised cause, and have received Ian Kiernan's Clean Up Australia Day Award.

Great work Year 7.

**Ms N. Dixon [Clean Up Australia Day Co-Ordinator]
Social Science Dept.**



The Shoe-Horn Sonata

Students were recently provided with the opportunity to attend an excursion based upon the above prescribed text which is taught to the HSC students at Prairiewood High. Seventy-seven students, accompanied by four teachers attended the play at The Impulse Theatre Company at Newtown on 7 March, 2011.

The play, directed by Stephen Wallace and played by Mary Haire (Bridie), Genevieve Mooy (Sheila) and the voice of Rick (Graeme Rhodes), was enlightening and surely reinforced the students' knowledge of the play.

The flashbacks on screen, the background music, appropriate choice of characters, the costuming, set design and lighting also enhanced the students understanding of the play. Special thanks to Mrs Davis and Mrs Young for organising this excursion.

**Mr S. Jacob
English Dept**

Visual Arts Excursion

Art galleries have always been peaceful, comfortable places, where people could feel at ease without the feel and pressure of the modern day world creeping in. This was my first experience of an art gallery.

Imagine you're standing in a cold, marble-floored room; the only sounds you can hear are silent footsteps. You move with the crowd, towards the first exhibition. The room is dark and there are spotlights shining over amazing artworks.

You don't know what to think, what to feel. It's beautiful.

The first exhibition you see is Terracotta Warriors. It's extraordinary. There are statues of Chinese Warriors and objects from their past.

You feel amazed and honoured to see the statues in real life. They are each carefully sculpted to perfection. All of the statues are ancient and dusty, a few statues with broken faces and body parts. The figures include warriors, officials, horses and chariots.

The exhibition is crowded, with people eager to have a look. You move on, leaving the Terracotta Warriors behind.

You then venture into Art Express- a very vibrant, very colourful place. The artworks were created by talented Year 12 students, all on display for people to see. One of the best artworks was 'Illusio (Illusions of reality)', which appears to be a photo of a door leading to another scene. You examine it closely, and see the notes on the bottom of the picture. It's not a door with a magical entrance, it's a mirror. A mirror inside a door, that's reflecting a different scene.

You see a large photo, titled 'Logic will take you from A to B; imagination will take you everywhere'. It's of numerous photos of a young child, with hand-stitched characters and objects around her. The art symbolises the innocence of a child's imagination. "*A child's imagination is the breath and innocence of life*", the artist says.

'The not so secret' catches your eye. You take the time to read through every page. The artist created a small concertina book, exploring the troubles of a girl named 'Ella' and her battles with anorexia, created using ink on watercolour paper.

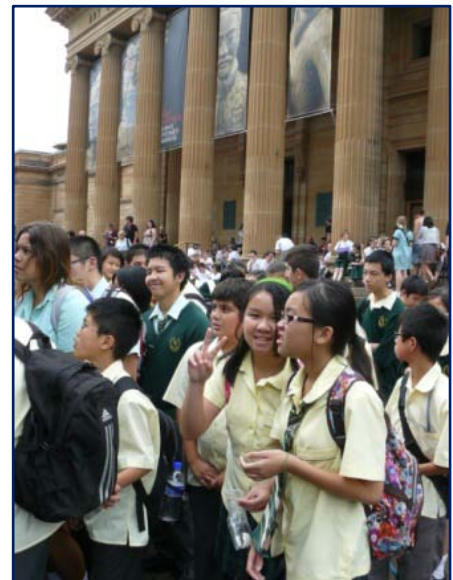
You walk away from the astonishing artworks, almost unwilling to tear your eyes away. You decide to look at the nineteenth century artwork, including art created by John Schaeffer.

The rooms are wide and large with ceilings higher than the other exhibitions. There are large paintings that take up the whole wall, and small sculptures. You lift your head to view the paintings that are even taller than you.

You can hear the other students and teachers calling you to return but it's too early, and you don't want to leave. Silently, so very quietly, you tip-toe back to your class.

And on the bus, memories of the Art Gallery are still fresh in your mind.

By Donna Xu, 7S



Engineering Day 2011

On Thursday 10 March 2011 an Engineering Day was held here at Prairiewood High School. A number of other schools including: Hurlstone Agricultural H.S., Canley Vale H.S., Fairvale H.S., Thomas Hassall Anglican School and John Therry Catholic College attended the day that was organised by Engineers Australia and the Institute of Industrial Arts Education in the school hall. Altogether there were about 170 students who attended the day from Prairiewood and various other schools around the area.

Students were addressed by a number of guest speakers from various fields of engineering as well as current university students who were studying engineering. They spoke to the students about what they do as engineers and what university was like for engineering students. The most enjoyable presentation was from BOC Gases and included



several demonstrations with liquid nitrogen. Liquid nitrogen is an extremely cold substance and in the demonstration it was used to freeze bananas, squash balls, ping pong balls and eggs to show what happens to these things when exposed to such conditions.



Another very enjoyable part of the day was the practical activities. There were two activities, one involving constructing a paper plane and measuring its distance of flight, the plane that travelled the furthest in a straight line over a runway won the competition. The other activity involved making a catapult from paddle pop sticks, rubber bands, adhesive tape and plastic spoons. The idea was to see which engineering design could catapult a marshmallow the greatest distance. Students were given twenty minutes to work in small teams to design, construct and test their catapults. After that they competed against other teams to see which design fired the marshmallow furthest.

During the breaks in activities students had a chance to speak to engineering students from various universities (UNSW, USYD, UTS) about engineering courses and Air Force people about engineering at the Australian Defence Force Academy. We were also able to meet many students from the other schools.

Overall, the Engineering Day was very well set up and most enjoyable. It was a very valuable learning experience. All of the speakers provided useful and interesting information about engineering and stimulated our interest in becoming engineers. Our thanks go to the school, Engineers Australia and the Institute of Industrial Arts Education for organising and providing such a valuable learning experience. Hopefully, Prairiewood may be able to host similar activities to this in the future.



Mr D. Rose and Steven Quach (Year 11)
Industrial Arts Faculty

All Black Day Fundraiser

On Tuesday 22nd of March schools all over Australia were asked to become involved in a united fundraiser for the Christchurch, New Zealand Earthquake Appeal. One of our Year 12 students, William Bellam, whose family comes from Christchurch encouraged the students to participate by speaking at our school assembly and we were able to show students a short video about the disaster compiled by a primary school teacher from Penrith.

The response from our students and staff was overwhelming. The students wore all black mufti clothing to school and donated a gold coin, the staff wore their "all black" outfits to the staff morning tea.



Two students personally donated \$100 each for the

appeal. In total, the school raised \$1,525 which will be sent to the appeal through The Red Cross. We are very proud of the empathy shown by Prairiewood High to those in need. Well done!



Mrs L. Marlow
Head Teacher Welfare

STUDENT ATTENDANCE ISSUES

All parents and students are reminded of the legal requirement that all students attend school up until the age of 17 years and the fact that the Department of Education and Training staff are involved in investigating issues of non-attendance at school. In serious cases, the matter is referred to court and parents fined. Additionally, students receiving Centrelink payments need to remember that, based upon attendance reports from the school, payments can be stopped.

EARLY LEAVERS

In cases where there is a legitimate reason for a student to leave school early, the parent is required to send a note with the student and this note must be handed to Miss Rodic (HT Administration) before school. As is the case with all notes re absence, if the reason is considered by the principal to be unsatisfactory, the absence is entered as unjustified. Students are not granted permission to leave school to attend tests for drivers' licences – this must occur out of school hours.

HOLIDAYS and EXTENDED LEAVE

From time to time, parents and students need to travel overseas or take extended leave in relation to family situations – especially those that arise overseas. It is essential that **ADVANCE NOTICE** is provided in writing to the school when this situation arises and permission sought for leave.

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DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

At the moment, I am considering the future use of parent email addresses (where they exist) as the principal means of communication between school and home ... for the school bulletin, notices and letters, etc. Australia Post will continue to be used for parents who have not provided email addresses.

J. Pickering (Principal)

Agriculture News

Canberra Royal



This year the Prairiewood High Ag Show team travelled to Canberra, for the Canberra Royal Show held 24th – 27 February. This was the first show that we have taken our young Red Poll heifer (9 month old Wirakie Firelilly) to. It was an education for her as she was exposed to the noises and conditions of a show. Even though she only came second in her class, it was a win for her as she managed to settle in to the show scene pretty quickly. In addition to our students working with our animal we also assisted with the Belault Red Poll.

2011 Dubbo Beef Spectacular And Trade Expo

In 2011 Prairiewood High attended the Beef Spectacular and Trade Expo held on the 16th to 17th March, held at Dubbo showground .In addition with working with our poll heifer we also assisted Shellgardi Murry Grey from Gunning and Belaut red poll cattle stud from Breywood, with which we have had a long relationship, they we prepared and showed their cattle. Our Heifer once again received 2nd place in her class, but the learning experiences for both new and old show members was more worth the six hour trip.



Welcome News

Prairiewood proudly announces the birth at 12.30am on 5.4.11 of a heifer – calf and Ag teacher doing well!



Mr G. Mulcahy
Science/Ag Faculty

YR 11 Mock Interview Day 2011 ***Interviews... a real life experience***

Last Thursday, 24th March 2011, Prairiewood High School held its annual Year 11 Mock Interview Day. This is one of the modules from our School to Work Program, which we have been running for a number of years.

The aim of the Yr11 Mock Interview Day is to give students a sample of what a proper interview involves from pre-interview preparation, to actual interview techniques and post interview follow-ups. The areas covered by this module included –

- Covering Letters, Resumes and Job Portfolios,
- Industry/Company Research,
- Interview Dress,
- Questions to expect,
- How to answer questions,
- What questions to ask,
- The ability to discuss employability skills and
- Interview dos and don'ts.



The students were given a sample of mock positions from which they could apply for. They were then issued with an interview time for the day. Each student had to arrive at the interview suitably dressed (black and white) along with their well prepared Job Portfolios.

The interviewers present on the day were professionals from industry – Kelly Services, Manpower, Nissan Group, McGrath Real Estate, Woolworths, South West Connect, AGTNSW, 1300 Apprenticeships as well as fellow Careers Advisers. All

our gratitude goes out to all who assisted from our local community which have again helped make the day the success it was and has always been.

The students are also to be commended for their participation, punctuality, dress, preparation and presenting Prairiewood High School as a school which many praised and stated time and time again, "If this was a real interview, I would employ this student on the spot!"

Well done Yr11!

Mrs P. Evans
Careers Advisor

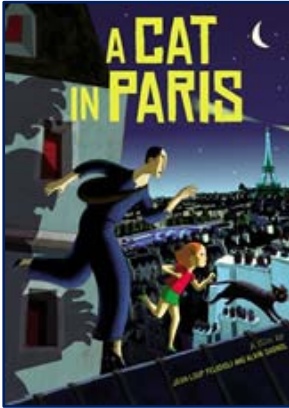


Our new stock of woollen jumpers have arrived and are for sale on our uniform days - Mondays and Wednesdays.

Due to an increase in the manufacturing costs the new prices will be:

<i>Size 12 – 16</i>	<i>\$57.00</i>
<i>Size 18 – 22</i>	<i>\$65.00</i>
<i>Size 24 – 30</i>	<i>\$70.00</i>

Year 8 Selective & 8P to the Movies and Restaurant



Our day started as usual, arriving at school and waiting for the roll call bell. However, instead of going to roll call, we walked to the bus bay when the bell rang. Today, instead of going to our classes, we went to see a French movie called "Une Vie de Chat (A Cat in Paris)" which is being shown for the French Film Festival. After lining up and getting the rolls marked, we piled onto the bus and spent 1 ½ hours driving to Leichhardt. The bus ride itself was noisy and fun, filled with people singing, taking pictures, talking among themselves, playing on game consoles or simply listening to music on their iPods/phones. As we arrived at the Cinemas, many joined the queue to buy popcorn and drinks.

Everybody quickly grabbed a seat as the movie started, filling the theatre with music. This animated movie was located in France, where a cat that was living the "best of both worlds", living a usual life with a lonely girl by day, and becoming a thief's sidekick by night. The girl finally realised what her cat had been doing all this time, and becomes drawn into an exciting adventure involving thieves, gangsters, and cats.

As the movie ended, the audience erupted into a round of applause. We then left the cinema and crossed the street to Café Gioia for lunch, where some people learnt valuable lessons of not trying new, unfamiliar food. Especially olives! We had wood fired pizza with various toppings – varying from Hawaiian, meat lovers, vegetarian and margarita and gelato afterwards. As we finished lunch, it was time to head back to school. We thanked the chef and headed down to the bus. This ride was just as noisy and fun, maybe even more than the previous trip. We returned to school at the beginning of period 6 and spent the rest of the day in the Industrial Arts shaded area.



Overall, it was a fun day filled with memories that all of us enjoyed.

Shanice Kim - 8S

Science Body Talks

On Tuesday 5th April, a number of grades were invited to attend a health workshop that was conducted in the school library. The workshop was split into two major sections, in one half we were given information and in the other half we had four interactive workshops to attend. The information was given to us by representatives of the Western Sydney Health Services who worked for NSW Health, providing us with information about the career opportunities that was available in the health system.

Our first introduction was to nursing possibilities, such as midwifery and aged care. We learnt about what nurses had to do, possible salaries, why it was so great and also the many different pathways of getting into nursing.

We were also exposed to other occupations such as doctors, physiotherapists, podiatry, surgeons, specialists and the list goes on! Many people also took the opportunity to take the floor to ask questions

on possible future careers and what was the best way to get there and other general questions about these occupations.

The most expressed area of health that was presented to us was aged care nursing, due to the older generations aka "baby boomers", having a longer life expectancy, hence growing older and needing a larger health attention area as opposed to others. However, the speakers also expressed that social workers are also needed in the health industry, especially relating to the elderly.



After the main information section was completed, we then were split up into four groups to attend the workshops. The four workshops included a mobile Pharmacy, a midwifery area, dementia alertness section and finally the breast cancer table.

The first table I attended was the breast cancer awareness. This is where everyone had the chance to feel a breast for cancers and recognise what it felt like. At first, the boys were extremely hesitant, but after being told that men also can get breast cancer, they all seemed to have joined the line in a hurry.

Moving onto the next workshop, provided us with vital information about dementia sufferers, how to care for them and what is actually different in them compared to ourselves. There was a hands on brain model of which we compared between a dementia sufferer and a non-sufferer. This provided us insight into what many Australian elderly people suffer from each day.

The third workshop may have been the most eye-opening for both boys and girls. It was in-fact the midwifery quarters. Here, we pretty much experienced the birth of a child through its mother (using dummies of course!). We were shown how the baby is manoeuvred to prevent injury to itself and the mother.

The last workshop was a mobile pharmacy where we got to experience putting drugs into categories, filling them up into capsules ready for the customers and also matching up medicines to the right stickers using the MIMS handbook.

Overall, this day was a fantastic experience and opportunity for those who were unsure of whether to move into the health industry and also for those who wanted to gain more information about their future career. We would like to thank all those who came out on that day to provide us with that information.



Nazli Hocaoglu Year 11

Zone Swimming Carnival 2011

Monday 7th March was a day to be proud of Prairiewood High School swimmers. We sent over 40 students to proudly represent the school at the Lansdowne Zone Swimming Carnival, held at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. Mr Hodges and I spent our day giving loads of encouragement to Prairiewood swimmers while also making sure they were at their correct event on time.



The day turned out to be a HUGE SUCCESS with Prairiewood beating their rival Bossley Park, in overall points to win 1ST PLACE- 672 to 568.

A big congratulations to Linh Nguyen, Anh Nguyen, Steven Tran, Alicia Gaffey and Monica McNally for winning the Age Champion Award in their respective age groups. A special mention to Steven Tran (Year 8) who broke numerous records on the day, including 14 year males' 50, 100 and 200 metre freestyle, 100 metre backstroke, 100 metre butterfly and the 200 metre individual medley.

The fantastic effort from ALL of our representative swimmers contributed to our win! Well done!

Miss J. Peters
PDHPE Dept

Netball Clinic

On the 30th March the Year 7 and Year 8 girls attended a netball clinic at Memorial Park, Liverpool. There, we received a sun visor, wristband and netball from Macquarie Sports.

The day started with us being divided into small groups. You wouldn't believe but members of the NSW Swifts including Catherine Cox, Courtney Tairi, Amy Wild and most importantly Liz Ellis were our coaches.



One of the first activities we did was passing and shooting. We then played games such as Indians and Chiefs, red light/green light and many more. The third and fourth activities were a mixture of passing, ball control and ball skills. We had lots of fun in these activities because Liz Ellis was our coach and she said, "we were too good!"



Overall it was a great experience for everyone there. We learnt more about netball, played netball and even got to meet some netball superstars. Thankyou very much to Macquarie Sports for giving us this opportunity.

By Anne Chung, Helaina Narvaiza and Tiana Huynh.

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FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS
BRING IT ON!
 FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 10 APRIL
 11AM - 7PM
 FAIRFIELD SHOWGROUND

FREE ENTRY!

DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE
 CARBON NEUTRAL EVENT

Fairfield City
 Celebrating diversity
 2011

Prairiewood High School

Mission Statement

"To strive for excellence in classroom teaching with students supported by wide-ranging experiences and opportunities which will enable them to develop as productive, effective and valued members of the community."

STAFF DIRECTORY

PRINCIPAL ~ Mr J. Pickering DEPUTY PRINCIPALS ~ Mr J. Conroy, Mr C. Harris
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 CAREERS ADVISER ~ Mrs P. Evans OFFICE MANAGER: ~ Mrs B. Beileiter

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 Administration ~ Ms M. Rodic History ~ Mrs F. Humphreys Social Sciences ~ Mr B. Jackson
 PD/Health/PE ~ Mr R. Benetel Industrial Arts ~ Mr D. Rose Teaching & Learning ~ Mrs D. Smith
 Home Economics ~ Mrs A. Stewart / Mrs K. Hernandez
 Visual Arts Supervisor ~ Mrs D. Smith Performing Arts Supervisor ~ Mr J. Conroy
 Languages ~ Ms T. Gandlgruber

YEAR ADVISERS

Year 7 ~ Ms A. Pool / Mr G. Mulcahy (Ass't) Year 8 ~ Ms K. Bond / Mrs J. Edwards (Ass't)
 Year 9 ~ Mrs J. Magee / Mrs K. Oakley (Ass't) Year 10 ~ Mr N. Liberatore / Mrs K. Hernandez (Ass't)
 Year 11 ~ Ms L. Ruzic / Mr W. Guthrie (Ass't) Year 12 ~ Mr M. Gianni / Ms E. Walsh (Ass't)

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