



Prairiewood High School

"A Local Comprehensive and Partially Selective High School"

Website: www.prairiewoodhigh.com.au

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MONTHLY BULLETIN

"Challenging students for the future."

March, 2011

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES!

16th Feb – 6th April

Year 7 Swim
School

7th March

Zone Swimming
Carnival

8th March

Year 7 (2012)
Information Night

9th March

Issue of Laptops to
Year 9 students

17th March

Middle Eastern
Seminar for
Parents

28th March – 8th April

Year 12 Half Yearly
Exams

Wednesday, 6th April

P&C Meeting in the
library at 7.00pm

Twin Scholarships for our Year 12 Twins at Prairiewood.

After receiving excellent results at the end of 2010, our Year 12 twins were each offered "TeachNSW" scholarships to train as teachers in our public schools, as well as being accepted into the "Aspire" – Future Leaders Program at the University of Western Sydney.

As if that wasn't enough, both Amy and Clare Melville were also honoured to be awarded Academic Excellence Scholarships at UWS. What a great achievement!

Amy has decided to study a Bachelor of Arts/Master of Teaching degree at UWS Penrith – leading into the teaching of English and History in High Schools. Clare, on the other hand, has selected to pursue a Bachelor of Science/Master of Teaching degree in preparing for a career as a High School Science teacher.

In their spare time away from the rigours of university study, Clare and Amy continue to pursue their sporting interests as members of the local softball team. We wish them every success in their future careers!



From the PRINCIPAL...

Welcome

At the beginning of a brand new year, I am very pleased to welcome to our school the following new teachers: Mr E. Pang (Maths/Science), Mr A. Morris (Industrial Arts), Mrs N. Dixon (Social Sciences), Ms N. Zalavras (English), Ms C. Inzitari (Social Sciences), Ms A. Hunt (ESL Part-time), Ms J. Neubert (Performing Arts P/time) and Mrs L. Hoang (Home Economics) who has been reappointed to Prairiewood.

Gifted and Talented Programs

At Prairiewood High School, we have always had teachers who are willing to give up their time and skills to provide additional opportunities and experiences beyond the classroom for our students and 2011 will be no different. A range of extra-curricular and Gifted and Talented programs will be offered to students including: Gazing at the Stars, Ag Show Team, Public Speaking and Debating, Elite Rugby program, Fitness Club, Music Performance and Dance, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Robotics, Engineering, Writers' Guild and Brainwaves competition.

School and Subject Fees

If we are to continue with the wide range of programs and opportunities currently offered to students, we need your assistance. That's right – we need parents to pay school and subject fees so that we can cover the costs of many of the everyday expenses involved in teaching our students, your children. At Prairiewood, our voluntary contributions/school admin fees continue to be less than the amount recommended by the Department of Education and Training. Costs of items such as electricity and water, as well as printers and technology, teacher relief and repairs to ageing equipment have all increased in recent years and continue to go up, not down. Your contribution will help us to maintain the high standards in equipment and facilities that I believe our students deserve. Remember, if all student fees were paid over the past ten years, we would have an additional \$300,000 to spend of extra items to support our students' learning.

Funding Benefit for Primary Schools

I am pleased to advise that we continue to support our partner primary with substantial funding from our National Partnerships/Smarter Schools program. A total of \$60,000 has been made available for our local primary schools – with a special focus on literacy and numeracy skills development and additional professional learning opportunities for staff.

Stockland Car Parking

I am concerned by a number of complaints received from parents about the dangerous actions of some drivers, especially when picking up students at the end of the day. Concerns have been raised about "double-parking", dangerous driving and people parking in the middle of the laneways/roads. These concerns will be passed on to local Police, with a request to take some action, as appropriate. Additionally, such actions do little to enhance the image of our school in the community, especially when the majority of parents do not behave in this manner. Thank you to those who do abide by the road rules and are courteous to other drivers. The safety and well-being of our students must be paramount at all times.

Drop Off Zones

All parents are reminded of the 'legal' student drop-off zones provided at the front of our school and that these are to be used when dropping off/picking up students in the morning/afternoon. As a courtesy to our school, parents also have the opportunity to drop off and/or pick up students in the area near the school gate at Stocklands. Please note that students are NOT to be dropped off in our staff car parks at any time – except for those travelling to/from school on the official taxi service provided for our special education students.

StockMotion

Five boys and three girls from our school have been fortunate enough to be invited to participate in this special interest program initiated by Stockland Wetherill Park. Our students are part of a group of twenty-five who are gaining valuable skills in stop-motion photography – working in five teams preparing and producing short video projects which will be screened at the Hoyts Cinema early in Term 2. One of the program presenters, industry professional Nick Donkin, is widely acclaimed as an Australian expert in this field of video animation.

LINKS Program

A number of our Year 9 students will be participating in a special “alternative” program of study (called Links to Learning) which is designed to provide them with a range of valuable creative and practical opportunities to build a range of work-related skills – in a less formalised learning environment. At the same time, these students are supported and encouraged to engage in different education and training opportunities after leaving school.

Attendance and Truancy

I am concerned at a number of students who are building up poor attendance records already – with unjustified absences/truancy from school. Police have been working with local schools by contacting schools and parents where school-age people are located in shopping centres, parks, etc, during school hours. It is important to point out that, under recent changes to state law, students must remain at school until they are SEVENTEEN years of age – or parents may be charged and fined. In exceptional circumstances I, as principal, have authority to sign out students under seventeen who satisfy special requirements – including providing adequate written evidence of being enrolled/engaged in full-time education or employment.

N Award Warnings

Parents and students are reminded of the dangers of simply ignoring letters sent by the school as “N Award Warning” letters which are used to advise parents of compulsory course work or course requirements that have not been completed. Each year there is a number of students (and parents) who ignore these letters and then students fail to qualify for the award of a School certificate or HSC. Under new rules introduced by last year, any student who fails to gain a School Certificate will then be required to REPEAT Year 10 at school. Please also be reminded that students who have incomplete coursework in Year 11 will be prevented from progressing into Year 12 and completing the Higher School Certificate.

P&C Meeting

It was really encouraging to see the largest number of people ever recorded attend the very first P&C meeting for this year! I do trust that the majority of these parents will become regular attenders at our P&C meetings throughout 2011. Thank you to those who have attended one or more P&C meetings this year and I look forward to seeing you again! At the Annual General Meeting this week, the following people were elected to the executive: Mrs V. Mayer (President), Mrs S. MacPherson (Vice President), Mrs D. Sapountzis (Secretary) and Mrs G. Cignarella (Treasurer).

Student Achievements

Prairiewood students continue to work hard and achieve success in a range of areas. Congratulations to our Boys’ and Girls’ volleyball teams – with six students selected for Sydney South West Regional teams. Our Ag Show Team has also started the year well – winning a Second Place award at the Royal Canberra Show last week. Our Rugby Competition was off to a good start in their first match of the year with a win against Winmalee High School. Well done to all of our students who continue to strive to achieve their very best in extra-curricular activities as well as in the classroom. We are very proud of your achievements.

J. Pickering

7S Computer Maths Classes

During Week 7 of Term 4, 7S spent the week of maths using computers. We used one particular program called Microsoft Excel. Mrs Thiru gave us a series of exercises to complete relating to numbers. We created tables as well as various graphs such as pie graphs and column graphs. Our first activity was a multiplication table where we had to use relative and absolute references. This is when you copy and paste a formula and apply it to the answer column. 7S worked on another activity that was to generate special groups of numbers. Examples of these were finding formulas of square, Fibonacci and hexagonal numbers. The class found out that the most challenging formula to find were the hexagonal numbers. We then did more exercises on graphs, charts and later finding the lowest common multiples (LCM) of two different numbers.

On the final day of our computer classes, Mr Pickering and Mrs Cashel visited our class to view our progress. They praised us on how talented we were and Mr Pickering issued us with a final challenge. The challenge was to find a formula that produces all the prime factors of a number. 7S all attempted it, but the most successful student in the class who figured out 90% of the challenge was Kyle White. We would have to say that this would have to be the best maths week by far!

Anh Nguyen, Kathleen Voon and Alice Tieu.

Year 7 Geography Inter-School Competition

At the end of term 4 last year, 2 teams of Year 7 Geography students from our COS-4 group were involved in a Geography Skills day at Prairiewood High School. Bonnyrigg and Elizabeth Macarthur High Schools were represented. Unfortunately, Moorebank could not attend so another team from Prairiewood was entered.

The teams competed in an Orienteering exercise around the school perimeter before entering the competition in the dance studio. Topics covered include countries, oceans, mountains, sports, music personalities, global company logos and an impromptu weather forecast.



Ms Bond worked very hard before the competition with her 10XG class making up the questions and generally preparing for this fun and interesting day, reinforcing our classroom studies. Our thanks go to Ms Bond and 10XG for their effort organising the competition. We also thank her for providing incentives and 'brain-food' to motivate us. Chop and Nazli did excellent jobs as hosts and quizmasters.



We also thank Mr Pickering for supporting this selective schools initiative. The canteen provided a nice lunch and morning tea.

Ms Bond's 7S team won the competition at the end of the day with 7H a close third; but as Mr Jackson said Geography was the real winner on the day!

Jasmine Peuo and Helaina Narvaiza - Year 8 (2011)

“Big Fish into Little Fish” Year 7 Transition activity day

On Monday 14th February our Year 7 students got to know themselves and each other better by participating in a double period of games and activities led by Rocky Biasi, a Counsellor from Human Connections. The students completed a booklet in which they made “ My letter of Agreement “to their year group which they needed to sign and get both their parents and Year Advisors Ms Pool or Mr Mulcahy to sign.

They started by playing the Balloon game where they put two personal thoughts about starting High school on strips of paper inside a balloon and blowing it up. The aim of the activity was to make sure everyone’s balloon stayed up in the air and if one hit the ground they had to make sure they picked it up and threw it back in the air. This activity was to symbolize their promise to each other that if anyone “hit the ground” the rest of the group would help to pick them back up, looking out for them and by supporting them.



Rocky tricked the students by having a big Milo tin that didn’t contain Milo but lollies. This led students into an activity of “Tearing off your Label” where students were taught not to believe in negative labels other people put on you but to create their own positive labels based on their strengths and positive attributes so we can “believe in the real you ...and not the label”.

Students then engaged in ‘positive self-talk’ by interviewing a fellow Year 7 student and helping them to solve problems, showing them how they can be a good friend to others by examining the qualities that make them and others good friends.



That evening all the Year 7 students and their parents were invited back to school from 6.30p.m until 8.30p.m. The students had a sausage sizzle and drink and played team games with the student leaders including the Prefects and some of the Sports Council. Thank you to Ms Ruzic and Mr Liberatore for cooking and to Mr Mulcahy and the student leaders for running the games.

The parents meeting involved an introduction by Mr Pickering, after which Ms Pool, Mr Mulcahy, Mrs Marlow, Head Teacher Welfare and both Deputy Principals spoke. Rocky Biasi then gave a talk to the parents on “Easing the Transition into High School”, giving the parents advice on issues such as dealing with homework, communicating with teenagers and dealing with bullying. Mr Conroy handed out the Year 7 Curriculum booklets covering all the different subjects as well as assignments and homework. Those parents who attended were able to share in supper, chatting with staff, getting to know other parents and meeting two of our Community Liaison Officers, Mrs Rohan and Mrs Petaia. We hope it provided an opportunity for parents to ask questions that will help their children transition more easily into Year 7

Mrs L. Marlow

Head Teacher Welfare

Year 10 “Links to Learning” students graduate.

Links to Learning is a program run by The Parks Community Network for students in Year 9 held at Prairiewood Youth Centre every Wednesday. The project is designed to meet the needs, abilities and interests of students, whilst at the same time providing them with a high degree of individual support in a youth friendly environment. Students participate in various activities including the Australian Red Cross (CPR) course, drug and alcohol emergency training and training in a sound recording lab.

In 2010 twelve Year 9 students attended the course with ten students successfully completing the course and graduating on Wednesday 16th February, 2011.



Present at the graduation were Skye Aquilina, Mary-Lily Nansen, Yohann Khudir, Ben Humphrey Tuala and Ralph Ubungen and Mr Liberatore, their Year Advisor. Prospective Year 9 students and their Year Advisor, Mrs Magee viewed a slide show of photos from last years activities and were very impressed. Our thanks go to Eva Atkin and her team for this very worthwhile program and our congratulations to our graduating students. **Well done!**

Mrs L. Marlow
Head Teacher Welfare

AFTER SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The After School Improvement Program (ASIP) commenced in 2010 as a result of the additional funding the school received as part of National Partnerships. For many years we have provided assistance to students with their homework after school but due to the extra funding, we were able to expand this to include numeracy, literacy and ICT support.

The ASIP is an after school program that provides support to targeted students in Years 7 and 8. It operates on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the school library. Students are given afternoon tea before the sessions start and a small break at 4:00pm.

The areas we focus on are literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. The afternoon program is split up into four half hour sessions. Each session is structured so that basic skills and concepts are taught and practiced regularly. The maximum number in a group is six students and one teacher leads the group. In addition to the small group sessions, students are given one on one support in reading using a specific reading program.

This year we will be expanding this program to include Year 9 to Year 12 tutorial groups. These groups will meet weekly and the focus will be on improving the skills they require to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Our testing in 2010 has shown that there have been some very significant improvements in students' literacy and numeracy levels. As a result, it has improved participation and confidence in those students who were involved in the program.

The program is invaluable and, when you consider the cost of tutoring, it is a great opportunity to receive additional support at no cost. If you would like your child to participate in this program please call the school and leave your name with the Front Office.

Mr N. Liberatore

Careers@PHS – Term1

Highlights so far.....

The Business Concierge visits Prairiewood High School

On Thursday 10th February 2011, Yr12 were invited to attend a full day workshop titled “The Survivor Life Skills” program organised and delivered by the Business Concierge.

The following modules were delivered:

- Budgeting for life
- Stress and the HSC
- Survivor Life Planning
- Goal Setting for Life
- Action Plans for Life

The day was a great success - from the open forum discussions, to writing up personal budgets for the year, to discovering one’s passion/driver, to the rules in goal setting, to taking part in a ten minute relaxation exercise the overriding message being - to set goals, action them and, above all, to believe in yourself. Our thank you goes to the presenters as well as to Yr12 for displaying “outstanding behaviour”. Well done Yr12.

What’s coming up?

- It’s been a busy start to the year getting all our TVET students up and running, In total we have eighty eight students attending either Monday or Friday TAFE, some starting their courses whilst others are continuing on.
- We are holding our annual Yr11 Mock Interview Day later this term. A program which enables each student to apply for a position and sit through a mock interview, with a qualified recruiter. At present, I am in the process of inviting Recruiters and Human Resource consultants from our local community to take part.
- Also this Term will see the Australian Defence Force (ADF) visiting our Yr10 and Yr11 students, showcasing career options within the ADF as well as discussing possible career pathways.
- Yr10 have commenced their School to Work program where they are starting to explore the world of work, different career choices and the different pathways available

Mrs P.Evans
Careers Adviser.

“Glee” for Josh in LA – Where to Now?

During mid October 2010, a successful fundraiser concert was held at Prairiewood High School to help Josh Loau, (a Year 12 student) achieve his dream to be a member of the Glee Club Australia Tour Squad to travel to Los Angeles in December for three weeks.

The concert rose just over \$3000, making it possible for Josh to take this unique opportunity and was hosted and coordinated by Silexa Smith of Oceania Entertainment. Guest artists for the night featured “Lazy J & Big Guy” from X Factor and Joseph Gatehau, former Australian Idol finalist. There were a host of very talented local artists who also contributed to the success of the night. Josh was very grateful for the support, “It was an awesome night, thank you so much to everyone for coming to the concert and helping me get to LA”.

Josh aimed to gain experience in singing, dancing and acting in meetings with some of the elite casting directors and agents throughout the Glee tour of Hollywood.

Highlights of the trip included performing with the Glee Australia cast at Disneyland, Knott Berry Farm, Universal Studios and Winter Wonderland. Josh received singing lessons from the vocal coach for Glee and dance lessons from Beyonce’s choreographer.

Josh said “The experience in LA was amazing, especially working with the cast and vocal directors of Glee; just having the opportunity to sing songs in Westlakes Studio where Michael Jackson and other celebrities recorded plus being able to experience that level of professionalism in the music industry.”

Josh is a very talented performer who has had a very short but stunningly meteoric rise, being noticed by a number of people well known at the highest level in his field. This and numerous other opportunities have occurred in a period of just over 10 months, through the NSW Public Schools Programme. He has been a member of the Sydney South West Talent Identification Programme.

Music industry adviser Anne-Elise Smith further added to Josh’s achievement by stating “Thousands of hopefuls usually have to go to many auditions and have a top agent before even being seen by these casting directors. We’re really proud of Josh and everything he has achieved in such a short time. For someone with no previous experience to compete with thousands of others in Australia and the USA, in addition to getting as far as he has, is pretty amazing. The fact that Hollywood people are interested in Josh confirms to us that he has something unique”.

Financial considerations made raising the money to make it to LA no easy task. Anne Elise said “the support Josh received from family, friends and especially his local school Prairiewood High was awesome”.

One of the biggest influences on Josh in improving both his performance technique and helping him attain an excellent HSC Music result was Mr John Pickering, Prairiewood High School Principal and former music teacher. Mr Pickering is immensely proud of how well Josh has done so far in the music field. He states “Over the years, Prairiewood High School has nurtured and enthusiastically supported a range of gifted and talented students, especially in the areas of performing arts and sport”.

Mr Pickering also added “Josh is one such student and we are delighted that his outstanding talent in music performance has been recognised, not only at the regional and state levels in the Department of Education and Training, but also at the national and international level”.

“The selection and participation of Josh Loau in the world-class Glee program indicates the tremendous efforts of staff and students who continue to work hard to provide quality experiences and opportunities beyond the classroom. Josh is a truly gifted and talented student who has been encouraged and coached at school to help develop his special music skills and provide a solid foundation of achieving his goals beyond the HSC”.



Since coming back to Australia, Josh has had many opportunities. "I've been asked to join different groups and work with a range of new people. I'm just working with people I trust, and performing each week". He has performed at a Sydney Kings Game, charity events and numerous other local events.

Throughout all of his newfound success, Josh has retained one admirable quality, that of humility. His love and passion for music is astounding. However, Josh reminds us of the importance of his faith and understands the responsibility of the gift he has been blessed with, "Since arriving here I am getting back into singing at church (Inspire Ministry) for that is what I really love".

The support of family is so important and yet integral when choosing a career and striving to obtain success in such a competitive field as the music industry. The Glee trip was a momentous event for the Loau family. Josh's mum, Mrs Naomi Loau says "Our family are very proud of Josh and know that the trip to LA was a fantastic and amazing experience for him." Josh's dad, Mr Fred Loau echoes these sentiments stating 'It was an excellent achievement, showed lots of courage, and it set a great example for the Pacific Islander community.'

Josh completed his HSC prior to leaving for LA, showing academic and performance ability, coming first in his 2 Unit Music class. Josh is currently enrolled in further study in a Music Performance Course. He hopes to combine his talents with both performance and completing his qualifications to become a music teacher.

When questioned about his hopes for the future, Josh says, "I hope to take my music to another level and write new positive songs. I have upcoming gigs with lots of opportunities to do this". He will also look at any chances to perform and travel overseas again.

Josh Loau certainly is a young man with proven potential to be a positive role model through his wonderful talent in music.

Ms A. Pool
PDHPE Faculty

GIFTED and TALENTED EDUCATION

Term 1 is a busy time at Prairiewood High School. Our second selective cohort has arrived in Year 7. Prairiewood now has almost 120 students that comprise our partially selective stream. From all teacher reports, students have settled in well and are working solidly. Outside of our selective stream, Prairiewood High School has many Gifted & Talented extracurricular opportunities for students across years 7-12. Currently, our Performing Arts faculty are gearing up for another wonderful Talent Quest, students are performing across a range of genres including singing, dancing and drama. We anticipate a grand show!

Prairiewood has become a hub school for neighbouring students and staff to visit in reference to engineering studies. Mr Rose (Head Teacher, Industrial Arts) has organised a fabulous forum securing leaders within the engineering industry that are the best private enterprise has to offer. This is a first for Prairiewood, our Gifted & Talented students will be engaged with high tech presentations and displays. This forged partnership will benefit our students with significant opportunities in the future. Thank you Mr Rose!

Mr J. Conroy
Deputy Principal

National Partnerships News Prairiewood High School

Locked Bag 46 Wetherill Park BC NSW 2164

Highlights for February 2011



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

Prairiewood High School had a successful 2010 and is looking forward to building on the frameworks established last year to achieve greater successes in 2011.

The Partnerships Team :

- John Pickering, Principal
- Tatjana Gandlgruber, Program Manager
- Denise Smith, HT Teaching & Learning
- Learning Support Team – Nic Liberatore, Maurice Rubbi, Jodie Keyes, Matthew Humphry, Lee-Anne Bertram, Lorraine Natale, Danielle Shaw
- ESL – Siew-Ying Ng, Silvia Carballo, Mandy Hunt
- CLOs – Amy McDonald (Aboriginal), Lessie Petaia (Pacific Islander), Rami Rohan (Arabic/Assyrian)
- Attendance – Lorraine Natale

What we have achieved so far in 2011 ...

- Structured professional learning of 2 periods per cycle included in each teacher's teaching allocation. Each fortnight teachers will be involved in a series of training activities that focus on Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Quality Teaching on a rotational basis during terms 1 to 3
- A teacher log created to monitor the effectiveness of the structured TPL program
- Training of staff in the Multilit program for the after school learning improvement centre
- Reading and comprehension testing of mainstream Yr7 & all new enrolments
- Students selected and invited to participate in the after school learning improvement centre to commence week 6
- Individual Learning Plans will continue to be a focus for all aboriginal students
- Senior Study survey conducted with yr 11 students
- 2010 Naplan results for yrs 7 & 9 forwarded to Horsley Park PS, Prairievale PS, Smithfield West PS and William Stimson PS
- TELL training – fourteen staff are undertaking a three-day intensive training course in addressing the learning needs of students with language backgrounds other than English this term. Reports thus far indicate that the style, content and direction of this special course directly relates to the majority of students at Prairiewood.

As the attending staff covers all faculties, the benefit to students will be widespread and diverse.
- Elevate education – senior study skills seminar held in week 5 for year 12 – focussing on 'student elevation' – goal setting and short term planning; and 'memory & mnemonics' – simple techniques and strategies to help increase the amount of information they can retain and recall in the exam room.
- An annual subscription to 'Survey Monkey' has been purchased. The benefit of this subscription is unlimited surveys which can be emailed and completed online with immediate feedback, statistics and analysis. This valuable tool will readily provide data and updates that will assist us in our forward planning, ultimately benefiting students at Prairiewood High School.



2011 Swimming Carnival Report

On Thursday 3rd February, Prairiewood High School held its annual school swimming carnival with the brand new year sevens all the way to year twelve all barrelling through the gates of Prairiewood Leisure Centre. Many of the Year 12 students showed some creativity by dressing up for the occasion. Some came dressed as Pac Man and his ghosts, others as Asian delicacies, and even harem girls showed up! Others kept their dress theme at home with their very Australian attire.



As everyone settled into their seats in the grandstand, the teachers prepared the first race - the 50 m freestyle. The competitive air developed quickly in the crowd as Mr Gianni started the first race with cheers from each house for their representatives.

The carnival was also an opportunity to raise funds for the Queensland flood relief. Mr Hodges had something special planned. The first surprise - a special V.I.P pool party for 4 people. The winner was to be decided by a raffle draw, so as the Sports Council took to the grandstand spruiking tickets and with hopeful students (and even staff) buying them; other Sports Council members began on the second surprise planned. That morning Mr Hodges, the Sports Council and the other PDHPE staff had set up a water skirmish course. This was for the non-competitive students who wished to get soaked. Prairiewood's new Deputy Principal, Mr Harris became a popular target, with many students paying extra to try and spray him with water!



As students waited patiently for their turn at the water skirmish, others waited nervously for their raffle ticket number to be announced. Mr Benetel kept everyone in suspense as he announced the ticket number. The ticket belonged to lucky student Jake Chetcuti. As Jake and his 3 friends enjoyed the luxuries of the V.I.P. pool the rest of the school cooled off in the novelty races. These included the beach ball relay and the noodle relay. Sports Council members sold a second batch of raffle tickets for students hoping to get into the second shift in the V.I.P. pool. When the lucky ticket was drawn, the winner screamed in excitement and raced down to claim her prize. Samantha Gisborne-Colman became the most popular girl at the carnival with many of her friends hoping to enjoy the exclusive VIP area.

The day was a huge success with over \$800 being raised for the Queensland Flood Appeal. Special thanks must go to Mr Hodges and his team for making the 2011 Swimming Carnival a truly memorable event!

Amirah Todor - Sports Council

2011 Carnival Results

OVERALL POINTS

Goolagong	445
Hollows	376
Bradman	274
Fraser	143

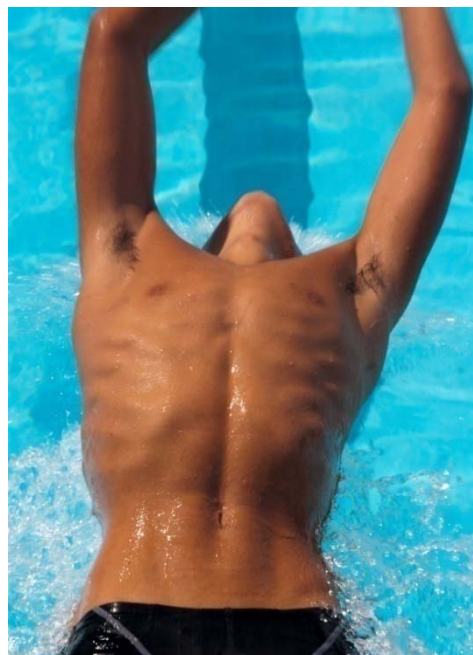
AGE CHAMPIONS

Boys

12 years	Aaron Pesic
13 years	Christopher Van Kampen
14 years	Steven Tran
15 years	Cody Nugent
16 years	Ricky Gillon
17 years	Justin Mercieca

Girls

12 years	Linh Nguyen
13 years	Corina Leef
14 years	Anh Nguyen
15 years	Marcia Riva
16 years	Alicia Gaffey
17 years	Monica McNally



NEW RECORDS

Steven Tran

50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly, 100m Freestyle

Kenneth Lim

50m Breaststroke

Linh Nguyen

50m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle

Thanks for your generosity....

Thanks to the efforts of Mr Hodges and the Sports Council, Prairiewood High School has once again shown it's willingness to display the Australian spirit of helping those in need. To this end \$791.05 was raised towards the Queensland Flood Relief.

Rugby Report

The rugby season has kick-off and our boys have hit the ground running. The Penrith rugby competition is now in its 15th year and we continue to be a major force in this competition. Round 1 saw us meet Colo, while a little under prepared the team performed well. It was not all one way traffic, as Colo defended well and played right to the end. Colo were first to put points on the board courtesy of a penalty goal and led 3 - nil for most of the half. While dominating territory and possession, cheap turn-overs and silly errors prevented us from scoring. That was until right on half time when Vince Yousif ran a fantastic line as Leroy (our own version of Dan Carter) put the ball in front of him for Vince to cross the line. Vince then converted his try and we went to the break leading 7 - 3.

At half time the team spoke about maintaining the ball the reducing our unforced errors. We felt we were playing well and we had points in us, we just had to be a little more patient. The message must have got through, because the boys came out and scored 19 unanswered points through tries to FJ, Kye and Joachim. This took the game out of reach for Colo, but to their credit they never gave up. This effort was rewarded with two late tries taking the score to 26 - 13. It remained this way at full time, and while not playing at our best it was a very good first game.

Round 2 saw us return home against Penrith Anglican College (PAC). PAC has been the big improvers in the competition over the past three years and this was to be a great test. The squad was strengthened with the returns of Aydan, Ray, Haysam (from retirement) and the debut of Bronson. From the kick off the team clicked in to their groove, we again dominated possession with the constant ability to off load to support while in contact. PAC was not able to keep up with the speed of which our boys were playing, unfortunately all our good work was undone with again, basic errors. This allowed PAC to score two tries and lead 14 - nil. To the boys credit they pulled together and spoke about concentrating and respecting the ball more. Things quickly changed and it wasn't long before our pressure turned into points as we scored three converted tries making the score 21 - 14 at half time.



The second half turned in to one way traffic, as our passes began to stick. PAC couldn't keep up with the speed our team was moving the ball and began to get more frustrated as the half went on. The more they got frustrated the more errors and tackles they missed, the more tries we scored. In the end we ran out comfortable victors 52 - 14 with many exceptional performances from FJ, Leroy, Marvin, Stephen, Bronson and Jaurn just to name a few.

Round 3 we met Winmalee again at home. The boys really enjoy playing at home in front of family and friends. Unfortunately Winmalee were let down with a number of their students not attending, leaving them with only 13 players. While we matched numbers, our superior fitness and ball control demoralised the opposition and we ran out comfortable victors 65 - 7. The boys must be congratulated on their sportsmanship and the Winmalee coach made mention of this at the conclusion of the match. It was another excellent team performance and the team is progressing really well and we look forward to the more difficult games verse Westfields, Hills and Endeavour Sports.

Mr J. Hodges (Rugby Coach)
PDHPE Faculty

Six students make Sydney South West Volleyball Team

Over the last two weeks the Sydney South West Regional Boys' and Girls' volleyball trials have been held at the Bankstown Basketball Stadium at Condell Park.

The boys' trials were held on Monday 14th February with eight Prairiewood students representing the Lansdowne team, who were undefeated for the day, winning all five games and losing just one set.

These boys were: Kevin Fiu, Leo Kefu, Richard Loau, FJ Mauala, Levi Muauulu, Leroy Muauulu-Tamapua, Kite Paseka and Joachim Taalili, all of Year 12. Three boys - Kevin Fiu, Richard Loau and Leroy Muauulu- Tamapua were then selected to represent the Sydney South West Boys Team at the NSW CHS Championships at Tamworth from the 14-17th March, 2011.

The girls' trials were held on the 21st February with ten Prairiewood students representing Lansdowne.

They also played well, winning 4 out of 7 games.

These girls were Gabrielle Pese (Year 9); Alicia Gaffey, Nazli Hocaoglu, Latai Fa, and Emmaline Korov (Year 11); Fatafahi Fa, Katrina Loau, Catherine Schuster, Petty Tafaoga and Yoka Vaiituutuu (Year 12).

The three girls that were selected in the Sydney South West Regional team to play at Warriewood from 2nd-5th May were Fatafahi Fa, Nazli Hocaoglu and Gabrielle Pese.

Congratulations to all students who participated and also to those students who were selected for further representation.




Ms A. Pool (Volleyball Coach)
PDHPE Faculty

Illustrative Guide to Assist in the Purchase of Acceptable School Shoes


	<p>Acceptable Boys Shoes: Features: - Black leather - Laced or Velcro - Upper foot protection - Non-slip sole</p>
	<p>Unacceptable Boys Shoes: Features: - Splashes of colour/white (shoes must be totally black, inc. shoelaces and sole) - Canvas upper Eg Rabens</p>
	<p>Acceptable Girl's Shoes: - Leather upper providing protection to the majority of the upper foot - Laced (preferred) or strapped* (leather strap) - Heal and sole with non-slip grip.</p>
<p>Ballet Flats are not acceptable</p>	<p>Unacceptable Girl's Shoes: - The majority of the upper foot is unprotected. - Smooth sole with little grip - No/token heel - Thin/soft leather offering little protection.</p>
<p>Sports Shoes</p>	<p>Acceptable Sports Shoes - Lace up/Velcro (no slip-ons or dress shoes) - Covers all of the top of the foot - Provides arch support and sole protection</p>

* Students undertaking practical based subjects need to wear lace-up shoes that protect their feet against drops and spills. O H & S requirements may result in students who are not wearing shoes with sufficient protection being excluded from some practical activities. If in doubt please purchase lace-up shoes.



Community Advertising



Families Together
invites parents to a 2 part program



How can I help my anxious child...?

Presented by
Megan Taylor

Megan is a Clinical Psychologist with over eighteen years experience working with adults, adolescents, young children and their families.

This 2 part program aims to inform parents about the nature of anxiety and to equip parents with practical strategies to work with their children in reducing anxious thoughts and behaviour.

This session is suitable for parents of school aged children and the strategies presented will be general.

The program will also look at ideas for parenting in a way which encourages confidence, resilience and a positive outlook.

Bookings are essential and places are limited. Please call 0407 708 626 from 9am – 3pm Wednesday to Friday to book your place.

Families Together is for parents.


Children's services workers, teachers, family support workers and other professionals will not be given a place. Families Together is for families living in the local government areas of Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown.

DATE:	Wednesday 16th March 2011 Wednesday 23rd March 2011 <small>(Please note this a 2 part program you must attend both)</small>
TIME:	7.00 - 9.00pm
PLACE:	Club Marconi (Upstairs in the Cristina Room) Prairie Vale Rd, Bossley Park


CHILD MINDING is not available for this session. Please make alternative arrangements.

No cost!

Families Together is funded by the NSW Department of Community Services and sponsored by Fairfield City Council.




Families Together
in partnership with the Early Childhood Intervention Coordination Program invites parents to a free information evening on



Planning for the Future of Children with Additional Needs

Presented by
Margaret McCarthy
Case Management Program
SWS Family Services
Learning Links



This workshop will include information on –

- Future planning tools and agencies which can support this process.
- Strategies which support individuals and their families.
- Introduction to resources and information regarding training, employment, accommodation, income support, carer support, relationships and recreation.

Bookings are essential and places are limited. Please call 0407 708 626 to book your place.

Families Together is for parents.

Children's services workers, teachers, family support workers and other professionals will not be given a place. Families Together is for families living in the local government areas of Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown.

DATE:	10th March 2011 (Thursday)
TIME:	6.30 – 8.30pm
PLACE:	Training Room Brian Wunsch Centre, 126 Avoca Rd, Wakeley (parking available on site)

CHILD MINDING is not available for this course. Please make alternative arrangements.

No cost!

Families Together is funded by Community Services Department of Human Services and sponsored by Fairfield City Council.



FREE LESSON WITH THIS AD
(Applies to new students only)

ENROL NOW!


*Tiny Tots	*Zumba	*Contemporary
* Twinkle Tots	* Funk	* Cheerleading
* Jazz	* Hip Hop	* Mum's Fun Dance Class
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Directed by Irene Zarate, a professional Dance & Singing Instructor, with a Bachelor of Arts Dance Degree. Irene released a single through Molly Meldrum's record label.

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Families Together
invites parents to a free information evening

Sibling Rivalry, Birth Order and Personality Development

Presented by
Petra Will-Herat
Relationship Educator

The birth order of your children has an important influence on their character formation, their values, development of talents, their likes and dislikes. In this workshop you will learn about particular issues for each child's position. You will learn about competition and how it can influence a child's personality, even if there is no obvious fighting present.

You will learn how to handle competition amongst your children.

Bookings are essential and places are limited. Please call 0407 708 626 from 9am to 3pm Wednesday to Friday to book your place.

Families Together is for parents.

Children's services workers, teachers, family support workers and other professionals will not be given a place. Families Together is for families living in the local government areas of Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown.

DATE:	7th April 2011 (Thursday)
TIME:	6.30 - 9.00pm
PLACE:	The Uniting Church, 219 The River Road Revesby <small>(Parking is available on The River Road after 6pm)</small>

CHILD MINDING is not available for this course. Please make alternative arrangements.

No cost!

Families Together is funded by Community Services Department of Human Services and sponsored by Fairfield City Council.

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

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Administration ~ Ms M. Rodic **History** ~ Mrs F. Humphreys **Social Sciences** ~ Mr B. Jackson
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Languages ~ Ms T. Gandlegruber

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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)

PARKING: FOR DROPPING OFF and PICKING UP STUDENTS

Legal areas for dropping off and picking up students are located on the southern side of the main school entrance and also at the front of the school bus bay. Please obey the road traffic rules and be warned that those who stop in **Bus** and **No Stopping** Zones will be issued with parking fines by Fairfield Council Parking Officers and Police.

STUDENT SAFETY!

Parents are **not** permitted to drive into staff car parks or the visitors' car park to drop off or pick up students and then attempt to reverse back out into the traffic in Prairie Vale Road. Students are also required to enter school grounds via the pedestrian gates provided and **not** via the car park driveways.



Prairiewood High School

A local comprehensive and partially selective
high school...the very best of both worlds!



ATTENTION: PARENTS of YEAR 6 STUDENTS SEEKING ENROLMENT IN YEAR 7 for 2012

Have you ever noticed ???

- most high schools seem to be much the same as each other and their info all looks the same
- most have a range of sporting and performing arts programs and some gifted & talented programs
- most have welfare & discipline, anti-bullying, school uniform and assessment & reporting policies
- most have great teachers, good facilities & resources and a pleasant school learning environment
- most also have a great range of staff to support students experiencing difficulty with their learning

"Well, at Prairiewood High School, we invite you to take a closer look at what makes us different."

TUESDAY, 8th MARCH in the SCHOOL LIBRARY
at 7pm

Not all schools are exactly the same. Which high school for your child? The choice is yours.
Choose wisely!

www.prairiewoodhigh.com.au