

National Partnerships News Prairiewood High School

Locked Bag 46 Wetherill Park BC NSW 2164

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What we have achieved so far ...

- Ongoing blended program of exploring ceramic dish design (Prairiewood High School and Smithfield West Public School) and 'Going Potty': Visual Arts/Ceramics program with 6th Graders (Prairiewood HS & Prairievale Public School).
- Elevate Education Study Skills Seminars 17 August for all yr 10 to assist in individual preparation and organization for a successful semester 2
- Appointment of two Community Liaison Officers (Assyrian/Arabic and Pacific Islanders)
- Teacher and student surveys to evaluate effectiveness of the semester 1 After School Learning Centre
- External supervision of yr 12 Trial exams provided opportunities for yr 12 teachers to take advantage of professional development activities – semester 2 focus – developing ICT skills for teaching and learning

Senior Study Support

This program continues into semester 2 to support senior students in their studies to optimise their potential. Student comments ...

Hansel... interesting, learnt concentration techniques and how to manage time

Jason ... have become better organised, not missing as much work as before, work completion rate is higher

Russell ... more organised, learnt how to prioritise and make better use of time

Zach ... everything has benefited, more positive about school, better organised, less distracted – manage time better

Amelia ... time management strategies have helped for now and future studies, better organised

Mariam ... learnt techniques of analysis and structuring an essay

Deian ... learnt to be more motivated, how to better time exam questions, improve time management and organization, developed group study sessions with friends

Community Liaison Officers

Mrs Rami Rohan (Assyrian/Arabic) and Mrs Lessie Petaia (Pacific Islander) have been appointed as CLOs one day a week. Their responsibilities include

- Facilitating contact with parents for interviews and interpreting during any interviews and meetings organized by the school
- Liaising and supporting parents of students with attendance, behaviour and learning issues
- Liaising with parents to support initiatives and programs organized by the welfare team
- Working, as appropriate and necessary, with PHS student welfare team and DET student services staff
- Supporting students with behaviour and learning needs on a one to one basis as required
- Working with other CLOs to interpret for parents during yr 6 to yr 7 transition programs

Contents:

What we have achieved so far ...

Senior Study support ... student comments

Appointment of Community Liaison Officers

Blended ICT, Visual Arts & Ceramics Program

2010 ... still to come ...



A Blended Program of ICT, Visual Design and Ceramics

In Term 3, 2010, a Blended Program of ICT and the Visual Arts unit was developed for twenty yr6 students in a yr 4/5/6 composite class (Mrs Chrys Georgilas) from Smithfield West PS, to be delivered at Prairiewood HS by specialist Visual Arts teacher, Mrs Heidi Smith. Each Thursday afternoon (commencing Term 3 Week 2) from 1:00pm – 2:45 pm the primary students are transported to and from Prairiewood HS in its Mini bus and use the school's ICT and Visual Arts Labs.

Aim of the Program

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Visual design using clay to produce a dish;
- Develop and use digital means to record and present their experiences to a variety of audiences;
- Express their engagement in an authentic experience using various presentation methods;
- Share their experiences with various audiences through a range of digital publications; and
- Embrace a sustained, rewarding and practical high school experience.

Assessment

The student's work will be collected/viewed and assessed by requiring students to demonstrate their:

- Ability to **research information and harvest images** from the internet for practical applications in clay;
- Knowledge and **expression of different styles of design** used in producing attractive clay works;
- Knowledge and **application of the techniques** used to produce their finished body of work, including
 - Safety in the workshop – handling clay, use of the kiln;
 - The use of glazes to achieve different effects in pottery; and,
 - The effect of pattern in producing clay pieces of work.
- Ability to **create a brilliant dish!**
- Knowledge of and **contribution to a Task Specific Blog** published via **Moodle**;
- Knowledge and **use of digital images** to tell the story of their high school experience;
- Ability to work in teams to **produce a slide show**;
- Ability to **write a report** on their high school experience;
- Ability to **present an assembly item** at WSPS; and,
- Ability to **mount an exhibition of work** at the end of year Art Extravaganza at PHS.

Going Potty at Prairievale Public School

During Term 3, 2010, two classes of yr 6 students at Prairievale PS participated in a program delivered by specialist Visual Arts teacher, Ms Edith Ramsay, involving the making of a coiled pot. These pots were then underglazed with a design based on their cultural background. Their mentoring artist was Thancoupie, an indigenous artist who reflects her culture in the design on her pots. This program also created an opportunity for the yr 6 teachers to be inserviced on basic ceramics and the use of the kiln.



2010 ... still to come ...

Term 4

- Tournament of the Minds (Prairiewood HS & primary schools)
- Reciprocal PHS and primary school visits
- Dance Initiative with William Stimson Public School
- Numeracy Challenge (Prairiewood HS & primary schools)